Consolidated Financial Statements

As of December 31, 2010 and 2009 and for the Years Ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of Open Joint-Stock Company "Mobile TeleSystems":

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statements of financial position of Mobile TeleSystems, a Russian Open Joint-Stock Company, and subsidiaries (the "Group") as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the related consolidated statements of operations, changes in shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2010. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Group's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

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

In our opinion, such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Group as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2010, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, during 2010 the Group acquired majority ownership interests in TS-Retail, Metro-Telecom and Sistema Telecom from Joint Stock Financial Corporation Sistema, the majority shareholder of the Group, and its subsidiaries resulting in a change in reporting entity. The transactions were accounted for as transactions under common control. Assets and liabilities were transferred at historical cost. The change in reporting entity was accounted for in a manner similar to a pooling of interests which has been reflected retrospectively from the first period presented herein.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Group's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010 based on the criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated April 4, 2011 expressed an unqualified opinion on the Group's internal control over financial reporting.

Moscow, Russia April 4, 2011

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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009

(Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, except share and per share amounts)

| | | er 31, | | |
|--|----|------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| | | 2010 | _ | 2009 (restated – see Note 2) |
| CURRENT ASSETS: | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents (Note 5) | \$ | 927,694 | \$ | 2,529,010 |
| Short-term investments, including related party amounts of \$nil and | | 000 504 | | 000 470 |
| \$992 (Note 6) | | 333,594 | | 206,470 |
| Trade receivables, net (Note 7) | | 798,102 | | 595,746 |
| Accounts receivable, related parties (Note 26) Inventory and spare parts (Note 8) | | 2,673 319,956 | | 16,698 239,571 |
| Prepaid expenses, including related party amounts of \$26,722 and | | 319,930 | | 239,371 |
| \$1,052 | | 232,352 | | 364,164 |
| Deferred tax assets (Note 24) | | 234,658 | | 212,687 |
| VAT receivable | | 164,761 | | 110,288 |
| Other current assets, including assets held for sale of \$10,430 and | | 104,701 | | 110,200 |
| \$18,519 (Note 2) | | 102,813 | _ | 126,694 |
| Total current assets | _ | 3,116,603 | = | 4,401,328 |
| | | | | |
| PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, net of accumulated depreciation | | | | |
| of \$6,196,117 and \$5,098,418 (Note 9), including advances given to | | | | |
| related parties of \$96,138 and \$30,667 | | 7,971,830 | | 7,750,617 |
| | | | | |
| LICENSES, net of accumulated amortization of \$384,405 and \$341,421 | | | | |
| (Notes 3 and 11) | | 294,728 | | 364,722 |
| GOODWILL (Notes 3 and 12) | | 981,335 | | 803,773 |
| OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS, net of accumulated amortization of \$1,516,949 and \$1,278,010, including prepayments to related parties of | | 4 544 620 | | 4 000 044 |
| \$48,425 and \$nil (Notes 3 and 13) | | 1,541,638 | | 1,069,614 |
| DEBT ISSUANCE COSTS , net of accumulated amortization of \$191,453 | | | | |
| and \$114,251 | | 104,818 | | 127,069 |
| INVESTMENTS IN AND ADVANCES TO ASSOCIATES (Note 14) | | 241,792 | | 220,450 |
| INVESTMENTS IN SHARES OF SVYAZINVEST (Note 15) | | - | | 859,669 |
| OTHER INVESTMENTS , including related party amounts of \$125,721 and \$43,795 (Note 16) | | 128,582 | | 48,701 |
| OTHER NON-CURRENT ASSETS, including restricted cash of \$4,719 | | | | |
| and \$6,389 (Note 17), deferred tax assets of \$81,816 and \$97,355 | | | | |
| (Note 24) and related party amounts of \$nil and \$1,615 | | 96,716 | - | 118,546 |
| Total assets | \$ | 14,478,042 | \$ | 15,764,489 |
| | _ | | = | |

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

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION (CONTINUED) AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009

(Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, except share and per share amounts)

| | December 31, | | | |
|--|--|-----|--|--|
| | 2010 | _ | 2009 (restated – see Note 2) | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES: | | | | |
| Accounts payable, related parties (Note 26) Trade accounts payable Deferred connection fees, current portion (Note 20) Subscriber prepayments and deposits Debt, current portion (Note 18), including related party amounts of \$7,558 and \$31,006 Notes payable, current portion (Note 18) | \$ 52,984 629,077 49,212 523,464 256,052 492,176 | \$ | 80,489 509,846 46,930 501,848 801,242 1,218,084 | |
| Capital lease obligation, current portion (Note 10), including related party amounts of \$141 and \$1,344 Income tax payable Accrued liabilities (Note 23) Bitel liability (Note 32) Other payables | 8,882 26,071 799,804 210,760 106,659 | _ | 3,173 16,325 826,701 170,000 104,397 | |
| Total current liabilities | 3,155,141 | = | 4,279,035 | |
| LONG-TERM LIABILITIES: | | | | |
| Notes payable, net of current portion (Note 18) Debt, net of current portion (Note 18), including related party | 2,830,676 | | 1,391,549 | |
| amounts of \$7,005 and \$15,929 Capital lease obligation, net of current portion (Note 10), including | 3,561,953 | | 4,935,275 921 | |
| related party amounts of \$nil and \$146 Deferred connection fees, net of current portion (Note 20) Deferred taxes (Note 24) | 10,873 106,076 292,070 | | 116,168 298,453 | |
| Retirement and post-retirement obligations (Note 29) Property, plant and equipment contributions (Note 21) Long-term accounts payable, related parties (Note 26) Other long-term liabilities | 42,430 88,859 - 146,217 | | 25,537 90,349 38,273 140,957 | |
| Total long-term liabilities | 7,079,154 | - | 7,037,482 | |
| Total liabilities | 10,234,295 | = | 11,316,517 | |
| COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Note 32) | 10,201,200 | = | 11,010,011 | |
| Redeemable noncontrolling interest (Note 28) | 86,944 | | 82,261 | |
| SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY: | | | | |
| Common stock (2,096,975,792 shares with a par value of 0.1 rubles authorized and 1,993,326,138 shares issued as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, 777,396,505 of which are in the form of ADS as of | | | | |
| December 31, 2010 and 2009) (Note 27) | 50,558 | | 50,558 | |
| Treasury stock (76,456,876 common shares at cost as of December 31, 2010 and 2009) Additional paid-in capital | (1,054,926) | | (1,054,926) | |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss Retained earnings | (771,957) 4,901,140 | _ | (748,422) 5,097,462 | |
| Nonredeemable noncontrolling interest | 1,031,988 | - | 1,021,039 | |
| Total shareholders' equity | 4,156,803 | = | 4,365,711 | |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$ 14,478,042 | \$_ | 15,764,489 | |

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

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008

(Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, except share and per share amounts)

| | | Years ended December 31, | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | _ | 2010 | 2009 (restated – see Note 2) | 2008 (restated – see Note 2) | | | |
| REVENUES | | | | | | | |
| Services revenue and connection fees (including related party amounts of \$52,257, \$72,149 and \$209,990, respectively) Sales of handsets and accessories | \$_ | 10,586,068 \$ 707,168 11,293,236 | 9,513,353 \$ 353,900 9,867,253 | 11,836,158 156,465 11,992,623 | | | |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | | | | | | | |
| Cost of services, excluding depreciation and amortization shown separately below (including related party amounts of \$43,620, \$50,389 and \$232,689, respectively) Cost of handsets and accessories General and administrative expenses (including related party amounts of \$83,305, \$66,677 and \$50,457, respectively) (Note 30) Provision for doubtful accounts Impairment of long-lived assets (Note 2, 4) Impairment of goodwill Other operating expenses (including related party amounts of \$9,796, \$12,207 and \$12,008, respectively) Sales and marketing expenses (including related party amounts of \$135,622, \$127,106 and \$222,690, respectively) Depreciation and amortization expense | | 2,260,888 727,682 2,274,421 122,550 127,875 - 194,181 850,584 2,000,496 | 2,011,332 375,444 1,992,991 110,766 75,064 - 173,114 728,483 1,844,174 | 2,451,978 229,992 2,225,279 154,782 1,445 49,891 190,109 908,824 2,153,077 | | | |
| Net operating income | - | 2,734,559 | 2,555,885 | 3,627,246 | | | |
| CURRENCY EXCHANGE AND TRANSACTION (GAIN)/LOSS | | (20,238) | 252,694 | 561,963 | | | |
| OTHER EXPENSES/(INCOME) | | | | | | | |
| Interest income (including related party amounts of \$21,640, \$53,940 and \$55,018) Interest expense, net of capitalized interest (including related party amounts of \$500, \$2,612 and \$0,400) | | (84,396) | (104,566) | (69,697) | | | |
| related party amounts of \$608, \$3,613 and \$9,400) Equity in net income of associates (Note 14) | | 777,287 (70,649) | 571,901 (60,313) | 234,424 (75,688) | | | |
| Change in fair value of derivatives (Note 22) | | - | 5,420 | 41,554 | | | |
| Impairment of investments (including related party amounts of \$nil, \$349,370 and \$nil) (Notes 15,16) Other expenses, net (including related party amounts of | | - | 368,355 | - | | | |
| \$nil, \$nil and \$2,967) Total other expenses, net | - | 66,924 689,166 | 23,254 804,051 | 29,090 159,683 | | | |
| Income before provision for income taxes and noncontrolling interest | _ | 2,065,631 | 1,499,140 | 2,905,600 | | | |
| PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES (Note 24) | _ | 517,188 | 505,047 | 744,320 | | | |
| NET INCOME | | 1,548,443 | 994,093 | 2,161,280 | | | |
| NET INCOME/(LOSS) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE NONCONTROLLING INTEREST | _ | 167,812 | (20,110) | 182,173 | | | |
| NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE GROUP | - | 1,380,631 | 1,014,203 | 1,979,107 | | | |
| Weighted average number of common shares outstanding – basic and diluted Earnings per share, basic and diluted | \$ | 1,916,869,262 0.72 \$ | 1,885,750,147 0.54 \$ | 1,921,934,091 1.03 | | | |

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

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (restated – see Note 2)

(Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, except share amounts)

| | Commo | n stock | Treasury | stock | Additional paid-in | Accumulated other comprehensive | Retained | Total equity attributable to | Non- redeemable noncontrolling | Total | Redeemable noncontrolling |
|--|------------------|---------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount | capital | income/(loss) | earnings | the Group | interest | equity | interest |
| Balances at January 1, 2008 | 1,993,326,138 \$ | 50,558 | (32,476,837)\$ | (368,352)\$ | 1,146,755_\$ | 785,711 \$ | 4,913,904 \$ | 6,528,576 \$ | 1,814,573 \$ | 8,343,149 \$ | 89,771 |
| Comprehensive income/(loss): Net income | | | | | | | 1,979,107 | 1,979,107 | 172,375 | 2,151,482 | 9,798 |
| Currency translation adjustment, net of tax of \$nil | - | - | - | - | - | (1,228,354) | 1,979,107 | (1,228,354) | (303,866) | (1,532,220) | 9,790 |
| Change in fair value of interest rate swaps, net of tax of | | | | | | | | , | , , , | , , , , , | |
| \$3,826 (Note 22) Unrecognized actuarial gains, net of tax of \$nil (Note 29) | - | - | - | - | - | (16,359) 536 | - | (16,359) 536 | - 1.085 | (16,359) 1.621 | - |
| Total comprehensive income/(loss) | | | | | | 300 | | 734,930 | (130,406) | 604,524 | |
| Dividends declared | - | _ | - | - | - | - | (1,221,893) | (1,221,893) | (38,196) | (1,260,089) | - |
| Stock options of MTS exercised (Note 25) | - | - | 1,397,256 | 1,432 | 7,751 | - | - | 9,183 | - | 9,183 | - |
| Put option of Comstar-UTS exercised (Note 22) | - | - | - | - | (9,358) | 12,694 | - | 3,336 | (274,472) | (271,136) | - |
| Accrued compensation costs (Note 25) Repurchase of common stock of MTS | - | - | - (77,193,757) | (1,059,833) | 3,489 | - | - | 3,489 (1,059,833) | - | 3,489 (1,059,833) | - |
| Reorganization of Comstar Direct (Note 3) | - | - | (11,193,131) | (1,059,655) | (6,539) | - | - | (6,539) | (20,283) | (26,822) | - |
| Change in fair value of noncontrolling interest of K-Telecom | ı - | - | - | _ | (0,000) | - | (2,730) | (2,730) | (20,200) | (2,730) | 2,730 |
| Change in fair value of noncontrolling interest of | | | | | | | (=,:) | (=,:) | | (=,:) | _,,. |
| Dagtelecom | - | - | - | - | - | - | (43,449) | (43,449) | - | (43,449) | 43,449 |
| Effect of acquisition of Sistema Telecom | - | - | - | - | (15,518) | - | - | (15,518) | | (15,518) | - |
| Increase in ownership of TS-Retail (Note 3) Increase in ownership in subsidiaries (Note 3) | - | - | = | - | 2,104 | = | - | 2,104 | 5,186 | 7,290 | - |
| Cash paid by Comstar-UTS for the acquisition of Stream | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | (6,353) | (6,353) | - |
| TV | | | | <u> </u> | (51,577) | | | (51,577) | (35,265) | (86,842) | |
| Balances at December 31, 2008 | 1,993,326,138 \$ | 50,558 | (108,273,338)\$ | (1,426,753)\$ | 1,077,107 \$ | (445,772)\$ | 5,624,939 \$ | 4,880,079 \$ | 1,314,784 \$ | 6,194,863 \$ | 145,748 |
| Comprehensive income/(loss): | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Net income/(loss) | - | - | = | - | - | - | 1,014,203 | 1,014,203 | (24,469) | 989,734 | 4,359 |
| Currency translation adjustment, net of tax of \$7,910 | - | - | - | - | - | (196,819) | - | (196,819) | (29,478) | (226,297) | (4,399) |
| Change in fair value of derivatives, net of tax of \$5,895 (Note 22) | | | | | | (23,579) | | (23,579) | | (23,579) | |
| Unrecognized actuarial gains, net of tax of \$nil (Note 29) | _ | - | - | - | - | 1,003 | - | 1,003 | 1,808 | 2,811 | - |
| Total comprehensive income/(loss) | | | | | | , | | 794,808 | (52,139) | 742,669 | |
| Dividends declared MTS | - | _ | - | - | _ | - | (1,221,381) | (1,221,381) | (1,005) | (1,222,386) | - - |
| Dividends Metro-Telecom | - | - | - | - | - | - | (4,371) | (4,371) | (231) | (4,602) | - |
| Accrued compensation costs (Note 25) | - | - | - | - | 1,173 | - | - | 1,173 [°] | ` - | 1,173 | - |
| Acquisition of Comstar-UTS | - | - | - | - | (1,066,145) | - | (256,113) | (1,322,258) | - | (1,322,258) | - |
| Legal acquisition of Stream-TV (Note 3) | - | - | - | - | (1,616) | 43 | - | (1,573) | (1,470) | (3,043) | (40.500) |
| Dividends paid to noncontrolling interest of K-Telecom Change in fair value of noncontrolling interest of K-Telecom | - | - | - | - | - | - | 7.495 | - 7.495 | - | 7.495 | (12,503) (7,495) |
| Effect of acquisition of Sistema Telecom | · - | - | - | - | - | - | 7,495 (12,402) | 7,495 (12,402) | - | (12,402) | (1,495) - |
| Increase in ownership in subsidiaries (Note 3) | | | 31,816,462 | 371,827 | (10,519) | (83,298) | (54,908) | 223,102 | (238,900) | (15,798) | (43,449) |
| Balances at December 31, 2009 | 1,993,326,138 \$ | 50,558 | (76,456,876)\$ | (1,054,926)\$ | <u> </u> | (748,422)\$ | 5,097,462 \$ | 3,344,672 \$ | 1,021,039 \$ | 4,365,711 \$ | 82,261 |

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (restated – see Note 2)

(Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, except share amounts)

| | Common | | Treasury | | Additional paid-in | Accumulated other comprehensive | Retained | | Non- redeemable noncontrolling | Total | Redeemable noncontrolling |
|--|------------------|--------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount | capital | income/(loss) | earnings | the Group | interest | equity | interest |
| Balances at December 31, 2009 | 1,993,326,138 \$ | 50,558 | (76,456,876)\$ | (1,054,926)\$ | - \$ | (748,422)\$ | 5,097,462 \$ | 3,344,672 \$ | 1,021,039 \$ | 4,365,711 \$ | 82,261 |
| Comprehensive income/(loss): | | | | | | | | | · · | | |
| Net income | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,380,631 | 1,380,631 | 161,214 | 1,541,845 | 6,598 |
| Currency translation adjustment, net of tax of \$7,528 Change in fair value of derivatives, net of tax of \$(6,357) | - | - | - | - | - | (45,257) | - | (45,257) | (8,348) | (53,605) | 940 |
| (Note 22) | - | - | - | - | - | 25,428 | - | 25,428 | - | 25,428 | - |
| Unrecognized actuarial losses, net of tax of \$nil (Note 29) | - | - | - | - | - | (3,706) | - | (3,706) | (3,445) | (7,151) | - |
| Total comprehensive income | | | | | | | | 1,357,096 | 149,421 | 1,506,517 | |
| Dividends declared MTS | - | - | - | - | - | - | (953,192) | (953,192) | (11,552) | (964,744) | (14,973) |
| Dividends Metro-Telecom | - | - | - | - | - | - | (11,115) | (11,115) | = | (11,115) | = |
| Gain on transfer of asset from Sistema | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2,603 | 2,603 | 1,463 | 4,066 | - |
| Accrued compensation costs (Note 25) | - | - | - | - | - | - | 614 | 614 | - | 614 | - |
| Change in fair value of noncontrolling interest of K-Telecom | - | - | - | - | - | - | (12,118) | (12,118) | - | (12,118) | 12,118 |
| Acquisition of Metro-Telecom | - | - | - | - | - | - | (11,070) | (11,070) | - | (11,070) | - |
| Acquisition of Sistema Telecom | - | - | - | - | - | - | (439,455) | (439,455) | - | (439,455) | - |
| Acquisition of Multiregion | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 24,244 | 24,244 | - |
| Recognition of put option in Comstar-UTS | - | - | - | - | - | - | (11,636) | (11,636) | - | (11,636) | - |
| Increase in ownership in subsidiaries (Note 3) | | | | | | | (141,584) | (141,584) | (152,627) | (294,211) | |
| Balances at December 31, 2010 | 1,993,326,138 \$ | 50,558 | (76,456,876)\$ | (1,054,926)\$ | \$ | (771,957)\$ | 4,901,140 \$ | 3,124,815 \$ | 1,031,988 \$ | 4,156,803 \$ | 86,944 |

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

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars)

| | Years ended December 31, | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | 2010 | 2009 (restated – see Note 2) | 2008 (restated – see Note 2) | | |
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | | | | |
| Net income | \$ 1,548,443 | \$ 994,093 | \$ 2,161,280 | | |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization Currency exchange and transaction (gain)/loss Impairment of investments | 2,000,496 (98,706 - |) 212,510 368,355 | 2,153,077 574,943 | | |
| Impairment of long-lived assets Impairment of goodwill Debt issuance cost amortization | 127,875 - 89,244 | - 36,892 | 1,445 49,891 22,087 | | |
| Amortization of deferred connection fees Equity in net income of associates Provision for doubtful accounts Inventory obsolescence expense and | (95,706 (70,649 122,550 | (60,313) | | | |
| other provisions Deferred tax (benefit)/loss Write-off of non-recoverable VAT receivable Change in fair value of derivatives | 27,826 (45,449 2,534 |) 101,524 9,652 5,420 | 3,870 (207,796) 48,374 41,554 | | |
| Other non-cash items Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | 57,021 | 6,265 | (4,476) | | |
| Increase in accounts receivable (Increase) / decrease in inventory | (301,764 (105,859 | | | | |
| Decrease / (increase) in prepaid expenses and other current assets (Increase)/decrease in VAT receivable Increase in trade accounts payable, accrued | 141,976 (53,265 | | (266,817) 128,335 | | |
| liabilities and other current liabilities Dividends received | 222,630 47,973 | | 462,065 26,692 | | |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 3,617,170 | 3,592,230 | 5,027,000 | | |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | | | | |
| Acquisition of subsidiaries, net of cash acquired Purchases of property, plant and equipment Purchases of intangible assets Proceeds from sale of property, plant and | (195,106 (1,914,331 (732,786 | (1,942,402) | (2,207,861) | | |
| equipment and assets held for sale Purchases of short-term investments Proceeds from sale of short-term investments Purchase of a derivative financial instrument | 6,790 (672,286 577,623 - |) (513,933) | 35,636 (583,468) 602,662 (19,422) | | |
| Purchase of other investments Proceeds from sale of shares in Svyazinvest Proceeds from sales of other investments | (109,448 843,158 15,989 | , - | | | |
| Investments in and advances to associates Decrease in restricted cash | (2,900 1,670 |) 1,950 | (3,654) 7,522 | | |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (2,181,627 | (2,372,171) | (2,698,386) | | |

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars)

| | Years ended December 31, | | | | |
|--|---|----|--|----|--|
| | 2010 | | 2009 (restated – see Note 2) | | 2008 (restated – see Note 2) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES: | | | | | |
| Proceeds from stock options exercised Cash payments for the acquisitions of subsidiaries from related parties and | - | | - | | 9,183 |
| non-controlling interests (Note 3) Repurchase of Comstar-UTS shares (Note 3) Contributions from SMM, related party Proceeds from issuance of notes Repurchase of common stock Repayment of notes | (739,756) - - 1,560,028 - (862,403) | | (1,345,820) - - 1,003,226 - (9,182) | | (124,960) (100,000) 4,439 986,004 (1,059,833) (565,074) |
| Notes and debt issuance cost Capital lease obligation principal paid Dividends paid Proceeds from loans Loan principal paid | (65,697) (12,841) (975,822) 2,839,644 (4,779,595) | | (105,137) (15,592) (1,266,102) 3,598,100 (1,728,544) | | (6,693) (14,785) (1,147,729) 912,225 (572,425) |
| Net cash (used in)/ provided by financing activities | (3,036,442) | | 130,949 | | (1,679,648) |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | (417) | | 42,015 | | (340,292) |
| NET (DECREASE)/INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | (1,601,316) | | 1,393,023 | | 308,674 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of the year | 2,529,010 | | 1,135,987 | | 827,313 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of the year | \$ 927,694 | \$ | 2,529,010 | \$ | 1,135,987 |
| SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Income taxes paid Interest paid | \$ 400,116 671,354 | \$ | 432,066 510,784 | \$ | 1,035,095 285,212 |
| Non-cash investing and financing activities: Contributed property, plant and equipment Additions to network equipment and | \$ 2,814 | \$ | 3,213 | \$ | 3,194 |
| software under capital lease Purchase of Comstar-UTS' shares funded by issuing of the promissory note Equipment acquired through vendor financing | - - - | | 830 - 27,983 | | 5,673 365,552 13,198 |
| Amounts owed for capital expenditures Payable related to business acquisitions | 180,528 23,281 | | 236,364 37,985 | | 604,641 31,719 |

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

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

1. DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS

Business of the Group – Open Joint-Stock Company Mobile TeleSystems ("MTS OJSC", or "the Company") was incorporated on March 1, 2000, through the merger of MTS CJSC and RTC CJSC, its wholly-owned subsidiary. MTS CJSC started its operations in the Moscow license area in 1994 and then began expanding through Russia and the CIS.

In these notes, "MTS" or the "Group" refers to Mobile TeleSystems OJSC and its subsidiaries.

The Group provides a wide range of telecommunications services, including voice and data transmission, internet access, various value added services through wireless and fixed lines as well as selling equipment and accessories. The Group's principal operations are located in Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Armenia.

MTS completed its initial public offering in 2000 and listed its shares of common stock, represented by American Depositary Shares, or ADSs, on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "MBT". Since 2003 common shares of MTS OJSC have been traded on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange ("MICEX").

During the year ended December 31, 2009, the Group started to expand its own retail network, operated by Russian Telephone Company CJSC, a wholly owned subsidiary of MTS OJSC. During 2009 and 2010 the Group, following this strategy, acquired a number of Russian federal and regional mobile retailer operators (Note 3).

During the year ended December 31, 2009 through a series of transactions the Group acquired a 61.97% stake in Open Joint-Stock Company Comstar – United TeleSystems ("Comstar-UTS"), a provider of fixed line telecommunication services in Russia and the CIS, from Joint-Stock Financial Corporation Sistema ("Sistema"). Acquisition of Comstar-UTS provided access to important growth markets in commercial and residential broadband which gives rise to the development of convergent telecommunication services.

In September 2010 the Group increased its ownership interest in Comstar-UTS to 70.97% through a voluntary tender offer (Note 3). Furthermore, on December 23, 2010 an extraordinary general meeting of the Company's shareholders approved the merger of Comstar-UTS and a number of MTS' subsidiaries into MTS OJSC. The merger is a part of the Group's strategy aimed at provision of integrated telecommunication services. After the balance sheet date, the Group redeemed Comstar-UTS shares held and put by non-controlling interest shareholders within the limit set forth by the Russian law at a specified price. The remaining 98,853,996 of Comstar-UTS shares held by non-controlling interest shareholders were converted into existing MTS treasury shares as well as newly issued MTS shares at an exchange ratio of 0.825 MTS ordinary shares for each Comstar-UTS ordinary share. As a result, the charter capital of MTS OJSC increased by 73,087,006 ordinary shares to a total of 2,066,413,144 ordinary shares.

Ownership – As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, MTS' shareholders of record and their respective percentage direct interests in outstanding shares were as follows:

| | December 31, | | |
|--|--------------|--------|--|
| | 2010 | 2009 | |
| Sistema | 33.2% | 33.2% | |
| Sistema Holding Limited ("Sistema Holding"), a subsidiary of Sistema | 10.1% | 10.1% | |
| Invest-Svyaz CJSC ("Invest-Svyaz"), a subsidiary of Sistema | 8.4% | 8.4% | |
| VAST LLC ("VAST"), a subsidiary of Sistema | - | 3.1% | |
| Sistema Telecom Activy LLC ("STA"), a subsidiary of Sistema | 3.1% | - | |
| ADS Holders | 40.6% | 40.6% | |
| Free float, GDR Holders and others | 4.6% | 4.6% | |
| | 100.0% | 100.0% | |

The effective ownership of Sistema in MTS was 54.8% as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

Accounting principles – The Group's entities maintain accounting books and records in local currencies of their domicile in accordance with the requirements of respective accounting and tax legislation. The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared in order to present MTS financial position and its results of operations and cash flows in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("U.S. GAAP") and are expressed in terms of U.S. Dollars.

The accompanying consolidated financial statements differ from the financial statements used for statutory purposes in that they reflect certain adjustments, not recorded on the entities' books, which are appropriate to present the financial position, results of operations and cash flows in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The principal adjustments are related to revenue recognition, foreign currency translation, deferred taxation, consolidation, acquisition accounting, depreciation and valuation of property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and investments.

Basis of consolidation – Wholly-owned and majority-owned subsidiaries where the Group has operating and financial control are consolidated. All intercompany accounts and transactions are eliminated upon consolidation. Those ventures where the Group exercises significant influence but does not have operating and financial control are accounted for using the equity method. Investments in which the Group does not have the ability to exercise significant influence over operating and financial policies are accounted for under the cost method and included in other investments in the consolidated statements of financial position. The Group's share in the net income of unconsolidated associates is included in other income in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations and disclosed in Note 14. Results of operations of subsidiaries acquired are included in the consolidated statements of operations from the date of their acquisition.

The acquisition of majority ownership interests in TS-Retail, Metro-Telecom and Sistema Telecom, entities under common control of Sistema, during the year ended December 31, 2010 (Note 3) resulted in retrospective adjustment of the Group' consolidated financial statements. Assets and liabilities acquired were recorded at the historical carrying value and the consolidated financial statements were retroactively restated to reflect the Group as if these businesses had been owned since the beginning of the earliest period presented. The following table presents the significant effects of this restatement.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

| | | As previously reported | Effect of entities acquired from Sistema | Eliminations | As restated |
|---|----------|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| As of December 31, 2009: | = | Toponou | | | 710 10010100 |
| Total current assets Property, plant and equipment, net Intangible assets, net Investments Other non-current assets Total assets Total current liabilities Total long-term liabilities | \$ | 4,394,956 \$ 7,745,331 2,235,831 1,159,012 245,615 15,780,745 4,257,933 7,037,482 | 5,286 2,278 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - | (30,192) - (53,168) (53,132) | 4,401,328 7,750,617 2,238,109 1,128,820 245,615 15,764,489 4,279,035 7,037,482 |
| Total liabilities | = | 11,295,415 | 74,234 | (53,132) | 11,316,517 |
| Redeemable noncontrolling interest | | 82,261 | - | - | 82,261 |
| Shareholders' equity attributable to the Group Nonredeemable noncontrolling interests Total equity | p \$_ | 3,376,950 1,026,119 4,403,069 | (32,242) (5,080) (37,322)\$ | (36) - (36)\$ | 3,344,672 1,021,039 4,365,711 |
| For the year ended December 31, 2009: | | | | | |
| Net operating revenue Net operating income Income before provision for income taxes an | \$ d | 9,823,542 \$ 2,547,567 | 95,910 \$ 8,301 | (52,199)\$ 17 | 9,867,253 2,555,885 |
| noncontrolling interests Net income Net income attributable to the Group EPS, basic and diluted, U.S. Dollars | | 1,494,730 990,775 1,004,479 0.53 | 4,393 3,301 9,707 | 17 17 17 | 1,499,140 994,093 1,014,203 0.54 |
| For the year ended December 31, 2008: | | | | | |
| Net operating revenue Net operating income Income before provision for income taxes an noncontrolling interests | \$ d | 11,900,934 \$ 3,647,336 2,930,059 | 122,187 \$ (19,845) (24,214) | (30,498)\$ (245) | 11,992,623 3,627,246 2,905,600 |
| Net income Net income attributable to the Group EPS, basic and diluted, U.S. Dollars | | 2,930,039 2,187,178 2,000,119 1.04 | (25,653) (20,767) | (245) (245) (245) | 2,161,280 1,979,107 1.03 |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the Company had investments in the following significant legal entities:

| | Accounting | Decembe | er 31, | | |
|---|---------------------|---------|--------|--|--|
| | method | 2010 | 2009 | | |
| Sibintertelecom | Consolidated | 100.0% | 100.0% | | |
| Dagtelecom | Consolidated | 100.0% | 100.0% | | |
| Russian Telephone Company ("RTC") | Consolidated | 100.0% | 100.0% | | |
| Evrotel | Consolidated | 100.0% | 100.0% | | |
| MTS Ukraine (1) | Consolidated | 100.0% | 100.0% | | |
| Uzdunrobita | Consolidated | 100.0% | 100.0% | | |
| MTS Finance (2) | Consolidated | 100.0% | 100.0% | | |
| Barash Communications Technologies, Inc. ("BCTI") | Consolidated | 100.0% | 100.0% | | |
| MTS Bermuda (3) | Consolidated | 100.0% | 100.0% | | |
| Multiregion | Consolidated | 100.0% | - | | |
| K-Telecom | Consolidated | 80.0% | 80.0% | | |
| Comstar-UTS | Consolidated | 73.3% | 64.0% | | |
| Metro-Telecom | Consolidated | 95.0% | - | | |
| MTS International | Consolidated | VIE | - | | |
| Sistema Telecom | Consolidated | 100.0% | - | | |
| TS-Retail | Consolidated/Equity | 96.0% | 34.6% | | |
| MTS Belarus | Equity | 49.0% | 49.0% | | |
| Intellect Telecom | Equity | 22.5% | - | | |

⁽¹⁾ Legal entity Ukrainian Mobile Communications was renamed to MTS Ukraine in 2010.

The Group consolidates MTS International Funding Limited ("MTS International"), a private company organized and existing as a private limited company under the laws of Ireland, which qualified as a variable interest entity under ASC 810, Consolidation. The Group is the primarily beneficiary of MTS International. MTS International was established for the purpose of raising capital through the issuance of debt securities on the Irish Stock Exchange followed by transferring the proceeds through a loan facility to the Group. In 2010 MTS International issued \$750.0 million 8.625% notes due in 2020 (Note 18). Total liabilities of the consolidated variable interest entity amounted to \$751.6 million as of December 31, 2010.

Functional currency translation methodology – As of December 31, 2010, the functional currencies of Group entities were as follows:

- For entities incorporated in the Russian Federation, MTS Bermuda, MTS Finance and MTS International – the Russian ruble ("RUB");
- For MTS Ukraine Ukrainian hryvnia;
- For the Turkmen branch of BCTI the Turkmenian manat;
- For K-Telecom the Armenian dram;
- For MTS-Belarus the Belarusian ruble; and
- For Uzdunrobita and other entities the U.S. Dollar ("USD").

The Group's reporting currency is U.S. Dollars. Remeasurement of the financial statements into functional currencies, where applicable, and translation of financial statements into U.S. Dollars has been performed as follows:

For entities whose records are not maintained in their functional currencies, monetary assets and liabilities have been remeasured at the period-end exchange rates. Non-monetary assets and liabilities have been remeasured at historical rates. Revenues, expenses and cash flows have been remeasured at average rates. Remeasurement differences resulting from the use of these rates have been accounted for as currency exchange and transaction gains and losses in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations.

⁽²⁾ Represents beneficial ownership.

⁽³⁾ A wholly-owned subsidiary established to repurchase the Company's ADSs.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

For entities whose records are maintained in their functional currency, which is other than the reporting currency, all year-end statement of financial position items have been translated into U.S. Dollars at the period-end exchange rate. Revenues and expenses have been translated at the average exchange rate for the period. Translation differences resulting from the use of these rates are reported as a component of other comprehensive income.

Management estimates – The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Significant estimates include the allowance for doubtful accounts, allowance for inventory obsolescence, valuation of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in business combinations, income tax benefits, the recoverability of investments, goodwill, intangible assets and other long-lived assets, valuation of certain accrued liabilities and valuation of financial instruments.

Cash and cash equivalents – Cash and cash equivalents represent cash on hand and in bank accounts and short-term investments, including term deposits, having original maturities of less than three months.

Short-term investments and loans – Short-term investments generally represent investments in promissory notes, loans and time deposits which have original maturities in excess of three months but less than twelve months. These investments are being accounted for at amortized cost.

Accounts receivable – Accounts receivable are stated net of allowance for doubtful accounts. Concentrations of credit risk with respect to trade receivables are limited due to a highly diversified customer base, which includes a large number of individuals, private businesses and state-financed institutions.

Provision for doubtful accounts – The Group provides an allowance for doubtful accounts based on management's periodic review for recoverability of accounts receivable, advances given, loans and other receivables. Such allowance reflects either specific cases, collection trends or estimates based on evidence of collectability. For changes in the provision for doubtful accounts receivable see Note 7.

Prepaid expenses – Prepaid expenses primarily comprise advance payments made to vendors for inventory and services.

Inventory and spare parts – Inventory and spare parts mainly consists of handsets and accessories held for sale, cables and spare parts to be used for equipment maintenance within the next twelve months and advertising materials. Inventory is stated at the lower of cost or market value. Inventory cost is determined using the weighted average cost method.

Handsets and accessories held for sale are expensed when sold. The Group periodically assesses its inventories for obsolete and slow-moving stock.

Value-added tax ("VAT") – Value-added tax related to sales is payable to the tax authorities on an accrual basis based upon invoices issued to the customer. VAT incurred for purchases may be reclaimed from the state, subject to certain restrictions, against VAT related to sales.

Assets held for sale – In 2006, Group management decided to discontinue use of certain telecommunication equipment ("Lucent equipment") in accordance with the Group's network development strategy. The Group accounts for Lucent equipment in accordance with the authoritative guidance on property, plant and equipment, and reports Lucent equipment at the lower of its carrying amount or fair value less costs to sell. The fair value of these assets held for sale was determined based on disposal contract value and considered a Level 3 valuation as it was based on significant unobservable inputs. The equipment had a fair value less costs to sell of approximately \$10.4 million and \$18.5 million as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

The Group initially negotiated with a third party to sell this equipment during the year ended December 31, 2007. However, due to the wide range of geographical areas in which the equipment was located and its diversity, the Group reconsidered the time needed to sell the equipment in 2007 and, as a result, the original plan of sale was extended. The amount of Lucent equipment sold during 2008, 2009 and 2010 equaled \$12.8 million, \$25.2 million and \$8.1 million respectively. The remaining part of Lucent equipment held for sale in the amount of \$10.4 million is expected to be sold during 2011 and was classified as other current assets in the accompanying consolidated statement of financial position as of December 31, 2010.

Long-term investments and loans – Long-term financial instruments consist primarily of long-term investments and loans and long-term debt. Since quoted market prices are not readily available for all of its long-term investments and loans, the Group estimates their fair values based on the use of estimates incorporating various unobservable market inputs.

The Group does not discount promissory notes of and loans granted to related parties, interest rates on which are different from market rates. Accordingly, fair value of such notes and loans may be different from their carrying value.

Property, plant and equipment – Property, plant and equipment, including improvements that extend useful lives, are stated at cost. Property, plant and equipment contributed to MGTS free of charge are capitalized at their fair value at the date of transfer, and corresponding liability is recorded and amortized to the consolidated statements of operations over the contributed asset's useful life. Property, plant and equipment with a useful life of more than one year is capitalized at historical cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Mobile telecommunications equipment
Fixed line telecommunications equipment
Leasehold improvements

Buildings and constructions
Other fixed assets

4-12 years
7-31 years
Lesser of estimated useful life and lease term (1-10 years)
20-94 years
3-25 years

Construction in progress and equipment held for installation is not depreciated until the constructed or installed asset is ready for its intended use. Maintenance and repair costs are expensed as incurred, while upgrades and improvements are capitalized. Interest expense incurred during the construction phase of MTS' network is capitalized as part of property, plant and equipment until the relevant projects are completed and placed into service.

Asset retirement obligations – The Group calculates asset retirement obligations and an associated asset retirement cost when the Group has a legal or constructive obligation in connection with the retirement of tangible long-lived assets. The Group's obligations relate primarily to the cost of removing its equipment from sites. The Group recorded the present value of asset retirement obligations as other long-term liabilities in the consolidated statement of financial position.

License costs – License costs are capitalized as a result of (a) the purchase price allocated to licenses acquired in business combinations and (b) licenses purchased directly from government organizations, which require license payments.

The Group's operating licenses do not provide for automatic renewal. As of December 31, 2010, all licenses covering the territories of the Russian Federation were renewed. The cost to renew the licenses was not significant.

The Group has limited experience with the renewal of its existing licenses covering the territories of the Group's foreign subsidiaries. Licenses for provision of telecommunication services in MTS Ukraine, Uzdunrobita and K-Telecom are valid up to 2013, 2016 and 2019, respectively. The license in Turkmenistan was suspended by the Turkmenistan Ministry of Communications in December 2010 which resulted in cessation of Group's operational activity in Turkmenistan (Note 4). Management believes that licenses required for the Group's operations will be renewed upon expiration, though there is no assurance of such renewals and the Group has limited experience in seeking renewal of such licenses.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

License costs are being amortized during the initial license period without consideration of possible future renewals, subject to periodic review for impairment, on a straight-line basis over the period of validity, which varies from three to fifteen years.

Other intangible assets and goodwill – Intangible assets represent various purchased software costs, telephone numbering capacity, acquired customer base, rights to use radio frequencies and rights to use premises. A part of the rights to use premises was contributed by shareholders to the Group's charter capital. Telephone numbering capacity with a finite contractual life is being amortized over the contract period which varies from two to ten years. The rights to use premises are being amortized over five to fifteen years. Amortization of numbering capacity costs starts immediately upon the purchase of numbering capacity. Telephone numbering capacity with unlimited contractual life is not amortized, but is reviewed, at least annually, for impairment in accordance with the authoritative guidance on intangibles.

For acquisitions before January 1, 2009 goodwill represents an excess of the consideration paid over the fair market value of net identifiable assets acquired in purchase business combination and is not amortized. For the acquisitions after January 1, 2009 goodwill is determined as the excess of the consideration transferred plus the fair value of any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree at the acquisition date over the fair values of the identifiable net assets acquired. Goodwill is reviewed for impairment at least annually or whenever it is determined that one or more impairment indicators exist. The Group determines whether impairment has occurred by assigning goodwill to the reporting unit identified in accordance with the authoritative guidance on intangibles, and comparing the carrying amount of the reporting unit to the fair value of the reporting unit. If an impairment of goodwill has occurred, the Group recognizes a loss for the difference between the carrying amount and the implied fair value of goodwill (see Note 12).

Software and other intangible assets are amortized over one to fifty years. Customer bases are amortized on a straight-line basis over their respective estimated average subscriber life, being from 20 to 240 months. Rights to use radio frequencies are amortized over the period of their contractual life, being from two to fifteen years. All finite-life intangible assets are amortized using the straight-line method.

Impairment of long-lived assets – The Group periodically evaluates the recoverability of the carrying amount of its long-lived assets. Whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amounts of those assets may not be recoverable, the Group compares undiscounted net cash flows estimated to be generated by those assets to the carrying amount of those assets. When the undiscounted cash flows are less than the carrying amounts of the assets, the Group records impairment losses to write the asset down to fair value, measured by the estimated discounted net future cash flows expected to be generated from the use of the assets. Impairment of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets amounted to \$127.9 million, \$75.1 million and \$1.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The impairment loss in the amount of \$119.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2010 was recognized as a result of license suspension from the Group's subsidiary in Turkmenistan (Note 4).

Impairment of investments – Management periodically assesses the recoverability of the carrying values of investments and, if necessary, records impairment losses to write the investments down to fair value (see Note 15 and 16).

Leasing arrangements – Entities of the Group lease operating facilities which include switches, other network equipment, vehicles, premises and sites to install base stations equipment and towers. Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the statement of operation on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease. For capital leases, the present value of future minimum lease payments at the inception of the lease is reflected as an asset and a liability in the statement of financial position. Amounts due within one year are classified as short-term liabilities and the remaining balance as long-term liabilities.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Subscriber prepayments – The Group requires the majority of its customers to pay in advance for telecommunications services. All amounts received in advance of services provided are recorded as a subscriber prepayment liability and are not recorded as revenues until the related services have been provided to the subscriber.

Treasury stock – Shares of common stock repurchased by the Group are recorded at cost as treasury stock and reduce the shareholders' equity in the Group's consolidated financial statements.

Revenue recognition – Revenue includes all revenues from the ordinary business activities of the Group. Revenues are recorded net of value-added tax. They are recognized in the accounting period in which they are earned in accordance with the realization principle.

Revenues derived from wireless, local telephone, long distance, data and video services are recognized when services are provided. This is based upon either usage (minutes of traffic processed, volume of data transmitted) or period of time (monthly subscription fees).

Upfront fees received for connection of new subscribers, installation and activation of wireless, wireline and data transmission services ("connection fees") are deferred and recognized over the estimated average subscriber life, as follows:

Mobile subscribers1-5 yearsResidential wireline voice phone subscribers15 yearsResidential subscribers of broadband internet service1 yearOther fixed line subscribers3-5 years

The Group calculates an average life of mobile subscribers for each region in which it operates and amortizes regional connection fees.

Sales of handsets and accessories – The Group sells wireless handsets and accessories to customers who are entering into contracts for service and also as separate distinct transactions. The Group recognizes revenues from the sale of wireless handsets and accessories when the products are delivered to and accepted by the customer, as it is considered to be a separate earnings process from the sale of wireless services in accordance with the authoritative guidance on multiple-element arrangements. The costs of wireless handsets and accessories, whether sold to subscribers through the distribution channel or as part of the service contract, are expensed when the associated revenue is recognized.

Customer incentives – Incentives provided to customers are usually offered on signing a new contract or as part of a promotional offering. Incentives, representing the reduction of the selling price of the service (free minutes and discounts) are recorded in the period to which they relate, when the respective revenue is recognized, as a reduction to both accounts receivable and revenue. However, if the sales incentive is a free product or service delivered at the time of sale, the cost of the free product or service is classified as an expense. In particular, the Group sells handsets at prices below cost to contract subscribers. Such subsidies are recognized in the cost of handsets and accessories when the sale is recorded.

Prepaid cards – The Group sells prepaid cards to subscribers, separately from the handset. Prepaid cards, used as a method of cash collection, are accounted for as customer advances. These cards allow subscribers to make a predetermined allotment of wireless phone calls and/or take advantage of other services offered by the Group, such as short messages and value-added services. Revenue from the sale of prepaid cards is deferred until the service is rendered to the customer uses the airtime or the card expires.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Roaming discounts – The Group enters into roaming discount agreements with a number of wireless operators. According to the terms of the agreements the Group is obliged to provide and entitled to receive a discount that is generally dependant on the volume of inter operator roaming traffic. The Group accounts for rebates received from and granted to roaming partners in accordance with the authoritative guidance on customer payments and incentives. The Group uses various estimates and assumptions, based on historical data and adjusted for known changes, to determine the amount of discount to be received or granted. Such estimates are adjusted monthly to reflect newly-available information. The Group accounts for discounts received as a reduction of roaming expenses and rebates granted as reduction of roaming revenue. The Group considers terms of the various roaming discount agreements in order to determine the appropriate presentation of the amounts receivable from and payable to its roaming partners in its consolidated statement of financial position.

Income taxes – The Group recognizes income tax positions if it is more likely than not that they will be sustained on a tax audit, including resolution of related appeals or litigation processes, if any, and measures them as the largest amount which is more than 50% likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the expected future tax consequences of existing differences between financial reporting and tax reporting bases of assets and liabilities, and for the loss or tax credit carry-forwards using enacted tax rates expected to be in effect at the time these differences are realized. Valuation allowances are recorded for deferred tax assets for which it is more likely than not that the assets will not be realized (see Note 24). Interests and penalties related to uncertain tax positions are recognized in income tax expense.

Sales and marketing expenses – Sales and marketing expenses consist primarily of dealers' commissions and advertising costs. Dealers' commissions are linked to revenues received during the six-month period from the date a new subscriber is activated by a dealer. MTS expenses these costs as incurred. Advertising costs for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, were \$319.7 million, \$321.0 million and \$459.9 million, respectively.

Borrowing costs – Borrowing costs include interest incurred on existing indebtedness and debt issuance costs. Interest costs for assets that require a period of time to get them ready for their intended use are capitalized and amortized over the estimated useful lives of the related assets. The capitalized interest costs for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 were \$43.9 million, \$72.3 million and \$84.5 million, respectively. Debt issuance costs are capitalized and amortized over the term of the respective borrowings using the effective interest method. Interest expense net of amounts capitalized and amortization of debt issuance costs, for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, were \$688.0 million, \$535.0 million and \$212.3 million, respectively.

Retirement benefit and social security costs – The Group contributes to the local state pension and social funds, on behalf of all its employees.

In Russia all social contributions paid during the year ended December 31, 2010 are represented by payments to governmental social funds, including Pension Fund of the Russian Federation, Social Security Fund of the Russian Federation, Medical Insurance Fund of the Russian Federation. A direct contribution to those funds replaced payments of unified social tax ("UST") since UST was abolished effective January 1, 2010. The contributions are expensed as incurred. The amount of social contributions paid by the Group in Russia amounted to \$127.6 million, \$96.3 million and \$122.3 million in 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

MGTS, a subsidiary of the Group, has historically offered its employees certain benefits upon and after retirement. The cost of such benefits includes current service costs and amortization of prior service costs. The expense is recognized during an employee's years of active service with MGTS. The recognition of expense for retirement pension plans is significantly impacted by estimates made by management such as discount rates used to value certain liabilities, expected return on assets, future rates of compensation increase and other related assumptions. The Group accounts for pension plans in accordance with the requirements of the FASB authoritative guidance on retirement benefits.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

In Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Armenia the subsidiaries of the Group are required to contribute a specified percentage of each employee payroll up to a fixed limit to the local pension fund, unemployment and social security funds. Payments to the pension fund in Ukraine amounted to \$70.5 million, \$64.9 million and \$14.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively. Amounts contributed to the pension funds in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Armenia were not significant.

Earnings per share – Basic earnings per share ("EPS") have been determined using the weighted average number of MTS shares outstanding during the year. Diluted EPS reflect the potential dilutive effect of stock options granted to employees.

Financial instruments and hedging activities – From time to time to optimize the structure of business acquisitions and to defer payment of the purchase price the Group enters into put and call option agreements to acquire the remaining noncontrolling stakes in newly acquired subsidiaries. These put and call option agreements are classified as redeemable securities and are accounted for at redemption value which is generally the fair value of redeemable noncontrolling interests as of the reporting date. Fair value of redeemable noncontrolling interests is assessed based on discounted future cash flows of the acquired entity ("Level 3" significant unobservable inputs of the hierarchy established by the U.S. GAAP guidance). Changes in redemption value of redeemable noncontrolling interests are accounted for in the Group's retained earnings. Redeemable noncontrolling interests are presented as temporary equity in the consolidated statement of financial position.

The Group uses derivative instruments, including swap, forward and option contracts to manage foreign currency and interest rate risk exposures. The Group measures derivatives at fair value and recognizes them as either other current or other non-current assets or liabilities in the consolidated statement of financial position. The Group reviews its fair value hierarchy classifications quarterly. Changes in significant observable valuation inputs identified during these reviews may trigger reclassification of fair value hierarchy levels of financial assets and liabilities. During the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 no reclassifications occurred. The fair value measurement of the Group's hedging agreements is based on the observable yield curves for similar instruments ("Level 2" of the hierarchy established by the U.S. GAAP guidance).

The Group designates derivatives as either fair value hedges or cash flow hedges in case the required criteria are met. Changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as fair value hedges are recorded in the consolidated statement of operations together with any changes in the fair value of the hedged asset or liability that is attributed to the hedged risk.

The effective portion of changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as cash flow hedges are recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income. The gain or loss relating to the ineffective portion is recognized immediately in the consolidated statement of operations. For derivatives that do not meet the conditions for hedge accounting, gains and losses from changes in the fair value are included in the consolidated statement of operations (Note 22).

Assets and liabilities related to multiple derivative contracts with one counterparty are not offset by the Group.

The Group does not use financial instruments for trading or speculative purposes.

Fair value of financial instruments – The fair market value of financial instruments, consisting of cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments, accounts receivable and accounts payable, which are included in current assets and liabilities, approximates the carrying value of these items due to the short term nature of these amounts. The fair value of issued notes as of December 31, 2010, is disclosed in Note 18 and is based on active markets' quoted prices.

Based on current market interest rates available to the Group for long-term borrowings with similar terms and maturities, the Group believes the fair value of other fixed rate debt including capital lease obligations and the fair value of variable rate debt approximated its carrying value as of December 31, 2010.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Comprehensive income – Comprehensive income is defined as net income plus all other changes in net assets from non-owner sources.

Stock-based compensation – The Group accounts for stock-based compensation under the authoritative guidance on share based compensations. Under the provisions of this guidance companies must calculate and record the cost of equity instruments, such as stock options awarded to employees for services received, in the statements of operation. The cost of the equity instruments is to be measured based on the fair value of the instruments on the date they are granted (with certain exceptions) and recognized over the period during which the employees are required to provide services in exchange for equity instruments.

New accounting pronouncements – In October 2009, the FASB amended the revenue recognition for multiple deliverable arrangements guidance to require the use of the relative selling price method when allocating revenue in these types of arrangements. This method allows a vendor to use its best estimate of selling price if neither vendor specific objective evidence nor third party evidence of selling price exists when evaluating multiple deliverable arrangements. This updated guidance is effective prospectively for revenue arrangements entered into or materially modified in fiscal years beginning on or after June 15, 2010. The adoption of this guidance, effective January 1, 2011, is not expected to have a significant impact on the Group's consolidated financial statements.

3. BUSINESS ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS

Acquisition of Sistema Telecom – In December 2010, the Group acquired 100% of Sistema Telecom LLC ("Sistema Telecom") from Sistema for RUB 11.59 billion (\$378.98 million as of December 27, 2010). The entity's key assets consist of property rights in respect of the group of trademarks, including the distinctive "egg" trademarks of MTS, Comstar-UTS and MGTS, certain promissory notes previously issued by the Group in the amount of RUB 2.00 billion (\$65.50 million) and a 45% stake in TS-Retail. As a result of the acquisition, the Group expects to reduce its operating expenses previously incurred to rent the trademarks and to further optimize the management structure of its retail business.

The acquisition was accounted for as a common control transaction at carrying amount. These consolidated financial statements were retroactively restated to reflect the Group as if Sistema Telecom had been owned since the beginning of the earliest period presented. The transaction was accounted for in a manner similar to the pooling-of-interests method directly in equity.

Metro-Telecom – In August 2010, the Group acquired a 95% stake in Metro-Telecom CJSC ("Metro-Telecom") from Invest-Svyaz, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sistema, for RUB 339.35 million (\$11.01 million as of August 27, 2010). The company operates an optical fiber network in the Moscow metro.

The acquisition was accounted for as a common control transaction at carrying amount. These consolidated financial statements were retroactively restated to reflect the Group as if Metro-Telecom had been owned since the beginning of the earliest period presented. The transaction was accounted for in a manner similar to the pooling-of-interests method directly in equity.

Multiregion – In July 2010, the Group acquired a 100% stake in Multiregion CJSC ("Multiregion"), for the cash consideration of \$123.6 million. Multiregion and its subsidiaries is a group of broadband and cable TV providers with the presence in 37 cities of the Russian Federation.

The acquisition was accounted for using the purchase method of accounting. The summary of the purchase price allocation for the acquisition was as follows:

| Current assets | \$ 46,776 |
|--|------------|
| Non-current assets | 46,732 |
| Customer base | 76,376 |
| Goodwill | 148,743 |
| Current liabilities | (126,780) |
| Non-current liabilities | (44,007) |
| Fair value of noncontrolling interests | (24,244) |
| Consideration paid | \$123,596_ |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

The fair value of noncontrolling interests was determined based on unobservable inputs ("Level 3" of fair value hierarchy). The fair value was measured as the fair value of Multiregion's net assets using the discounted cash flow technique.

The excess of the purchase price over the value of net assets acquired was allocated to goodwill which was assigned to the "Russia Fixed" segment and is not deductible for income tax purposes. Goodwill is mainly attributable to the synergies from reduction of internet-traffic and administrative expenses of the Group and expected increase of market share as a result of future capital expenditures to be made by the Group.

Increase of stake in SWEET-COM – In June 2010, the Group acquired the remaining 25.1% stake in SWEET-COM LLC ("SWEET-COM") from private investors for \$8.5 million. As a result of this transaction, the Group's ownership in the subsidiary increased to 100%. The original 74.9% stake was acquired in February 2005. SWEET-COM holds licenses for provision of telematic communications and data transmission services in the Moscow region and the Russian Federation. The transaction was accounted for directly in equity.

Increase of stake in TS-Retail – In June 2010, the Group increased its direct ownership in TS-Retail OJSC ("TS-Retail") from 25% to 40% for a nominal amount of one U.S. Dollar. MTS subsequently increased its effective ownership interest in TS-Retail to 50.95%, which was achieved through a voluntary tender offer to repurchase Comstar-UTS' shares in September 2010. In December 2010, as a result of acquisition of Sistema Telecom, the Group acquired an additional 45% stake in TS-Retail, resulting in the effective ownership interest reaching 96.04%. The acquisition of Sistema Telecom was aimed at optimizing the management structure of the Company's retail business.

Upon obtaining control over TS-Retail, the Group accounted for the acquisition as a common control transaction at carrying amount. These consolidated financial statements were retroactively restated to reflect the Group as if TS-Retail had been owned since the beginning of the earliest period presented. The transaction was accounted for in a manner similar to the pooling-of-interests method directly in equity.

Acquisitions of controlling interests in regional fixed line operators – In 2010, as a part of its program of regional expansion, the Group has acquired controlling interests in a number of alternative fixed-line operators in certain regions of Russia. The purchase price for these acquisitions was paid in cash. The acquisitions were accounted for using the purchase method of accounting.

The following table summarizes the purchase price allocation for regional fixed line operators acquired during the year ended December 31, 2010:

| | _ | Tenzor Telecom | Penza Telecom | NMSK | Lanck Telecom | Total |
|---|-----|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Month of acquisition Ownership interest acquired | | February 100% | June 100% | December 100% | December 100% | |
| Region of operations | | Central region | Volga region | Sibir region | North-West region | |
| Current assets Property, plant and | \$ | 711 \$ | 1,076 \$ | 2,486 \$ | 2,066 \$ | 6,339 |
| equipment | | 2,191 | 2,407 | 9,264 | 8,444 | 22,306 |
| Goodwill | | 6,616 | 7,394 | - | 18,144 | 32,154 |
| Subscriber base | | - | 15,603 | 23,893 | - | 39,496 |
| Current liabilities | | (3,142) | (4,369) | (8,109) | (10,832) | (26,452) |
| Non-current liabilities | _ | (130) | (2,779) | (4,348) | <u> </u> | (7,257) |
| Consideration paid | \$_ | 6,246 \$ | 19,332 \$ | 23,186 \$ | 17,822 \$ | 66,586 |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

The purchase price allocation of Tenzor Telecom and Penza Telecom was finalized during the year ended December 31, 2010. The Group's consolidated financial statements reflect the allocation of the purchase price based on a fair value assessment of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed.

The purchase price allocation of NMSK and Lanck Telecom had not been finalized as of the date of these financial statements as the Group had not completed the valuation of individual assets of these companies. The Group's consolidated financial statements reflect the allocation of the purchase price based on a preliminary fair value assessment of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed.

Subscriber base recognized as a result of the acquisitions is amortized over a period ranging from 8 to 12 years depending on the type of subscribers.

Recognition of goodwill in the amount of \$32.2 million from the acquisitions is due to economic potential of the markets the acquired companies operate in and synergies arising from the acquisitions. Goodwill is attributable to the "Russia Fixed" segment.

Acquisitions of certain retail chains – In 2009, in conjunction with the development of its own retail network, the Group acquired controlling interests in a number of retail chains in Russia. The acquisitions were accounted for using the purchase method of accounting.

The following table summarizes the purchase price allocation of the retail chains acquired as of the acquisition date:

| | _ | Telefon.ru | Eldorado | Teleforum | Total |
|--|-----|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Month of acquisition | | February | March | October | |
| Ownership interest acquired | | 100% | 100% | 100% | |
| Current assets | \$ | 48,979 \$ | 2,467 \$ | 2,953 \$ | 54,399 |
| Non-current assets | | 2,315 | 911 | 745 | 3,971 |
| Brand | | - | 374 | - | 374 |
| Goodwill | | 123,333 | 29,875 | 9,050 | 162,258 |
| Current liabilities | | (108,701) | (12,248) | (3,614) | (124,563) |
| Non-current liabilities | | (5,926) | (115) | - | (6,041) |
| Fair value of contingent consideration | | - | (3,414) | (6,934) | (10,348) |
| Consideration paid | \$_ | 60,000 \$ | 17,850 \$ | 2,200 \$ | 80,050 |

The Group's financial statements reflect the allocation of the purchase price based on a fair value assessment of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed. Goodwill was mainly attributable to the synergies arising from the Group's ability to optimize the dealers' compensation structure and to maintain its subscriber market share in Russia. Goodwill is not deductible for income tax purposes and was assigned to the "Russia Mobile" segment. Brand components are amortized over a periods of 6 months.

The terms of the individual purchase agreements included the obligation to pay additional consideration as follows:

- Up to \$25 million during the period from 12 to 18 months for Telefon.ru;
- Up to \$5 million in 12 months for Eldorado; and
- Up to \$8.8 million in 12 months for Teleforum.

The additional consideration could be reduced by the amount of tax liability related to the activities prior to the acquisition dates. The Group could also deduct amounts of any potential losses arising from the loss of control on any of Teleforum's outlets from the amount of contingent consideration. The purchase price allocation as of the acquisition date reflected management's estimate of the fair value of the contingent consideration at the acquisition date.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

In 2010 the Group paid additional consideration in connection with the acquisition of retail chains in full amounts. The difference between the fair value of contingent consideration and the actual amount paid totaling \$41.8 resulted from events which occurred after the acquisition date and was accounted for as other operating expenses in the consolidated statement of operations.

Evrotel acquisition – In December 2009, the Group acquired a 100% stake in Evrotel OJSC ("Evrotel"), a Russian federal back bone network operator, from a third party. The consideration paid comprised \$90 million. Under the terms of agreement the Group shall pay contingent consideration of up to \$20 million should Evrotel complete the construction of certain fiber-optic lines and the Group retain control over the technical support agreements in relation to the optic cable lines. At the acquisition date the estimated fair value of this contingent consideration was \$20 million.

The acquisition was accounted for using the purchase method of accounting. The purchase price allocation for the acquisition was as follows:

| Current assets | \$ 14,300 |
|--|--------------|
| Non-current assets | 67,960 |
| Customer base | 4,726 |
| Goodwill | 98,542 |
| Liabilities | (75,528) |
| Fair value of contingent consideration | (20,000) |
| Consideration paid | \$ 90,000 |

Goodwill is mainly attributable to the synergies from reduction of interconnect and internet-traffic expenses of the Group. Goodwill is not deductible for income tax purposes and was assigned to the "Russia Fixed" segment.

Comstar-UTS acquisition – In October 2009, the Group acquired a 50.91% stake in Comstar-UTS, a provider of fixed line communication services in Russia, Ukraine and Armenia, from Sistema. Consideration paid amounted to RUB 39.15 billion (\$1.32 billion as of October 12, 2009) or RUB 184.02 (\$6.21) per global depositary receipt ("GDR").

This acquisition has been accounted for as a common control transaction at carrying amount. The excess of consideration over the carrying value of net assets received has been recorded as a decrease in additional paid-in capital of the Group in the amount of \$1.080 billion and as a decrease in retained earnings in the amount of \$242.7 million.

Further, in December 2009, in a series of transactions, the Group acquired a 14.2% stake in the Moscow City Networks OJSC ("MGTS") in exchange for 31,816,462 ordinary MTS OJSC shares (equal to RUB 7.17 billion based on the MICEX price on December 17, 2009, or RUB 225.4 per share, per the terms of the agreement with MGTS shareholder), representing 1.6% shares outstanding, previously held in treasury and \$7.3 million in cash. The MGTS stake, represented by 2,462,687 ordinary shares and 11,135,428 preferred shares, were held by a wholly owned subsidiary of Comstar-UTS. Simultaneously, MTS received 46,232,000 shares, representing 11.06% of total shares outstanding, of Comstar-UTS from MGTS Finance S.A., a wholly owned subsidiary of MGTS. In addition, MTS paid Comstar-UTS a cash consideration of \$8.3 million. The transaction was accounted for directly in equity.

In September 2010, through a voluntary tender offer the Group acquired 37,614,087 ordinary shares of Comstar-UTS which represents approximately 9.0% of its issued share capital for a total consideration of RUB 8.28 billion (approximately \$271.89 million as of October 6, 2010). This brought the Group's total ownership stake in Comstar-UTS to 70.97% (or 73.33% excluding treasury shares). The transaction was accounted for directly in equity.

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Kolorit acquisition – In September 2009, the Group acquired a 100% stake in Kolorit Dizayn Inc ("Kolorit"), a company providing outdoor advertising services in the territory of Uzbekistan, for \$39.7 million in cash.

The acquisition was accounted for using the purchase method of accounting. The summary of the purchase price allocation for the acquisition was as follows:

| Current assets | \$ 993 |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Non-current assets | 11,788 |
| Brand | 2,097 |
| Goodwill | 27,109 |
| Current liabilities | (2,098) |
| Non-current liabilities | (235) |
| Consideration paid | \$39,654 |

Goodwill is mainly attributable to synergies from advertising cost optimization. Goodwill is not deductible for income tax purposes and was assigned to the "Uzbekistan Mobile" segment.

Dagtelecom acquisition – In January 2009, Glaxen Corp. ("Glaxen"), the minority shareholder of Dagtelecom, exercised its put option over its 25.5% stake in the company. Consideration payable by the Group on the put option agreement comprised \$51.3 million. Payment made by the Group was reduced by \$12.5 million to offset the loan receivable from Glaxen at the date of acquisition. The transaction was accounted for directly in equity.

Acquisitions of controlling interests in regional fixed line operators – In 2008, as a part of its program of regional expansion, Comstar-UTS has acquired controlling interests in certain alternative fixed-line operators in several regions of Russia. The acquisitions were accounted for using the purchase method of accounting.

The following table summarizes the purchase price allocation of the fixed-line operators acquired as of the acquisition dates:

| Month of acquisition | al |
|--|---------|
| Month of acquisition June July | |
| Ownership interest acquired 100% 100% | |
| Current assets \$ 994 \$ 4,194 \$ | 5,188 |
| Property, plant and equipment 7,042 15,135 | 22,177 |
| Goodwill 4,230 27,846 | 32,076 |
| Subscriber base - 12,553 | 12,553 |
| Current liabilities (2,928) (6,280) | (9,208) |
| Non-current liabilities - (5,253) | (5,253) |
| Deferred tax liabilities (910) (4,710) | (5,620) |
| Consideration paid \$ 8,428 \$ 43,485 \$ | 51,913 |

Recognition of goodwill in the amounts of \$4.2 million and \$27.8 million from the acquisition of Interlink Group and UTC, respectively, was due to the economic potential of the markets the acquired companies operate in. Goodwill was recognized in the "Russia Fixed" segment.

The Group's financial statements reflect the allocation of the purchase price based on a fair value assessment of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed. Goodwill is not deductible for tax purposes. Subscriber base components are amortized over the periods ranging from 9 to 17 years, depending on the type of subscribers.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Acquisition of Stream-TV – In December 2008, as part of its regional expansion, Comstar-UTS entered into an agreement with Sistema Mass Media ("SMM"), a subsidiary of Sistema, to acquire all of SMM's interest in certain of its subsidiaries (collectively referred to as "Stream-TV") for a total cash consideration of RUB 3,544.5 million (\$117.2 million as of December 31, 2009), determined by an independent appraiser and payable in installments between December 2008 and March 2009, including RUB 980.0 million (\$32.4 million as of December 31, 2009) payable to Stream-TV and RUB 2,564.5 million (\$84.8 million as of December 31, 2009) payable to SMM. RUB 2,460.8 million (\$81.4 million as of December 31, 2009) and RUB 103.3 million (\$3.4 million as of December 31, 2009) of the consideration was paid to SMM during the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2009, respectively. In addition, in December 2008 Stream-TV paid \$19.1 million in cash to SMM for the controlling interests in certain regional subsidiaries acquired by Stream-TV from SMM in 2007.

In the first quarter of 2009, legal title to the business and full control of Stream-TV transferred to Comstar-UTS. This acquisition was accounted for by Comstar, and therefore the Group in a like manner, as a common control transaction. These financial statements reflect retrospective application of this acquisition in a manner similar to a pooling of interests. The transaction was accounted for directly in equity.

MSS acquisition – In February 2008, the Group acquired an additional 9% stake in its Omsk subsidiary, Mobilnye Sistemy Svyazi ("MSS"), from a private investor for \$16.0 million in cash. As a result of this transaction, the Group's ownership in the subsidiary increased to 100%. The transaction was accounted for using the purchase method. The allocation of the purchase price increased the recorded license cost by \$8.8 million and customer base cost by \$3.2 million. License costs are amortized over the remaining contractual terms of the license of approximately 3 years and the customer base is amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated average subscriber's life of approximately 5 years.

Reorganization of Comstar-Direct – Prior to December 2008, Comstar-Direct was owned 52% by Comstar-UTS and 48% by Sistema Mass Media ("SMM"), a subsidiary of Sistema. In December 2008, Comstar-Direct was split into two legal entities: SMM-Finance which became a 100% subsidiary of SMM, and Comstar-Direct which became a 100% subsidiary of Comstar-UTS. The effect of this transaction was the disposal of \$26.8 million of net assets of Comstar-Direct and the acquisition of the remaining 48% noncontrolling interest in Comstar-Direct from SMM by Comstar-UTS. The transaction was accounted for at cost as a transaction between entities under common control. The excess of the net assets disposed of and the noncontrolling interest acquired was recorded in additional paid-in capital.

Summary of the assets and liabilities disposed of by Comstar-UTS and the acquisition of the remaining 48% noncontrolling interest in Comstar-Direct is as follows:

| Excess of the net assets disposed of and noncontrolling interest acquired | \$ 11,007 |
|---|--------------|
| Noncontrolling interest acquired | (15,813) |
| Total assets and liabilities disposed, net | 26,820 |
| Trade accounts payable | (14,264) |
| Long-term investments and loans | 7,508 |
| Trade and other accounts receivable | 22,379 |
| Inventory and other current assets | 6,168 |
| Cash and short-term investments and loans | \$ 5,029 |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Pro forma results of operations (unaudited) – The following unaudited pro forma financial data for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, gives effect to the acquisitions of Multiregion, Tenzor Telecom, Penza Telecom, NMSK and Lanck Telecom as though these business combinations had been completed at the beginning of 2009.

| | 2010 | 2009 |
|---|------------------|-----------------|
| Pro forma: | | |
| Net revenues | \$ 11,366,018 | \$ 9,957,352 |
| Net operating income | 2,748,650 | 2,569,735 |
| Net income | 1,375,415 | 982,892 |
| Earnings per share, basic and diluted, U.S. Dollars | \$ 0.72 | \$ 0.52 |

The pro forma information is based on various assumptions and estimates. The pro forma information is not necessarily indicative of the operating results that would have occurred if the Group acquisitions had been consummated as of January 1, 2009, nor is it necessarily indicative of future operating results. The pro forma information does not give effect to any potential revenue enhancements or cost synergies or other operating efficiencies that could result from the acquisitions. The actual results of operations of these companies are included in the consolidated financial statements of the Group only from the respective dates of acquisition.

The following amounts of revenue and earnings of the companies acquired from third parties in 2010 since the acquisition date included in the consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2010:

| | _ | 2010 (unaudited) |
|--|----|------------------------------|
| Net revenues Net operating loss Net loss | \$ | 43,673 (2,921) (8,820) |

4. OPERATIONS IN TURKMENISTAN

In December 2010 the Group suspended its operations in Turkmenistan following a notice received from the Ministry of Communications of Turkmenistan informing of a decision to suspend licenses held by BCTI, the Group's wholly-owned subsidiary in Turkmenistan, for a period of one month starting from December 21, 2010. On January 21, 2011, the period of license suspension expired, however, permission to resume operations was not granted.

The Group conducted operations in Turkmenistan under a trilateral agreement signed in November 2005 by BCTI, MTS OJSC and the Ministry of Communications of Turkmenistan which expired on December 21, 2010, unless extended pursuant to its terms and conditions. In accordance with certain provisions of this agreement, BCTI shared net profits derived from its operations in the country with the Ministry of Communications of Turkmenistan. The amount of shared net profit was calculated based on the financial statements prepared in accordance with local accounting principles subject to certain adjustments. Under the terms of the agreement, BCTI shared 20% of its net profit commencing December 21, 2005. The Group at all times believed that the agreement would be extended and approached the Ministry of Communications within the required timeframe to formalize the extension. However, the Ministry of Communications failed to grant the extension in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

Following the decision to suspend licenses, Turkmenistan government authorities took further steps, including the one-sided termination of interconnect agreements between BCTI and state-owned telecom operators, to prevent the Group from providing services to its customers.

Although BCTI has experienced no restrictions in using its current bank accounts and short-term deposits to settle existing tax and contractual liabilities, the ability of the Group to repatriate cash from the country is uncertain.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

The Group initiated a number of lawsuits against Turkmenistan government authorities and state-owned telecom operators to defend its legal rights. On December 21, 2010 BCTI filed three requests of arbitration with the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce ("ICC") against the Ministry of Communications of Turkmenistan and several state-owned telecom operators requesting specific performance on the respective agreements and compensation of damages. On January 24, 2011 ICC proceedings were suspended due to the proposal of the Ministry of Communications of Turkmenistan to start negotiations but were resumed on February 18, 2011 as no agreement between the parties was reached.

On 21 January 2011 MTS sent to the Government of Turkmenistan a formal notice requesting to resolve the dispute by negotiations. Should the dispute not be resolved amicably by negotiations, MTS reserved its right to commence proceedings against the sovereign state of Turkmenistan on the basis of any applicable inter-governmental investment treaty. Under the Bilateral Investment Treaty ("BIT") between the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan, if a dispute is not resolved through negotiations within six months from the date of the request to negotiate, it can be referred to the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes ("ICSID").

Considering the adverse impact of such circumstances on the Group's ability to conduct operations in Turkmenistan, the Group determined that all of its long-lived assets attributable to Turkmenistan were impaired and recorded an impairment charge of \$119.6 million in the consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2010. The Group also assessed the recoverability of the subsidiary's current assets and provided for or wrote down those which were considered to be impaired. The total effect of impairment charges on the Group's statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2010 is as follows:

| Impairment of long-lived assets | \$ 119,580 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Provision for doubtful accounts | 11,462 |
| General and administrative expenses | 4,280 |
| Other operating expenses | 2,500 |
| | |
| | \$ 137,822 |

5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 comprised the following:

| | | December 31, | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|--------------|----|-----------|
| | _ | 2010 | | 2009 |
| Ruble current accounts | \$ | 413,139 | \$ | 577,603 |
| Ruble deposit accounts | | 93,271 | | 1,059,105 |
| U.S. Dollar current accounts | | 215,375 | | 217,586 |
| U.S. Dollar deposit accounts | | 28,002 | | 12,000 |
| Euro current accounts | | 17,142 | | 602,825 |
| Euro deposit accounts | | 11,288 | | 4,161 |
| Hryvna current accounts | | 9,535 | | 1,260 |
| Hryvna deposit accounts | | 35,753 | | 2,768 |
| Uzbek som current accounts | | 91,236 | | 26,922 |
| Uzbek som deposit accounts | | - | | 662 |
| Turkmenian manat current accounts | | 10,568 | | 21,020 |
| Armenian dram current accounts | | 2,160 | | 2,683 |
| Other | _ | 225 | | 415 |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | \$_ | 927,694 | \$ | 2,529,010 |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

6. SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS

Short-term investments as of December 31, 2010 comprised the following:

| Type of investment | Annual interest rate | Maturity date | Amount |
|--|------------------------------|---|--|
| Deposit Funds in trust management Promissory notes Other | 3.5-9.0% 9.2% 5.5-7.0% | January-July 2011 June 2011 April-June 2011 | \$ 279,663 26,987 26,701 243 |
| Total | | | \$ 333,594 |

Short-term investments as of December 31, 2009 comprised the following:

| Type of investment | Annual interest rate | Maturity date | _ | Amount |
|---|----------------------------|--|----|--------------------------------------|
| Promissory notes Deposits Funds in trust management Other | 6.0% 7.0%-12.5% 9.0% | March-June 2010 January-July 2010 October 2010 | \$ | 144,572 38,370 20,077 3,451 |
| Total | | | \$ | 206,470 |

7. TRADE RECEIVABLES, NET

Trade receivables as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 comprised the following:

| | | December 31, | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|--------------------|-----|-------------------|--|
| | _ | 2010 | _ | 2009 | |
| Subscribers | \$ | 384,903 | \$ | 323,135 | |
| Interconnect Dealers | | 120,948 108,010 | | 108,376 61,827 | |
| Roaming Other | | 224,687 80,022 | | 159,119 40,942 | |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts | _ | (120,468) | _ | (97,653) | |
| Trade receivables, net | \$ | 798,102 | \$_ | 595,746 | |

The following table summarizes the changes in the allowance for doubtful accounts receivable for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008:

| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Balance, beginning of year Provision for doubtful accounts | \$ 97,653 | \$ 69,603 | \$ 70,373 |
| Accounts receivable written off | 123,352 (99,708) | 105,260 (76,622) | 97,460 (84,364) |
| Currency translation adjustment | (829) | (588) | (13,866) |
| Balance, end of year | \$ 120,468 | \$ 97,653 | \$ 69,603 |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

8. INVENTORY AND SPARE PARTS

Inventory and spare parts as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, comprised the following:

| | December 31, | | | |
|---|---------------|----|---------|--|
| | 2010 | | 2009 | |
| Handsets and accessories | | | | |
| (including consigned to others \$3,496 and \$nil) | \$ 234,166 | \$ | 165,709 | |
| Spare parts for telecommunication equipment | 34,687 | | 26,928 | |
| SIM cards and prepaid phone cards | 21,879 | | 23,821 | |
| Advertising materials | 2,011 | | 2,195 | |
| Other | 27,213 | | 20,918 | |
| Total inventory and spare parts | \$ 319,956 | \$ | 239,571 | |

Obsolescence expense for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, amounted to \$27.8 million, \$4.1 million and \$3.9 million, respectively, and was included in general and administrative expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations.

9. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

The net book value of property, plant and equipment as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, was as follows:

| December 31, | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 2010 | | 2009 | |
| 10,631,101 1,102,584 742,263 81,085 12,557,033 | \$ | 9,391,900 1,053,199 890,913 56,846 11,392,858 | |
| (6,196,117) 1,610,914 7,971,830 | \$ | (5,098,418) 1,456,177 7,750,617 | |
| _ | 12,557,033 (6,196,117) 1,610,914 | 12,557,033 (6,196,117) 1,610,914 | |

Depreciation expense during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, amounted to \$1,521.6 million, \$1,380.8 million and \$1,528.0 million, respectively.

10. CAPITAL LEASE OBLIGATIONS

The following is a summary of leased assets and respective depreciation as of December 31, 2010 and 2009:

| | December 31, | | | |
|--|------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|--|
| | 2010 | _ | 2009 | |
| Vehicles Telecommunication equipment Improvement Buildings | \$ 33,658 1,235 829 | \$ | 9,995 68,547 1,096 171 | |
| Leased assets, at cost Accumulated depreciation | 35,722 (5,631) | | 79,809 (36,380) | |
| Leased assets, net | \$ 30,091 | \$ | 43,429 | |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Depreciation of the assets recorded as capital leases is included in depreciation and amortization expense in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 and amounted to \$2.8 million, \$10.2 million and \$10.8 million, respectively. Interest expense accrued on capital lease obligations for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 amounted to \$0.5 million, \$1.5 million and \$2.0 million, respectively.

The following table presents future minimum lease payments under capital leases together with the present value of the net minimum lease payments:

| Payments due in the period ended December 31, | |
|---|--------------|
| 2011 | \$ 10,461 |
| 2012 | 8,968 |
| 2013 | 8,427 |
| 2014 | 170 |
| 2015 | 71 |
| Total minimum lease payments (undiscounted) | 28,097 |
| Less amount representing interest | (8,342) |
| Present value of net minimum lease payments | 19,755 |
| Less current portion of lease obligations | (8,882) |
| Non-current portion of lease obligations | \$ 10,873 |
| | |

Vehicles leased include automobiles and a corporate aircraft. The Group has an obligation to purchase these vehicles under the respective capital lease agreements at the end of the lease term. The Group may also purchase the aircraft at any time during a period starting from January 2011 through the end of the lease term, which is December 2013, for an amount ranging from \$10.4 million to \$0.6 million depending on the date of purchase.

11. LICENSES

In connection with providing telecommunication services, the Group has been issued various licenses by the Russian Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications. In addition to the licenses received directly from the Ministry, the Group has gained access to various telecommunications licenses through acquisitions. In foreign subsidiaries, the licenses are granted by the local telecommunications authorities.

As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the recorded values of the Group's telecommunication licenses were as follows:

| | | December 31, | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|----|-----------|
| | - | 2010 | | 2009 |
| Russia | \$ | 229,209 | \$ | 264,387 |
| Uzbekistan | | 196,517 | | 196,517 |
| Armenia | | 203,993 | | 196,193 |
| Ukraine | | 49,414 | | 49,046 |
| Licenses, at cost | _ | 679,133 | | 706,143 |
| Accumulated amortization | _ | (384,405) | | (341,421) |
| Licenses, net | \$ | 294,728 | \$ | 364,722 |

Amortization expense for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, amounted to \$76.3 million, \$78.7 million and \$154.7 million, respectively.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Fatimated amountination arrange in the vacuum and at December 24

Based solely on the cost of amortizable operating licenses existing as of December 31, 2010 and current exchange rates, the estimated future amortization expenses for each of the next five years ending December 31 are as follows:

| 2013 | 34,688 30,570 |
|--------------|------------------|
| 2014 2015 | 29,790 29,790 |
| Thereafter | 116,327 |
| Total | \$ 294,728 |

The actual amortization expense to be reported in future periods could differ from these estimates as a result of new licenses acquisitions, changes in useful lives, exchange rates and other relevant factors.

Operating licenses contain a number of requirements and conditions specified by legislation. The requirements generally include the targets for start date of service, territorial coverage and expiration date. Management believes that the Group is in compliance with all material terms of its licenses.

Licenses that expired during the year ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 were renewed, however their carrying value in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets is immaterial due to the low cost of renewal.

12. GOODWILL

The change in the net carrying amount of goodwill for 2010 and 2009 by reportable segments was as follows:

| | _ | Russia Mobile | Ukraine Mobile | Russia Fixed | Other | Total |
|-------------------------------------|----|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| Balance at January 1, 2009 | | | | | | |
| Gross amount of goodwill | \$ | 127,311 \$ | 5,508 \$ | 141,380 \$ | 245,163 \$ | 519,362 |
| Accumulated impairment loss | _ | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | (49,891) | <u> </u> | (49,891) |
| | _ | 127,311 | 5,508 | 91,489 | 245,163 | 469,471 |
| Acquisitions (Note 3) | | 189,842 | - | 104,439 | 34,283 | 328,564 |
| Finalization of purchase accounting | | - | - | 41,835 | - | 41,835 |
| Currency translation adjustment | _ | (3,636) | (197) | (1,397) | (30,867) | (36,097) |
| Balance at December 31, 2009 | | | | | | |
| Gross amount of goodwill | | 313,517 | 5,311 | 284,832 | 248,579 | 852,239 |
| Accumulated impairment loss | | | · - | (48,466) | - | (48,466) |
| | _ | 313,517 | 5,311 | 236,366 | 248,579 | 803,773 |
| Acquisitions (Note 3) | | _ | _ | 175,307 | - | 175,307 |
| Currency translation adjustment | _ | (2,394) | 16 | (934) | 5,567 | 2,255 |
| Balance at December 31, 2010 | | | | | | |
| Gross amount of goodwill | | 311,123 | 5,327 | 458,835 | 254,146 | 1,029,431 |
| Accumulated impairment loss | | - , | - | (48,096) | - , | (48,096) |
| · | \$ | 311,123 \$ | 5,327 \$ | 410,739 \$ | 254,146 \$ | 981,335 |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

13. OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Intangible assets as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 comprised the following:

| | | December 31, 2010 | | | Dec | ember 31, 20 | 09 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Useful lives, months | Gross carrying value | Accumu- lated amortiza- tion | Net carrying value | Gross carrying value | Accumu- lated amortiza- tion | Net carrying value |
| Amortized intangible assets Billing and telecommunication | | | | | | | |
| software | 13 to 240 \$ | 1,682,959 | \$(1,056,324)\$ | 626,635 \$ | 1,461,834 \$ | (896,243)\$ | 565,591 |
| Acquired customer base | 60 to 204 | 343,920 | (111,775) | 232,145 | 221,536 | (74,320) | 147,216 |
| Rights to use radio frequencies | 24 to 180 | 314,722 | (100,496) | 214,226 | 239,474 | (75,761) | 163,713 |
| Accounting software | 13 to 60 | 118,673 | (87,623) | 31,050 | 134,292 | (79,480) | 54,812 |
| Numbering capacity with finite | | | | | | | |
| contractual life | 24 to 120 | 90,408 | (79,821) | 10,587 | 90,266 | (80,822) | 9,444 |
| Office software | 13 to 60 | 84,343 | (50,711) | 33,632 | 71,997 | (41,109) | 30,888 |
| Other software | 12 to 600 | 95,179 | (30,199) | 64,980 | 80,488 | (30,275) | 50,213 |
| | | 2,730,204 | (1,516,949) | 1,213,255 | 2,299,887 | (1,278,010) | 1,021,877 |
| Prepayments for intangible assets Numbering capacity with | | 273,239 | | 273,239 | | | |
| indefinite contractual life | | 55,144 | <u> </u> | 55,144 | 47,737 | | 47,737 |
| Total other intangible assets | \$ | 3,058,587 | \$ <u>(1,516,949)</u> \$ | 1,541,638 \$ | 2,347,624 \$ | <u>(1,278,010)</u> \$ | 1,069,614 |

As a result of the limited availability of local telephone numbering capacity in Moscow and the Moscow region, the Group entered into agreements for the use of telephone numbering capacity with other telecommunications operators in the region. The costs of acquired numbering capacity with a finite contractual life are amortized over a period of two to ten years in accordance with the terms of the contracts to acquire such capacity. Numbering capacity with an indefinite contractual life is not amortized.

Amortization expense for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 amounted to \$399.8 million, \$374.5 million and \$459.6 million, respectively. Based solely on the cost of amortizable intangible assets existing at December 31, 2010 and current exchange rates, the estimated future amortization expenses for each of the next five years ending December 31 are as follows:

| Estimated amortization expense in the year ended December 31, | |
|---|-----------------|
| 2011 | \$ 417,660 |
| 2012 | 272,900 |
| 2013 | 178,370 |
| 2014 | 100,150 |
| 2015 | 58,690 |
| Thereafter | 185,485 |
| Total | \$ 1,213,255 |

The actual amortization expense to be reported in future periods could differ from these estimates as a result of new intangible assets acquisitions, changes in useful lives, exchange rates and other relevant factors.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

14. INVESTMENTS IN AND ADVANCES TO ASSOCIATES

As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the Group's investments in and advances to associates comprised the following:

| | December 31, | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|----|---------------------|--|
| | 2010 | | 2009 | |
| MTS Belarus – equity investment MTS Belarus – loan receivable Intellect Telecom – equity investment | \$ 227,130 3,000 11,662 | \$ | 220,350 100 - | |
| Total investments in and advances to associates | \$ 241,792 | \$ | 220,450 | |

MTS Belarus – In April 2008 the Group entered into a credit facility agreement with MTS Belarus valid till March 15, 2009. The facility allowed MTS Belarus to borrow up to \$33.0 million and bears annual interest of 10.0%. In the year ended December 31, 2009 the maturity date was extended to March 15, 2010 and the total allowable amount was increased to \$46.0 million. In the year ended December 31, 2010 the maturity date was prolonged till March 15, 2011. The credit facility was fully paid upon maturity.

The financial position and results of operations of MTS Belarus as of and for the year ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 were as follows:

| | | (unaudited) | | | |
|-------------------|----------|-------------|------|---------|--|
| | <u> </u> | 2010 | 2009 | | |
| Total assets | \$ | 527,609 | \$ | 498,278 | |
| Total liabilities | | 72,533 | | 56,736 | |
| Net income | | 145,707 | | 143,061 | |

Intellect Telecom – In November 2010 MGTS acquired a 43.8% interest in Intellect Telecom OJSC from one of the subsidiaries of Sistema for \$12.4 million. Intellect Telecom is a research and development innovation center in the field of telecommunications.

The financial position and results of operations of Intellect Telecom as of and for the year ended December 31, 2010 were as follows:

| | (unaudited) |
|---|------------------------------|
| Total assets Total liabilities Net loss | \$ 25,227 34,180 6.831 |
| | -, |

Coral/Sistema Strategic Fund – In the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2008, the Group purchased an equity interests in a limited partnership organized by Sistema. The purpose of the strategic fund was to invest in various projects in the telecommunications and high-technology area. The Group exercised significant influence over Coral and therefore the investment was accounted for using the equity method.

As of December 31, 2009 the management of the Group determined that the investment was fully impaired, consequently the carrying value of the investment was written off in the amount of \$7.4 million and recorded in equity in net income/loss of associates in the accompanying consolidated statement of operations for the year then ended. As of December 31, 2009 the Group did not have any further commitment to invest in Coral according to the restructuring agreement which was signed by the partners of the fund in September 2009.

The Group's share in the total earnings or losses of associates was included in other income in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations. For the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, this share amounted to \$70.6 million, \$60.3 million and \$75.7 million, respectively.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

15. INVESTMENT IN SHARES OF SVYAZINVEST

In December 2006, as a part of its program of regional expansion, the Group acquired a 25% stake plus one share in Telecommunication Investment Joint Stock Company ("Svyazinvest") from Mustcom Limited for a total consideration of approximately \$1,390.0 million, including cash of \$1,300.0 million and the fair value of a call and put option of \$90.0 million. Comstar-UTS and MGTS Finance S.A., a subsidiary of MGTS, have acquired 4,879,584,306 ordinary shares of Svyazinvest, with Comstar-UTS buying 3,378,173,750 shares, which represent 17.3% of total outstanding shares of Svyazinvest, and MGTS Finance S.A. buying 1,501,410,556 shares, representing 7.7% of the total outstanding shares of Svyazinvest. Svyazinvest is a holding company that holds controlling stakes in seven publicly traded incumbent fixed-line operators ("MRKs") based in all seven Federal districts of Russia, Rostelecom, a publicly traded long-distance fixed-line operator operating a Russia-wide network, and several other entities, the majority of which are non-public.

Based on an analysis of all relevant factors, management determined that the acquisition of 25% plus one share of Svyazinvest does not allow the Group to exercise significant influence over this entity due to its legal structure and certain limitations imposed by Svyazinvest's charter documents. Accordingly, the Group accounts for its investment in Svyazinvest under the cost method.

In November 2009, the Group, Sistema and Svyazinvest ("the Parties") have signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding ("MOU"), under which the Parties agreed to enter into a series of transactions which would ultimately result in (i) disposal of the Group's investment in Svyazinvest to a state-controlled enterprise; (ii) noncash extinguishment of the Group's indebtedness to Sberbank (Note 18); (iii) increase in Sistema's ownership in Sky Link to 100% and disposal of this investment to Svyazinvest; and (iv) disposal of 28% of MGTS' common stock owned by Svyazinvest to Sistema.

Based on the estimated fair values of the elements of the assets to be exchanged and liabilities to be extinguished under the MOU and other relevant factors, management conducted an impairment analysis of the Group's investment in Svyazinvest as of December 31, 2009. Based on the MOU, the estimated fair value of the investment, which included significant unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurement), was approximately RUB 26.0 billion (\$859.7 million as of December 31, 2009) compared to a carrying value of RUB 36.5 billion (\$1,205.5 million as of December 31, 2009). As a result, during the year ended December 31, 2009 the Group has recorded an impairment loss of RUB 10.5 billion (\$349.4 million).

In September 2010, the Group completed the sale of its Svyazinvest stake for a cash consideration of RUB 26.0 billion and repaid the outstanding debt to Sberbank in the amount of RUB 26.0 billion with proceeds from the sale. In connection with the sale of 25% plus one share stake in Svyazinvest the Group incurred consultancy fees due to Sistema-Invenchure, a subsidiary of Sistema, in the amount of RUB 291.2 million (\$9.6 million at September 2010 average rate). No gain or loss was recognized upon sale.

16. OTHER INVESTMENTS

As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the Group's other investments comprised of the following:

| | Annual Maturity | | December 31, | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------|------------------|--------|--|
| _ | interest rate | date | 2010 | 2009 | |
| Investments in ordinary shares (Related parties) (Note 26) Loan receivable from Mr. P. Fattouche and | - | - | \$ 9,763 \$ | 10,538 | |
| Mr. M. Fattouche (Note 26) | 6% | 2015 | 91,503 | - | |
| Loan receivable from Intellect Telecom (Note 26) | 7.0-11.0% | 2012 | - | 12,808 | |
| Promissory notes of Sistema (Note 26) | 0.0% | 2017 | 20,293 | 20,449 | |
| Promissory notes of Sistema (Note 26) | 0.0% | on demand | 4,162 | - | |
| Investment in IFC Metropol | 0.0 % | - | - | 2,921 | |
| Other | - | - | 2,861 | 1,985 | |
| Total other investments | | | \$ 128,582 \$ | 48,701 | |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

During the year ended December 31, 2008, the Group deposited in Tammaron Ltd., a company incorporated under the laws of the British Virgin Islands, an amount of \$21.2 million for the a potential business acquisition. During 2009 based on an analysis of the current Russian and global financial markets situation, the Group came to the conclusion that a significant uncertainty existed in regard to the completion of such transaction and recorded an impairment of this investment in the Group's consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2009.

In December 2010 the Group granted a \$90.0 million loan to Mr. Pierre Fattouche and Mr. Moussa Fattouche, the holders of a 20% noncontrolling stake in K-Telecom, the Group's subsidiary in Armenia. Simultaneously, the Group signed an amendment to the put and call option agreement for the remaining 20% stake (Note 28). According to the amendment, the call exercise price shall be reduced by deducting any outstanding balance on the loan amount and all accrued and unpaid interest and any other sums due and outstanding under the loan agreement at the time of exercise.

17. RESTRICTED CASH

As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the Group's balances of restricted cash were as follows:

| | 2010 | _ | 2009 | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----|-------|--|
| Uzbekistan Ukraine | \$ 4,593 126 | \$ | 6,389 | |
| Total restricted cash | \$ 4,719 | \$ | 6,389 | |

Restricted cash in Uzbekistan is cash deposited by Uzdunrobita in a special bank account which was created to be in compliance with the government regulation for local currency conversion into foreign currencies. The cash deposited will be converted from Uzbek Som into U.S. Dollars and used for settlements with suppliers of equipment and software.

Restricted cash in Ukraine represents cash deposited by MTS Ukraine in a special bank account as a condition for receiving a bank guarantee.

18. BORROWINGS

Notes – As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the Group's notes consisted of the following:

| | Currency | Interest rate | 2010 | 2009 |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|
| MTS International Notes due 2020 | USD | 8.625% | \$ 750,000 \$ | _ |
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2020 | RUB | 8.15% | 492,176 | - |
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2016 | RUB | 14.25% | 492,176 | 495,963 |
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2014 | RUB | 16.75% | 492,176 | 495,963 |
| MTS Finance Notes due 2012 | USD | 8.00% | 400,000 | 400,000 |
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2017 | RUB | 8.70% | 328,117 | - |
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2018 | RUB | 8.00% | 315,337 | 323,698 |
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2015 | RUB | 7.75% | 39,823 | 248,213 |
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2013 | RUB | 7.00% | 13,249 | 247,981 |
| MTS Finance Notes due 2010 | USD | 8.38% | - | 400,000 |
| MGTS Notes due 2010 | RUB | 16.00% | - | 402 |
| Less: unamortized discount | | | (202) | (2,587) |
| Total notes | | | \$ 3,322,852 \$ | 2,609,633 |
| Less: current portion | | | (492,176) | (1,218,084) |
| Total notes, long-term | | | \$ 2,830,676 \$ | 1,391,549 |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

The Group has an unconditional obligation to repurchase certain MTS OJSC Notes at par value if claimed by the noteholders subsequent to the announcement of the sequential coupon. The dates of the announcement for each particular note issue are as follows:

| MTS OJSC Notes due 2014 | May 2011 |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2016 | June 2012 |
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2018 | June 2013 |
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2020 | November 2015 |

The notes therefore can be defined as callable obligations under the FASB authoritative guidance on debt, as the holders have the unilateral right to demand repurchase of the notes at par value upon announcement of new coupons. The FASB authoritative guidance on debt requires callable obligations to be disclosed as maturing in the reporting period, when the demand for repurchase could be submitted disregarding the expectations of the Group about the intentions of the noteholders. The Group discloses the notes as maturing in 2011 (MTS OJSC Notes due 2014), in 2012 (MTS OJSC Notes due 2016), in 2013 (MTS OJSC Notes due 2018) and in 2015 (MTS OJSC Notes due 2020) in the aggregated maturities schedule as these are the reporting periods when the noteholders will have the unilateral right to demand repurchase.

In April 2010 the Group set new coupon rates for MTS OJSC Notes due 2013 and 2015. The coupon rates were set at 7.0% for MTS OJSC Notes due in 2013 and 7.75% for MTS OJSC Notes due 2015. Following the announcement of new coupon rates the Group repurchased MTS OJSC Notes due 2013 and 2015 at the request of eligible noteholders in the amount of RUB 7.1 billion (\$242.4 million as of the date of the transaction) and RUB 6.1 billion (\$214.2 million as of the date of the transaction), respectively. The new coupon rates are valid till the final due date of the notes.

In June 2010 the Group announced a new coupon rate for MTS OJSC Notes due in 2018. The rate was set as 8.0%. Following the announcement of the new coupon rate, the Group repurchased MTS OJSC Notes due 2018 at the request of eligible noteholders in the amount of RUB 179.5 million (\$5.8 million as of the date of the transaction). The new coupon rate is valid till June 2013 when the Group will set the sequential coupon rate. The holders have the unilateral right to demand repurchase of the notes at par value upon announcement of the new coupon. Therefore, the Group discloses MTS OJSC Notes due 2018 in the aggregated maturities schedule as maturing in 2013 as this is the reporting period when the noteholders will have the unilateral right to demand repurchase.

The fair values of notes based on the market quotes as of December 31, 2010 at the stock exchanges where they are traded were as follows:

| | Stock exchange | % of par | _ | Fair value |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------|-----|------------|
| | Irish stock | | | |
| MTS International Notes due 2020 | exchange | 112.40 | \$ | 843,000 |
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2014 | MICEX | 104.03 | • | 512,011 |
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2016 | MICEX | 99.85 | | 491,438 |
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2020 | MICEX | 98.00 | | 482,333 |
| | Luxembourg | | | · |
| MTS Finance Notes due 2012 | stock exchange | 105.61 | | 422,440 |
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2017 | MICEX | 99.65 | | 326,969 |
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2018 | MICEX | 101.50 | | 320,067 |
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2015 | MICEX | 100.50 | | 40,022 |
| MTS OJSC Notes due 2013 | MICEX | 99.96 | | 13,244 |
| | | | _ | |
| Total notes | | | \$_ | 3,451,524 |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Bank loans – As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the Group's loans from banks and financial institutions consisted of the following:

| | | Interest rate (actual at | | December | er 31. |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Maturity | December 31, 2010) | | 2010 | 2009 |
| USD-denominated: | | | | | |
| Skandinavska Enskilda Banken AB | 2011-2017 | LIBOR+0.23%-1.8% (0.68%-2.26%) | \$ | 242,013 \$ | 279,519 |
| EBRD | 0044 0044 | LIBOR+1.51%-3.1% | | 440.007 | 450.000 |
| HSBC Bank plc and ING BHF Bank AG | 2011-2014 2011-2014 | (1.97%-3.56%) LIBOR+0.3% (0.76%) | | 116,667 71,244 | 150,000 90,985 |
| Citibank International plc and | 2011-2014 | LIBON+0.3 /6 (0.70 /6) | | 71,244 | 90,965 |
| ING Bank N.V. HSBC Bank plc, ING Bank and | 2011-2013 | LIBOR+0.43% (0.88%) | | 62,486 | 84,560 |
| Bayerische Landesbank Commerzbank AG, ING Bank AG and | 2011-2015 | LIBOR+0.3% (0.76%) | | 59,570 | 76,180 |
| HSBC Bank plc | 2011-2014 | LIBOR+0.3% (0.76%) | | 51,285 | 66,557 |
| Barclays | Fully repaid in | LIBOR+0.13%-0.15% | | 46.047 | E0 202 |
| ABN AMRO Bank N.V. | February 2011 2011-2013 | (0.59%-0.61%) LIBOR+0.35% (0.81%) | | 46,047 18,861 | 59,203 25,149 |
| Syndicated Loan Facility granted | Voluntarily repaid | LIBOT(10.0070 (0.0170) | | 10,001 | 20,140 |
| to MTS OJSC in 2006 | in 2010 | - | | - | 323,077 |
| Syndicated Loan Facility granted | Voluntarily repaid | | | | |
| to MTS OJSC in 2009 Other | in 2010 | - various | | - 7,569 | 360,000 |
| Other | 2011-2013 | various | \$ | 675,742 \$ | 21,694 1,536,924 |
| | | | Ψ | 013,142 φ | 1,550,524 |
| EUR-denominated: Credit Agricole Corporate Bank and | | EURIBOR+1.65% | | | |
| BNP Paribas | 2011-2018 | (2.88%) | \$ | 52,159 \$ | _ |
| LBBW | 2011 2010 | EURIBOR+0.75% | Ψ | 02,100 ψ | |
| | 2011-2017 | (1.98%) | | 43,201 | - |
| Bank of China | 0044 0040 | EURIBOR+1.95% | | 05.400 | |
| ABN AMRO Bank N.V. | 2011-2016 | (3.18%) EURIBOR+0.35% | | 35,123 | - |
| ADIN AIVINO BAIR N. V. | 2011-2013 | (1.58%) | | 13,740 | 19,859 |
| Syndicated Loan Facility granted | Voluntarily repaid | (, | | -, - | -, |
| to MTS OJSC in 2009 | in 2010 | = | | = | 341,580 |
| EBRD | Voluntarily repaid in 2010 | | | | 312,743 |
| European Investment Bank | Voluntarily repaid | - | | - | 312,743 |
| | in 2010 | - | | - | 164,979 |
| Gazprombank | Voluntarily repaid | | | | |
| Nordia Investment Denk | in 2010 | - | | = | 143,460 |
| Nordic Investment Bank | Voluntarily repaid in 2010 | _ | | _ | 114,768 |
| Other | 2011-2012 | various | | 3,060 | 5,972 |
| | | | \$ | 147,283 \$ | 1,103,361 |
| RUB-denominated: | | | | | |
| Sberbank | 2015-2017 | 8.95% | \$ | 1,968,704 \$ | - |
| Bank of Moscow | 2013 | 8.00% - 9.50% | | 459,364 | - |
| Gazprombank | 2013-2015 | 8.75% | | 360,929 | 213,600 |
| Gazprombank Sberbank | 2013-2015 2011 | 8.75% 10.5% | | 137,809 | - |
| Sberbank | Voluntarily repaid | 10.5% | | 19,234 | - |
| obolbalik. | in 2010 | - | | - | 859,669 |
| Sberbank | Voluntarily repaid | | | | |
| 0 | in 2010 | - | | - | 1,554,017 |
| Sberbank | Voluntarily repaid in 2010 | | | | 396,770 |
| Other | 2011-2023 | various | | 34,377 | 25,241 |
| | 2011 2020 | 74 | \$ | 2,980,417 \$ | 3,049,297 |
| Debt – related parties | 2011-2012 | various | | | 46,935 |
| Dobt – related parties | 2011-2012 | various | \$ | 14,563 14,563 \$ | 46,935 |
| Total bank lange | | | • | | · |
| Total bank loans | | | \$ | 3,818,005 \$ | 5,736,517 (801.242) |
| Less: current portion | | | . — | (256,052) | (801,242) |
| Total bank loans, long-term | | | \$ | 3,561,953 \$ | 4,935,275 |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

During 2010, the Group renegotiated interest rates on Sberbank credit facilities in amount of RUB 47 billion. The rates were reduced from 16.0% to 9.25%. The Group concluded that this represented a substantial modification in the terms of the debt as it resulted in a change of the present value of cash flows under the new terms by more than 10% comparing to the original terms. The Group therefore accounted for this transaction as a debt extinguishment. The unamortized amount of initially capitalized debt issuance costs was written off which resulted in additional interest expense of \$26.7 million in the year ended December 31, 2010. The credit facilities were fully repaid by the Group in December 2010 and refinanced with a new RUB 60 billion facility of Sberbank with a rate of 8.95% and final maturity in December 2017.

The interest rate on the Sberbank RUB-denominated credit facility due 2015-2017 of 8.95% is valid till March 2011 and for the period from December 2013 till the final maturity date in December 2017. The interest rate for the period from March 2011 till December 2013 depends on the volume of turnovers on the bank accounts of certain entities of the Group. In case the average volume falls below a certain limit, the interest rate is increased by 1% to 9.95%. In addition, Sberbank is entitled to voluntarily revise the interest rate on the lines as a result of and proportionate to the change in the refinancing rate set by the Central Bank of Russia.

In February 2010 the Group negotiated a decrease in the interest rate on a EUR 100 million facility from Gazprombank. The rate was reduced from original 14.0% to 7.0%. In May 2010 the maturity of the agreement was extended from 1.5 years to five years. The new debt repayment schedule now stipulated quarterly payments in six equal parts starting from November 2013 instead of a single payment in June 2011. The Group concluded that this represented a substantial modification in the terms of the debt agreement as it resulted in a change in the present value of the cash flows related to the facility by more than 10% and accounted for the transaction as debt extinguishment. Subsequently, the credit facility was fully repaid in December 2010 and refinanced with the RUB 4.2 billion facility of Gazprombank carrying the rate of 8.75% with the final maturity in February 2015.

In 2010 the Group signed several amendments to a RUB 7 bln facility agreement with Gazprombank. The rate was decreased from the original 13.0% to 8.75%. The initial maturity of the facility in September 2012 was replaced by 6 equal semiannual repayments commencing from November 2013, so that the maturity of the agreement was extended from 2.5 years to five years. Additionally, the available amount of funds available under the facility was increased from RUB 7 bln to RUB 11 bln. The Group had drawn down in full on the additional funds by December 2010. These amendments resulted in a change in the present value of cash flows related to the facility exceeding 10% and were accounted for as debt extinguishment.

In 2010 the Group also negotiated changes in interest rates and maturities of several other credit facilities. None of these modifications were considered to be substantial.

Compliance with covenants – Subject to certain exceptions and qualifications, the indenture governing MTS Finance Notes due 2012 and prospectus governing MTS International Notes due 2020 contain covenants limiting the Group's ability to incur debt, create liens, sell or transfer lease properties, enter into loan transactions with affiliates, merge or consolidate with another person or convey its properties and assets to another person, sell or transfer any of its GSM licenses for the Moscow, St. Petersburg, Krasnodar and Ukraine license areas, be subject to a judgment requiring payment of money in excess of \$10.0 mln and 15.0 mln, respectively, which continue unsatisfied for more than 60 days without being appealed, discharged or waived or the execution thereof stayed.

Also, the indentures governing MTS Finance Notes due 2012 and prospectus governing MTS International Notes due 2020 give noteholders the right to require the Group to redeem the notes at 101% of their principal amount, plus accrued interest, if the Group experiences certain types of mergers, consolidations or there is change in control. An event of default under the notes may trigger cross default provisions with debt raised by Sistema, the controlling shareholder of the Group. The Group is required to take all commercially reasonable steps necessary to maintain a rating of the notes assigned by Moody's and Standard & Poor's.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

If the Group fails to meet these covenants, after certain notice and cure periods, the noteholders can accelerate the debt to be immediately due and payable.

The prospectus governing MTS OJSC Notes contains certain covenants which limit the Group's ability to delist the notes from the quotation lists and delay the coupon payments.

Bank loans of the Group are subject to certain restrictive covenants, including, but not limited to, certain financial ratios, limitations on dispositions of assets and limitations on transactions with associates, requirements to maintain ownership in certain subsidiaries.

Most of the Group's loans also include an event of default consisting in rendering of judgment requiring payment of money in an amount in excess of \$10.0 mln and the continuance of any such judgment unsatisfied and in effect for any period of 60 consecutive calendar days without a stay of execution.

On November 11, 2010 an international arbitration tribunal constituted under the rules of the London Court of International Arbitration rendered an award with regards to arbitration commenced by Nomihold Securities Inc. in January 2007. The award requires the Group's subsidiary, MTS Finance, to honor Nomihold's option to sell MTS Finance the remaining 49% stake in Tarino Limited for \$170 million, plus \$5.88 million in damages and \$34.0 million in interest to compensate it for related costs. MTS Finance applied to arbitration tribunal for correction of the award, however the application was rejected and the award became final on January 5, 2011. In connection with the above mentioned restriction concerning the unsatisfied liability arising from any judgment against a member of the Group, prior to the date these consolidated financial statements were issued, the Group obtained consents from the noteholders of MTS Finance Notes due 2012 and MTS International Notes due 2020 and from certain banks, except for Barclays Bank, to (1) waive certain defaults and events of default which might arise under the loan agreements as a result of and in connection with the award, and (2) certain amendments to the loan agreements to avoid possible future events of default which may arise as a result of the award. Therefore, the Group classified the notes and bank loans in accordance with their original maturities in its consolidated statement of financial position as of December 31, 2010. except for the credit facility with Barclays Bank classified as current and fully repaid in February 2011.

The Group was in compliance with all other existing notes and bank loans covenants as of December 31, 2010.

Pledges – The vendor financing agreement between K-Telecom and Intracom, a related party, with total amount as of December 31, 2010 of \$14.3 million is secured by the telecommunication equipment and other assets supplied under the agreement with carrying value of \$8.2 million.

Equipment with a fair value of approximately \$9.2 million as of December 31, 2010 is pledged as collateral against the outstanding liability of \$5.6 million due to ING Bank Evrazia.

Available credit facilities – As of December 31, 2010, the Group's total available credit facilities amounted to \$2,959 million and related to the following credit lines:

| _ | Maturity | Interest rate | Commitment fees | Available till | Available amount (USD equivalent) |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| Sberbank | 2017 | 8.95% | 0.50% | July 2011 \$ | 1,312,469 |
| Calyon, ING Bank N.V. and | | | | August 2011/ | |
| Nordea Bank AB | 2019/2020 | LIBOR + 1.15% | 0.40% | December 2012 | 1,074,371 |
| | | EURIBOR + | | February 2011/ | |
| Credit Agricole (Finnvera) | 2019 | 1.65% | 0.825% | February 2013 | 396,999 |
| | | EURIBOR + | | | |
| Bank of China (BNP Paribas) | 2016 | 1.95% | 0.60% | December 2011 | 175,500 |
| Total available credit | | | | | |
| facilities | | | | \$ <u>_</u> | 2,959,339 |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

The following table presents the aggregated scheduled maturities of principal on notes and bank loans outstanding as of December 31, 2010:

| | . <u></u> | Notes | _ | Bank loans |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----|------------|
| Payments due in the year ended December 31, | | | | |
| 2011 | \$ | 492,176 | \$ | 256,052 |
| 2012 | | 891,973 | | 190,750 |
| 2013 | | 328,586 | | 717,194 |
| 2014 | | - | | 437,507 |
| 2015 | | 531,999 | | 800,815 |
| Thereafter | | 1,078,118 | _ | 1,415,687 |
| Total | \$ | 3,322,852 | \$_ | 3,818,005 |

19. ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATIONS

As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the estimated present value of the Group's asset retirement obligations and change in liabilities were as follows:

| | | 2010 | 2009 |
|--|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| Balance, beginning of the year | \$ | 88,683 | \$ 62,053 |
| Liabilities incurred in the current period | | 4,066 | 3,923 |
| Accretion expense | | 9,776 | 6,518 |
| Revisions in estimated cash flows | | (23,813) | 17,693 |
| Currency translation adjustment | - | (673) | (1,504) |
| Balance, end of the year | \$ __ | 78,039 | \$ 88,683 |

Revisions in estimated cash flows are attributable to the change in the estimated inflation rate and cost of dismantling of assets.

20. DEFERRED CONNECTION FEES

Deferred connection fees for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, were as follows:

| | | 2010 | 2009 |
|---|----|----------|---------------|
| Balance, beginning of the year | \$ | 163,098 | \$ 174,225 |
| Payments received and deferred during the year | | 89,030 | 60,590 |
| Amounts amortized and recognized as revenue during the year | | (95,706) | (67,057) |
| Currency translation adjustment | | (1,134) | (4,660) |
| Balance, end of the year | | 155,288 | 163,098 |
| Less: current portion | _ | (49,212) | (46,930) |
| Non-current portion | \$ | 106,076 | \$ 116,168 |

The Group defers initial connection fees paid by subscribers for the activation of network service as well as one time activation fees received for connection to various value added services. These fees are recognized as revenue over the estimated average subscriber life (Note 2).

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

21. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT COTRIBUTIONS

MGTS receives telecommunication infrastructure which is intended to operate as an integral part of the Moscow city wire line network from real estate construction contractors free of charge as provided by the regulations of the city government. Property, plant and equipment contributions received by MGTS during the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 were as follows:

| | 2010 | | 2009 |
|---|----------------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| Unamortized property, plant and equipment contributions, beginning of the year Contributions received during the year Amortization for the year | \$ 90,349 2,819 (3,622) | \$ | 93,197 3,213 (3,408) |
| Currency translation effect | (687) | _ | (2,653) |
| Unamortized property, plant and equipment contributions, end of the year | \$ 88,859 | \$ | 90,349 |

22. DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND HEDGING ACTIVITIES

Cash flow hedging

In 2009, 2008 and 2007 the Group entered into variable-to-fixed interest rate swap agreements to manage the exposure of changes in variable interest rate related to its debt obligations. The instruments qualify for cash flow hedge accounting under U.S. GAAP requirements. Each interest rate swap matches the exact maturity dates of the underlying debt allowing for highly-effective hedges. Interest rate swap contracts outstanding as of December 31, 2010 mature in 2012-2015.

Further, in 2009 the Group entered into several cross-currency interest rate swap agreements. These contracts hedged the risk of both interest rate and currency fluctuations and assumed periodic exchanges of both principal and interest payments from RUB-denominated amounts to USD and Euro-denominated amounts to be exchanged at a specified rate. The rate was determined by the market spot rate upon issuance. These contracts also included an interest rate swap of a fixed USD and Euro-denominated interest rate to a fixed RUB-denominated interest rate. The instruments were qualified for cash flow hedge accounting under U.S. GAAP requirements. Each cross-currency interest swap matched the interest and principal payments of the underlying debt allowing for highly-effective hedges. Cross-currency interest rate swap contracts outstanding as of December 31, 2010 mature in 2011.

The following table presents the fair value of the Group's derivative instruments designated as hedges in the consolidated statements of financial position as of December 31, 2010 and 2009.

| | Statement of financial | | Decei | nber | r 31 , |
|---|--|----|---------------------|------|---------------------------------|
| | position location | | 2010 | _ | 2009 |
| Asset derivatives Interest rate swaps | Other non-current assets | \$ | 3,322 | \$_ | 3,391 |
| Total | | \$ | 3,322 | \$_ | 3,391 |
| Liability derivatives Interest rate swaps Cross-currency interest rate swaps Cross-currency interest rate swaps | Other long-term liabilities Other payables Other long-term liabilities | \$ | (31,315) (3,469) | \$ | (32,636) (9,211) (17,348) |
| Total | | \$ | (34,784) | \$_ | (59,195) |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

The following table presents the effect of the Group's derivative instruments designated as hedges in the consolidated statements of operations for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008.

| | Location of | Year er | ded December 31 | |
|---|---|------------|-----------------|---------|
| | loss recognized | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
| Interest rate swaps Cross-currency interest rate swaps | Interest expense \$ Currency exchange and | (32,726)\$ | (8,392)\$ | (2,002) |
| | transaction loss | (37,820) | (24,299) | |
| Total | \$ | (70,546)\$ | (32,691)\$ | (2,002) |

An amount of \$3.5 million, the ineffective portion of interest rate swap arrangements, was included in interest expense in consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2010.

The ineffective portion of interest rate swap arrangements amount of \$0.9 million was included in interest expense in the consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2009.

On February 24, 2010 the Group repaid the full amount due under the Syndicated Loan Facility granted to MTS OJSC in 2009 with an original maturity in 2011-2012. The voluntary prepayment of principal and interest in amount of \$707.4 million as of February 24, 2010 resulted in an immediate termination of hedging relationship of interest rate swap agreements related to the Syndicated Loan Facility. Consequently, \$12.0 million of accumulated other comprehensive loss were reclassified into earnings (interest expense).

An amount of \$2.0 million, the ineffective portion of cross-currency swap arrangements, was included in currency exchange and transaction gain in the consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2010.

The ineffective portion of cross-currency interest rate swap arrangements in amount of \$4.5 million was included in currency exchange and transaction loss in the consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2009.

On October 21, 2010 the Group repaid the full amount due under the Syndicated Loan Facility granted to MTS OJSC in 2006 with an original maturity in 2011. The voluntary prepayment of principal and interest of \$162.2 million as of October 21, 2010 resulted in an immediate termination of hedging relationship of cross-currency swap agreements related to the Syndicated Loan Facility. Consequently, \$3.2 million of accumulated other comprehensive loss were reclassified into earnings (currency exchange and transaction gain).

The following table presents the effect of the Group's derivative instruments designated as hedges in accumulated other comprehensive income for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008.

| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Accumulated derivatives loss, beginning of the year | \$ (40,293) | \$ (16,714) | \$ (355) |
| Fair value adjustments on hedging derivatives | (39,757) | (28,764) | (18,361) |
| Amounts reclassified into earnings during the period | 65,185 | 5,185 | 2,002 |
| Accumulated derivatives loss, end of the year | \$ (14,865) | \$ (40,293) | \$ (16,714) |

As of December 31, 2010, the outstanding hedge instruments were highly effective. Approximately \$7.0 million of net loss is expected to be reclassified into net income during the next twelve months.

Cash inflows and outflows related to hedge instruments were included in the cash flows from operating activities in the consolidated statement of cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Non-designated derivative instruments

Foreign currency options – In 2010 and 2009 the Group entered into foreign currency option agreements to manage the exposure to changes in currency exchange rates related to USD-denominated debt obligations. According to the agreements the Group has a combination of put and call option rights to acquire \$330.0 million at rates within a range specified in contracts. These contracts were not designated for hedge accounting purposes. These currency option agreements will mature in 2011-2012.

Buy-out put option – On December 23, 2010, simultaneously with the meeting of MTS' shareholders (Note 1), the meeting of Comstar-UTS' shareholders approved the reorganization of Comstar-UTS through the statutory merger into MTS OJSC. In accordance with the Russian legislation, shareholders who voted against or did not vote on the merger have the right to sell their shares back to Comstar-UTS for cash at a price set by the company's Boards of Directors, subject to the statutory limit of 10% of the company's net asset value under the Russian Accounting Standards. Eligible shareholders shall file a buyout demand within no later than 45 (forty five) days after the adoption of the resolution on reorganization. The buy-out of shares shall be carried out within 30 days after the expiry of the period set for the buyout demand being made. Fair value of the Group's liability under the put option as of December 31, 2010 was estimated at \$11.6 million using an option pricing model.

Purchased call option – In 2008 in order to mitigate the exposure resulting from the employee phantom option program introduced in April 2008 (Note 25), Comstar-UTS acquired a phantom call option on its GDRs for \$19.4 million from an investment bank. The amount of cash paid was included in the cash flows from investing activities in the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2008. The agreement entitles Comstar-UTS to receive in the second quarter of 2010 a payment equal to the difference between the average of daily volume-weighted average trading prices of GDRs on the London Stock Exchange for the period between February 1 and March 31, 2010 and the phantom option exercise price of USD 10.2368, if positive, multiplied by 9,000,000. Subsequent to the acquisition of the instrument, the Group estimated the fair value of the respective asset using an option pricing model and re-measured it as of each reporting date. In April 2010 the purchased call option expired unexercised as it was out-of-the-money.

Written call and put option – In 2006, simultaneously with the acquisition of the 25% stake plus one share in Svyazinvest (Note 15), MGTS Finance S.A. and "2711 Centerville Cooperatief U.A." ("2711 UA"), an affiliate of Mustcom Limited, signed a call and put option agreement, which gives 2711 UA a right to purchase 46,232,000 shares of Comstar-UTS, representing 11.06% of total issued shares, from MGTS Finance S.A and sell them back to MGTS Finance S.A. The call option acquired by 2711 UA could be exercised at a strike price of USD 6.97 per share at any time following the signing of the agreement with respect to 10.5% of Comstar-UTS' shares. The call option for the remaining 0.56% stake could be exercised at any time beginning from April 1, 2007. The call option was to expire in one year from the date of signing of the agreement. 2711 UA had a right to exercise its put option at any time within two years from the date of exercising the call option at a strike price, which will be calculated based on a weighted average price of Comstar-UTS' GDRs during the 90 trading days period preceding the exercise of the put option.

On December 7, 2007, Access Telecommunications Cooperatief U.A. ("Access", previously known as 2711 UA) has exercised its call option for 46,232,000 shares and paid \$322.2 million in cash to the Group.

On August 25, 2008, Access has initiated a process of exercising the put option, and on November 26, 2008 has sold MGTS Finance S.A. 46,232,000 shares of Comstar-UTS for the total of \$463.6 million, \$100.0 million of which had been paid on November 26, 2008 in cash, with the remaining portion had been restructured in the form of an interest-bearing promissory note repayable in four monthly installments. Cash payment in the amount of \$100.0 million was included in the financing activities' section of the Group's consolidated statement of cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2008.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Currency forward – In December 2008, to mitigate foreign currency risks associated with the USD-denominated notes payable to Access, Comstar-UTS entered into forward contracts with MBRD to acquire \$32.0 million and \$68.0 million in January and February 2009, respectively, at a rate of RUB 27.85 per one USD. During the year ended December 31, 2009, the instrument was redeemed. Net cash proceeds from the redemption of the instrument in the amount of \$20.2 million were included in cash flows from operating activities in the consolidated statement of cash flows.

The following table presents the fair value of the Group's derivative instruments not designated as hedges in the consolidated statements of financial position as of December 31, 2010 and 2009.

| | Statement of financial | | Decen | | mber 31, | |
|---|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--|
| | position location | | 2010 | | 2009 | |
| Asset derivatives: Foreign currency options | Other non-current assets | \$_ | 247 | \$ | | |
| Total | | \$ _ | 247 | \$ | | |
| Liability derivatives: Foreign currency options Buy-out put option Foreign currency options | Other payables Other payables Other long-term liabilities | \$ | (92) (11,636) (2,520) | \$ | (2,654) - (1,627) | |
| Total | | \$ ₌ | (14,248) | \$ | (4,281) | |

The following table presents the effect of the Group's derivative instruments not designated as hedges on the consolidated statements of operations for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008.

| | Location of gain/(loss) | | Year en | ded December 31, | , |
|-----------------------------|---|----|----------|------------------|----------|
| | recognized | | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
| Foreign currency options | Currency exchange and transaction gain/(loss) | \$ | 1,916 \$ | (4,280) | - |
| Purchased call option | Change in fair value of derivatives | | - | (5,420)\$ | (13,614) |
| Currency forward | Currency exchange and transaction gain | | - | 12,788 | 10,165 |
| Written call and put option | Change in fair value of derivatives | | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | (27,940) |
| Total | | \$ | 1,916 \$ | 3,088 \$ | (31,389) |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Fair value of derivative instruments

The following fair value hierarchy table presents information regarding the Group's assets and liabilities associated with derivative agreements measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2010:

| | Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) | Significant other observable inputs (Level 2) | Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) | Balance as of December 31, 2010 |
|--|---|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Assets: | | * 0.000 | Φ. | 0.000 |
| Interest rate swap agreements Currency option agreements | - <u>{</u> - | \$ 3,322 247 | - \$ - | 3,322 247 |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Interest rate swap agreements | - ; | \$ (31,315) | - \$ | (31,315) |
| Buy-out put option Cross-currency interest rate swap | - | (11,636) | - | (11,636) |
| agreements | - | (3,469) | - | (3,469) |
| Currency option agreements | - | (2,612) | - | (2,612) |

The following fair value hierarchy table presents information regarding the Group's assets and liabilities associated with derivative agreements measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2009:

| | Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) | Significant other observable inputs (Level 2) | Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) | Balance as of December 31, 2009 |
|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Assets: | | | | |
| Interest rate swap agreements | - 9 | \$ 3,391 | - \$ | 3,391 |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Interest rate swap agreements | - 9 | \$ (32,636) | - \$ | (32,636) |
| Cross-currency interest rate swap agreements | _ | (26,559) | <u>-</u> | (26,559) |
| Currency option agreements | - | (4,281) | - | (4,281) |

23. ACCRUED LIABILITIES

| | | December 31, | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|--------------|----|---------|
| | | 2010 | | 2009 |
| Accruals for services | \$ | 365,447 | \$ | 232,897 |
| Accruals for taxes | | 186,492 | | 243,083 |
| Accrued payroll and vacation | | 159,171 | | 210,372 |
| Interest payable on debt | | 76,804 | | 127,953 |
| Accruals for payments to social funds | _ | 11,890 | | 12,396 |
| Total accrued liabilities | \$ | 799,804 | \$ | 826,701 |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

24. INCOME TAX

Provision for income taxes for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 was as follows:

| | | Year ended December 31, | | | | |
|--|----|-------------------------|----|--------------------|----|----------------------|
| | _ | 2010 | | 2009 | | 2008 |
| Current provision for income taxes Deferred income tax loss/(benefit) | \$ | 562,637 (45,449) | \$ | 403,523 101,524 | \$ | 952,116 (207,796) |
| Total provision for income taxes | \$ | 517,188 | \$ | 505,047 | \$ | 744,320 |

The statutory income tax rates in jurisdictions in which the Group operates for 2010 were as follows: Russia, Turkmenistan and Armenia – 20.0%, Ukraine – 25.0%, Uzbekistan – 3.4%.

The Russian statutory income tax rate reconciled to the Group's effective income tax rate for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 was as follows:

| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Statutory income tax rate for the year Adjustments: | 20.0% | 20.0% | 24.0% |
| Expenses not deductible for tax purposes | 3.5 | 4.9 | 2.1 |
| Currency exchange and transaction loss | - | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| Income tax provision | 0.1 | (0.2) | 0.3 |
| Settlements with tax authorities | (1.0) | (2.9) | - |
| Revaluation of MTS Ukraine tax base | - | - | (1.8) |
| Different tax rate of foreign subsidiaries | (0.5) | (2.0) | (1.2) |
| Earnings distribution from subsidiaries | 0.7 | 6.8 | - |
| Disposal of treasury stock | - | (4.1) | - |
| Effect of change in tax rate in Ukraine Change in fair value of derivative financial | 0.7 | - | - |
| instruments | (0.1) | (0.1) | 0.3 |
| Change in valuation allowance | (0.2) | 10.3 | (0.2) |
| Comstar corporate reorganization | - | 0.4 | - |
| Impairment of long-lived assets | 1.3 | - | - |
| Impairment of goodwill | - | - | 0.4 |
| Other | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.5 |
| Effective income tax rate | 25.0% | 33.7% | 25.4% |

Temporary differences between the tax and accounting bases of assets and liabilities gave rise to the following deferred tax assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2010 and 2009:

| | December 31, | | | 31, |
|---|--------------|-----------|----|-----------|
| | | 2010 | | 2009 |
| Assets/(liabilities) arising from tax effect of: Deferred tax assets | | | | |
| Depreciation of property, plant and equipment | \$ | 211,307 | \$ | 212,606 |
| Other intangible assets | | 1,346 | | 12,770 |
| Deferred connection fees | | 31,522 | | 33,610 |
| Subscriber prepayments | | 20,832 | | 16,663 |
| Accrued expenses | | 148,828 | | 130,603 |
| Inventory obsolescence | | 5,884 | | 3,046 |
| Loss carryforward | | 196,883 | | 111,784 |
| Impairment of property, plant and equipment | | 4,438 | | 19,906 |
| Valuation of investment in Svyazinvest | | - | | 78,761 |
| Other | | 22,384 | | 26,750 |
| Valuation allowance | | (165,994) | | (182,308) |
| Total deferred tax assets | _ | 477,430 | _ | 464,191 |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

| | December 31, | | |
|---|-----------------|----|-----------|
| | 2010 | | 2009 |
| Deferred tax liabilities | | | |
| Licenses acquired | \$ (62,606) | \$ | (59,746) |
| Depreciation of property, plant and equipment | (192,679) | | (188,611) |
| Customer base | (34,783) | | (2,695) |
| Other intangible assets | (41,011) | | (59,227) |
| Debt issuance cost | (11,134) | | (22,690) |
| Potential distributions from/to Group's subsidiaries/associates | (105,821) | | (118,608) |
| Other | (4,992) | | (1,025) |
| Total deferred tax liabilities | (453,026) | | (452,602) |
| Net deferred tax asset | 24,404 | | 11,589 |
| Net deferred tax asset, current | \$ 234,658 | \$ | 212,687 |
| Net deferred tax asset, non-current | \$ 81,816 | \$ | 97,355 |
| Net deferred tax liability, long-term | \$ (292,070) | \$ | (298,453) |

In 2009, to streamline the ownership structure within Comstar group and to enable legal merger of certain its subsidiaries, certain of Comstar's subsidiaries were sold to Comstar-UTS. As a result, deferred tax assets on tax losses carried forward of \$6.8 million were written down.

The Group has the following significant balances for income tax losses carried forward as of December 31, 2010 and 2009:

| Jurisdiction | Period for carry-forward | 2010 | _ | 2009 |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| Luxembourg (MGTS Finance S.A.) Russia (Comstar-UTS, RTC and other) USA | Unlimited 2011-2019 Unlimited | \$ 124,464 72,419 | \$ | 94,163 17,048 573 |
| Total | | \$ 196,883 | \$ | 111,784 |

Management established the following valuation allowances against deferred tax assets because there will not be sufficient future taxable income against which to realize such assets:

| Valuation allowances | 2010 | 2009 |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sale of investment in Svyazinvest Operating loss in Luxemburg (MGTS Finance S.A) Other | \$ 66,887 94,032 5,075 | \$ 78,800 94,163 9,345 |
| Total | \$ 165,994 | \$ 182,308 |

As of December 31, 2010 and 2009 the Group recognized deferred income tax liabilities of \$63.8 million and \$70.5 million respectively, for income taxes on future dividend distributions from foreign subsidiaries (MTS Ukraine and K-Telecom) which are based on \$1,309.4 million and \$1,431.9 million cumulative undistributed earnings of those foreign subsidiaries in accordance with local statutory accounting regulations (unaudited) because such earnings are intended to be repatriated.

No deferred tax liability was recognized on undistributed earnings of Uzdunrobita as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 as the Group plans to indefinitely reinvest earnings in this entity. As of December 31, 2009 and 2008 the amount of undistributed earnings of Uzdunrobita in accordance with local statutory accounting regulations amounted to \$594.6 million and \$530.7 million, respectively (unaudited). Potential earnings distributions from BCTI are tax free, accordingly, so that no deferred tax liability arises in this regard.

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As of December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, the Group included accruals for uncertain tax positions in the amount of \$14.0 million, \$10.6 million and \$12.4 million, respectively, as a component of income tax payable.

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits is as follows:

| | 2010 | _ | 2009 | 2008 |
|--|--------------|-----|---------|--------------|
| Balance, beginning of the year Additions based on tax position related to the | \$ 10,607 | \$ | 12,360 | \$ 35,752 |
| current year | 14,590 | | 2,094 | 20,006 |
| Additions based on tax positions related to prior | | | | |
| years | 1,504 | | - | - |
| Additions based on tax of acquired entities | 7,587 | | 1,521 | - |
| Reduction in tax positions related to prior years | (2,141) | | (1,778) | (11,692) |
| Settlements with tax authorities | (18,109) | | (3,305) | (31,456) |
| Currency translation adjustment | (45) | _ | (285) | (250) |
| Balance, end of the year | \$ 13,993 | \$_ | 10,607 | \$ 12,360 |

Accrued penalties and interest related to unrecognized tax benefits as a component of income tax expense for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 amounted to a charge of \$3.3 million, reversal of (\$0.6) million and reversal of (\$1.0) million respectively, and are included in income tax expense in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations. Accrued interest and penalties were included in income tax payable in the accompanying consolidated statements of financial position and totaled \$3.3 million and \$4.3 million as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively. The Group does not expect the unrecognized tax benefits to change significantly over the next twelve months.

25. SHARE BASED COMPENSATION

MTS

The Stock Option Plan

In 2000, MTS established a stock bonus plan and stock option plan ("the Stock Option Plan") for selected officers and key employees. During its initial public offering in 2000 MTS allotted 9,966,631 shares of its common stock to fund the Stock Option Plan. Since 2002, MTS has made several grants pursuant to its stock option plan to employees and directors of the Group. These options generally vest over a two year period from the date of the grant, contingent on continued employment of the grantee with MTS. The options are exercisable within two weeks after the vesting date, and, if not exercised, are forfeited. The exercise price of the options equaled the average market share price during the one hundred day period preceding the grant date.

In April 2008, the Board of Directors allotted an additional 651,035 ADSs (or 3,255,175 shares) to fund a Stock Option award to MTS' chief executive officer. The award vesting period is up to two years contingent upon employment with MTS. The award will vest only if at the end of the vesting period MTS is among the top 20 mobile operators in the world and top mobile operator in Russia and the CIS, in each case in terms of revenue, and cumulative percentage of MTS' market capitalization growth since the grant date exceeds the predetermined threshold of 15%.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

A summary of the status of the Group's Stock Option Plan is presented below:

| | | Weighted average exercise price | Weighted average grant date fair value of options | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| | Number of shares | (per share), U.S. Dollars | (per share), U.S. Dollars | Aggregate intrinsic value |
| Outstanding at January 1, 2008 | 1,397,256 \$ | 6.31 \$ | 4.05 \$ | 5,236 |
| Granted Exercised Expired Forfeited | 1,302,070 (1,397,256) - - | 15.93 6.31 - - | 2.44 4.05 - - | |
| Outstanding at December 31, 2008 | 1,302,070 \$ | <u>15.93</u> \$ | 2.44 \$ | |
| Granted Exercised Expired Forfeited | - - - - | - - - - | - - - - | |
| Outstanding at December 31, 2009 | 1,302,070 \$ | 15.93 \$ | 2.44 \$ | <u>-</u> |
| Granted Exercised Expired Forfeited | - - (1,302,070) - | - - 15.93 - | - - 2.44 - | |
| Outstanding at December 31, 2010 | - \$ | \$ | - \$ | |

The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the year ended December 31, 2008 was \$7.4 million. Stock options outstanding as of December 31, 2009 expired unexercised.

Compensation cost under the Stock Option Plan of \$0.6 million, \$1.2 million and \$3.5 million was recognized in consolidated statements of operations during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively. Related deferred tax benefit amounted to \$0.1 million, \$0.2 million and \$0.7 million, respectively.

The fair value of options granted during the year ended December 31, 2008 was estimated using the Monte-Carlo simulation model based on the following assumptions:

| | _ | 2008 |
|---|----|-------|
| Risk free rate | | 2.3% |
| Present value of expected dividends, U.S. Dollars | \$ | 4.17 |
| Expected volatility | | 40.0% |
| Expected life, years | | 2 |
| Fair value of options (per share), U.S. Dollar | \$ | 2.44 |

Expected volatility was based on historical volatility of the MTS' ADSs.

The Group is required to estimate expected forfeiture rate, as well as the probability that performance conditions that affect the vesting of the Stock Option Plan awards will be achieved and only recognize expense for those awards expected to vest. The effect of the estimated forfeitures on Group's operations was \$nil, \$nil, and \$2.3 million in 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

The 2007 Phantom Stock Plan

In June 2007, MTS' Board of Directors approved the phantom stock plan to provide deferred compensation to certain key employees of the Group during 2007-2011 (the "2007 Phantom Stock Plan"). The plan is based on units equivalent to MTS ADSs (the "Phantom ADSs"). Each Phantom ADS is the equivalent of five MTS common shares. Under the 2007 Phantom Stock Plan, the participants are entitled to a cash payment equal to the difference between the initial grant price and the price of Phantom ADSs determined based on average market share price during the one hundred day period preceding the vesting date, multiplied by the number of Phantom ADSs granted, upon vesting of the award. The average vesting period is two years from the grant date, contingent upon the continuing employment of the participants by the Group. Further, the award shall vest only if at the end of the vesting period the cumulative percentage of MTS market capitalization growth since the grant date exceeds the cumulative cost of equity determined by the Board of Directors for the same period.

In April 2008, the 2007 Phantom Stock Plan was amended to increase the number of Phantom ADSs available under the plan from the initial 3,600,000 to 9,556,716 ADSs and to increase the number of participants potentially eligible for the Plan to up to 420 top- and mid-level managers of the Group. Further, under the amended plan, the Phantom ADSs granted in 2008 and thereafter will vest only if at the end of the vesting period MTS is among the top 20 mobile operators in the world and top mobile operator in Russia and the CIS, in each case in terms of revenue, and the cumulative percentage of MTS' market capitalization growth since the grant date exceeds the predetermined threshold of 15%. At the end of the vesting period, participants are entitled to a cash payment equal to the difference between the initial grant price and the price of Phantom ADSs determined based on average market share price during the one hundred day period preceding the vesting date, multiplied by the number of Phantom ADSs granted and adjusted by the ratio that reflects actual market capitalization growth rate. During the year ended December 31, 2008, 6,676,716 ADSs were granted to the participants, 4,562,830 of which were granted on May 1, 2008 (Phantom Grant 2008 (I)) and 2,113,886 ADSs were granted on July 1, 2008 (Phantom Grant 2008 (II)).

A summary of the status of the Group's 2007 Phantom Stock Plan is presented below:

| | Number of ADSs | Weighted average exercise price (per ADS), U.S. Dollar | Weighted average fair value of options (per ADS), U.S. Dollar |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Outstanding at December 31, 2007 | 683,336 | \$ 56.79 | \$ 44.00 |
| Granted Exercised Expired Forfeited | 6,676,716 - - (1,346,442) | 76.64 - - 72.02 | 0.68 - - 0.88 |
| Outstanding at December 31, 2008 | 6,013,610 | \$ 75.41 | \$ 0.78 |
| Granted Exercised Expired Forfeited | (3,883,144) (531,833) | - 73.51 76.62 | 0.03 |
| Outstanding at December 31, 2009 | 1,598,633 | \$ 79.63 | \$ 0.06 |
| Granted Exercised Expired Forfeited | (1,569,391) (29,242) | - 79.63 79.63 | - - - - |
| Outstanding at December 31, 2010 | - | \$ | \$ |

None of the Phantom ADSs expired during the year ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 were exercisable as of the expiration date which is July 1, 2010 for the Phantom Stock Grant 2008 (II) and July 1, 2009 for the Phantom Stock Grant 2007 and 2008 (I).

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

The fair value of the liability under the Phantom Stock Plan as of December 31, 2008 was estimated using the Monte-Carlo simulation technique based on the following assumptions:

| | Phantom Grant 2007 | Phantom Grant 2008 (I) | Phantom Grant 2008 (II) |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Risk free rate | 0.2% | 0.4% | 0.4% |
| Present value of expected dividends, U.S. Dollars | 2.7 | 2.7 | 4.1 |
| Expected volatility | 135% | 90% | 90% |
| Remaining vesting period, years | 0.5 | 0.5 | 1.5 |
| Fair value of phantom share award (per phantom | | | |
| share), U.S. Dollar | 2.00 | 0.07 | 1.99 |

The fair value of the liability under the Phantom Stock Plan as of December 31, 2009 was estimated using the Monte-Carlo simulation technique based on the following assumptions:

| | Phantom Grant 2008 (II) |
|--|----------------------------|
| Risk free rate | Ranged from |
| | 0.05% to 0.2% |
| Present value of expected dividends, U.S. Dollars | 1.62 |
| Expected volatility | 50% |
| Remaining vesting period, years | 0.5 |
| Fair value of phantom share award (per phantom share), U.S. Dollar | 0.06 |

Expected volatility was based on historical and implied volatility of the MTS' ADSs.

For the year ended December 31, 2010 a reversal of previously recorded expense under the Phantom Stock Grant 2008 (II) in the amount of \$0.07 million was recognized in the consolidated statements of operations as a result of underlying stock price decrease.

For the year ended December 31, 2009 a reversal of previously recorded expense under the Phantom Stock Grant 2007, 2008 (I) and 2008 (II) in the amount of \$0.5 million, \$0.1 million and \$0.8 million, respectively, was recognized in the consolidated statements of operations as a result of underlying stock price decrease. Related deferred tax expense amounted to \$0.3 million.

For the year ended December 31, 2008 a reversal of previously recorded expense in the amount of \$8.9 million under the Phantom Stock Grant 2007 was recognized in the consolidated statements of operations as a result of underlying stock price decrease. Related deferred tax expense amounted to \$1.8 million. The compensation cost under the Phantom Stock Grant 2008 (I) and (II) recognized in the consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2008 amounted to \$1.3 million and the related deferred tax benefit amounted to \$0.3 million.

The effect of forfeitures amounted to \$nil, \$nil and \$1.5 million for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

The 2009 Phantom Stock Plan

In December 2009, MTS' Board of Directors approved long-term incentive program for employees which provides for a monetary remuneration for the top- and mid-level management upon completion of the year 2010, 2011 and 2012. The amount of remuneration is based on the price of MTS' ADS and the number of Phantom ADSs allocated to employees. At the end of each calendar year the program participants are entitled to a cash payment equaled to one third of total number of phantom ADSs granted multiplied by weighted average market share price during the sixty trading days preceding the vesting date. Following the participant's request, monetary compensation may be postponed till the end of the next vesting period (one calendar year). One phantom ADS granted to an employee contains five MTS' shares. During the year ended December 31, 2010, 444,417 ADSs were granted to the participants. Average market share price is calculated based on the quoted prices of MTS' ADS on the New York Stock Exchange. The award vests on December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012 contingent upon continuing employment of the participants.

| | Number of ADSs | Weighted average fair value of options (per ADS), U.S. Dollar |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Outstanding at January 1, 2010 | - | - |
| Granted Exercised Expired Forfeited | 444,417 - - (50,729) | \$ 53.47 - - - |
| Outstanding at December 31, 2010 | 393,688 | \$53.47 |

131,229 of the Phantom ADSs outstanding as of December 31, 2010 are fully vested. For the year ended December 31, 2010 compensation cost under the 2009 Phantom Stock Plan in the amount of \$7.2 million was recognized in the consolidated statement of operations. Related deferred tax benefit amounted to \$1.4 million.

As of December 31, 2010 there was \$13.9 million of total unrecognized compensation cost related to non-vested phantom ADSs. This amount is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.5 years. The Group is required to estimate expected forfeiture rate, as well as the probability that performance conditions that affect the vesting of the Phantom ADSs awards will be achieved and only recognize expense for those awards expected to vest. The Group's estimated forfeiture rate was 3.9%. The effect of forfeitures amounted to \$0.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Comstar-UTS

The 2006 Program

On September 15, 2006, the extraordinary general meeting of Comstar-UTS shareholders approved the stock option and stock bonus program ("the 2006 Program") for the Board of Directors and senior management of Comstar-UTS. The 2006 Program was being implemented based on separate decisions of the Board of Directors. In November 2006, the Board of Directors of Comstar-UTS approved the grant of stock options to certain members of the Board of Directors and senior management of Comstar-UTS. The exercise price for these options is RUB 122.3 per one GDR (approximately USD 4.6 as of the grant date). These stock options were to cliff-yest in two years from the date of the grant and were exercisable over a period of 1 month after vesting. The 2006 Program provided for the ability of Comstar-UTS to repurchase the GDRs issued under the 2006 Program from the participants, subject to separate decision of the Board of Directors. Management believed that possibility of such repurchase was remote; accordingly, the 2006 Program originally was classified as equity. In March 2008, the Board of Directors of Comstar-UTS has approved the repurchase of the GDRs purchased by the participants at the exercise of the options back to Comstar-UTS at a price equal to an average price of one GDR for the 60 calendar days preceding the date of exercise weighted by trading volumes of Comstar-UTS GDRs on the London Stock Exchange. Accordingly, as of December 31, 2007 Comstar-UTS changed its estimate and re-classified the option program as liability.

In June 2008, General shareholder meeting of Comstar-UTS took the decision to denominate the exercise price in USD at USD 4.60 per share. The change did not have a significant impact on compensation expense recognized by Comstar-UTS.

In November 2008, the participants of the 2006 Program fully exercised their vested options, acquired 2,403,159 GDRs from Comstar-UTS for USD 4.60 per one GDR. The GDRs were then repurchased by Comstar-UTS at USD 5.34 per one GDR, and the 2006 Program was closed. The costs recognized in accordance with the 2006 Program for the years ended December 31, 2008 approximated (\$9.2) million (a reversal).

The following table summarizes information about non-vested common stock options during the year ended December 31, 2008:

\A/ - ! - . l - (- - . l

| | Quantity | Exercise price, U.S. Dollar | weighted average grant- date fair value, U.S. Dollar |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Non-vested options at January 1, 2008 | 2,403,159 | n/a | 3.16 |
| Granted | - | - | - |
| Vested | (2,403,159) | 4.60 | 3.16 |
| Forfeited | | | |
| Non-vested options at December 31, 2008 | | | |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

2008 Phantom Option Program

In March 2008, the Board of Directors of Comstar-UTS approved the employee phantom option program ("the 2008 Phantom Option Program"). Each phantom option was subject to the successful attainment of multiple market and performance conditions, such as shareholder return, market position and revenue growth. The compensation expense for these awards may be adjusted for subsequent changes in estimated or actual outcome of the performance conditions. The phantom options granted during 2008 vested on March 31, 2010. Upon vesting, the participants were entitled to a cash compensation equaled to the difference between weighted average price of one GDR for the 60 calendar days preceding March 31, 2010 and April 1, 2008, respectively, if positive, multiplied by the number of phantom options granted.

The following table summarizes information about phantom options during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008:

| | Quantity | Exercise price, U.S. Dollar | Weighted average grant- date fair value, U.S. Dollar |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Outstanding at January 1, 2008 | - | - | - |
| Granted | 13,065,882 | 10.2368 | 2.36 |
| Expired | - | - | - |
| Forfeited _ | (940,000) | 10.2368 | 2.37 |
| Outstanding at December 31, 2008 (all non-vested) | 12,125,882 | 10.2368 | 2.36 |
| Granted | - | - | - |
| Expired | - | - | - |
| Forfeited _ | (1,580,000) | 10.2368 | 2.37 |
| Outstanding at December 31, 2009 (all non-vested) | 10,545,882 | 10.2368 | 2.35 |
| Granted | - | - | - |
| Expired | (10,545,882) | 10.2368 | 2.35 |
| Forfeited | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> _ | |
| Outstanding at December 31, 2010 | - | | |

Comstar-UTS estimated the fair value of the phantom options using stock option pricing model based on Monte-Carlo simulation technique. The following assumptions were used in the option-pricing model as of December 31, 2009 and 2008:

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|---|----------|----------|
| Risk-free interest rate | 0.1% | 2.4% |
| Expected residual option life (months) | 3 | 15 |
| Expected dividends | Nil | Notional |
| Expected volatility | 97% | 82% |
| Fair value of options (per share) as of December 31 | USD 0.03 | USD 0.36 |

Expected volatility as of December 31, 2009 was based on historical volatility of the GDRs of Comstar-UTS in the fourth quarter of 2009. The costs recognized in accordance with phantom option plan for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 amounted to \$0.3 million, negative \$2.0 million and \$2.3 million, respectively.

In March 2010, the Board of Directors of Comstar-UTS approved an amendment to the phantom option program. Under the amendment, compensation is to be calculated at USD 2 per phantom option regardless of share price movements. The ultimate decision as to fulfillment of the performance conditions and the payment is subject to a separate decision of the Board of Directors. Included in trade accounts payable, accrued expenses and other current liabilities as of December 31, 2009, is approximately \$18.8 million of compensation under the amended program which represents the portion of total compensation allocable to the periods prior to December 31, 2009. In May 2010 the Board of Directors of Comstar-UTS made a decision to cancel an amendment to the phantom option program, which resulted in a reversal of \$19.0 million in the first quarter of 2010 related to expenses accrued in 2009.

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The 2010 Phantom Option Program

In March 2010, the Board of Directors of Comstar-UTS approved the employee phantom option program ("the 2010 Phantom Option Program"). Each phantom option is subject to the successful attainment of multiple market and performance conditions, such as shareholder return, market position and revenue growth. The phantom options granted during 2010 vest at the year end of 2010 or, under the clause of Comstar-UTS reorganization, at the date of the decision taken to reorganize. Upon the vesting, the participants will be entitled to cash compensation equal to the average of Comstar-UTS GDR and MTS ADS, calculated as weighted average price for the 60 trading days preceding the exercise date, multiplied by the number of phantom options granted. On December 23, 2010, the meeting of Comstar-UTS' shareholders approved the merger with MTS OJSC and the options became vested under the reorganization clause.

The costs recognized in accordance with the 2010 Phantom Option Program for the year ended December 31, 2010 amounted to \$7.5 million.

The following table summarizes the information about the 2010 Phantom Option Program during 2010:

| | Quantity | weighted average grant- date fair value, U.S. Dollar |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Outstanding as of December 31, 2009 | - | - |
| Granted | 278,339 | \$ 28.62 |
| Exercised | (240,914) | 28.62 |
| Forfeited | (37,425) | 28.62 |
| Outstanding as of December 31, 2010 | | |

26. RELATED PARTIES

Related parties include entities under common ownership and control with the Group, affiliated companies and associated companies.

As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, accounts receivable from and accounts payable to related parties were as follows:

| | December 31, | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------|-----|--------|--|
| | 2010 | | | 2009 | |
| Accounts receivable: | | | | | |
| Sitronics, a subsidiary of Sistema | \$ | 1,320 | \$ | 1,933 | |
| Intellect Telecom, a subsidiary of Sistema | | 117 | | 622 | |
| Sky Link and subsidiaries | | - | | 7,467 | |
| Svyazinvest and subsidiaries | | - | | 4,446 | |
| Other related parties | _ | 1,236 | _ | 2,230 | |
| Total accounts receivable, related parties | \$_ | 2,673 | \$_ | 16,698 | |
| Accounts payable: | | | | | |
| Sitronics, a subsidiary of Sistema | \$ | 37,007 | \$ | 68,296 | |
| Maxima, a subsidiary of Sistema | | 8,965 | | 6,511 | |
| Svyazinvest and subsidiaries | | - | | 2,299 | |
| Sky Link and subsidiaries | | - | | 488 | |
| Other related parties | _ | 7,012 | _ | 2,895 | |
| Total accounts payable, related parties | \$_ | 52,984 | \$_ | 80,489 | |

The Group does not have the intent and ability to offset the outstanding accounts payable and accounts receivable with related parties under the terms of existing agreements.

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Operating Transactions

For the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, operating transactions with related parties are as follows:

| | _ | 2010 | _ | 2009 | _ | 2008 |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|-----------------|
| Revenues from related parties: Svyazinvest and subsidiaries (interconnection, commission for provision of DLD/ILD services to | | | | | | |
| the Group's subscribers and other) Sky Link and subsidiaries (interconnection and other) | \$ | 33,869 7,395 | \$ | 43,174 9,857 | \$ | 63,147 7,977 |
| Mezhregion Tranzit Telecom (interconnection, line rental, commission for provision of DLD/ILD | | 7,393 | | 9,007 | | 7,977 |
| services to the Group's subscribers, and other) | | - | | 11,465 | | 128,560 |
| Other related parties | _ | 10,993 | _ | 7,653 | _ | 10,306 |
| Total revenues to related parties | \$ | 52,257 | \$ | 72,149 | \$_ | 209,990 |
| Operating expenses incurred on transactions with related parties: | | | | | | |
| RA Maxima, a subsidiary of Sistema (advertising) | \$ | 76,158 | \$ | 102,005 | \$ | 138,756 |
| Mediaplanning, a subsidiary of Sistema (advertising) | | 59,171 | | 23,782 | | 82,036 |
| Sitronics, a subsidiary of Sistema (IT consulting) Svyazinvest and subsidiaries (interconnection and | | 56,610 | | 52,211 | | 39,646 |
| other) | | 29,210 | | 28,997 | | 41,533 |
| Sistema-Invenchur, a subsidiary of Sistema (consulting services related to the sale of | | 20,210 | | 20,001 | | 11,000 |
| Svyazinvest shares (Note 15)) City Hals (rent, repair, maintenance and cleaning | | 11,262 | | - | | - |
| services) | | 9,542 | | 9,988 | | 13,835 |
| AB Safety, an affiliate of Sistema (security services) | | 9,267 | | 5,576 | | - |
| MTS Belarus, an associated company of the Group Mezhregion Tranzit Telecom (interconnection, | | 5,539 | | - | | - |
| line rental and other) | | - | | 18,115 | | 191,155 |
| Other related parties | | 15,584 | - | 15,705 | _ | 10,883 |
| Total operating expenses incurred on | | | | | | |
| transactions with related parties | \$ _ | 272,343 | \$_ | 256,379 | \$_ | 517,844 |

During 2010 Sky Link, Sistema-Hals, City Hals, a subsidiary of Sistema-Hals, and Svyazinvest ceased to be related to the Group. Transactions with these companies and their subsidiaries which took place prior to the dates when they became unrelated are disclosed as transactions with related parties.

In the year ended December 31, 2007 Comstar-Direct, a subsidiary of Comstar-UTS, sold substantially all TV content and certain property, plant and equipment to Sistema Mass Media for \$14.8 million (exclusive of VAT). Respective gains totaling \$2.7 million were included in other income in the accompanying consolidated statement of operations. In the year ended December 31, 2008, respective receivables were transferred to SMM in the course of reorganization of Comstar-Direct (see Note 3).

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Investing and financing transactions

During the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 the Group made certain investments in and loans to related parties. Respective balances are summarized as follows:

| | December 31, | | | |
|---|---------------------------|----|-------------------------|--|
| | 2010 | | 2009 | |
| Loans to, promissory notes and investments in shares of related parties: | | | | |
| Short-term investments (Note 6) MBRD, a subsidiary of Sistema | | \$ | 992 | |
| Total short-term investments in related parties | \$ | \$ | 992 | |
| Other investments (Note 16) Sistema Intellect Telecom, a subsidiary of Sistema Loan receivable from Mr Pierre Fattouche and Mr Moussa Fattouche | 24,455 - 91,503 | | 20,449 12,808 | |
| Total other investments to related parties | \$ 115,958 | \$ | 33,257 | |
| Investments in shares (Note 16) MBRD, a subsidiary of Sistema Sistema Mass Media, a subsidiary of Sistema Other | 5,208 3,827 728 | | 5,248 3,856 1,434 | |
| Total investments in shares of related parties | \$ 9,763 | \$ | 10,538 | |

Moscow Bank of Reconstruction and Development ("MBRD") – The Group has a number of loan agreements and also maintains certain bank and deposit accounts with MBRD, a subsidiary of Sistema. As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the Group's cash position at MBRD amounted to \$378.7 million and \$963.6 million in current accounts, respectively. Deposit accounts in MBRD included deposit accounts with original maturities in excess of three months but less than twelve months totaling \$nil and \$1.0 million as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively, which are classified as short-term investments in the accompanying consolidated statements of financial position. The interest accrued on the deposits and cash on current accounts for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, amounted to \$19.7 million, \$25.1 million and \$43.2 million, respectively, and was included as a component of interest income in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations.

Loans payable to MBRD amounted to \$0.3 million and \$1.2 million as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Interest expense on these loans for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, 2008 amounted to \$nil, \$0.8 million and \$1.3 million, respectively.

Sistema – In November 2009, the Group accepted a promissory note from Sistema as repayment of a loan principle and interest accrued to date under the agreement with Sistema-Hals (Note 16). The note is interest free and is repayable in 2017. As of December 31, 2010 the amount receivable of \$20.3 million was included in other investments in the accompanying consolidated statement of financial position.

In June 2010, the Group accepted a promissory note from Sistema in exchange for promissory note of Sky Link. The note is interest free and is repayable upon demand. As of December 31, 2010 the amount receivable of \$4.2 million was included in other investments in the accompanying consolidated statement of financial position.

Sistema Mass Media ("SMM") – In 2009 the Group had various loans and promissory notes payable to SMM, a subsidiary of Sistema. As of December 31, 2009 these loans and notes were fully repaid. Interest expense on these loans and notes for the year ended December 31, 2009 amounted to \$1.4 million.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Intellect Telecom – During the years ended December 31, 2009 the Group granted loans to Intellect Telecom, a subsidiary of Sistema. These loans bear interest of 7.0% and 11.0%, respectively, and mature in 2012. As of December 31, 2010 these loans have been fully repaid prior to their maturity date (Note 16). Loans receivable from Intellect Telecom amounted to \$nil and \$12.8 million as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Investments in ordinary shares – As of December 31, 2010 and 2009 the Group had several investments in shares of subsidiaries and affiliates of Sistema totaling \$9.8 million and \$10.5 million, respectively. The main investments are 2.82% of MBRD and 3.14% of SMM, subsidiaries of Sistema.

Sky Link and subsidiaries – In 2009 and 2008, Sky Link, an affiliate of Sistema, repaid the Group \$14.3 million and \$3.4 million, respectively, of outstanding indebtedness, which resulted in partial reversal of a provision for uncollectible loans recorded by the Group in 2007 and recognition of a gain of \$4.3 million in the accompanying consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2009.

Sitronics – During the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, the Group acquired from Sitronics and its subsidiaries telecommunications equipment, software and billing systems (FORIS) for approximately \$272.6 million, \$190.1 million and \$357.6 million, respectively. In addition during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, the Group purchased SIM cards and prepaid phone cards for approximately \$29.9 million, \$32.4 million and \$39.6 million, respectively. As of December 31, 2010 and 2009 the advances given to Sitronics and its subsidiaries amounted to \$144.6 million and \$23.7 million, respectively. These amounts were included into property, plant and equipment and intangible assets in the accompanying consolidated statements of financial position.

Maxima Advertising Agency ("Maxima") – During the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, the Group had agreements for advertising services with Maxima, a subsidiary of Sistema. Advertising costs related to Maxima for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, amounted to \$76.2 million, \$102.0 million and \$138.8 million, respectively.

Mediaplanning – During the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, the Group entered into a number of agreements to purchase advertising services with Mediaplanning, a subsidiary of Sistema. Related advertising costs recorded for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 amounted to \$59.2 million, \$23.8 million and \$82.0 million, respectively.

Sistema-Hals – In October 2008, the Group entered into an agreement for the construction of an aerial system in Moscow metro with Sistema-Hals. As of December 31, 2009 the advances given to Sistema-Hals under this agreement amounted to \$6.7 million. This amount was included into property, plant and equipment in the accompanying consolidated statements of financial position.

MGTS, a subsidiary of Comstar-UTS, entered into a series of agreements with Sistema-Hals on project development and reconstruction of buildings which house MGTS' automatic telephone exchanges. As of December 31, 2009, as a result of the work performed by Sistema-Hals under these contracts, MGTS recorded a liability of \$38.3 million payable to Sistema-Hals.

InvestSvyazHolding – The Group entered into agreements with InvestSvyazHolding, a subsidiary of Sistema, for leasing of network equipment and a billing system. These leases were recorded as capital leases. The value of leased assets is insignificant.

Svyazinvest – During the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, the Group paid dividends to Svyazinvest amounting to \$nil, \$nil, \$3.6 million, respectively. For the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, the Group received dividends from Svyazinvest totaling \$nil, \$nil and \$2.4 million, respectively.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

27. STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Share capital – The Company' share capital comprises 1,993,326,138 issued common shares with 1,916,869,262 outstanding as of December 31, 2010 and 2009. The total shares in treasury stock comprised 76,456,876 as of December 31, 2010 and 2009.

Each ADS initially represented 20 shares of common stock of the Company. Effective January 2005, the ratio was changed to 1 ADS per 5 ordinary shares. Effective May 2010, the ratio was changed to 1 ADS per 2 ordinary shares.

The Company initially issued a total of 17,262,204 ADSs (172,622,040 ADSs recalculated using the ratio effective May 2010), representing 345,244,080 common shares. As of December 31, 2010 the Group repurchased 13,599,067 ADSs.

Noncontrolling interest – The Group' equity was affected by changes in the respective subsidiaries' ownership interests as follows:

| | | December 31, | | | | | | |
|---|------------|--------------|----|-----------|------------|-----------|--|--|
| | | 2010 | | 2009 | _ | 2008 | | |
| Net income attributable to the Group | \$ | 1,380,631 | \$ | 1,014,203 | \$_ | 1,979,107 | | |
| Transfers from the noncontrolling interest | | | | | | | | |
| (Decrease)/increase in equity due to acquisition of noncontrolling interest in Comstar-UTS Decrease in paid-in capital due to exercise of | | (115,350) | | 45,284 | | - | | |
| the put option on Comstar-UTS shares | | - | | - | | (9,358) | | |
| Increase in equity due to acquisition of noncontrolling interest in MGTS | | - | | 269,281 | | - | | |
| Decrease in paid-in capital due to acquisition of noncontrolling interest in Dagtelecom Decrease in paid-in capital due to | | - | | (7,679) | | - | | |
| reorganization of Comstar-Direct | | - | | _ | | (6,539) | | |
| Change in paid-in capital for acquisition of noncontrolling interest in TS-Retail | | (15,932) | | - | | 2,104 | | |
| Decrease in paid-in capital due to acquisition of noncontrolling interest in other subsidiaries | | (10,302) | | (487) | | <u>-</u> | | |
| Net transfers from the noncontrolling interest | | (141,584) | | 306,399 | | (13,793) | | |
| Net income attributable to the Group and transfers from the noncontrolling interest: | \$ <u></u> | 1,239,047 | \$ | 1,320,602 | \$ <u></u> | 1,965,314 | | |

Dividends – In 2007, the Board of Directors approved a dividend policy, whereby the Group shall aim to make dividend payments to shareholders in the amount of at least 50% of annual net income under U.S. GAAP. The dividend can vary depending on a number of factors, including the outlook for earnings growth, capital expenditure requirements, cash flow from operations, potential acquisition opportunities, as well as the Group's debt position.

Annual dividend payments, if any, must be recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by the shareholders.

In accordance with Russian laws, earnings available for dividends are limited to profits determined in accordance with Russian statutory accounting regulations, denominated in rubles, after certain deductions. The net income of MTS OJSC for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 that is distributable under Russian legislation totaled RUB 27,429 million (\$903.2 million), RUB 33,480 million (\$1,055.4 million) and RUB 40,554 million (\$1,631.6 million), respectively.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

The following table summarizes the Group's declared cash dividends in the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008:

| | 2010 | - | 2009 | _ | 2008 |
|--|---------------|----|-----------|----|-----------|
| Dividends declared (including dividends on treasury shares of \$35,063, \$45,631 and | | | | | |
| \$36,529, respectively) | \$ 991,211 | \$ | 1,265,544 | \$ | 1,257,453 |
| Dividends, U.S. Dollars per ADS ⁽¹⁾ | 0.99 | | 3.2 | | 3.2 |
| Dividends, U.S. Dollars per share | 0.497 | | 0.647 | | 0.631 |

⁽¹⁾ In 2010 the ratio was changed from 5 to 2 common shares per ADS.

As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, dividends payable were \$0.6 million and \$1.1 million, respectively.

MGTS' preferred stock – MGTS, a subsidiary of Comstar-UTS, had 15,965,850 preferred shares outstanding at December 31, 2010. MGTS' preferred shares carry guaranteed non-cumulative dividend rights amounting to the higher of (a) 10% of MGTS' net profit as determined under Russian accounting regulations and (b) the dividends paid on common shares. No dividends may be declared on common shares before dividends on preferred shares are declared. If the preferred dividend is not paid in full in any year the preferred shares also obtain voting rights, which will lapse after the first payment of the dividend in full. Otherwise, preferred shares carry no voting rights except on resolutions regarding liquidation or reorganization of MGTS and changes/amendments to MGTS' charter restricting the rights of holders of preferred shares. Such resolutions require the approval of 75% of the preferred shareholders. In the event of liquidation, dividends to preferred shareholders that have been declared but not paid have priority over ordinary shareholders.

In March 2010 MGTS' extraordinary shareholders meeting approved dividends on preferred shares totaling RUB 321.9 million (approximately \$10.9 million) for 2008. In June 2010 MGTS' general shareholders meeting approved dividend on preferred shares totaling RUB 789.4 million (approximately \$25.4 million) payment for 2009.

In December 2009, the Group has acquired 11,135,428 preferred shares of MGTS (Note 3).

28. REDEEMABLE NONCONTROLLING INTEREST

In September 2007 the Group acquired an 80% stake in International Cell Holding Ltd, the 100% indirect owner of K-Telecom, Armenia's mobile phone operator, as well as signed a call and put option agreement to acquire the remaining 20% stake. In December 2010 the Group signed an amendment to the put and call option agreement. According to the amended option agreement, the price for the remaining 20% stake option will be determined by an independent investment bank subject to a cap of EUR 200 mln. The put option is to be exercised during the period from the next business day following the date of settlement of all the liabilities under the loan agreement (Note 16) up to December 31, 2016. The call option is to be exercised during the period from July 1, 2010 up to December 31, 2016. If both the call notice and the put notice are served on the same day then the put notice shall be deemed exercised in priority to the call notice. The noncontrolling interest was measured at fair value using the discounted cash flow technique and amounted to \$86.9 million and \$82.3 million as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 respectively. The fair value was determined based on unobservable inputs ("Level 3" of the fair value hierarchy).

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

29. RETIREMENT AND POST RETIREMENT OBLIGATIONS

MGTS has historically provided certain benefits to employees upon their retirement and afterwards, which include monthly regular pension, death-in-service payments, lump-sum upon retirement payments, death-while-pensioner payments and 50% monthly telephone subsidies for the pensioners who served more than 30 years at MGTS. As of December 31, 2010, there were 9,571 active employees eligible for the program. The pension plan is terminally funded, i.e., upon retirement MGTS transfers all its obligations to a pension fund (NPF "Sistema"), a subsidiary of Sistema, and from that moment onwards has no more obligations towards the pensioner regarding the pension plan. All other program benefits are financed on a pay-as-you-go basis.

MGTS' pension obligations are measured as of December 31. The following are the key assumptions used in determining the projected benefit obligation and net periodic pension expense:

| | 2010 | 2009 |
|---|------------|------------|
| Discount rate | 8.00% p.a. | 9.00% p.a. |
| Expected return on plan assets | 8.17% p.a. | 9.22% p.a. |
| Projected salary growth | 9.72% p.a. | 9.72% p.a. |
| Discount rate used for annuity contracts calculation | 4.00% p.a. | 7.00% p.a. |
| Rate at which pension payment are assumed to be indexed | 0.00% p.a. | 0.00% p.a. |
| Long-term inflation | 5.50% p.a. | 5.50% p.a. |
| Staff turnover (for ages below 50) | 5.00% p.a. | 5.00% p.a. |

The change in the projected benefit obligation and the change in plan assets for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 are presented in the following table:

| | Old age pension | 2010 Other penefits | Total | Old age pension | 2009 Other penefits | Total |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Change in projected benefit obligation | ension | | Total | <u>Jension</u> | <u></u> | Total |
| Projected benefit obligation, beginning of the year Service cost | \$ 573 | \$ 14,540 \$ 708 | 26,309 1,281 | \$ 11,924 491 | \$ 17,797 \$ 737 | 29,721 1,228 |
| Interest cost Actuarial (gains)/losses Benefit payment | 1,011 3,515 - | 1,252 4,426 (1,323) | 2,263 7,941 (1,323) | 914 17 - | 1,371 (1,688) (3,043) | 2,285 (1,671) (3,043) |
| Settlement and curtailment gain Termination benefits Foreign currency translation effect | (794) - (56) | - 8,231 (94) | (794) 8,231 (150) | (1,245) - (332) | - (634) | (1,245) - (966) |
| Projected benefit obligation, end of the year | \$ 16,018 | \$ 27,740 \$ | 43,758 | \$ 11,769 | \$ 14,540 \$ | 26,309 |
| Change in fair value of plan asset Fair value of plan assets, beginning of the year Correction of asset value, | \$ 772 | \$ - \$ | 772 | \$ 471 | \$ - \$ | 471 |
| beginning of year Actual return on plan assets | - | - | - | (188) | - | (188) |
| Employer contributions Benefits paid Settlement Foreign currency translation effect | 1,358 - (794) (8) | 1,323 (1,323) - - | 2,681 (1,323) (794) (8) | 1,733 - (1,245) 1 | 3,044 (3,044) - - | 4,777 (3,044) (1,245) |
| Fair value of plan assets, end of the year | \$ 1,328 | \$ - \$ | 1,328 | \$ 772 | \$ - \$ | 772 |
| Unfunded status of the plan, end of the year, net | \$ (14,690) | \$ (27,740) \$ | (42,430) | \$ (10,997) | \$ (14,540) \$ | (25,537) |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Reconciliations of the unfunded status of the plan for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 are as follows:

| | | | 2010 | | 2009 | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----|-------------------|---------|------|--------------------|----------------|---------|--|--|--|
| | Old age ension | k | Other penefits | Total | | Old age pension | Other benefits | Total | | | |
| Unfunded status of the plan, | | | | | | | | | | | |
| beginning of the year | \$ 10,997 | \$ | 14,540 \$ | 25,537 | \$ | 11,453 | \$ 17,797 \$ | 29,250 | | | |
| Net periodic benefit cost | 1,994 | | 10,571 | 12,565 | | 2,115 | 2,726 | 4,841 | | | |
| Contributions made | (1,358) | | (1,323) | (2,681) | | (1,733) | (3,044) | (4,777) | | | |
| (Credit)/charge to other | | | | | | | | | | | |
| comprehensive income/(loss), net | 3,105 | | 4,046 | 7,151 | | (505) | (2,306) | (2,811) | | | |
| Foreign currency translation effect | (48) | | (94) | (142) | | (333) | (633) | (966) | | | |
| Unfunded status of the plan, | | | | | | | | | | | |
| end of the year | \$ 14,690 | \$ | 27,740 \$ | 42,430 | \$ | 10,997 | \$ 14,540 \$ | 25,537 | | | |

The components of the net periodic pension expense for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 are as follows:

| | | 2010 | | | | | | 2009 | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|------------------|----|-------------------|----|--------|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|----|-------|
| | | ld age ension | k | Other penefits | | Total | | Old age ension | _ | Other benefits | | Total |
| Service cost | \$ | 573 | \$ | 708 | \$ | 1,281 | \$ | 491 | \$ | 737 | \$ | 1,228 |
| Interest cost | | 1,011 | | 1,252 | | 2,263 | | 914 | | 1,371 | | 2,285 |
| Return on assets | | - | | - | | - | | - | | - | | - |
| Immediate recognition of prior | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| service cost | | - | | 8,231 | | 8,231 | | - | | - | | - |
| Net actuarial loss recognized durin | g | | | | | | | | | | | |
| the year | | 473 | | 191 | | 664 | | 582 | | 438 | | 1,020 |
| Amortization of prior service cost | | (63) | | 189 | | 126 | | (60) | | 180 | | 120 |
| Correction of asset value, | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| beginning of year | | | | - | | - | _ | 188 | _ | - | _ | 188 |
| Net periodic pension expense | \$ | 1,994 | \$ | 10,571 | \$ | 12,565 | \$ | 2,115 | \$ | 2,726 | \$ | 4,841 |

Amounts recognized in other comprehensive income for the years ended 31 December, 2010 and 2009 are as follows:

| | | 2010 | 2009 | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|-------|----|-------------------|----------------|---------|--|
| | old age ension | Other enefits | Total | | old age ension | Other benefits | Total | |
| Unrecognized gains Unrecognized prior service | \$ 3,042 | \$ 4,235 \$ | 7,277 | \$ | (565) \$ | (2,126) \$ | (2,691) | |
| cost/(credit) | 63 | (189) | (126) | | 60 | (180) | (120) | |
| Total recognized in other comprehensive income | \$ 3,105 | \$ 4,046 \$ | 7,151 | \$ | (505) | (2,306) \$ | (2,811) | |

The estimated net loss and prior service cost for the defined benefit pension plans that will be amortized from accumulated other comprehensive income/(loss) into net periodic benefit cost over the year ending December 31, 2011 are \$1.3 million and \$0.1 million, respectively.

The Group's management expects contributions to the plan during the year ended December 31, 2011 to amount to \$3.2 million.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

The future benefit payments to retirees under the defined benefit plan are expected to be as follows: 2011 – \$2.8 million; 2012 – \$3.5 million; 2013 – \$3.8 million, 2014 – \$4.9 million; 2015 – \$5.8 million and an aggregate of \$27.9 million in 2016 to 2020.

NPF "Sistema" does not allocate any separately identifiable assets to its clients such as MGTS. Instead, it operates a pool of investments where it invests the funds from the pension solidarity and individual accounts. The pool of investments includes primarily investments in Russian corporate bonds, Russian governmental bonds and shares of Russian issuers.

30. GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

General and administrative expenses for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, comprised the following:

| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Salaries and social contributions | \$ 1,174,482 | \$ 1,004,951 | \$ 1,122,815 |
| Rent | 338,301 | 283,957 | 268,930 |
| General and administrative | 251,097 | 217,847 | 264,627 |
| Repair and maintenance | 180,810 | 158,165 | 224,690 |
| Taxes other than income | 144,322 | 181,716 | 215,664 |
| Billing and data processing | 75,960 | 64,277 | 62,203 |
| Consulting expenses | 61,431 | 59,000 | 50,946 |
| Provision for obsolescence | 27,825 | 4,113 | 3,870 |
| Business acquisitions related costs | 12,737 | 11,353 | - |
| Insurance | 7,456 | 7,612 | 11,534 |
| Total | \$ 2,274,421 | \$ 1,992,991 | \$ 2,225,279 |

31. SEGMENT INFORMATION

Historically, the Group has reflected its reportable segments on a geographical basis. Management has taken this approach as this was effectively how the business was managed.

In 2009, since the acquisition of Comstar-UTS the Group's management determined a new operating segment and identified three reportable segments: Russia Mobile, Russia Fixed and Ukraine Mobile. These segments have been determined based on different geographical areas of business activities and the nature of their operations: mobile includes activities for the providing of wireless telecommunication services to the Group's subscribers and distribution of mobile handsets and accessories; fixed line includes all activities for providing wireline telecommunication services, broadband and consumer Internet. Information about other business activities and operating segments that are not reportable due to non materiality of business activity was combined and disclosed in the "Other" category separately from other reconciling items.

Also, historically, the Group included corporate headquarters expenses to "Russia" reportable segment as the chief operating decision maker assessed the performance of the segments on such basis. In 2009, since the acquisition of Comstar-UTS, the chief operating decision maker has changed the approach to the allocation of corporate headquarters expenses and such changes have been reflected in the financial information the chief operating decision maker now reviews. According to the new approach corporate headquarters expenses which are not directly attributable to the reportable segments are included in the "Other" category. The accompanying consolidated financial statements reflect these changes for all periods presented.

Intercompany eliminations presented below consist primarily of sales transactions between segments conducted under the normal course of operations.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Financial information by reportable segment is presented below:

| | _ | 2010 | _ | 2009 | | 2008 |
|--|-------------|---|-------------|---|----|---|
| Revenue: Russia Mobile Russia Fixed Ukraine Mobile Other Intercompany eliminations | \$ | 7,789,463 1,748,899 1,072,830 864,372 (182,328) | \$ | 6,670,126 1,498,223 1,048,751 787,543 (137,390) | \$ | 7,916,658 1,784,455 1,661,951 779,520 (149,961) |
| Total revenue | \$ | 11,293,236 | \$_ | 9,867,253 | \$ | 11,992,623 |
| Depreciation and amortization: Russia Mobile Russia Fixed Ukraine Mobile Other | \$ | 1,196,162 222,565 354,154 227,615 | \$ | 1,111,877 193,679 352,037 186,581 | \$ | 1,313,970 214,676 437,988 186,443 |
| Total depreciation and amortization | \$_ | 2,000,496 | \$_ | 1,844,174 | \$ | 2,153,077 |
| Operating income: Russia Mobile Russia Fixed Ukraine Mobile Other Intercompany eliminations | \$ | 2,189,397 485,273 144,473 (84,820) 236 | \$ | 1,945,595 410,874 120,248 82,257 (3,089) | \$ | 2,800,776 448,366 321,328 45,503 11,273 |
| Net operating income | \$ | 2,734,559 | \$_ | 2,555,885 | _ | 3,627,246 |
| Currency exchange and transaction (gain)/loss Interest income Interest expense Change in fair value of derivatives Impairment of investments Equity in net income of associates Other expense, net | \$ | (20,238) (84,396) 777,287 - (70,649) 66,924 | \$ | 252,694 (104,566) 571,901 5,420 368,355 (60,313) 23,254 | \$ | 561,963 (69,697) 234,424 41,554 - (75,688) 29,090 |
| Income before provision for income taxes and noncontrolling interest | \$ <u>_</u> | 2,065,631 | \$ <u>_</u> | 1,499,140 | \$ | 2,905,600 |
| | | | | 2010 | | 2009 |
| Additions to long-lived assets: Russia Mobile Russia Fixed Ukraine Mobile Other | | | \$ | 1,976,746 562,180 117,548 237,256 | \$ | 1,247,307 120,036 259,388 463,624 |
| Total additions to long-lived assets | | | \$_ | 2,893,730 | \$ | 2,090,355 |
| Long-lived assets: Russia Mobile Russia Fixed Ukraine mobile Other | | | \$ | 5,523,761 2,684,051 1,130,459 1,451,260 | \$ | 4,827,140 2,270,198 1,365,686 1,525,702 |
| Total long-lived assets | | | \$ | 10,789,531 | \$ | 9,988,726 |
| Total assets: Russia Mobile Russia Fixed Ukraine Mobile Other | | | \$ | 7,892,428 3,465,731 1,454,415 1,665,468 | \$ | 8,633,311 3,894,636 1,567,563 1,668,979 |
| Total assets | | | \$_ | 14,478,042 | \$ | 15,764,489 |

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

32. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Capital commitments – As of December 31, 2010, the Group had executed purchase agreements of approximately \$288.8 million to acquire property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and costs related thereto.

Agreement with Apple – In August 2008, the Group entered into an unconditional purchase agreement with Apple Sales International to buy 1.5 million iPhone handsets at list prices at the dates of respective purchases over a three year period. Pursuant to the agreement the Group should also incur certain iPhone promotion costs. In 2010, 2009 and 2008, the Group made 7.5%, 0.4% and 7.2% of its total purchase installment contemplated by the agreement, respectively. Total amount paid for handsets purchased under the agreement for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 amounted to \$79.4 million, \$3.4 million and \$65.4 million, respectively.

MGTS long-term investment program – In December 2003, MGTS announced its long-term investment program for the period from 2004 to 2012, providing for extensive capital expenditures, including expansion and full digitalization of the Moscow telephone network. The program was approved by resolution of the Moscow City Government on December 16, 2003. At the inception of the investment program, capital expenditures were estimated to be approximately \$1,600.0 million and included reconstruction of 350 local telephone stations and installation of 4.3 million of new phone lines. As a result of implementation of the investment program, new digital equipment is being installed in the buildings housing the telephone nodes, and a substantial amount of floor space will become available after the replacement of analogue switching equipment. The additional free floor space after reconstruction is expected to be sold to third parties or rented out. There are 113 automatic telephone station buildings which are to be reconstructed or rebuilt in the course of the investment program. Currently, management has not made a decision whether to sell the free floor space created in the course of the investment program or to rent it out.

In November 2006, MGTS signed an agreement with the Moscow City Government, under which MGTS' investment program was approved. Under the agreement, the Moscow City Government is entitled to receive not less than 30% of the market value of additional floor space constructed during the course of the investment program. The obligation arises at the time the reconstruction of specified properties is completed. In December 2005, MGTS made a prepayment to the Moscow City Government under this program which will be offset against the future liability arising as a result of the investment program.

In the course of implementation of the investment program, MGTS entered into a series of agreements with Sistema-Hals, a subsidiary of Sistema, related to project development and reconstruction of buildings housing the telephone stations. The main part of the work under these contracts was to be performed between 2006 and 2012. Under the agreements, Sistema-Hals was to prepare the project documentation and perform construction work on behalf of MGTS, and MGTS was to reimburse all the expenses incurred in relation to the construction process with a margin of 4.75% on such expenses and to pay a fixed fee of \$0.04 million per one building. During 2005-2009 project development and site preparation work was performed by Sistema Hals on 95 sites, which resulted in recognition of payable to Sistema Hals and construction in-progress amounting to \$38.3 million and \$33.3 million, respectively, as of December 31, 2009.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

In December 2010 MGTS and Sistema Hals cancelled agreements in connection with 87 sites out of 95. The agreed terms for the cancelled agreements are as follows:

- For 8 out of 87 sites all the expenses incurred by Sistema Hals in relation to construction process on those sites should be reimbursed by investor companies, not MGTS. Consequently, payable to Sistema Hals and construction in-progress in connection with these sites of \$20.8 million and \$17.7 million, respectively, were reversed as of December 31, 2010.
- For 79 out of 87 sites MGTS is to reimburse part of the expenses incurred by Sistema Hals in relation to the construction process. Consequently, payables to Sistema Hals and construction in progress relating to those 79 sites were reduced by \$6.4 million and \$5.5 million respectively, and, as of December 31, 2010, amounted to \$5.9 million and \$5.0 million respectively. In addition, management believes that the remaining construction in progress is impaired as of December 31, 2010 in the amount of \$3.5 million.

The remaining 8 sites will be developed based on existing agreements. Accordingly, as of December 31, 2010, the respective payable to Sistema Hals and construction in-progress amounted to \$6.1 million and \$5.2 million respectively.

Operating leases – The Group has entered into non-cancellable agreements to lease space for telecommunications equipment, offices and transmission channels, which expire in various years up to 2058. Rental expenses under the operating leases of \$338.3 million, \$278.5 million and \$243.8 million for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively, are included in operating expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations. Rental expenses under the operating leases of \$182.4 million, \$168.7 million and \$175.8 million for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively, are included in cost of services in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations. Future minimum lease payments due under these leases at December 31, 2010 are as follows:

| Payments due in the years ended December 31 | Payments d | ue in the v | ears ended | December 31. |
|---|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
|---|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|

| Total | \$ 471,557 |
|------------|---------------|
| Thereafter | 75,265 |
| 2015 | 6,734 |
| 2014 | 8,748 |
| 2013 | 16,096 |
| 2012 | 27,244 |
| 2011 | \$ 337,470 |
| . uy | |

Taxation – Russia and the CIS countries currently have a number of laws related to various taxes imposed by both federal and regional governmental authorities. Applicable taxes include VAT, corporate income tax (profits tax), a number of turnover-based taxes, and payroll (social) taxes. Laws related to these taxes have not been in force for significant periods, in contrast to more developed market economies; therefore, the government's implementation of these regulations is often inconsistent or nonexistent. Accordingly, few precedents with regard to tax rulings have been established. Tax declarations, together with other legal compliance areas (for example, customs and currency control matters), are subject to review and investigation by a number of authorities, which are enabled by law to impose extremely severe fines, penalties and interest charges. These facts create tax risks in Russia and the CIS countries that are more significant than those typically found in countries with more developed tax systems.

Generally, according to Russian tax legislation, tax declarations remain open and subject to inspection for a period of three years following the tax year. As of December 31, 2010, tax declarations of MTS OJSC and other subsidiaries in Russia for the preceding three fiscal years were open for further review.

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In October 2009, the Russian tax authorities completed the tax audit of Sibintertelecom for the years ended December 31, 2006, 2007 and 2008. Based on the results of this audit, the Russian tax authorities assessed that RUB 174.5 million (\$5.8 million as of December 31, 2009) in additional taxes, penalties and fines. The Group succeeded appealing in a court of original jurisdiction, which recognized the tax authorities' resolution to be invalid. In February 2011 an arbitration appellate court confirmed the decision of the court of original jurisdiction.

In December 2010 the Russian tax authorities completed the tax audit of MTS OJSC for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2008. Based on the results of this audit, the Russian tax authorities assessed that RUB 353.9 million (\$11.6 million as of December 31, 2010) in additional taxes, penalties and fines were payable by the Group. The resolution did not come into force as the Group has prepared and filed a petition with the Federal Tax Service to declare the tax authorities' resolution to be invalid.

The Group purchases supplemental software from foreign suppliers of telecommunications equipment in the ordinary course of business. The Group's management believes that customs duties are calculated in compliance with applicable legislation. However there is a risk that the customs authorities may take a different view and impose additional customs duties. As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, no provision was recorded in the consolidated financial statements in respect of such additional duties.

Pricing of revenue and expenses between each of the Group's subsidiaries and various discounts and bonuses to the Group's subscribers in the course of performing its marketing activities might be subject to transfer pricing rules. The Group's management believes that taxes payable are calculated in compliance with the applicable tax regulations relating to transfer pricing. However there is a risk that the tax authorities may take a different view and impose additional tax liabilities. As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, no provision was recorded in the consolidated financial statements in respect of such additional claims.

Management believes that it has adequately provided for tax and customs liabilities in the accompanying consolidated financial statements. As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the provision accrued amounted to \$10.0 million and \$68.2 million, respectively. In addition, the accrual for unrecognized income tax benefits, potential penalties and interest recorded in accordance with the authoritative guidance on income taxes totaled \$14.0 million and \$10.6 million as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively. However, the risk remains that the relevant authorities could take differing positions with regard to interpretive issues and the effect could be significant.

3G license – In May 2007, the Federal Service for Supervision in the Area of Communications and Mass Media awarded MTS a license to provide 3G services in the Russian Federation. The 3G license was granted subject to certain capital and other commitments. The major conditions are that the Group will have to build a certain number of base stations that support 3G standards and will have to start providing services in the Russian Federation by a certain date, and also will have to build a certain number of base stations by the end of the third, fourth and fifth years from the date of granting the license. Management believes that as of December 31, 2010 the Group is in compliance with these conditions

Issued guarantees – In 2006, MGTS became a guarantor under a credit facility provided to InvestSvyazHolding, a subsidiary of Sistema, by Komercni banka, a.s., Prague. The credit line totaling EUR 5.6 million was repaid in February 2011. MGTS' guarantee amounted to \$0.9 million as of December 31, 2010.

In 2006, MGTS became a guarantor under a credit facility provided to MBRD, a subsidiary of Sistema, by Bankgesellschaft Berlin AG, Berlin. The credit line for the total amount of EUR 2.1 million matures in June 2011. MGTS' guarantee amounted to \$0.3 million as of December 31, 2010.

Under these guarantees the Group could be potentially liable for a maximum amount of \$1.2 million in case of borrowers' default under the obligations. As of December 31, 2010, no event of default has occurred under any of the guarantees issued by the Group. The Group does not recognize a liability at inception for the fair value of the guaranter's obligation, as provisions of the authoritative guidance on guarantees do not apply to the guarantees issued between corporations under common control.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

Bitel – In December 2005, MTS Finance acquired a 51.0% stake in Tarino Limited ("Tarino"), from Nomihold Securities Inc. ("Nomihold"), for \$150.0 million in cash based on the belief that Tarino was at that time the indirect owner, through its wholly owned subsidiaries, of Bitel LLC ("Bitel"), a Kyrgyz company holding a GSM 900/1800 license for the entire territory of Kyrgyzstan.

Following the purchase of the 51.0% stake, MTS Finance entered into a put and call option agreement with Nomihold for "Option Shares," representing the remaining 49.0% interest in Tarino shares and a proportional interest in Bitel shares. The call option was exercisable by MTS Finance from November 22, 2005 to November 17, 2006, and the put option was exercisable by Nomihold from November 18, 2006 to December 8, 2006. The call and put option price was \$170.0 million.

Following a decision of the Kyrgyz Supreme Court on December 15, 2005, Bitel's corporate offices were seized by a third party. As the Group did not regain operational control over Bitel's operations in 2005, it accounted for its 51.0% investment in Bitel at cost as at December 31, 2005. The Group appealed the decision of the Kyrgyz Supreme Court in 2006, but the court did not act within the time period permitted for appeal. The Group subsequently sought the review of this dispute over the ownership of Bitel by the Prosecutor General of Kyrgyzstan to determine whether further investigation could be undertaken by the Kyrgyz authorities.

In January 2007, the Prosecutor General of Kyrgyzstan informed the Group that there were no grounds for involvement by the Prosecutor General's office in the dispute and that no legal basis existed for the Group to appeal the decision of the Kyrgyz Supreme Court. Consequently, the Group decided to write off the costs relating to the purchase of the 51.0% stake in Bitel, which was reflected in its annual consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2006. Furthermore, with the impairment of the underlying asset, a liability of \$170.0 million was recorded with an associated charge to non-operating expenses.

In November 2006, MTS Finance received a letter from Nomihold purporting to exercise the put option and sell the Option Shares for \$170.0 million to MTS Finance. In January 2007, Nomihold commenced an arbitration proceeding against MTS Finance in the London Court of International Arbitration in order to compel MTS Finance to purchase the Option Shares. Nomihold sought specific performance of the put option, unspecified monetary damages, interest, and costs. In January 2011 the London Court of International Arbitration made an award in favor of Nomihold satisfying Nomihold's specific performance request and ordered MTS Finance to pay to Nomihold \$170.0 million for the Option Shares, \$5.9 million in damages and \$34.0 million in interest and other costs – all representing in total approximately \$210.8 million ("Award"). In addition to the \$170.0 million liability related to this case and accrued in the year ended December 31, 2006, the Group recorded an additional \$40.8 million in the consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2010.

In addition, three Isle of Man companies affiliated with the Group (the "KFG Companies"), have been named defendants in lawsuits filed by Bitel in the Isle of Man seeking the return of dividends received by these three companies in the first quarter of 2005 from Bitel in the amount of approximately \$25.2 million plus compensatory damages, and to recover approximately \$3.7 million in losses and accrued interest. In the event that the defendants do not prevail in these lawsuits, the Group may be liable to Bitel for such claims. The KFG Companies have also asserted counterclaims against Bitel, and claims against other defendants including Altimo LLC ("Altimo"), and Altimo Holdings & Investments Limited ("Altimo Holding"), for the wrongful misappropriation and control of Bitel.

On November 30, 2007 the High Court of Justice of the Isle of Man set aside orders it had previously issued granting leave to serve the non-Manx defendants out of the jurisdiction as to the KFG Companies' counterclaims on the basis of a lack of jurisdiction. The KFG Companies appealed that ruling to the Isle of Man Staff of Government and on November 28, 2008, the Staff of Government reversed the High Court and ruled that the case should proceed in the Isle of Man. The defendants have sought leave to appeal from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of the House of Lords of the United Kingdom.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010, 2009 AND 2008 (Amounts in thousands of U.S. Dollars, unless otherwise stated)

On March 10, 2011 the Judicial Committee of the UK Privy Council ruled in favor of the KFG Companies. The Privy Council's ruling confirms the jurisdiction of the Isle of Man courts to try the counterclaims asserted by the KFG Companies against various defendants, including Sky Mobile, Altimo and Altimo Holdings, for the wrongful misappropriation and seizure of Kyrgyz telecom operator Bitel and its assets.

In a separate arbitration proceeding initiated against the KFG Companies by Kyrgyzstan Mobitel Investment Company Limited ("KMIC"), under the rules of the London Court of International Arbitration, the arbitration tribunal in its award found that the KFG Companies breached a transfer agreement dated May 31, 2003 (the "Transfer Agreement"), concerning the shares of Bitel. The Transfer Agreement was made between the KFG Companies and IPOC International Growth Fund Limited ("IPOC"), although IPOC subsequently assigned its interest to KMIC, and KMIC was the claimant in the arbitration. The tribunal ruled that the KFG Companies breached the Transfer Agreement when they failed to establish a date on which the equity interests in Bitel were to be transferred to KMIC and by failing to take other steps to transfer the Bitel interests. This breach occurred prior to MTS Finance's acquisition of the KFG Companies. The arbitration tribunal ruled that KMIC is entitled only to damages in an amount to be determined in future proceedings. At the request of the parties, the tribunal agreed to stay the damages phase of the proceedings pending the resolution of the appeals process before the court in the Isle of Man, as described above. The Group is not able to predict the outcome of these proceedings or the amount of damages to be paid, if any.

Beta Link – On August 12, 2009, Beta Link CJSC ("Beta Link") filed a claim against MTS, seeking (i) payment of RUB 238.5 million (\$7.9 million as of December 31, 2009) in dealer commission, (ii) payment of \$10.0 million in penalties for breach of dealers' agreement and (iii) payment of \$2.7 million of unrealized potential benefits. On December 11, 2009, Moscow Arbitration Court ruled against MTS enacting to pay an amount of RUB 118.6 million (\$3.9 million as of December 31, 2009) and \$10 million in penalties. MTS prepared and filed an appeal in response of Moscow Arbitration Court ruling, which resulted in a judgment in favor of the Group on March 23, 2010. Beta Link, in return, prepared the further appeal against MTS. On July 22, 2010, Beta Link withdrew its appeal and the case was dismissed.

Other litigation – In the ordinary course of business, the Group may be party to various legal, tax and customs proceedings, and subject to claims, certain of which relate to developing markets and evolving fiscal and regulatory environments in which MTS operates. Management believes that the Group's liability, if any, in all such pending litigation, other legal proceeding or other matters will not have a material effect upon its financial condition, results of operations or liquidity of the Group.

33. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

For the purpose of the accompanying consolidated financial statements, subsequent events have been evaluated through April 4, 2011, which is the date these financial statements were available to be issued.

Acquisition of various regional companies – During the first quarter of 2011, the Group acquired the remaining 26% in Antenna-Garant LLC, 50% in "MKS Chelyabinsk" LLC and 30% in Zhanr LLC, subsidiaries of Multiregion, for the total amount of RUB 296 million (\$10.1 million as of the acquisition dates). As a result of these transactions, the Group's ownership interest in these subsidiaries increased to 100%.

Acquisition of Inteleca Group – In March 2011 the Group acquired 100% in Inteleca Group of companies ("Inteleca"), an alternative operator in the cities of Barnaul and Biysk in Altai Krai of the Siberian Federal District, from a group of private investors. The acquisition allows the Group to strengthen its position in the broadband internet and cable TV markets in the region. The purchase price was RUB 545.8 million (or approximately \$19.2 million). In addition, Inteleca has net debt of RUB 58.5 million (or approximately \$2.1 million).