

LEAP WIRELESS INTERNATIONAL INC

Form 8-K

October 24, 2001

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 8-K

Current Report
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): October 24, 2001

Leap Wireless International, Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation)

0-29752
(Commission File Number)

33-0811062
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

10307 Pacific Center Court, San Diego, California
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

92121
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (858) 882-6000

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Item 5. Other Events.
SIGNATURE

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This Current Report on Form 8-K is filed by Leap Wireless International, Inc., a Delaware corporation (Leap or the Company), in connection with the matters described herein.

Item 5. Other Events.

On October 24, 2001, Leap announced its financial and certain other operational results for the quarter ended September 30, 2001 as set forth below.

The Company reported that during the quarter, it added more than one quarter million net new customers to its Cricket service, bringing the total customers using Cricket service to more than 724,000 at the end of the third fiscal quarter of 2001, representing a 90% quarter-over-quarter increase in net additions. Leap ended the quarter with service offered in 25 markets across the country.

Cricket operational highlights from the third quarter of 2001 included:

Leap launched an additional five markets Phoenix, Arizona; Fayetteville, Arkansas; Denver, Colorado; Boise, Idaho; and Dayton, Ohio bringing the total potential customers covered by Cricket service to approximately 19.5 million (2001 POPs) at the end of the quarter. After the end of the quarter, Leap launched Cricket service in Omaha, Nebraska and Salem, Oregon and expects to launch service in its Reno, Nevada and Toledo, Ohio markets on October 25, 2001.

Billed average revenue per user per month (ARPU) across all of Leap s operational markets rose to approximately \$37, compared to the approximately \$36 reported for the second quarter of 2001.

Overall cost per gross customer addition (CPGA), including pre-launch marketing expenses, was approximately \$243.

Key financial performance measures for the third fiscal quarter were as follows:

Total operating revenues for Leap s U.S. operations were \$66.7 million, an increase of \$18.9 million over the \$47.8 million reported for the previous quarter. Service revenue rose to \$57.2 million, an increase of 45 percent over that reported for the second fiscal quarter of 2001.

Consolidated operating loss before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA), was \$85.3 million, an increase from the EBITDA loss of \$56.6 million reported for the previous quarter. Cricket s rapid growth during the third quarter was the primary factor in the increase in the consolidated EBITDA loss during the third quarter.

Leap s consolidated net loss was \$160.7 million, or \$4.43 per share, compared to a net loss of \$128.5 million, or \$3.91 per share, in the prior quarter, also largely as a result of Cricket s rapid growth during the third quarter. Of the \$4.43 net loss per share reported in the third quarter, \$0.39 was the result of Leap s share of losses for Pegaso Telecomunicaciones, S.A. de C.V. (Pegaso), the Mexican wireless company in which Leap has a 20% stake, recognized under the equity method of accounting.

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Leap's total cash and cash equivalents, investments, and deposits on pending wireless license acquisitions as of September 30, 2001 were \$430.7 million.

Leap's property and equipment, net of depreciation, rose to \$858.3 million at September 30, 2001, an increase of \$171.8 million over that reported at June 30, 2001.

Other Highlights:

Slice Milestones During the third quarter, Leap expanded both the markets served and the content provided by Slice, the first product offered by its subsidiary, the Telephone Entertainment Network, Inc. Slice service delivers short voice clips of local news and events, movie reviews, sports, weather, traffic, bargains and more directly to customers wireless phones before their local calls connect. During the third quarter, Leap launched Slice in two new markets, Phoenix, Arizona and Albuquerque, New Mexico, bringing the total markets in which this service is offered to four, including Chattanooga and Nashville, Tennessee, where Slice was launched in the second quarter of 2001. Leap has signed an agreement between the Telephone Entertainment Network and Metro Networks, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Westwood One, which is a leading provider of content and information. Under the agreement, Westwood One provides Leap with feeds of regularly updated local and national content for its Slice customers, including news, traffic, weather and sports updates tailored to specific local markets. Leap has added advertisers using Slice service to promote their businesses, ending the quarter with a total of 62 advertisers, including major national brands as well as regional and local retail locations, in the four markets in which Slice is offered. During the third fiscal quarter, Leap also received its first subscriber based revenue from Slice, which is currently available to Cricket customers in the four markets in which Slice is offered for \$2.95 per month after a 60-day free trial period. At the end of the third quarter, the average conversion rate of customers after their 60-day free trial was approximately 33 percent.

Spectrum During the third fiscal quarter, Leap, as part of its plan to maximize the value of its spectrum assets, announced that it signed an agreement to sell 15 MHz of its spectrum in Salt Lake City and Provo, Utah, to Cingular Wireless for \$140 million in cash. Leap will retain 15 MHz of spectrum, which Leap believes is adequate for its needs in this market. In October, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved the transfer of these licenses to Cingular Wireless and Leap expects this sale to close in the fourth quarter.

International Operations Pegaso reported that its customer base grew to more than 791,000 at the end of September 2001. During the third quarter, Leap invested an additional \$10.5 million in Pegaso as part of the \$29.4 million Leap committed to invest into the Mexican wireless carrier to support its future growth and working capital needs. This additional investment brings Leap's total investment in Pegaso under this additional commitment to \$20.5 million.

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Forward-Looking Statements

Except for the historical information contained herein, this report contains forward-looking statements reflecting management's current forecast of certain aspects of Leap's future. Some forward-looking statements can be identified by forward-looking words such as believe, may, could, will, estimate, continue, anticipate, intend, seek, plan, expect, should, would and similar expressions. This report is information, which we have assessed but which by its nature is dynamic and subject to rapid and even abrupt changes. Our actual results could differ materially from those stated or implied by such forward-looking statements due to risks and uncertainties associated with our business. Factors that could cause actual results to differ include, but are not limited to: changes in the economic conditions of the various markets our subsidiaries serve which could adversely affect the market for wireless services; our ability to access capital markets; a failure to meet the operational, financial or other covenants contained in our credit facilities; our ability to rollout networks in accordance with our plans, including receiving equipment and backhaul and interconnection facilities on schedule from third parties; failure of network systems to perform according to expectations; the effect of competition; the acceptance of our product offering by our target customers; our ability to retain customers; our ability to maintain our cost, market penetration and pricing structure in the face of competition; technological challenges in developing wireless information services and customer acceptance of such services if developed; our ability to integrate the businesses and technologies we acquire; rulings by courts or the FCC adversely affecting our rights to own and/or operate certain wireless licenses; and other factors detailed in the section entitled Risk Factors included in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2001 and in our other SEC filings. The forward-looking statements should be considered in the context of these risk factors. Investors and prospective investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Table of Contents**LEAP WIRELESS INTERNATIONAL, INC.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****(In Thousands)**

	September 30, 2001	December 31, 2000
	(Unaudited)	
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 300,303	\$ 338,878
Restricted cash equivalents		13,575
Short-term investments	42,189	199,106
Inventories	34,831	9,032
Notes receivable, net	33,284	138,907
Other current assets	15,833	12,746
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total current assets	426,440	712,244
Property and equipment, net	858,258	430,193
Investment in unconsolidated wireless operating company		34,691
Wireless licenses, net	687,634	265,635
Goodwill and other intangible assets, net	45,298	30,297
Restricted investments	54,182	51,896
Deposits for wireless licenses	85,000	91,772
Other assets	31,458	30,679
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total assets	\$2,188,270	\$1,647,407
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Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 72,922	\$ 58,735
Other current liabilities	103,234	65,690
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total current liabilities	176,156	124,425
Long-term debt	1,510,161	897,878
Other long-term liabilities	66,173	41,846
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total liabilities	1,752,490	1,064,149
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock		
Common stock	3	3
Additional paid-in capital	1,147,032	893,401
Unearned stock-based compensation	(6,201)	(10,019)
Accumulated deficit	(706,555)	(302,898)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	1,501	2,771
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total stockholders' equity	435,780	583,258
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$2,188,270	\$1,647,407
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(UNAUDITED)
(In Thousands, Except Per Share Data)

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,			
	2001	2000	2001	2000
Revenues:				
Service revenues	\$ 57,240	\$ 5,296	\$ 122,449	\$ 31,542
Equipment revenues	9,453	2,244	28,843	4,513
Total revenues	66,693	7,540	151,292	36,055
Operating expenses:				
Cost of service	(27,297)	(5,506)	(57,003)	(14,276)
Cost of equipment	(53,197)	(4,883)	(116,632)	(30,845)
Selling and marketing	(32,181)	(4,113)	(70,982)	(15,730)
General and administrative	(39,290)	(15,061)	(96,691)	(57,445)
Depreciation and amortization	(33,494)	(3,573)	(68,792)	(17,251)
Total operating expenses	(185,459)	(33,136)	(410,100)	(135,547)
Operating loss	(118,766)	(25,596)	(258,808)	(99,492)
Equity in net loss of investments in and loan receivable from unconsolidated wireless operating companies	(14,264)	(25,249)	(57,562)	(72,001)
Interest income	4,850	16,934	23,623	33,938
Interest expense	(44,258)	(28,437)	(123,709)	(80,908)
Foreign currency transaction gains (losses)	136	1,378	(1,139)	13,099
Minority interest				1,762
Gain on sale of subsidiary				313,432
Gain on issuance of stock by unconsolidated wireless operating company		6,898		32,602
Other income, net	12,405		15,981	216
Income (loss) before income taxes and extraordinary items	(159,897)	(54,072)	(401,614)	142,648
Income taxes	(845)		(2,043)	(34,548)
Income (loss) before extraordinary items	(160,742)	(54,072)	(403,657)	108,100
Extraordinary loss on early extinguishment of debt				(4,737)
Net income (loss)	\$(160,742)	\$(54,072)	\$(403,657)	\$ 103,363
Basic net income (loss) per common share:				
Income (loss) before extraordinary items	\$ (4.43)	\$ (2.04)	\$ (12.27)	\$ 4.35
Extraordinary loss				(0.19)
Net income (loss)	\$ (4.43)	\$ (2.04)	\$ (12.27)	\$ 4.16

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Diluted net income (loss) per common share:				
Income (loss) before extraordinary items	\$ (4.43)	\$ (2.04)	\$ (12.27)	\$ 3.36
Extraordinary loss				(0.15)
Net income (loss)	\$ (4.43)	\$ (2.04)	\$ (12.27)	\$ 3.21
Shares used in per share calculations:				
Basic	36,310	26,524	32,909	24,826
Diluted	36,310	26,524	32,909	32,134

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OPERATIONAL METRICS
(UNAUDITED)**

	As of and for the Quarter Ended		
	September 30, 2001	June 30, 2001	March 31, 2001
Gross additions	301,189	179,883	163,929
Deactivations	48,792	47,026	17,364
Net additions	252,397	132,857	146,565
End of period customers	724,458	472,061	339,204
Weighted average customers	560,544	394,124	262,048
CPGA	\$ 243	\$ 245	\$ 214
Equipment subsidy associated with customer gross additions (in 000s)	\$ 42,106	\$ 23,063	\$ 18,636
Selling & marketing associated with customer gross additions (in 000s)	\$ 31,209	\$ 20,985	\$ 16,504
Covered POPs (2001 estimate in millions)	19.5	12.9	9.5
Penetration of covered POPs	3.7%	3.7%	3.6%
Cumulative markets launched	25	20	14
Cumulative BTAs launched	28	23	17
Cell sites in service	1,562	1,132	753

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40 MARKET PLAN**

State	Market	BTA	Launched as of 9/30/01	Licensed POPs (2001 est.) (1)	Covered POPs (2001 est.) (1)
AR	Central Arkansas	Little Rock	X	928,467	413,673
		Pine Bluff		150,421	64,331
	Fort Smith	Hot Springs	X	132,519	49,263
		Fort Smith(2)	X	312,750	112,735
		Jonesboro		174,746	93,122
Northwest Arkansas	Fayetteville(3)	X	287,594	182,644	
AZ	Phoenix	Phoenix(4)	X	3,089,889	2,951,523
	Tucson	Tucson	X	790,975	756,722
CA	Modesto-Merced	Modesto		477,212	348,579
		Merced		211,145	153,741
	Visalia	Visalia		471,766	352,844
CO	Denver	Denver/Boulder	X	2,471,889	2,279,310
	North Colorado	Ft. Collins		229,386	213,919
		Greeley		157,890	145,495
	Pueblo	Pueblo	X	299,154	127,964
GA	Columbus	Columbus	X	357,914	182,420
	Macon	Macon	X	640,286	229,179
ID	Boise	Boise	X	534,196	369,827
KS	Wichita	Wichita	X	633,382	512,300
MI	Kalamazoo and Battle Creek	Kalamazoo		370,308	181,103
		Battle Creek		238,991	78,530
	Flint	Flint		513,718	319,481
	Jackson	Jackson		203,672	112,377
NC	Charlotte	Charlotte	X	2,107,435	1,025,864
	Triad Area	Greensboro/ Winston-Salem	X	1,371,782	625,148
		Hickory	Hickory(5)	X	322,521

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40 MARKET PLAN (cont.)**

State	Market	BTA	Launched as of 9/30/01	Licensed POPs (2001 est.) (1)	Covered POPs (2001 est.) (1)
NE	Lincoln	Lincoln		333,096	197,370
	Omaha	Omaha		970,593	567,720
NM	Albuquerque	Albuquerque(4) (6)	X	800,201	646,759
	Santa Fe	Santa Fe(7)	X	205,922	91,743
NV	Reno-Sparks and Carson City	Reno		548,661	351,108
NY	Buffalo	Buffalo		1,224,119	962,820
	Syracuse	Syracuse		791,282	513,720
OH	Dayton	Dayton/Springfield	X	1,222,446	858,783
	Toledo	Toledo		785,760	510,564
		Sandusky		140,841	74,070
OK	Tulsa	Tulsa	X	913,095	627,841
OR	Eugene	Eugene		313,316	246,192
	Salem	Salem	X	512,535	249,958
PA	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	X	2,503,395	2,264,798
TN	Chattanooga	Chattanooga(4)	X	548,320	327,581
	Knoxville	Knoxville	X	1,073,640	484,568
	Memphis	Memphis	X	1,499,222	976,263
	Middle Tennessee	Nashville(4)	X	1,662,927	1,017,184
		Clarksville	X	258,087	120,806
UT	Wasatch Front	Salt Lake City/Ogden	X	1,527,987	1,372,417
		Provo	X	341,401	328,395
WA	Spokane	Spokane	X	725,591	469,888
Total	40	48	29	36,382,445	25,239,858

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- (1) Information relating to population and potential customers is based on 2001 population estimates provided by Easy Analytic Software, Inc. (EASI).
- (2) Sister
City calling
plan available
with
Northwest
Arkansas
market.(3) Sister
City calling
plan available
with Fort
Smith
market.(4) Slice
market.(5) Sister
City calling
plan available
with
Charlotte
market.(6) Sister
City calling
plan available
with Santa Fe
market.(7) Sister
City calling
plan available
with
Albuquerque
market.

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SIGNATURE

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

Date: October 24, 2001

LEAP WIRELESS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

By: /s/ THOMAS D. WILLARDSON

Thomas D. Willardson
Senior Vice President, Finance
and Treasurer