

3COM CORP
Form 8-K
December 18, 2008

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**UNITED STATES
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):

December 18, 2008

3COM CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation)

0-12867

(Commission
File Number)

94-2605794

(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

350 Campus Drive

Marlborough, Massachusetts

01752

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(508) 323-1000**

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (*see* General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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ITEM 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition

Financial Results.

On December 18, 2008, 3Com Corporation (the Company) (i) issued a press release regarding its financial results for its fiscal quarter ended November 28, 2008 and (ii) posted supplementary financial information concerning the Company to the investor relations portion of its web site, www.3Com.com. The full text of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1. The supplementary financial material is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.2.

The information in Item 2.02 of this Form 8-K and the exhibits attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and Exhibit 99.2 shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), or incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing.

Non-GAAP Financial Measures.

The attached press release contains non-GAAP financial measures. In evaluating the Company s performance, management uses certain non-GAAP financial measures to supplement consolidated financial statements prepared under generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (GAAP).

More specifically, the Company uses the following non-GAAP financial measures: non-GAAP gross margin, non-GAAP operating profit/loss (and margin), non-GAAP net income/loss (and margin), non-GAAP net income/loss per share, non-GAAP research and development, sales and marketing and general and administrative expenses and non-GAAP operating profit/loss before taxes.

Discussion. The Company uses these measures in its public statements. Management believes these non-GAAP measures help indicate the Company s baseline performance before gains, losses or charges that are considered by management to be outside on-going operating results. Accordingly, management uses these non-GAAP measures to gain a better understanding of the Company s comparative operating performance from period-to-period and as a basis for planning and forecasting future periods. Management believes these non-GAAP measures, when read in conjunction with the Company s GAAP financials, provide useful information to investors by offering:

the ability to make more meaningful period-to-period comparisons of the Company s on-going operating results;

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the ability to better identify trends in the Company's underlying business and perform related trend analysis;

a higher degree of transparency for certain expenses (particularly when a specific charge impacts multiple line items);

a better understanding of how management plans and measures the Company's underlying business; and

an easier way to compare the Company's most recent results of operations against investor and analyst financial models.

In order to provide meaningful comparisons, the Company believes that it needs to adjust for gains as well as charges that are outside the core operations. Accordingly, certain gains are excluded, as discussed below.

The **non-GAAP gross margin measure** used by the Company is defined to exclude the inventory-related adjustment portion of the purchase accounting effects of the Company's acquisition of 49% of H3C and stock-based compensation expense, each of which is discussed below under the next section.

The **non-GAAP operating loss or income (and margin) measure** used by the Company is defined to exclude the following charges and benefits: restructuring, amortization, stock-based compensation expense and special items that management believes are unusual and outside of the Company's on-going operations, such as, for some of the periods presented in the press release, the inventory-related adjustment portion of the purchase accounting effects of the Company's acquisition of 49% of H3C, fees related to facilitation of a more autonomous operation for a Company subsidiary, a benefit in the form of an offset to operating expenses for the \$70 million Realtek patent dispute resolution, and expenses related to the Company's terminated acquisition by affiliates of Bain Capital.

Restructuring

Management believes the costs related to restructuring activities are not indicative of the Company's normal operating costs. The restructuring charge consists primarily of severance expense and facility closure costs.

Amortization of Intangibles

Management also believes that the expense associated with the amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets is appropriate to be excluded because a significant portion of the purchase price for acquisitions may be allocated to intangible assets that have short lives and exclusion of the amortization expense allows comparisons of operating results that are consistent over time for both the Company's newly acquired and long-held businesses. Also, amortization is a non-cash charge for the periods presented.

Stock-based Compensation

Further, stock-based compensation expenses are non-cash charges that relate to restricted stock amortization and stock-based compensation costs associated with acquisitions, as well as additional stock-based compensation expense that represents the fair value of stock-based compensation required pursuant to FAS 123 (R). The expense related to acquisitions is not part of the Company's normal operating costs and is non-cash. The FAS 123 (R)-related expense is excluded because management believes as a non-cash charge it does not provide a meaningful indicator of the core operating business results. Management manages the business primarily without regard to these non-cash expenses. In addition, because the calculation of these expenses is dependent on factors such as forfeiture rate, volatility of the Company's stock and a risk-free interest rate, all of which are subject to fluctuation, these charges are expected to be variable over time, and therefore may not provide a meaningful comparison of core operating results among periods. It is useful to note that these factors are generally outside the Company's control.

Inventory-Related Adjustment from H3C Acquisition

The Company has excluded the purchase accounting inventory-related adjustment from the 49% acquisition of H3C. Similar to IPR&D and amortization described above with respect to acquisitions, these adjustments represent non-cash, one-time items relating to a specific acquisition as opposed to core operations.

Fees to Facilitate More Autonomous Operation of Subsidiary

The Company also excludes fees related to costs incurred to facilitate a more autonomous operation for a

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Company subsidiary. These fees are one-time items.

Benefit from Realtek Patent Resolution

We recorded a \$70 million benefit in the form of an offset to operating expenses for the payments we received in connection with a one-time patent dispute resolution with Realtek. This is a non-recurring item, and not part of our ordinary course business operations. Accordingly, it was determined by management to adjust our results to exclude this benefit. Management does not measure our performance with this benefit included.

Terminated Bain Acquisition Expenses

The Company excludes external expenses (including bankers', accounting and legal fees) related to its terminated acquisition by affiliates of Bain Capital. The Company does not exclude expenses for its ongoing litigation against Bain Capital. These expenses are one-time charges that are not indicative of core operations as they relate to a one-time specific transaction to take the Company private that did not occur.

The Company also uses a **non-GAAP net income/loss measure**. All of the items described above are relevant to why management believes this measure is meaningful. In addition, the following further items, which are special items for the relevant fiscal periods, were excluded, from this measure: gains/losses on sales of assets and investments.

Gains/Losses on Asset Sales and Investments

Gains/losses on asset sales and investments are outside of the ordinary course of business and not representative of core operations.

3Com also uses a **non-GAAP net income/loss measure on a per share basis**. All of the adjustments described above are relevant to this per share measure. The Company believes that it is important to provide per share metrics, in addition to absolute dollar measures, when describing its business, including when presenting non-GAAP measures. To the extent 3Com is in an income position on a non-GAAP basis, we use our diluted shares (as opposed to our basic shares) in order to calculate the non-GAAP per share measures.

Finally, the Company uses **non-GAAP research and development, sales and marketing and general and administrative expenses measures** and **non-GAAP profit/loss before taxes measures**, which are adjusted to exclude some of the items described above for the reasons discussed above.

For the Company's forward-looking non-GAAP measures, the Company is unable to provide a quantitative reconciliation because the information is not available without unreasonable effort.

General. These non-GAAP measures have limitations, however, because they do not include all items of income and expense that impact the Company's operations. Management compensates for these limitations by also considering the Company's GAAP results. The non-GAAP financial measures the Company uses are not prepared in accordance with, and should not be considered an alternative to, measurements required by GAAP, such as operating loss, net loss and loss per share, and should not be considered measures of the Company's liquidity. The presentation of this additional information is not meant to be considered in isolation or as a substitute for the most directly comparable GAAP measures. In addition, these non-GAAP financial measures may not be comparable to similar measures reported by other companies.

ITEM 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

As required by its senior secured credit facility the Company made available to its senior secured bank lenders certain summary financial information concerning H3C. This financial data is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.3 and is hereby incorporated by reference into this Item 7.01.

The information in Item 7.01 of this Form 8-K and the exhibit attached hereto as Exhibit 99.3 shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange

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Act), or incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing.

ITEM 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

New Forms of Equity Grants Agreements. On December 9, 2008, the Compensation Committee of the Board approved new forms of equity grant agreements for grants of equity under our 2003 Stock Plan. These forms are attached as exhibits to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

Exhibit Number Description

10.1	Form of Stock Option Agreement 2003 Stock Plan*
10.2	Form of Restricted Stock Unit Agreement 2003 Stock Plan*
10.3	Form of Restricted Stock Grant Agreement 2003 Stock Plan*
10.4	Form of Stock Appreciation Right Agreement 2003 Stock Plan*
99.1	Text of Press Release, dated December 18, 2008, titled 3Com Reports Second Quarter Results for Fiscal 2009.
99.2	Supplemental Financial Information Fiscal Quarter Ended November 28, 2008
99.3	H3C Summary Financial Information Provided to Bank Lenders

* Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan.

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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.

3COM CORPORATION

Date: December 18, 2008

By: /s/ Jay Zager
Jay Zager
Executive Vice President, Chief Financial
Officer

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