

AVOCENT CORP  
Form 10-Q  
November 13, 2001

# U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

## FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

Quarterly report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the quarterly period ended September 28, 2001 or

Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_/

Commission file number: 000-30575

## AVOCENT CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

**Delaware**

(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)

**91-2032368**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

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**4991 Corporate Drive**

**Huntsville, Alabama**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**35805**

(Zip Code)

**256-430-4000**

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports) and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

ýYes o No

As of November 8, 2001, the number of outstanding shares of the Registrant's Common Stock was 44,608,919.

AVOCENT CORPORATION

FORM 10-Q

September 28, 2001

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## PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Item 1. Financial Statements

**AVOCENT CORPORATION**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**  
(In thousands, except per share data)

|  | For the three months ended           |                                      | For the nine months ended            |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|  | September 28,<br>2001<br>(unaudited) | September 29,<br>2000<br>(unaudited) | September 28,<br>2001<br>(unaudited) | September 29,<br>2000<br>(unaudited) |
| Net sales  | \$ 55,095                            | \$ 77,154                            | \$ 193,349                           | \$ 141,845                           |
| Cost of sales  | 30,149                               | 38,481                               | 113,498                              | 72,720                               |
| Gross profit   | 24,946                               | 38,673                               | 79,851                               | 69,125                               |
| Research and development expenses  | 5,403                                | 4,778                                | 17,137                               | 7,901                                |
| In-process research and development expenses and other acquisition costs | --                                   | 104,092                              | 4,570                                | 104,092                              |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses                             | 18,203                               | 25,879                               | 58,458                               | 34,715                               |
| Amortization of intangible assets  | 33,221                               | 31,126                               | 99,658                               | 31,126                               |
| Total operating expenses   | 56,827                               | 165,875                              | 179,823                              | 177,834                              |
| Loss from operations   | (31,881 )                            | (127,202 )                           | (99,972 )                            | (108,709 )                           |
| Other income, net  | 1,543                                | 1,594                                | 4,352                                | 3,583                                |
| Loss before income taxes   | (30,338 )                            | (125,608 )                           | (95,620 )                            | (105,126 )                           |
| Provision for (benefit from) income taxes                                | (1,079 )                             | (1,253 )                             | (1,383 )                             | 5,688                                |
| Net loss   | \$ (29,259 )                         | \$ (124,355 )                        | \$ (94,237 )                         | \$ (110,814 )                        |
| Loss per common and common equivalent share:                             |                                      |                                      |                                      |                                      |

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|         |    |         |    |         |    |         |    |         |
|---------|----|---------|----|---------|----|---------|----|---------|
| Basic   | \$ | (0.66 ) | \$ | (2.89 ) | \$ | (2.13 ) | \$ | (3.73 ) |
| Diluted | \$ | (0.66 ) | \$ | (2.89 ) | \$ | (2.13 ) | \$ | (3.73 ) |

Weighted average common and common equivalent shares used in computing loss per share:

|         |        |        |        |        |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Basic   | 44,572 | 42,999 | 44,290 | 29,717 |
| Diluted | 44,572 | 42,999 | 44,290 | 29,717 |

See notes accompanying these condensed consolidated financial statements.

**AVOCENT CORPORATION**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**  
(In thousands)

|  | September 28,<br>2001<br>(unaudited) | December 31,<br>2000 |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |                                      |                      |
| Current assets:  |                                      |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents  | \$ 74,053                            | \$ 44,106            |
| Investments maturing within one year   | 77,534                               | 77,372               |
| Accounts receivable, net   | 49,401                               | 63,532               |
| Income taxes receivable  | 2,271                                | 4,487                |
| Other receivables  | --                                   | 10,800               |
| Inventories, net   | 36,299                               | 34,458               |
| Other current assets   | 3,170                                | 3,029                |
| Deferred tax assets  | 8,638                                | 5,560                |
| <b>Total current assets</b>  | <b>251,366</b>                       | <b>243,344</b>       |
| Investments  | 642                                  | 3,891                |
| Property held for lease, net   | 1,956                                | 2,102                |
| Property and equipment, net  | 22,802                               | 16,062               |
| Intangible assets, net   | 484,778                              | 549,910              |
| Other assets   | 787                                  | 580                  |
|  | <b>\$ 762,331</b>                    | <b>\$ 815,889</b>    |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>  |                                      |                      |
| Current liabilities:   |                                      |                      |
| Accounts payable   | \$ 6,660                             | \$ 8,869             |
| Accrued wages and commissions  | 6,436                                | 3,965                |
| Accrued liabilities  | 15,054                               | 13,523               |
| Income taxes payable   | 5,742                                | 1,610                |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>   | <b>33,892</b>                        | <b>27,967</b>        |
| Deferred tax liability   | 26,723                               | 27,742               |
|  | <b>60,615</b>                        | <b>55,709</b>        |
| Stockholders' equity:  |                                      |                      |
| Preferred stock, \$0.001 par value, 5,000 and 1,000 shares authorized; no shares issued and outstanding as of September 28, 2001 and December 31, 2000, respectively | --                                   | --                   |
|  | 45                                   | 44                   |

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Common stock, \$0.001 par value; 200,000 shares authorized, 44,596 and 43,820 shares issued and outstanding as of September 28, 2001 and December 31, 2000, respectively

|                                      |            |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Additional paid-in capital           | 922,898    | 898,410    |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (3,139 )   | (2,881 )   |
| Deferred compensation                | (21,140 )  | (32,682 )  |
| Retained deficit                     | (196,948 ) | (102,711 ) |
| Total stockholders' equity           | 701,716    | 760,180    |
|                                      | \$ 762,331 | \$ 815,889 |

See notes accompanying these condensed consolidated financial statements.

**AVOCENT CORPORATION**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
(In thousands)

|   | For the nine months ended            |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|   | September 28,<br>2001<br>(unaudited) | September 29,<br>2000<br>(unaudited) |
| Cash flows from operating activities:   |                                      |                                      |
| Net loss  | \$ (94,237 )                         | \$ (110,814 )                        |
| Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:                                     |                                      |                                      |
| Depreciation  | 3,294                                | 1,269                                |
| Amortization of intangible assets   | 99,658                               | 31,126                               |
| Stock-based compensation  | 15,991                               | 4,277                                |
| Purchased research and development expenses and other acquisition costs   | 4,570                                | 94,000                               |
| Net loss on sale of investments   | 91                                   | 75                                   |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of effects of purchases of Equinox and Cybex in 2001 and 2000, respectively: |                                      |                                      |
| Accounts receivable, net  | 17,654                               | (4,384 )                             |
| Other receivables   | 10,800                               | --                                   |
| Inventories, net  | 1,725                                | (8,021 )                             |
| Other assets  | (1,775 )                             | (707 )                               |
| Accounts payable  | (4,175 )                             | 764                                  |
| Accrued wages and commissions   | 1,616                                | 88                                   |
| Accrued liabilities   | 309                                  | (3,847 )                             |
| Income taxes, current and deferred  | (2,661 )                             | (4,323 )                             |
| Total adjustments   | 147,097                              | 110,317                              |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities   | 52,860                               | (497 )                               |
| Cash flows from investing activities:   |                                      |                                      |
| Purchase of Equinox Systems Inc., net of cash and investments acquired  | (31,725 )                            | --                                   |
| Purchase of Cybex, cash received  | --                                   | 34,878                               |
| Purchases of property and equipment   | (3,387 )                             | (1,012 )                             |
| Purchases of investments  | (67,130 )                            | (86,524 )                            |
| Maturities of investments   | 49,633                               | 48,012                               |
| Proceeds from sales of investments  | 20,253                               | 6,214                                |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities   | (32,356 )                            | 1,568                                |

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|  |           |    |        |
|--|-----------|----|--------|
| Cash flows from financing activities:                        |           |    |        |
| Proceeds from issuance of short-term debt                    | 45,000    |    | --     |
| Repayment of short-term debt                                 | (45,000 ) |    | --     |
| Proceeds from employee stock plans                           | 9,459     |    | 19,522 |
| Net cash provided by financing activities                    | 9,459     |    | 19,522 |
|  |           |    |        |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | (16 )     |    | (70 )  |
|  |           |    |        |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents                    | 29,947    |    | 20,523 |
| Cash and cash equivalents beginning of period                | 44,106    |    | 15,786 |
| Cash and cash equivalents end of period                      | \$ 74,053 | \$ | 36,309 |

See notes accompanying these condensed consolidated financial statements.

**AVOCENT CORPORATION**

**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(Unaudited, in thousands)

Note 1. Basis of presentation

Avocent Corporation ( Avocent ) was formed from the merger of Apex Inc. ( Apex ) and Cybex Computer Products Corporation ( Cybex ) on July 1, 2000 when both Apex and Cybex merged with wholly-owned subsidiaries of Avocent. The merger has been accounted for as a purchase of Cybex by Apex. Avocent's condensed consolidated statement of operations for the three months ended September 29, 2000 includes the results of both Apex and Cybex because the merger became effective at the beginning of the period. Avocent's condensed consolidated statement of operations and condensed consolidated statement of cash flows for the nine months ended September 29, 2000 include the nine month results of Apex for the period January 1, 2000 through September 29, 2000 and the three month results of Cybex for the post merger period July 1, 2000 through September 29, 2000. Avocent's condensed consolidated statement of operations and condensed consolidated statement of cash flows for the three and nine months ended September 28, 2001 include the results of Apex, Cybex, and Equinox Systems Inc. ( Equinox ), which was acquired by Avocent on January 3, 2001. Avocent's condensed consolidated balance sheet as of September 28, 2001 includes the consolidated financial position of Apex, Cybex, and Equinox. Avocent's condensed consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2000 includes the consolidated financial position of Apex and Cybex. Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior year financial statements to conform to the current year presentation.

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and reflect all adjustments consisting of normal recurring adjustments which, in the opinion of management, are necessary for a fair presentation of the results for the periods shown. The results of operations for these periods are not necessarily indicative of the results expected for the full fiscal year or for any future periods. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles 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 and assumptions.

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and the related notes contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000, which is on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

We report our annual results based on years ending December 31. We report our quarterly results for the first three interim periods based on 13 week periods ending on Fridays and for the fourth interim period ending on December 31.

Our financial statements are consolidated and include the accounts of Avocent and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. Significant intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated in consolidation.

Note 2. Inventories

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Inventories consisted of the following at:

|                 | <b>September 28, 2001</b> |    | <b>December 31, 2000</b> |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----|--------------------------|
|                 | <b>(unaudited)</b>        |    |                          |
| Raw materials   | \$ 22,778                 | \$ | 10,712                   |
| Work-in-process | 2,527                     |    | 7,379                    |
| Finished goods  | 10,994                    |    | 16,367                   |
|                 | \$ 36,229                 | \$ | 34,458                   |

We recorded a non-recurring charge, before income tax benefit, of \$11.7 million for excess and obsolete inventories in the second quarter of 2001. This write-down reduced inventories to replacement value and to levels necessary to support then current sales demand.

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### Note 3. Common stock and deferred compensation

**Deferred compensation** We recorded \$41,165 of deferred compensation related to Cybex employee stock options at the time of the merger. Additionally, we recorded \$2,752 of deferred compensation related to the Equinox employee stock options at the time of the acquisition. The deferred compensation is being amortized over the vesting period of the options for which it was recorded.

**Common Stock** Options to purchase 739 shares of our Common Stock were exercised during the nine months ending September 28, 2001. Additionally, 36 shares of our Common Stock were issued during the three months ending September 28, 2001 under our Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

### Note 4. Accumulated other comprehensive loss

We record unrealized gains and losses on our foreign currency translation adjustments and unrealized holding gains or losses on our available-for-sale securities as accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), which is included as a separate component of stockholders equity. For the nine months ended September 28, 2001, total other comprehensive loss amounted to (\$258). As of September 28, 2001, total accumulated other comprehensive loss was (\$3,139).

### Note 5. Loss per share

|  | <b>For the three months ended</b> |                               | <b>For the nine months ended</b> |                               |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|  | <b>September 28,<br/>2001</b>     | <b>September 29,<br/>2000</b> | <b>September 28,<br/>2001</b>    | <b>September 29,<br/>2000</b> |
| Net loss   | \$ (29,259 )                      | \$ (124,355 )                 | \$ (94,237 )                     | \$ (110,814 )                 |
| Weighted average shares used in computing basic loss per share                     | 44,572                            | 42,999                        | 44,290                           | 29,717                        |
| Dilutive effect of employee stock options after application of the treasury method | --                                | --                            | --                               | --                            |
| Weighted average shares used in computing diluted loss per share                   | 44,572                            | 42,999                        | 44,290                           | 29,717                        |

### Note 6. Segment Reporting

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Subsequent to the acquisition of Cybex in July 2000, we reported segment information on a geographical basis in which we presented sales and gross profit information for Redmond, Washington; Huntsville, Alabama; and Shannon, Ireland.

Following the merger in July 2000, the previously separate businesses of Apex and Cybex began to be integrated. In recent quarters, shipments to certain international OEM customers which had historically originated from Redmond were shifted to Shannon. As this occurred, the historical comparisons by location have become less meaningful. Additionally, we have gradually realigned operating and management responsibilities within the Company to emphasize that we are one company, operating around the world. Consequently, we have evaluated our business in light of the segment reporting requirements, and we have determined that we will report our operations as a single operating segment. We will, however, report sales by geographic region on a quarterly and annual basis. Following is a presentation of sales by geographic region for each of the three previous annual periods and for the quarterly periods in 2001 and 2000.

|               | For the years ended |                   |                   |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|               | December 31, 2000   | December 31, 1999 | December 31, 1998 |
| Net sales:    |                     |                   |                   |
| United States | \$ 138,249          | \$ 68,838         | \$ 51,605         |
| Rest of World | 84,123              | 38,450            | 24,035            |
|               | \$ 222,372          | \$ 107,288        | \$ 75,640         |

|               | For the three months ended |               |                    | For the nine months ended |
|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
|               | March 30, 2001             | June 29, 2001 | September 28, 2001 | September 28, 2001        |
| Net sales:    |                            |               |                    |                           |
| United States | \$ 44,127                  | \$ 44,271     | \$ 34,419          | \$ 122,817                |
| Rest of World | 29,048                     | 20,808        | 20,676             | 70,532                    |
|               | \$ 73,175                  | \$ 65,079     | \$ 55,095          | \$ 193,349                |

|               | For the three months ended |               |                    |                   |
|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|               | March 31, 2000             | June 30, 2000 | September 29, 2000 | December 31, 2000 |
| Net sales:    |                            |               |                    |                   |
| United States | \$ 16,868                  | \$ 24,190     | \$ 49,647          | \$ 47,544         |
| Rest of World | 11,376                     | 12,257        | 27,507             | 32,983            |
|               | \$ 28,244                  | \$ 36,447     | \$ 77,154          | \$ 80,527         |

As of September 28, 2001, long- lived assets totaled \$509,536, which includes \$507,028 held in the U.S. and \$2,508 held in the Rest of World. As of December 31, 2000, long- lived assets totaled \$568,074, which includes \$563,948 held in the U.S. and \$4,126 held in the Rest of World.

#### Note 7. Acquisition of Equinox Systems Inc.

On January 3, 2001, we acquired Equinox Systems Inc. for cash equal to \$9.75 for each outstanding share of Equinox capital stock. Equinox, headquartered in Sunrise, Florida, makes products that provide communications port

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management and remote control capabilities. The products are distributed through a two-tier distribution channel, a network of value added resellers and original equipment manufacturers.

The acquisition was recorded under the purchase method of accounting, and the purchase price was allocated based on the fair value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed. In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, costs allocated to research and development assets with alternative future uses were capitalized and the remaining amounts of purchased in-process research and development were expensed upon the closing of the transaction. A summary of the total purchase consideration is as follows:

|   |    |        |
|---|----|--------|
| Cash paid for outstanding shares          | \$ | 55,607 |
| Outstanding options                       |    | 10,579 |
| Assumed liabilities and acquisition costs |    | 4,456  |
| Total purchase consideration              | \$ | 70,642 |

The purchase consideration was allocated to the estimated fair values of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed, as follows:

|  | Purchase Price Allocation |         | Amortization Life |  |
|--|---------------------------|---------|-------------------|--|
|  |                           |         |                   |  |
| Tangible assets                                      | \$                        | 38,981  |                   |  |
| Patents and trademarks                               |                           | 1,680   | 7 years           |  |
| In-process research and development                  |                           | 4,570   |                   |  |
| Developed technology                                 |                           | 6,250   | 5 years           |  |
| Assembled workforce                                  |                           | 1,800   | 3 years           |  |
| Customer base and certification                      |                           | 2,500   | 3 - 6 years       |  |
| Deferred tax liability on intangible assets acquired |                           | (5,962) |                   |  |
| Goodwill   |                           | 20,823  | 5 years           |  |
| Total purchase price allocation                      | \$                        | 70,642  |                   |  |

The acquisition was funded through available cash and the issuance of short-term debt. We borrowed a total of \$45,000 at the stated rate of 30-day LIBOR plus 1.75% (8.31% at January 31, 2001). All borrowings were repaid during the quarter ended March 30, 2001. On the closing of the Equinox transaction, we acquired \$24,295 in cash and short term investments held by Equinox.

**Pro Forma Financial Information** The following unaudited pro forma summary combines the results of operations of Apex and Cybex as if the merger had occurred on January 1, 2000 and includes the results of operations of Equinox as if the acquisition had occurred on January 1, 2000. Certain adjustments have been made to reflect the impact of the purchase transaction. These pro forma results have been prepared for comparative purposes only and do not purport to be indicative of what would have occurred had the acquisition been made at the beginning of the respective years, or of results which may occur in the future.

|                | Nine Months Ended<br>(Unaudited) |          |                       |           |
|----------------|----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------|
|                | September 28,<br>2001            |          | September 29,<br>2000 |           |
| Net sales      | \$                               | 193,349  | \$                    | 226,183   |
| Net loss       | \$                               | (88,803) | \$                    | (178,184) |
| Loss per share | \$                               | (2.01)   | \$                    | (4.18)    |

**Note 8. Recently Issued Accounting Standards**

**In June 1999, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 137, (subsequently amended by SFAS No. 138) *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities Deferral of the Effective Date of SFAS No. 133*, which deferred the effective date provisions of SFAS No. 133 for us until the first quarter of 2001. These statements require all derivatives to be measured at fair value and recognized as either assets or liabilities on the balance sheet. Changes in such fair value are required to be recognized immediately in net income (loss) to the extent the derivatives are not effective as hedges. The impact of SFAS No. 133 on the financial statements was not material.**

**The Company uses forward contracts to reduce its foreign currency exposure related to the net cash flows from its European operations. The majority of these contracts are short-term contracts (three months or less) and are marked-to-market each quarter and included in trade payables, with the offsetting gain or loss included in other revenues in the accompanying statements of operations. At September 28, 2001, we had one open forward contract, maturing in the fourth quarter of 2001, to purchase \$1,000 in foreign currency. The fair value of the contracts at September 28, 2001 was approximately \$1,000.**

In June 2001, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 141, *Business Combinations*, which has an effective date of June 30, 2001 for all business combinations initiated after this date. This statement supersedes APB Opinion No. 16, *Business Combinations*, and FASB Statement No. 38, *Accounting for Preacquisition Contingencies of Purchased Enterprises*. This statement requires all business combinations within the scope of the Statement to be accounted for using the purchase method of accounting. For business combinations completed prior to June 30, 2001, the statement requires companies to recognize intangible assets apart from goodwill and expand the disclosures about assets acquired and liabilities assumed. We will adopt SFAS No. 141 effective January 1, 2002. The impact of SFAS No. 141 on the financial statements is not expected to be material.

In June 2001, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*, which has an effective date starting with fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2001. This Statement supersedes APB Opinion No. 17, *Intangible Assets*. This Statement addresses how intangible assets that are acquired individually or with a group of other assets should be accounted for in financial statements upon their acquisition. This Statement also addresses how goodwill and other intangible assets should be accounted for after they have been initially recognized in the financial statements. Goodwill will cease to be amortized upon the implementation of the Statement and companies will test goodwill at least annually for impairment. We will adopt SFAS No 142 effective January 1, 2002, and management is in the process of evaluating the impact of SFAS No. 142 on our financial statements. The impact of SFAS No. 142 on the financial statements may be material.

In August 2001, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 143, *Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations ( ARO )*, which has an effective date for financial statements for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2002. This statement addresses the diversity in practice for recognizing asset retirement obligations and requires that obligations associated with the retirement of a tangible long-lived asset be recorded as a liability when those obligations are incurred, with the amount of the liability initially measured at fair value. Upon initially recognizing a liability for an ARO, an entity must capitalize the cost by recognizing an increase in the carrying amount of the related long-lived asset. Over time, the liability is accreted to its present value each period, and the capitalized cost is depreciated over the useful life of the related asset. Upon settlement of the liability, an entity either settles the obligation for its recorded amount or incurs a gain or loss upon settlement. **The impact of SFAS No. 143 on the financial statements is not expected to be material.**

In October 2001, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 144, *Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets*, which has an effective date for financial statements for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2001. This statement, which supercedes SFAS No. 121, *Accounting for the Impairment of Long-Lived Assets and for Long-Lived Assets to be Disposed Of*, requires that long-lived assets that are to be disposed of by sale be measured at the lower of book value or fair value less cost to sell. Additionally, this statement expands scope of discontinued operations to include all components of an entity with operations that (1) can be distinguished from the rest of the entity and (2) will be eliminated from the ongoing operations of the entity in a disposal transaction. The impact of SFAS No. 144 on the financial statements is not expected to be material.

#### Note 9. Patent Dispute

In February 1998, Apex Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Avocent, filed patent infringement lawsuits against certain companies (including Rose Electronics), which were dismissed without prejudice by the agreement of the parties in early 1999 to allow certain patent issues raised in the litigation to be initially determined by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (the "PTO"). Apex also filed a complaint for patent infringement in United States District Court for the Western District of Washington in Seattle against CCC Group in June 1998, which was filed but never formally served on CCC. This lawsuit was stayed by the District Court in 1999 pending a ruling by the PTO, and subsequently, Apex voluntarily dismissed the CCC lawsuit in Seattle without prejudice.

In June 2001, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

**The issues raised in the PTO have now been resolved in Apex's favor, and in May 2001, Apex filed a complaint for patent infringement in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York against Raritan Computer Inc. The Raritan complaint seeks injunctive relief, damages, attorneys' fees and costs. Apex has also informed both Rose Electronics and CCC Group that Apex continues to believe that certain products sold by these companies infringe one or more of Apex's patents and that, absent circumstances requiring earlier action, Apex intends to enforce its patent rights against Rose and CCC when the Raritan litigation is concluded.**

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

***THE INFORMATION IN THIS ITEM 2 - "MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS" CONTAINS FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, STATEMENTS RELATING TO OUR REVENUES, EXPENSES, MARGINS, LIQUIDITY, NON-RECURRING CHARGES, INVENTORY, INVENTORY VALUATION AND WRITE-DOWNS, CAPITAL NEEDS, MERGER ACCOUNTING, ACQUISITION AND TRANSACTION COSTS AND ADJUSTMENTS INCLUDING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WRITE OFF OF IN-PROCESS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS AND AMORTIZATION OF INTANGIBLE ASSETS. THESE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES THAT COULD CAUSE ACTUAL RESULTS TO DIFFER MATERIALLY FROM THOSE ANTICIPATED IN THE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS. FACTORS THAT MIGHT CAUSE SUCH A DIFFERENCE INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, THOSE DISCUSSED IN OUR ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K, WHICH WAS FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION ON MARCH 27, 2001.***

**Formation of Avocent by Merger of Apex and Cybex**

In March 2000, Apex and Cybex entered into a definitive agreement under which they agreed to combine the two companies in a merger resulting in a new company, Avocent Corporation (formerly known as Aegean Sea Inc.). On March 31, 2000, Avocent filed a registration statement on Form S-4, which was declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 2, 2000. Apex and Cybex received final approval of the merger by their respective shareholders on June 30, 2000. The merger was effective as of July 1, 2000. Prior to the effective date of the merger, Avocent did not conduct any activities. Avocent is on a calendar year basis with December 31 as its year-end.

The merger has been accounted for as a purchase of Cybex by Apex in accordance with Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 16, with the purchase price allocated to the assets and liabilities of Cybex based upon their fair values on the date of the transaction. The excess of the purchase price over the fair value of the assets and liabilities has been allocated to the identifiable intangible assets and goodwill. Additionally, \$94 million of the purchase price was expensed as in-process research and development upon the completion of the merger. The purchase price allocation was as follows: \$109 million of tangible assets, \$90 million of identifiable intangible assets, \$34 million of deferred tax liability on intangible assets acquired, \$524 million of goodwill, \$94 million of in-process research and development, and \$29 million of assumed liabilities and acquisition costs. The amortization periods are 3 to 7 years for identifiable intangibles and 5 years for goodwill.

Avocent's condensed consolidated statement of operations and condensed consolidated statement of cash flows for the nine months ended September 29, 2000 include the nine month results of Apex for the period January 1, 2000 through September 29, 2000 and the three month results of Cybex for the post merger period July 1, 2000 through September 29, 2000. Avocent's condensed consolidated statement of operations and condensed consolidated statement of cash flows for the three and nine months ended September 28, 2001, include the results of Apex, Cybex, and Equinox, acquired January 3, 2001. Avocent's condensed consolidated balance sheet as of September 28, 2001 includes the consolidated financial position of Apex, Cybex, and Equinox. Avocent's condensed consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2000 includes the consolidated financial position of Apex and Cybex. Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior year financial statements to conform to the current year presentation.

**Apex and Cybex History**

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Apex operated as a division of Apex Computer Company through January 1993, providing computer maintenance services to Microsoft and selling integrated server cabinets and, to a limited extent, stand alone switching systems, primarily to Microsoft. In February 1993, the assets of that division were spun off as a dividend to the sole shareholder of Apex Computer Company, who contributed those assets as Apex's initial capital. Throughout 1993, Apex derived revenue primarily from the provision of computer maintenance services to Microsoft. In May 1994, Apex began selling stand alone switching systems to Compaq for integration into server cabinets. In June 1994, Apex discontinued its computer maintenance service business and decided to concentrate on sales of stand alone switching products.

Cybex engaged in the development of software and performed engineering consulting from 1981 to 1984 to finance its research and development efforts for computer related products. In 1986, Cybex shipped its first computer related hardware product. In 1987, Cybex shipped its first product that allowed the computer to be extended distances from the keyboard, monitor, and mouse. Subsequently in 1989, Cybex shipped its first stand alone switching system. Through the effective date of the merger, Cybex derived primarily all of its revenues from switching, extension, and remote access products.

## Overview

We design, manufacture, and sell console switching systems, digital connectivity solutions, serial connectivity devices, and extension and remote access products for the computer industry. Data center managers and network administrators have increasingly complex and growing server populations. Our analog, digital, and serial switching solutions and our extension and remote access products help network administrators manage multiple servers from a console containing a single keyboard, video monitor, and mouse, from extended distances or from remote locations. Specifically, our products can provide significant cost reductions including lower initial investment, reduced utility costs, and space savings, as well as more efficient technical support capabilities.

We provide comprehensive "plug and play" switching systems for many network administration, management, and storage problems faced by corporate customers, data centers, and server farms. Our switching solutions include products sold under the Avocent, Apex, Cybex, and Equinox brands including our *AutoView*, *DS1800*, *OutLook*®, *ViewPoint*®, and *XP*®4000 Series products. Our switching products help facilities managers and network administrators access multiple servers from one or more centralized or remote consoles, consolidate hardware requirements, and provide direct hardwired connections between the switch and the attached servers to facilitate access to those servers, even when the network is down.

A substantial portion of our revenue is derived from sales to a limited number of original equipment server manufacturers, or OEMs, who purchase our switching systems on a private label or branded basis for integration and sale with their own products, sales through our reseller and distributor network, and sales to a limited amount of direct customers. We do not have contracts with many of these customers, and in general, they are obligated to purchase products from us only pursuant to binding purchase orders. For the nine months ended September 28, 2001, sales to our OEM customers, our reseller and distributor network, and our direct sales were approximately 44%, 51% and 5%, respectively, of our net sales.

With recent industry-wide initiatives to reduce all channel inventories and to shorten lead times, trends with our major customers are, generally, to reduce the number of weeks of forward committed firm orders. This factor is currently affecting our business with certain OEMs and other server manufacturers, and we believe that it will continue to make our sales more difficult to predict and inventory levels more difficult to manage.

We are currently experiencing increased price competition in the market for all of our products, and we expect that pricing pressures will continue to increase in the future.

Our executive officers have vested in significant amounts of options to purchase shares of our Common Stock and continue to vest in additional shares on a regular (sometimes monthly) basis. These officers have informed us that they have sold shares and may sell additional shares on a regular basis to provide liquidity and diversify their portfolios.

**Acquisition of Equinox**

On January 3, 2001, we acquired Equinox Systems Inc. ( Equinox ) for cash equal to \$9.75 for each outstanding share of Equinox capital stock. Equinox, headquartered in Sunrise, Florida, makes products that provide communications port management and remote control capabilities. The products are distributed through a two-tier distribution channel, a network of value added resellers and original equipment manufacturers.

The acquisition was recorded under the purchase method of accounting, and the purchase price was allocated based on the fair value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed. In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, costs allocated to research and development assets with alternative future uses were capitalized and the remaining amounts of purchased in-process research and development were expensed upon the closing of the transaction. The purchase price allocation was as follows: \$39.0 million of tangible assets, \$12.2 million of identifiable intangible assets, \$6.0 million of deferred tax liability on intangible assets acquired, \$20.8 million of goodwill, and \$4.6 million of in-process research and development. The amortization periods are 3 to 7 years for identifiable intangibles and 5 years for goodwill.

**Results of Operations**

The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, selected statement of operations data expressed as a percentage of net sales:

|  | Three Months Ended |   |                   |   | Nine Months Ended |   |                   |   |
|--|--------------------|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|---|
|  | Sept. 28,<br>2001  |   | Sept. 29,<br>2000 |   | Sept. 28,<br>2001 |   | Sept. 29,<br>2000 |   |
| Net sales  | 100.0              | % | 100.0             | % | 100.0             | % | 100.0             | % |
| Cost of sales  | 54.7               |   | 49.9              |   | 58.7              |   | 51.3              |   |
| Gross profit   | 45.3               |   | 50.1              |   | 41.3              |   | 48.7              |   |
| Operating expenses:  |                    |   |                   |   |                   |   |                   |   |
| Research and development expenses  | 9.8                |   | 6.2               |   | 8.9               |   | 5.6               |   |
| In-process research and development expenses and other acquisition costs |                    |   | 134.9             |   | 2.4               |   | 73.4              |   |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses                             | 33.0               |   | 33.5              |   | 30.2              |   | 24.5              |   |
| Amortization of intangible assets  | 60.4               |   | 40.4              |   | 51.5              |   | 21.9              |   |
| Total operating expenses   | 103.2              |   | 215.0             |   | 93.0              |   | 125.4             |   |
| Loss from operations   | (57.9)             |   | (164.9)           |   | (51.7)            |   | (76.6)            |   |
| Other income, net  | 2.8                |   | 2.1               |   | 2.3               |   | 2.5               |   |
| Loss before income taxes   | (55.1)             |   | (162.8)           |   | (49.4)            |   | (74.1)            |   |
| Provision for (benefit from) income taxes                                | (2.0)              |   | (1.6)             |   | (0.7)             |   | 4.0               |   |
| Net loss   | (53.1)             | % | (161.2)           | % | (48.7)            | % | (78.1)            | % |

*Net sales.* Our net sales consist of sales of switching systems, digital connectivity solutions, serial connectivity devices, extension and remote-access products, and display products. Net sales decreased 29% to \$55.1 million for the third quarter of 2001 from \$77.2 million for the third quarter of 2000.

In recent quarters, shipments to certain international OEM customers which had historically originated from Redmond were shifted to Shannon. As this occurred, the historical comparisons by location have become less meaningful. Additionally, we have gradually realigned operating and management responsibilities within the Company to emphasize that we are one company, operating around the world. Consequently, we have evaluated our business in light of the segment reporting requirements, and we have determined that we will report our operations as a single operating segment. We will, however, report sales by geographic region on a quarterly and annual basis.

For the third quarter of 2001, sales in the U.S. were \$34.4 million (or 62% of sales) compared to \$49.6 million (or 64% of sales) in the third quarter of 2000. Additionally, Rest of World sales were \$20.7 million (or 38% of sales) for the third quarter of 2001, as compared to \$27.5 million (or 36% of sales) in the third quarter of 2000. U.S. and Rest of World sales declined in the third quarter of 2001 as a result of general economic weakness. Net sales increased 36% to \$193.3 million for the first nine months of 2001 from \$141.8 million for the first nine months of 2000. This increase was due primarily to the impact of the merger of Apex and Cybex on July 1, 2000, as well as from Equinox product sales during 2001.

*Gross profit.* Gross profit is affected by a variety of factors, including: the ratio of sales among our distribution channels, resellers and distributors, OEMs, and direct sales, as OEM sales typically have lower gross margins than our reseller and distributor sales and direct sales; product mix, raw materials and labor costs; new product introductions by us and by our competitors; and the level of our outsourcing of manufacturing and assembly services. Gross profit decreased to 45.3% in the third quarter of 2001 from 50.1% in the third quarter of 2000. Gross profit in the third quarter of 2001 was impacted by a DS1800 list price reduction, an increased proportion of OEM sales versus reseller and distributor sales and lower absorption of overhead due to lower sales. Gross margin for the year decreased to 41.3% for the first nine months of 2001 from 48.7% for the first nine months of 2000. Gross margin was significantly affected by a \$11.7 million write-down for excess and obsolete inventories in the second quarter of 2001. This write-down reduced inventory valuations to bring them in-line with current replacement values and to the level necessary to support then current sales demand. In addition, severance charges of over \$50 thousand were incurred during the second quarter of 2001 related to headcount reductions made in the U.S. and Europe. We expect gross profit to remain in the 46% range into the fourth quarter of 2001.

*Research and development expenses.* Research and development expenses include compensation for engineers and materials costs and are expensed as they are incurred. Research and development expenses were \$5.4 million, or 9.8% of net sales, in the third quarter of 2001 compared to \$4.8 million, or 6.2% of net sales, for the third quarter of 2000. The increase in the amount spent on research and development can be attributed to the impact of the acquisition of Equinox, effective January 3, 2001. The additional costs of the Equinox research and development teams include approximately \$170 thousand in deferred compensation amortization for certain engineering employees recognized as a result of the acquisition. Year-to-date research and development expenses for 2001 increased to \$17.1 from \$7.9 million in year-to-date 2000 due to the impact of the merger effective July 1, 2000 and the acquisition of Equinox, effective January 3, 2001. The additional costs of the Cybex and Equinox research and development teams include approximately \$3.3 million in deferred compensation amortization for certain engineering employees recognized as a result of the merger and acquisition. As a percentage of net sales, year-to-date research and development expenses increased to 8.9% from 5.6%. We believe that the timely development of innovative products and enhancements to existing products is essential to maintaining our competitive position and we expect research and development expenditures to increase in absolute dollars and possibly as a percentage of net sales.

*In-process research and development expense.* Merger related expenses of \$104 million in the third quarter of 2000 include the one time write-off of \$94 million of in-process research and development expense and an additional \$10 million of one-time charges comprised mainly of fees to professional advisors. The in-process research and development expense of \$4.6 million in the first quarter of 2001 is comprised solely of the acquisition costs of Equinox attributable to in-process technologies. The charges for merger related expenses and in-process technologies are non-recurring.

*Selling, general and administrative expenses.* Selling, general and administrative expenses include some merger related expenses, severance costs, personnel costs for administration, finance, human resources, sales and marketing and general management, as well as rent, utilities and legal and accounting expenses, advertising, promotional material, trade show expenses and related travel costs. Selling, general and administrative expenses were \$18.2 million, or 33.0% of net sales, for the third quarter of 2001 compared to \$25.9 million, or 33.5% of net sales, for the third quarter of 2000. Selling, general and administrative expenses in the third quarter of 2001 include \$5.3 million of merger and acquisition related expense that is comprised primarily of \$2.6 million of expense related to the acceleration of stock options for certain employees that terminated during the year and \$2.3 million of deferred compensation amortization related to stock options assumed at the merger of Apex and Cybex and the acquisition of Equinox. Selling, general and administrative expenses in the third quarter of 2000 include \$12.5 million of merger related expense that is comprised primarily of \$9.8 million of expense related to accelerated stock options for certain employees that terminated during the third quarter and \$2.6 million of deferred compensation amortization related to stock options assumed at the merger. Excluding the merger and acquisition related charges in each year, selling, general and administrative expense decreased 4% for the third quarter of 2001. This reduction reflects our extensive cost control efforts, which included headcount reductions and a decrease in advertising expenses.

Year-to-date selling, general, and administrative expenses increased to \$58.5 million, or 30.2% of net sales for 2001 from \$34.7 million, or 24.5% of year-to-date net sales in 2000. The increase in selling, general and administrative expenses in absolute dollars and as a percentage of sales was due primarily to the addition of Cybex and Equinox expenses as a result of the merger between Apex and Cybex on July 1, 2000, and the acquisition of Equinox on January 3, 2001. Additionally, \$1.3 million in severance costs were expensed during the year. We expect selling, general and administrative expenditures, in dollars, to increase in the fourth quarter of 2001 as we increase advertising, trade show and other promotional activities.

*Amortization of intangible assets.* Amortization of intangible assets is comprised of the amortization of the amounts allocated to the identifiable intangible assets and goodwill that were in excess of the purchase price over the fair value of the Cybex assets and liabilities acquired by Apex in the merger transaction. Also included is the amortization of similar assets created as a result of the acquisition of Equinox. The amortization periods are 3 to 7 years for intangibles and 5 years for goodwill. Amortization of identifiable intangible assets and goodwill was \$33.2 million or 60.4% of net sales for the third quarter of 2001 compared to \$31.1 million or 40.4% of net sales for the third quarter of 2000. Year-to-date amortization of intangibles was \$99.7 million or 51.5% of net sales for the nine months ended September 28, 2001 compared to \$31.1 million or 21.9% of net sales for year-to-date 2000.

*Other income, net.* Other income declined slightly to \$1.5 million for the third quarter of 2001, down from \$1.6 million for the third quarter of 2000. The decrease related primarily to the decline in interest rates, but was offset by an increase in available funds invested as the result of strong cash flows from operations. For the year, other income increased to \$4.4 million for 2001, from \$3.6 million for 2000. The increase related primarily to interest income from increased cash and investments. The increase in cash and investments was provided by the addition of the Cybex cash, cash equivalents, and investments as a result of the merger effective July 1, 2000, the addition of the Equinox cash, cash equivalents, and investments as a result of the acquisition effective January 3, 2001, and our positive cash flows from operations in 2001.

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*Provision for income taxes.* For the third quarter, the benefit from income taxes was approximately \$1.1 million for 2001, compared to \$1.3 million in 2000. Excluding merger related adjustments to federal taxes, the effective tax rate for the third quarter 2001 was approximately 25.5%, compared to 32.7% for the third quarter of 2000, primarily due to the mix of our pre-tax profit among our U.S. and international companies. Shifting shipments to international warehouses from Redmond to Shannon leveraged the 10% tax rate in Ireland. Lower than expected revenue in the U.S. reduced the U.S taxable income, which reduced the consolidated effective tax rate. We expect our effective tax rate for the fourth quarter to be approximately 30%, just above the effective rate of 29.3% for the nine months ended September 28, 2001.

*Net loss.* Our net loss for the third quarter of 2001 was \$29.3 million compared to net loss of \$124.4 million for the third quarter of 2000, as a result of the above factors. Net loss as a percentage of sales for the third quarter of 2001 was 53.1%, compared to net loss as a percentage of sales for the third quarter of 2000 of 161.2%. Our net loss for the first nine months of 2001 was \$94.2 million compared to net loss of \$110.8 million for the first nine months of 2000, as a result of the above factors. Net loss as a percentage of sales for the first nine months of 2001 was 48.7%, compared to net loss as a percentage of sales for the first nine months of 2000 of 78.1%.

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

As of September 28, 2001, our principal sources of liquidity consisted of approximately \$152 million in cash, cash equivalents, and investments. In addition, we have a bank line of credit for borrowings of \$2.0 million at LIBOR + 2.25% with a maturity date of May 2002. There were no amounts outstanding under this credit facility at September 28, 2001. In early January 2001, we borrowed a total of \$45 million at the stated rate of 30-day LIBOR plus 1.75% (8.31% at January 31, 2001) to temporarily finance our acquisition of Equinox, pending maturity of certain short-term investments. All borrowings were repaid during the first three months of 2001. On the closing of the Equinox transaction, we acquired approximately \$24.3 million in cash and short-term investments held by Equinox.

Our operating activities generated cash of approximately \$53 million in the first nine months of 2001, compared to using approximately \$(497) thousand in the first nine months of 2000. After adjusting the net loss for merger and acquisition related items, the large increase in cash flow from operations for the first nine months of 2001 compared to the first nine months of 2000 resulted primarily from the change in accounts receivable and other receivables. The decrease in receivables from December 31, 2000 is a result of the timing of sales and our collection efforts.

Inventory levels increased in the first quarter of 2001 due to the purchase of long-lead items and transfer of completed subassemblies from a vendor for our DS1800 product. During the fourth quarter of 2000, we sold a large amount of our DS1800 components to a subcontractor to produce DS1800 subassemblies. The value of these components was carried as other receivables at year-end and the value was transferred back to inventory from other receivables upon the receipt of the subassemblies. The large increase in inventory during the first quarter of 2001 was largely offset by a non-recurring, before tax benefit, charge of \$11.7 million for excess and obsolete inventories recorded in the second quarter of 2001. This write-down reduced inventories to replacement value and to levels necessary to support then current sales demand.

We believe that our existing cash balances, investments, cash generated from operations and the funds available to us under credit facilities will be sufficient to fund our operations through 2001.

**Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risks.**

Our primary market risk is the potential loss arising from changes in interest rates, which could have an adverse impact on the fair value of our investment securities. Our investment policy is to manage our investment portfolio to preserve principal and liquidity while maximizing the return on the investment portfolio through the investment of available funds. We diversify the investment portfolio by investing in a variety of highly rated investment grade securities and through the use of different investment managers. Our investment securities portfolio is primarily invested in short-term securities with at least an investment grade rating to minimize interest rate and credit risk as well as to provide for an immediate source of funds. Market risk is estimated as the potential change in fair value in the investment portfolio resulting from a hypothetical 10 percent change in interest rates, and was not material at September 28, 2001. We generally hold investment securities until maturity and carry the securities at amortized cost, which approximates fair value.

We are also exposed to equity price risks on our investments in publicly traded equity securities. These investments are generally in companies having operations or technology in areas within our strategic focus. We do not attempt to reduce or eliminate our market exposure on these securities. As of September 28, 2001, the fair value of our available for sale equity investments was \$642 thousand. A 20 percent adverse change in equity prices would result in a decrease of approximately \$128 thousand in the fair value of our available for sale equity securities as of September 28, 2001.

The value of certain foreign currencies versus the U.S. dollar affects our financial results. Our international operations transact a portion of our business in currencies other than the U.S. Dollar, and changes in exchange rates may positively or negatively affect our revenues, gross margins, operating expenses, and retained deficit since these transactions are expressed in U.S. dollars. We engage in some hedging programs aimed at limiting the impact of currency fluctuations. These hedging activities provide only limited protection against currency exchange risks, and there can be no assurance that such an approach will be successful, especially if a significant and sudden decline occurs in the value of local currencies.

**PART II OTHER INFORMATION**

**Item 1. Legal Proceedings.**

In February 1998, Apex Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Avocent, filed patent infringement lawsuits against certain companies (including Rose Electronics), which were dismissed without prejudice by the agreement of the parties in early 1999 to allow certain patent issues raised in the litigation to be initially determined by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (the "PTO"). Apex also filed a complaint for patent infringement in United States District Court for the Western District of Washington in Seattle against CCC Group in June 1998, which was filed but never formally served on CCC. This lawsuit was stayed by the District Court in 1999 pending a ruling by the PTO, and subsequently, Apex voluntarily dismissed the CCC lawsuit in Seattle without prejudice.

The issues raised in the PTO have now been resolved in Apex's favor, and in May 2001, Apex filed a complaint for patent infringement in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York against Raritan Computer Inc. The Raritan complaint seeks injunctive relief, damages, attorneys' fees and costs. Apex has also informed both Rose Electronics and CCC Group that Apex continues to believe that certain products sold by these companies infringe one or more of Apex's patents and that, absent circumstances requiring earlier action, Apex intends to enforce its patent rights against Rose and CCC when the Raritan litigation is concluded.

**Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K.**

(a) Exhibits

10.23.1 Separation and General Release Agreement among Avocent Corporation, Apex Inc., and Barry L. Harmon

(b) Reports on Form 8-K

We filed a current Report on Form 8-K on January 18, 2001 in connection with our acquisition of Equinox Systems Inc., a Florida corporation. The Acquisition was consummated on January 3, 2001, prior to which the shareholders of Equinox duly approved the Acquisition in accordance with the corporate laws of the State of Florida.

ITEMS 2, 3, 4 AND 5 ARE NOT APPLICABLE AND HAVE BEEN OMITTED.

**SIGNATURES**

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

AVOCENT CORPORATION.

(Registrant)

Date: November 13, 2001

/s/ Douglas E. Pritchett

Douglas E. Pritchett

Senior Vice President of Finance, Chief Financial  
Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial  
Officer)