

Participants

Kevin Cavanah, VP & CFO John Hewitt, President & CEO

Presentation

Operator

Greetings and welcome to the Matrix Service Company conference call to review First Quarter fiscal year 2012. At this time, all participants are in a listen-only mode. A brief question and answer session will follow the formal presentation. If anyone should require operator assistance during the conference, please press *0 on your telephone keypad. As a reminder, this conference is being recorded. It is now my pleasure to introduce your host, Kevin Cavanah, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Matrix Service Company. Thank you, Mr. Cavanah, you may begin.

Kevin Cavanah - Matrix Service Company - VP & CFO

Thank you, and good morning. I would now like to take a moment to read the following. Various remarks that the company may make about future expectations, plans and prospects for Matrix Service Company constitute forward-looking statements for the purposes of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Actual results may differ materially from those indicated by these forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including those discussed in our annual report on Form 10-K for our fiscal year ended June 30, 2011, and in subsequent filings made by the company with the SEC. I would now like to turn the call over to John Hewitt, President and CEO of Matrix Service Company.

John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

Thanks, Kevin. Good day, everyone, and thank you for joining us to discuss the results of our first quarter ending September 30, 2011. Results for the first quarter of fiscal 2012 were in line with our expectations.

Backlog has increased steadily in recent quarters and bid volumes are strong across our key markets. As I mentioned in our last call, our quarter-to-quarter business can be seasonal due to various factors including weather, client spending patterns and energy demand. However, as we indicated in our earnings release yesterday, the outlook for our fiscal year is positive. The timing of project awards and commencement of field activities in July and August were somewhat slower than

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anticipated, resulted in lower man hours and under recovery of construction overhead costs in the quarter. Despite this relatively slow start to the year, revenues in man hours have increased every month and are trending in line with our expectations for the fiscal year.

As I mentioned, backlog continues to grow and was \$426.6 million at the end of the first quarter, the third consecutive quarterly increase. Bookings for the quarter were on par with our best quarter in the last 2 years and proposal volume is robust in all of our business lines. We're particularly pleased with the business volume in the Aboveground Storage Tank and high-voltage electrical markets. Overall, our outlook for fiscal 2012 is very positive.

Repair and Maintenance Services segment achieved revenue growth of 28% in the first quarter compared to the same period last year with our Aboveground Storage Tank, Downstream Petroleum and Electrical and Instrumentation businesses all providing double-digit growth. Construction Services segment revenues increased slightly, however, Aboveground Storage Tank revenues increased by almost 44%, partially offset by a lower revenue in Electrical and Instrumentation with the completion of a major contract in the last fiscal year.

We are encouraged by a number of positive elements and emerging trends in our core markets. Many of our customers are planning significant projects that Matrix Service is well positioned to capture. Given the strength in our current business lines and strategic expansion opportunities, we are expanding our revolving credit facility from \$75 million to \$125 million. We have received commitments from our bank group and we expect to close on the new facility early next week. We believe this added capacity supports the company's strategic growth requirements beyond fiscal 2012.

As for guidance, we are encouraged by the additions to backlog in the first quarter in the current bidding activity. In addition, our project funnel includes a significant number of material contracts in both the Construction Services and Repair and Maintenance Services segments. As a result, we are increasing the lower end of our revenue guidance from \$650 million to \$675 million and we are increasing the lower end of our earnings guidance from \$0.75 per fully diluted share to \$0.80 per fully diluted share. We are holding the top end of our revenue earnings guidance at \$725 million and \$0.95 per fully diluted share respectively. With that, I'll turn the call over to Kevin to discuss the financial results.

Kevin Cavanah - Matrix Service Company - VP & CFO

Thanks, John. In the first quarter ended September 30, 2011, revenues were \$169.3 million, an increase of 11.5% versus \$151.8 million in the same period last year. We earned \$0.13 per fully diluted share in the first quarter compared to \$0.12 per fully diluted share in the same period last year. Repair and Maintenance Services segment revenues increased 28.3% to \$69.7 million in the quarter compared to \$54.3 million in the same period last year. Construction Services segment revenues increased 2.1% to \$99.6 million in the first quarter compared to \$97.5 million in the same period of last year. Consolidated gross profit was \$18.1 million in the first quarter versus \$15.7 million in the first quarter last year. Consolidated gross margins were 10.7% in the first quarter compared to 10.3% in the same period last year.

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Repair and Maintenance Services gross margins were 10.4% compared to 8% in the same period last year. Construction Services gross margins were 10.9% in the first quarter versus 11.6% in the first quarter last year.

As John mentioned earlier, the slow business volume in July and August, particularly in the Electrical and Instrumentation business resulted in under-absorption of construction overhead cost. While this impacted margins in the Construction Services segment in the first quarter, over the same time period we increased E&I backlog, which should produce higher gross margins for the balance of the year. SG&A expenses were \$11.5 million in the first quarter compared to \$10.6 million in the prior year. The increase is primarily due to strategic realignment activities that resulted in higher employee expenses and administrative costs. Other expenses in the first quarter included a loss on foreign currency related to an investment in working capitals to support the growth of our Canadian operations. To mitigate future foreign currency exposure from our Canadian operations, our expanding credit facility will include the ability to borrow in Canadian dollars.

Our cash balance was \$38.7 million at the end of the first quarter of fiscal 2012 as compared to \$59.4 million at the end of fiscal 2011. The decrease in our cash balance resulted from additional investment working capital to fund the growth in business volume which increased significantly in September. In addition, since June 30, 2011, the company purchased \$6.3 million of Matrix Service Company stock at an average price of \$9.25 per share, including \$1.5 million in the first week of October. Our overall liquidity remains strong, and as John mentioned earlier, we received commitments for a \$125 million revolving credit facility to support continued growth of our business. We believe our strong balance sheet, expanded liquidity and bonding capacity provide the resources and the flexibility to capitalize on emerging growth opportunities and also serves to differentiate us from many of our competitors. With that, I would like to open up the call for questions.

Operator

Thank you. We will now be conducting a question and answer session. If you would like to ask a question, please press *1 on your telephone keypad. A confirmation tone will indicate your line is in the question queue. You may press *2 if you would like to remove your question from queue. For participants who are using speaker equipment, it may be necessary to pick up your handset before pressing the * keys. One moment please while we poll for questions. Our first question is coming from Matt Duncan from Stephens Inc.

<Q>: Morning guys.

<u>John Hewitt – Matrix Service Company – President & CEO</u> Morning.

<u>Kevin Cavanah – Matrix Service Company – VP & CFO</u> Morning.

<Q>: You guys had another great quarter on AST construction basis. Do you think you can sustain this quarterly revenue level for the balance of FY 2012? Or was there

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anything unusual that maybe inflated this quarter? Just help us understand sort of what we ought to expect there going forward.

John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

No, I would say our expectation is that we'll be able to maintain to be consistent with our revenues with the AST for the balance of the fiscal year. The bidding activity is extremely strong, not only in Cushing but in a lot of building markets, Western Canada, St. James region up in the Bakken. So we're seeing a lot of activity from many of our core clients to look to expand our storage facilities. So we're pretty positive about the balance of the fiscal year on AST.

<Q>: And, John, as you look at the stuff that's going in the backlog, sort of how much of that is Cushing versus other geographies?

<u>John Hewitt – Matrix Service Company – President & CEO</u>

I don't have the exact numbers in front of me, but I would say it's not Cushing-centric. I'd say it was pretty fairly spread.

Kevin Cavanah - Matrix Service Company - VP & CFO

Yes, and I believe a big portion of the increase in backlog was actually E&I, Construction Services projects, which while that was low in the first quarter, that's one of the reasons we feel better about the rest of the year.

<Q>: Okay. And then speaking with AST for just a second, the Repair and Maintenance business there improved sequentially by a pretty good amount yet again. This is the first time you've had year-over-year revenue growth in AST Repair and Maintenance since, I think, the 2Q of 2009. Do you feel like that business has bottomed? And can you sustain this momentum in quarterly sequential march higher there?

John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

Yes. I mean, I think we're going to continue to ... we'll continue to perform well there. I think it's another sort of pent-up demand thing. I think there were some repairs by some of our clients that were put off over the past few quarters. And some of that is breaking loose now.

<Q>: The last thing from me and I'll hop back in queue. The downstream Repair and Maintenance business had another strong quarter. Is that a good sign of things to come for the fall turnaround season? And then how do you see the turnaround calendar shaping up in the next spring?

John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

Yes, we had an extremely strong, a little bit stronger than expected turnaround for the fall season. And we anticipate, right now, we anticipate the spring to be similar.

Operator

Thank you. Our next question is coming from Tahira Afzal from KeyBanc. Please proceed with your question.

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<Q>: Good morning gentlemen.

<u>John Hewitt – Matrix Service Company – President & CEO</u> Good morning.

<u>Kevin Cavanah – Matrix Service Company – VP & CFO</u> Good morning.

<Q>: I guess, my first question is in regards to the E&I bookings and the strength you're seeing. Could you first talk about whether your quarter benefited at all from Hurricane Irene? I know you have a presence in the Northeast and that is fairly notably hedged. And if any of the booking strength also relates to any sort of repair work that is tied to that as well. And then the second question I have is really if you look at your Western Canadian opportunities, obviously, there's a lot of storage tank work that's been proposed in regards to the Keystone XL line and that would be in [INAUDIBLE] area. I would like to get a sense of really how much is Keystone potentially versus outside of Keystone.

John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

Okay. First question, yes, we were involved in Hurricane Irene as we are currently in until today involved in repairs from the snowstorm up in the Northeast. Nominally, the Hurricane Irene work was about \$4 million in revenue, somewhere in that neighborhood. And so it was, certainly it was helpful in the quarter. We started the bookings in our E&I business. We're seeing a lot of activity in our substation work and growth in our distribution work in some nice projects that got booked there in sort of the Northeast guarter where we've got an extremely strong presence. And we like to think of ourselves as #1 in the substation business in that area. As for the tank business, [INAUDIBLE] we have several projects that we are looking at up there and that are currently in the bidding stages, so we feel pretty good with some current clients that we do business with on a regular basis. And as it relates to the Keystone pipeline, I'm not sure of your question there whether that was going to have an impact on that business or not. A lot of that we think is going to be based on the timing on when that happens. The longer that it takes for that project to complete, the more storage growth that will be over the next 2 to 3 years. So we're watching that right now. Right now whether it's having a significant impact on our bookings this year and I can't respond to that.

<Q>: Got it. Okay. And if you look at both your capability, you're fairly well-positioned for environmental work and Utility MACT rules might potentially be coming out in another month and a half. We've seen some of your larger builds getting some trickle in the bookings, et cetera. Are you starting to see any trouble work proposals coming out? Or are you guys going to see something with a bit of a lag? First question. And then second question, companies such as utility, such as Dominion, et cetera indicated that they're going to have to spend additional on electric transmission to really help keep up reliability at all the scrubber environmental work happens and coal power plants are taken off or switched out. So I would like to get a sense of what you're really seeing as a catalyst for your business and some potential environmental rules coming out?

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John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

Well, on the back end work on the coal fleet in the U.S. and while the coal fleet year-over-year will pick up on smaller percentage of the overall generation sources for the U.S, they can't all be replaced overnight. And we'll still be, as a country, with the high dependence on the coal fleet. And as a result of that, the requirements to clean up the emissions from those coal fleet through SCR scrubbers, at FGD systems, whatever, is certainly we believe will be part of our business going into the future. I can't comment on whether we have any specific bids in-house, but that is a target area for us for our businesses, across our businesses. And that we would hope to have some of those projects in our backlog in over the next 18 months to 2 years. On the T&D side, that's an area in our business where we believe there's going to be growth opportunities for us in the distribution and transmission area. And we're going to continue to add resources, work with our existing clients who are doing substation work with now and make up appropriate capital investments and equipment and people to take a bigger chunk of that business.

<Q>: Thank you very much and I'll hop back in the queue.

Operator

Thank you. As a reminder, to be placed in the question queue, please press *1 on your telephone keypad. If you are using speaker equipment, it might be necessary to pick up your handset before pressing the * keys. Our next question is coming from Rich Wesolowski from Sidoti & Company. Please proceed with your question.

<Q>: Thanks, good morning everybody.

<u>John Hewitt – Matrix Service Company – President & CEO</u> Good morning.

<u>Kevin Cavanah – Matrix Service Company – VP & CFO</u> Good morning.

<Q>: Following up on the Tank business. It seems very odd that you're bidding a very active slate of tank construction work but your tank repair business is barely half the size it was 3 years ago. Would you imagine that we're at the beginning of a favorable cyclical turn in the tank repair business? And if that is the case, what would spark that investment?

Kevin Cavanah - Matrix Service Company - VP & CFO

Well, if you look at the numbers 3 years ago, if you recall, that was a very robust time for tank building. One of the things that led to those are Repair and Maintenance units for AST, revenues growing like they did there was some price of small tank work, new constructions for small thanks that they did that helped kind of improve their margins and their revenue volume in that period. So that's part of the reason. The other thing is like John mentioned, there's some part of what we call pent-up demand on AST, Repair and Maintenance work.

<Q>: So it's kind of just the passage of time and they have to undertake these projects at some point, then why not start today?

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John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

I'm sure it's more complex than that, but that's probably a pretty relatively good answer.

<Q>: Is there anything different in your Repair and Maintenance business today that would preclude you from reaching a 13% to 15% gross margin range at some point in the future if the demand for your services continued to improve?

John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

No. I would say no. I would say there's nothing to prevent us from that happening.

<Q>: And then you mentioned, John, a couple of areas outside of Cushing where Matrix is bidding for tank work, we know that you have your best business in the tanks in Cushing and it's perhaps a little more competitive elsewhere. Obviously you don't have an advantage that you would have in Cushing elsewhere. If you succeed in winning more and more work, would you expect it would dilute the construction gross margin?

John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

No. I don't think so. I mean, we're in a lot of cases, we're following existing clients that are ... they know the quality of the service that we provide and so there's in those cases they're maybe out of negotiated contracts or there's this much smaller bid list. And so from that standpoint, I'd say we'll be able to provide similar Cushing-like services within a degree of materiality in other places where the activity is strong.

<Q>: Okay. It's good to see the company buying back stock. Appreciate it and best of luck.

John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

Thank you.

Operator

Thank you. Our next question is coming from Martin Malloy from Johnson Rice. Please proceed with your question.

<Q>: Could you talk a little bit more about the strategic opportunities out there and reasons behind increasing the revolver? Are you seeing some attractive acquisition opportunities out there?

John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

Well, we have several parts of our business we think there's growth opportunities both in market share and geography. And certainly one of those areas would be our high-voltage business. We're very extremely strong in the Northeast, and we believe that we can take that business model into other parts of the country, into the Midwest, up into California. And so some of that will be done organically. We'll be following clients. But some of that as well will be done through strategic acquisitions to get into some regions. And so that will be one of the areas that I would anticipate that we would be looking for an acquisition in.

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<Q>: Okay. And then the Instrumentation business during the quarter, the slow start, was that weather or permitting? Or where there any issues in particular that you could point to?

John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

Some of its weather, some of it's, with having a super hot summer that the country had delayed some of the start of some of the work that we did have backlog in our substation work. They're not going to, when the electricity generators or the public utilities, they're making money selling electricity, they're running air conditioners they're not going to let them take down their facilities for any kind of upgrades or repairs or replacements. So some of it was that, probably a lot of it was that. But the upside of that was our ability to take a lot of our staff and our crews who do that work for us. We were able to get them into the office and we saw probably a fourfold increase in bidding activity for that period year-over-year. And so the good news, bad news was we had all those guys in the office. And we were able to substantially increase our backlog going forward by utilizing all that staff to bid the increased bidding activity.

<Q>: Okay. And on the income statement, the other line, negative 676,000, that was all foreign currency related? And was that about \$0.03 in EPS?

Kevin Cavanah - Matrix Service Company - VP & CFO

Yes. That was all foreign currency related. It's really close to \$0.02 EPS. And obviously, they're related to the operations we've got in Canada. We've talked about some of the successes we've had up there, growing that business. Most of the growth is AST work and our operations here in Tulsa, both our engineering and fabrication operations, support those projects which creates a bit of a larger intercompany balance. And as a result, we had with the Canadian dollar weakening at the end of the quarter had a negative impact on us. It's strengthened in October, so a lot of that has been recovered. But then we're also putting in the credit facility with the Canadian borrowing capacity. So we'll be able to mitigate that risk respectively.

<Q>: Okay, thank you.

John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

Thank you.

Operator

Thank you. Once again, if you would like to be placed in the question queue, please press *1 on your telephone keypad. Our next question is coming from Mike Harrison from First Analysis. Please proceed with your question.

<Q>: Hi, good morning.

<u>John Hewitt – Matrix Service Company – President & CEO</u>

Good morning.

<Q>: It looks like crude inventory levels in Cushing have moved a little bit lower compared to where they were earlier this year. Can you talk a little bit about how

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much temporary swings in inventory levels factor into your long-term outlook for tankage demand, particularly in Cushing?

John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

I don't know that temporary swings if we've got a direct metric on that. I can tell you that the bidding activity over the last quarter has not decreased. So if there is some direct connection to that, the amount of the inventory changes has been effective. Potential clients, both existing ones and new ones, view on building more storage at Cushing.

Kevin Cavanah - Matrix Service Company - VP & CFO

And we're also in constant contact with our customers, and so we know what their plans are. So, and that's a better information for us to monitor that metric.

<Q>: And in terms of the opportunity for AST in the Bakken, how big is that opportunity? And how soon could we see a significant contribution from it?

John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

I think there is a much -- I'm not sure I told you over the entire -- what the projected amount there. But I think there's somewhere in the neighborhood of 8 million to 10 million barrels of storage anticipated there over the next few years. I think that's one recent forecast that we've seen and so we and one of our existing clients are already working in the Bakken, so we would anticipate that we'll follow some of those clients into that area. We're already looking at some opportunities there. So we believe that will certainly be a part of our portfolio of AST business in going to the future.

<Q>: Just in terms of Canada, I know in the past it's been sort of a 5% to 6% of revenues type number. Can you talk a little bit about the longer-term opportunities there? Obviously, you're working to invest to capture future growth. What share of revenues does Canada have 2, 3 years from now?

<u>John Hewitt – Matrix Service Company – President & CEO</u>

I would say rather than giving you that number, I would tell you that we believe that given our suite of services that we provide through all of our businesses and what we are now currently providing in Canada, we've got a lot of room to grow. We work basically on the toast for a client there in their refinery and then we've got our Western Canada business where we're doing primarily AST business. So we're not providing any E&I services up there, we're not providing any overall Construction Services, refinery maintenance and turnarounds has not been a big area. So there's a lot of opportunity for us to move into Canada throughout the provinces, besides where we are now, certainly Ontario would be one of those areas for us where we would see an opportunity for us to bring our services into.

<Q>: And then last question I had is just about the business mix in Construction Services. My sense from the way you're talking is that slower ramp of E&I business, sort of negatively impacted your margin. But can you talk about any other, I guess, mix factors that played into the gross margin weakness this quarter? And also, have your contracts in Construction Services been trending toward more fixed price contracts that maybe entail a little bit more risk?

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Kevin Cavanah - Matrix Service Company - VP & CFO

I'll take a stab at this. On the gross margins, obviously, the under-absorption was an issue. As you look at the quarter though, other things that impacted the margins was that we quite didn't have any big close outs of jobs where we had strong incentives at the -- in the jobs that we recognize. And so that impacted the margins. Overall mix of work impacted margins, I don't think we've seen a significant change in the makeup of our contracts, either in type of contract or in the pricing of our construction projects, especially in the AST business. So I think the gross margins for construction were, while they were low, I definitely don't expect to see it on with that level in the future.

<Q>: Alright, thanks very much.

Operator

Thank you. Our next question is coming from Tahira Afzal from KeyBanc. Please proceed with your question.

<Q>: Thank you for letting me take a followup. You know, if I look at LNG opportunities in the U.S, this is a market Matrix has played in before. You have the LNG project probably reaching FID early next year. You potentially have opportunities in Sabine Pass and Dominion just came out and said they are looking, have been working the [INAUDIBLE] point plant into a liquefaction unit as well albeit with a bit of a lag. So how should we think of these opportunities for you? I know it's been mixed in terms of construction for you, but given that you now also have a portion of the Des Moines business from CBI, is this something that could be a fairly nice opportunity for you going forward?

John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

We are going to explore all those opportunities. We've been approached by some of the major E&C contractors or the Kitimat opportunity related to the tanks. And certainly, we are interested in the Sabine Pass Project that has not, on Sabine Pass, it hasn't really been yet determined whether they will have to add a 6th tank there. Given the state of the import that they are importing LNG into the U.S. versus what they might be exporting had their volumes don't necessarily add up, to whether they have to have a 6th tank. So that opportunity, the Kitimat that you talked, they're certainly in our radar screen, we're watching them. We will decide which projects we're going to bid if any, dependent on if they fit our risk profile and our ability to be successful.

<Q>: And just as a follow-up to that then, if you do see Kitimat is a potential opportunity, as of right now what's with the timing of that be potentially for Matrix?

<u>John Hewitt – Matrix Service Company – President & CEO</u>

I'm sorry, the timing for which?

<Q>: For Kitimat.

John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

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Kitimat is probably, I'm guessing that would probably be bidding in the latter half of this fiscal year. And if we bid it and if we were awarded it, I would not think it wouldn't add substantially to fiscal 2012, it'll be more of a 2013 and 2014 job.

<Q>: Got it. Thank you very much.

Operator

Thank you. It appears there are no further questions. I would now like to turn the floor back over to Mr. Hewitt for closing comments.

John Hewitt - Matrix Service Company - President & CEO

Thank you everybody for your time today and we'll talk to you on the next quarter.

Operator

This does conclude today's teleconference. You may disconnect your lines at this time. Thank you for your participation.

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