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FORWARD INDUSTRIES INC Form 10QSB April 27, 2006

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

# FORM 10-QSB

(Mark One)

[X] QUARTERLY REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2006.

or

[ ] TRANSITION REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE EXCHANGE ACT for the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_

Commission file number 0-6669

# FORWARD INDUSTRIES, INC.

(Exact name of small business issuer as specified in its charter)

New York

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

1801 Green Rd., Suite E, Pompano Beach, FL

(Address of principal executive offices)

(954) 419-9544

(Issuer's Telephone Number)

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

Check whether the issuer: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act 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. Yes [X] No [ ].

33064 (Zip Code)

13-1950672 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

OF

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes [] No [X]

As of April 27, 2006, 7,861,438 shares of Common Stock were outstanding.

Transitional Small Business Disclosure Format: Yes [ ] No [X]

# FORWARD INDUSTRIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES FORM 10-QSB THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

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#### Note Regarding Use of Certain Terms

In this Quarterly Report on Form 10-QSB, unless the context otherwise requires, the terms "we", "our", and the "Company" refer to Forward Industries, Inc., a New York corporation, together with its consolidated subsidiaries; "Forward" or "Forward Industries" refers to Forward Industries, Inc.; "common stock" refers to the common stock, \$.01 par value per share, of Forward Industries, Inc.; "Koszegi" refers to Forward Industries' wholly owned subsidiary Koszegi Industries, Inc., an Indiana corporation; "Koszegi Asia" refers to Forward Industries' wholly owned subsidiary Koszegi Asia Ltd., a Hong Kong corporation; "Forward Innovations" refers to Forward Industries' wholly owned subsidiary Koszegi Asia Ltd., a Hong Kong corporation; "Forward Innovations" refers to Forward Industries' wholly owned subsidiary Forward Innovations GmbH, a Swiss corporation; "GAAP" refers to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States; "Commission" refers to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission; "Exchange Act" refers to the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934; the "2006 Quarter" refers to the three months ended March 31, 2006; the "2005 Quarter" refers to the three months ended March 31, 2005; refers to our fiscal year ended September 30, 2005; "Fiscal 2005" refers to our fiscal year ended September 30, 2005; "Fiscal 2006" refers to our fiscal year ended September 30, 2005; "Fiscal 2006" refers to our fiscal year ending September 30, 2006; "EMEA Region" means the geographic area encompassing Europe, the Middle East and Africa; and APAC Region means the Asia Pacific Region, consisting of Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, India, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

# PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

# ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# FORWARD INDUSTRIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

| ASSETS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | March 31,<br>2006<br>(Unaudited) | September 30,<br>2005 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Current assets:                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                  |                       |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | \$19,698,453                     | \$15,291,739          |
| Investments in marketable equity securities                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                  | 75,034                |
| Accounts receivable - net                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 5,381,457                        | 12,708,684            |
| Inventories                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 2,606,814                        | 1,113,157             |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 473,899                          | 214,012               |
| Deferred tax asset                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 139,445                          | 215,647               |
| Total current assets                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 28,300,068                       | 29,618,273            |
| Property, plant, and equipment - net                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 198,697                          | 243,845               |
| Other assets                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 44,467                           | 44,467                |
| TOTAL ASSETS                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | \$28,543,232                     | \$29,906,585          |
| Current liabilities:<br>Accounts payable                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$3,608,067                      | \$ 5,159,020          |
| Accrued expenses and other current liabilities                                                                                                                                                                                             | 687,962                          | 1,905,425             |
| Total current liabilities                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 4,296,029                        | 7,064,445             |
| Commitments and contingencies                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                  |                       |
| Shareholders' equity:                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                  |                       |
| Preferred stock, 4,000,000 authorized shares, par value \$.01; none issued<br>Common stock, 40,000,000 authorized shares, par value \$.01; 8,424,931 and<br>8,397,031 shares issued at March 31, 2006 and September 30, 2005, respectively |                                  |                       |
| (including 563,493 held in treasury)                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 84,249                           | 83,970                |
| Paid-in capital                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 15,287,951                       | 14,721,172            |
| Retained earnings                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 9,728,162                        | 8,890,157             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 25,100,362                       | 23,695,299            |
| Less: Cost of shares in treasury                                                                                                                                                                                                           | (853,159)                        | (853,159)             |
| Total shareholders' equity                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 24,247,203                       | 22,842,140            |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY                                                                                                                                                                                                 | \$28,543,232                     | \$29,906,585          |

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

# FORWARD INDUSTRIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (UNAUDITED)

|                                             | Three Months Ended March 31,<br>2006 2005 |              |              | Six Months Ended March 31,<br>2006 2005 |  |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------|--|
| Net sales                                   | \$6,457,318                               | \$11,238,283 | \$15,127,677 | \$20,154,173                            |  |
| Cost of goods sold                          | 5,043,223                                 | 7,105,669    | 11,069,285   | 12,791,464                              |  |
| Gross profit                                | 1,414,095                                 | 4,132,614    | 4,058,392    | 7,362,709                               |  |
| 61035 profit                                | 1,117,095                                 | 7,152,017    | 4,050,572    | 1,502,109                               |  |
| Operating expenses:                         |                                           |              |              |                                         |  |
| Selling                                     | 855,944                                   | 767,298      | 1,632,283    | 1,532,814                               |  |
| General and administrative                  | 632,311                                   | 584,877      | 1,327,534    | 1,293,649                               |  |
| Total operating expenses                    | 1,488,255                                 | 1,352,175    | 2,959,817    | 2,826,463                               |  |
|                                             | ,,                                        | ,, , ·-      | ,,-          | ,,                                      |  |
| Income (loss) from                          |                                           |              |              |                                         |  |
| operations                                  | (74,160)                                  | 2,780,439    | 1,098,575    | 4,536,246                               |  |
|                                             |                                           |              |              |                                         |  |
| Other income (expense):                     |                                           |              |              |                                         |  |
| Interest income                             | 194,460                                   | 8,314        | 345,732      | 21,621                                  |  |
| Other income (expense) - net                | 3,620                                     | (58,586)     | (13,223)     | 12,736                                  |  |
| Total other income (expense)                | 198,080                                   | (50,272)     | 332,509      | 34,357                                  |  |
|                                             |                                           |              |              |                                         |  |
| Income before provision for income taxes    | 123,920                                   | 2,730,167    | 1,431,084    | 4,570,603                               |  |
| Provision for income taxes                  | 60,405                                    | 714,553      | 593,079      | 1,189,953                               |  |
|                                             |                                           |              |              |                                         |  |
| Net income                                  | \$63,515                                  | \$2,015,614  | \$838,005    | \$3,380,650                             |  |
|                                             |                                           |              |              |                                         |  |
| Net income per common and common equivalent |                                           |              |              |                                         |  |
| share                                       |                                           |              |              |                                         |  |
| Basic                                       | \$0.01                                    | \$0.30       | \$0.11       | \$0.53                                  |  |
| Diluted                                     | \$0.01                                    | \$0.27       | \$0.10       | \$0.48                                  |  |
|                                             |                                           |              |              |                                         |  |
| Weighted average number of common and       |                                           |              |              |                                         |  |
| common equivalent shares outstanding        |                                           |              |              |                                         |  |
| Basic                                       | 7,861,438                                 | 6,621,099    | 7,849,803    | 6,427,187                               |  |
| Diluted                                     | 8,014,331                                 | 7,438,169    | 8,018,807    | 7,042,164                               |  |

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

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# FORWARD INDUSTRIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (UNAUDITED)

|                                                                 |          | Six Mont<br>2006 | hs Ended M | Iarch 31,<br>2005 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------|------------|-------------------|
| OPERATING ACTIVITIES:                                           |          |                  |            |                   |
| Net income                                                      | \$       | 838,005          | \$         | 3,380,650         |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided (used) |          |                  |            |                   |
| by operating activities:                                        |          |                  |            |                   |
| Tax benefit from exercise of stock options                      |          | 479,405          |            |                   |
| Provision for obsolete inventory                                |          | 79,647           |            | 38,976            |
| Deferred income taxes                                           |          | 76,202           |            | 952,113           |
| Depreciation and amortization                                   |          | 55,645           |            | 63,002            |
|                                                                 |          |                  |            |                   |
| Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment               |          |                  |            | 4,000             |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities:                    |          |                  |            |                   |
| Accounts receivable                                             |          | 7,327,227        |            | (5,061,584)       |
| Inventories                                                     |          | (1,573,304)      |            | (446,513)         |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets                       |          | (259,887)        |            | 37,660            |
| Other assets                                                    |          |                  |            | 500               |
| Accounts payable                                                |          | (1,550,953)      |            | 849,142           |
| Accrued expenses and other current liabilities                  |          | (1,217,463)      |            | 69,356            |
| NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES                |          | 4,254,524        |            | (112,698)         |
| INVESTING ACTIVITIES:                                           |          |                  |            |                   |
| Proceeds from sale of marketable equity securities              |          | 75,034           |            | 1,000             |
| Purchases of property, plant, and equipment                     |          | (10,497)         |            | (104,924)         |
| NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES                |          | 64,537           |            | (103,924)         |
|                                                                 |          |                  |            |                   |
| FINANCING ACTIVITIES:                                           |          |                  |            |                   |
| Proceeds from exercise of stock options                         |          | 87,653           |            | 1,027,550         |
| NET CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES                       |          | 87,653           |            | 1,027,550         |
| NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS                       |          | 4,406,714        |            | 810,928           |
|                                                                 |          | , ,              |            | ,                 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - beginning of period                 |          | 15,291,739       |            | 4,487,415         |
| ensitivite exist EQUIVILENTS - beginning of period              |          | 15,271,757       |            | +,+07,+15         |
|                                                                 | ¢        | 10 (00 452       | <u>ф</u>   | 5 000 242         |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - end of period                       | \$       | 19,698,453       | \$         | 5,298,343         |
|                                                                 |          |                  |            |                   |
| SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION:              |          |                  |            |                   |
| Cash paid during the fiscal year for:                           | <u> </u> |                  |            |                   |
| Interest                                                        | \$       |                  | \$         |                   |
| Income taxes                                                    | \$       | 224,775          | \$         | 34,734            |

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

### Forward Industries, Inc. Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Three-and Six-Month Periods Ended March 31, 2006 and 2005 (Unaudited)

# 1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-QSB and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all the information and footnotes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring accruals) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. Operating results for the three- and six-month periods ended March 31, 2006 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for fiscal year ending September 30, 2006.

The consolidated balance sheet at September 30, 2005, has been derived from the audited consolidated balance sheet at that date, but does not include all of the information and footnotes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for complete financial statements.

The accounting policies used in the preparation of the financial statements included in this Form 10-QSB are the same as those set forth in the Company's annual report on Form 10-KSB for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2005 and should be read in conjunction with the disclosures presented therein.

For the three- and six-month periods ended March 31, 2006 and March 31, 2005, the Company did not have any components of comprehensive income other than net income. The functional currency of each of the Company's wholly owned foreign subsidiaries is the U.S. dollar.

# **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

On December 16, 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 123 (revised 2004), Share-Based Payment, which revised SFAS No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation. SFAS No. 123(R) supersedes APB No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees, and amends SFAS No. 95, Statement of Cash Flows. Generally, the approach in SFAS No. 123(R) is similar to the approach described in SFAS 123. However, SFAS No.123(R) requires all share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options, to be recognized in the income statement based on their fair values. Pro forma disclosure is no longer an alternative. In March 2005, the Securities and Exchange Commission issued Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 107 ("SAB 107") which expresses the views of the SEC staff regarding the application of SFAS No. 123(R). Among other things, SAB 107 provides interpretive guidance related to the interaction between SFAS No. 123 (R) and certain SEC rules and regulations, as well as provides the SEC staff's views regarding the valuation of share-based payment arrangements for public companies. On April 14, 2005, the SEC announced the adoption of a new rule that amends the compliance dates of SFAS 123 (R). The new rule allows companies to implement SFAS 123 (R) at the beginning of the fiscal year that begins after June 15, 2005 or December 15, 2005 for small business issuers.

SFAS No. 123(R) permits public companies to adopt its requirements using one of two methods:

A "modified prospective" method in which compensation cost is recognized beginning with the effective date (a) based on the requirements of SFAS No. 123(R) for all share-based payments granted after the effective date and (b) based on the requirements of SFAS No.123 for all awards granted to employees prior to the effective date of SFAS No. 123(R) that remain unvested on the effective date.

A "modified retrospective" method which includes the requirements of the modified prospective method described above, but also permits entities to restate based on the amounts previously recognized under SFAS No. 123 for purposes of pro forma disclosures for either (a) all prior periods presented or (b) prior interim periods of the year of adoption.

# 1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION (CONTINUED)

#### **Recent Accounting Pronouncements (continued)**

The Company will adopt SFAS No. 123(R) effective October 1, 2006 using the modified prospective method.

As permitted by SFAS No. 123, the Company currently accounts for share-based payments to employees using the intrinsic value method per Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees, and, as such, generally recognizes no compensation cost for employee stock options. Accordingly, the adoption of Statement 123(R)'s fair value method may have a significant impact on our results of operations, although it will have no impact on our overall financial position. The impact of the adoption of SFAS No. 123(R) cannot be predicted at this time because it will depend on levels of share-based awards granted after the date of adoption by the Company. However, had the Company adopted SFAS No. 123(R) in prior periods, the impact of that standard would have approximated the impact of SFAS No. 123 as described in the disclosure of pro forma net income and income per share under "Share-Based Compensation", below. SFAS No. 123(R) also requires the benefits of tax deductions in excess of recognized compensation cost to be reported as a financing cash flow rather than as an operating cash flow as required under current literature. This requirement may reduce net operating cash flows and increase net financing cash flows in periods after adoption. The Company cannot estimate what those amounts will be in the future because they depend on, among other things, when employees exercise stock options. For the six-month period ended March 31, 2006, the Company's operating cash flows include approximately \$479,000 in such benefits.

In November 2004, the FASB issued SFAS No. 151, Inventory Costs, an Amendment of ARB No. 43, Chapter 4 to clarify that abnormal amounts of idle facility expense, freight, handling costs, and wasted material (spoilage) should be recognized as current-period charges. In addition, the statement requires that allocation of fixed production overheads to the cost of conversion be based on the normal capacity of the production facilities. Statement 151 is effective for inventory costs incurred during fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2005, with early application permitted. The Company adopted SFAS No. 151 effective October 1, 2005, which has not resulted in a material impact on its results of operations or financial position.

In December 2004, the FASB issued SFAS No. 153, Exchanges of Nonmonetary Assets-an amendment of APB Opinion No. 29, which eliminates the exception for nonmonetary exchanges of similar productive assets and replaces it with a general exception for exchanges of nonmonetary asset that do not have commercial substance. SFAS No. 153 is effective for nonmonetary asset exchanges occurring in fiscal periods beginning after June 15, 2005. The Company adopted SFAS No. 153 effective October 1, 2005, which has not resulted in a material impact on its results of operations or financial position.

In December 2004, the FASB issued FSP 109-1, Application of FASB Statement No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes, to the Tax Deduction on Qualified Production Activities Provided by the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 (AJCA) introduces a special 9% tax deduction on qualified production activities. FAS 109-1 clarifies that this tax deduction should be accounted for as a special tax deduction in accordance with Statement 109. FSP 109-1 is effective upon its issuance. The adoption of FSP 109-1 has not resulted in a material impact on the Company's results of operations or financial position.

# 1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION (CONTINUED)

# **Recent Accounting Pronouncements (continued)**

In December 2004, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position No. FAS 109-2, Accounting and Disclosure Guidance for the Foreign Earnings Repatriation Provision within the American Jobs Creations Act of 2004. The AJCA introduces a limited time 85% dividends received deduction for the repatriation of certain foreign earnings to a U.S. taxpayer (repatriation provision), provided certain criteria are met. FAS No. 109-2 provides accounting and disclosure guidance for the repatriation provision. FAS 109-2 is effective upon issuance. The Company is currently assessing the repatriation provision to determine whether Forward Innovations or other subsidiary of the Company might repatriate extraordinary dividends, as defined in the AJCA. Among other things, this determination will depend on the level of earnings outside the United States, the debt level between the Company's U.S. and non-U.S. affiliates, if any, and administrative guidance from the Internal Revenue Service. The Company expects to complete this evaluation during Fiscal 2006.

# **Share-Based Compensation**

The Company has adopted the disclosure provisions of SFAS No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation, but applies Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25 and related interpretations in accounting for stock options granted under its 1996 Stock Incentive Plan. Accordingly, no expense for employee share-based compensation was recognized in the three- and six-month periods ended March 31, 2006 and 2005, as all options granted under the plan had an exercise price equal to or greater than the quoted market value of the underlying common stock on the date of grant. For awards to non-employees, the Company recognizes expense in accordance with SFAS 123 and related interpretations and amendments. No such expense was required during the three- and six-month periods ended March 31, 2006 and 2005.

If the Company had elected to recognize expense in the three- and six-month periods ended March 31, 2006 and 2005, for the stock options granted based on the fair value at the date of grant consistent with the method prescribed by SFAS No. 123, unaudited net income and income per share would have been changed to the pro forma amounts indicated below:

|                                                                                                                                            | Three Mon | ths Ended   | Six Months Ended |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
|                                                                                                                                            | Marc      | h 31,       | March 31,        |             |
|                                                                                                                                            | 2006      | 2005        | 2006             | 2005        |
| Net income, as reported                                                                                                                    | \$63,515  | \$2,015,614 | \$838,005        | \$3,380,650 |
| Less: Stock-based employee<br>compensation costs determined under<br>fair value based method for all awards,<br>net of related tax effects |           |             |                  | 29,070      |
| Pro forma net income                                                                                                                       | \$63,515  | \$2,015,614 | \$838,005        | \$3,351,580 |
| Earnings per share:                                                                                                                        |           |             |                  |             |
| Basic - as reported                                                                                                                        | \$ 0.01   | \$ 0.30     | \$ 0.11          | \$ 0.53     |
| Basic - pro forma                                                                                                                          | \$ 0.01   | \$ 0.30     | \$ 0.10          | \$ 0.52     |
| Diluted - as reported                                                                                                                      | \$ 0.01   | \$ 0.27     | \$ 0.11          | \$ 0.48     |
| Diluted - pro forma                                                                                                                        | \$ 0.01   | \$ 0.27     | \$ 0.10          | \$ 0.48     |

# 1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION (CONTINUED)

# Share-Based Compensation (continued)

The above stock-based employee compensation costs determined under the fair value based method were calculated using the Black-Scholes option valuation model. The Black-Scholes option valuation model was developed for use in estimating the fair value of traded options, which have no vesting restrictions, are fully transferable, and do not include a discount for large block trades. In addition, option valuation models require the input of highly subjective assumptions including the expected stock price volatility, expected life of the option, and other estimates. Because the Company's employee stock options have characteristics significantly different from those of traded options, and because changes in the subjective input assumptions can materially affect the fair value estimate, in management's opinion, the existing models do not necessarily provide a reliable single measure of the fair value of its employee stock options.

# 2. <u>CREDIT FACILITIES</u>

In March 2006, Forward and its wholly-owned U.S. subsidiary, Koszegi Industries, Inc. renewed its credit facility with a U.S. bank that provides for a committed line of credit in the maximum amount of \$3 million, including a \$1.5 million sub-limit for letters of credit. The line expires in March 2007 and is renewable annually at the bank's discretion, subject to our submission of satisfactory financial information and other documentation. Forward and Koszegi are required to eliminate borrowings for thirty consecutive days during the term of the facility and are required to comply with certain financial covenants, including the maintenance of current and tangible net worth ratios, as defined. Amounts drawn under the credit facility bear interest at LIBOR plus 2.5% and are secured by substantially all of Koszegi's assets and certain assets of Forward. There were no outstanding borrowings or letter of credit obligations under this facility during the three- and six-month periods ended March 31, 2006.

In February 2003, Forward's wholly-owned Swiss subsidiary, Forward Innovations GmbH (Forward Innovations), established a credit facility with a Swiss bank that provides for an uncommitted line of credit in the maximum amount of \$400,000. Amounts borrowed under the facility may be structured as a term loan or loans, with a maximum repayment period of 12 months, as a letter of credit facility, or as a guarantee facility, or any combination of the foregoing. Either party may terminate the facility at any time; however, such termination would not affect the stated maturity of any term loans outstanding. Amounts borrowed other than as a term loan must be settled quarterly or converted into term loans. In connection with this facility, Forward Innovations agreed to certain covenants. Amounts drawn under this credit facility bear interest at variable rates established by the bank (5.5% as of March 31, 2006). At March 31, 2006, Forward Innovations is contingently liable to the bank in respect of a letter of credit issued on its behalf in the amount of €224,000 (approximately \$271,000 as of March 31, 2006) in favor of Forward Innovations' freight forwarder and customs agent in connection with its logistics operations in The Netherlands (refer to Note 6). The effect of the issuance of the letter of credit is to reduce the availability of the credit line in an amount equal to the face amount of the letter of credit.

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### Forward Industries, Inc. Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Three-and Six-Month Periods Ended March 31, 2006 and 2005 (Unaudited)

### 3. <u>BUSINESS SEGMENT INFORMATION</u>

The Company operates in a single segment: the providing of carrying solutions for portable electronic devices. This carrying-solution segment designs and markets products to its customers that include manufacturers of consumer hand held wireless telecommunications and medical monitoring devices. The carrying solution segment operates in geographic regions that include primarily the United States, Europe, and Asia. Geographic regions are defined based primarily on the location of the customer. Geographic Segment information is as follows:

#### Revenues from external customers (all amounts in thousands of dollars):

|                 |         | nths Ended<br>ch 31, |          | Six Months Ended<br>March 31, |  |  |
|-----------------|---------|----------------------|----------|-------------------------------|--|--|
|                 | 2006    | 2005                 | 2006     | 2005                          |  |  |
| Asia            | \$2,431 | \$3,630              | \$6,053  | \$6,601                       |  |  |
| United States   | 2,417   | 3,232                | 5,816    | 5,676                         |  |  |
| Europe          | 1,609   | 4,376                | 3,259    | 7,877                         |  |  |
| Total net sales | \$6,457 | \$11,238             | \$15,128 | \$20,154                      |  |  |

# 4. EARNINGS PER SHARE

Basic earnings per share is computed using the weighted-average number of shares of common stock outstanding during each period. Diluted earnings per share is computed using the weighted-average number of common and dilutive common-equivalent shares outstanding during the period. Dilutive common-equivalent shares consist of shares that would be issued upon the exercise of stock options and warrants, computed using the treasury stock method. For this purpose, the average quoted market prices for the Company's common stock for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2006 and 2005 were \$9.66 and \$7.61, respectively. Calculation of basic and diluted earnings per share is as follows:

|                                                                      | Three Months Ended<br>March 31, |                       | Six Months Ended<br>March 31, |                   |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--|
|                                                                      | 2006                            | 2005                  | 2006                          | 2005              |  |
| Numerator:                                                           |                                 |                       |                               |                   |  |
| Net income                                                           | \$63,515                        | \$2,015,614           | \$838,005                     | \$3,380,650       |  |
|                                                                      |                                 |                       |                               |                   |  |
| Denominator:                                                         |                                 |                       |                               |                   |  |
| Denominator for basic earnings per share - weighted average shares   | 7,861,438                       | 6,621,099             | 7,849,803                     | 6,427,187         |  |
| Dilutive stock options and warrants - treasury stock method          | 152,893                         | 817,070               | 169,004                       | 614,977           |  |
| Denominator for diluted earnings per share - weighted average shares | 8,014,331                       | 1 7,438,169 8,018,807 |                               | 018,807 7,042,164 |  |
|                                                                      |                                 |                       |                               |                   |  |
| Net income per common share                                          |                                 |                       |                               |                   |  |
| Basic                                                                | \$0.01                          | \$ 0.30               | \$0.11                        | \$ 0.53           |  |
| Diluted                                                              | \$0.01                          | \$ 0.27               | \$0.10                        | \$ 0.48           |  |
|                                                                      |                                 |                       |                               |                   |  |
| Options excluded due to antidilution                                 | 30,000                          |                       | 30,000                        |                   |  |

# 5. <u>INCOME TAXES</u>

The Company's income tax provision consists of the following United States and foreign components:

|                        | Three Months Ended<br>March 31, |           |           | ths Ended<br>th 31, |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| U.S. Federal and State | 2006                            | 2005      | 2006      | 2005                |
| Current                | \$27,996                        | \$755,430 | \$439,070 | \$784,829           |
| Deferred               | 38,609                          | (134,677) | 168,309   | 248,324             |
| Foreign:               |                                 |           |           |                     |
| Current                | (6,200)                         | 93,800    | (14,300)  | 156,800             |
| Deferred               |                                 |           |           |                     |
| Income tax provision   | \$60,405                        | \$714,553 | \$593,079 | \$1,189,953         |

For the three- and six-month periods ended March 31, 2006, the Company recorded provisions for income taxes of approximately \$60,000 and \$593,000, respectively. The Company's effective tax rate does not approximate the statutory United States Federal income tax rate primarily due to tax rate differentials in respect of United States state and foreign taxes. Due to the availability of deferred tax assets and additional tax benefits resulting from the exercise of stock options by certain employees during the three-and six-month periods ended March 31, 2006, the Company has not recorded any amounts payable for U.S. income taxes.

Effective June 2001, undistributed earnings of the Company's foreign subsidiaries are considered to be permanently invested; therefore, in accordance with SFAS No. 109, no provision for U.S. Federal and state income taxes on those earnings has been provided. At March 31, 2006, the Company's foreign subsidiaries had approximately \$4,742,000 of accumulated undistributed earnings.

# 6. <u>COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES</u>

# **Royalty Commitments**

The Company has licensed the use of certain trademarks of Motorola, Inc. ("Motorola") for the distribution and sale of carry solution products throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa (the "EMEA Region") under a license agreement effective October 1, 2004, which replaces a previous agreement that expired September 30, 2004. Under the terms of the license agreement, the Company is required to pay Motorola a royalty based upon a percentage of the Company's net sales to third parties of licensed products within the EMEA Region, subject to payment of minimum royalties (irrespective of actual net sales) to Motorola over the following three contract periods:

Contract Period 1: October 1, 2004 to December 31, 2005

Contract Period 2: January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006

Contract Period 3: January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007

#### Forward Industries, Inc. Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Three-and Six-Month Periods Ended March 31, 2006 and 2005 (Unaudited)

# 6. <u>COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (CONTINUED)</u>

#### **Royalty Commitments (Continued)**

The minimum royalty payment to Motorola for Contract Period 1 was \$375,000, or \$300,000 annualized. Prior to the end of Contract Period 1 and Contract Period 2, the Company and Motorola agreed that, at such times, they will establish new minimum royalty amounts for Contract Period 2 and Contract Period 3, respectively. If the Company is unable to reach agreement at either such time with Motorola on the minimum royalty payment for Contract Period 2 or Contract Period 3, as the case may be, then the parties have agreed that the minimum royalty payment for the ensuing relevant period may not be less than seventy-five per cent (75%) of the annualized royalties payable in respect of actual sales for the prior contract period, provided, however, that in no event shall the minimum royalty in such ensuing contract period be less than seventy-five percent (125%) of the amount of the prior period's annualized minimum royalty. As a result of the application of the foregoing, the minimum royalty for Contract Period 2 was set at \$225,000.

If the Company elects to terminate the license before December 31, 2007, it will be required to pay a penalty of an amount equal to up to one year's minimum royalty under certain conditions as specified in the agreement. The minimum royalty commitments are recognized as expense in the applicable contract period.

In July 2005, the license agreement with Motorola was amended to expand the licensed territory to include the APAC Region as well as the EMEA Region in consideration for payment of additional royalties on sales in the APAC Region, subject to payment of minimum royalties, separate and apart from royalties payable in respect of sales in the EMEA Region. Minimum royalties in respect of the APAC territory are not considered material.

Under the license agreement, the Company recorded royalty expense of \$155,200 and \$240,200 for the three- and six-month periods ended March 31, 2006, respectively, and \$75,000 and \$150,000 for the three- and six-month periods ended March 31, 2005, respectively, which amounts are included in selling expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of income. The increases in royalty expense of \$80,200 and \$90,200 for the three- and six-month periods, respectively, are primarily a result of higher royalty sales in the EMEA Region and, to a lesser extent, additional minimum royalties in respect of the APAC Region.

# Legal Proceedings

From time to time, the Company may become a party to legal actions or proceedings in the ordinary course of its business. As of March 31, 2006, there were no such actions or proceedings, either individually or in the aggregate, that, if decided adversely to the Company's interests, the Company believes would be material to its business.

# **Bank Guarantee**

In July 2002, Forward Innovations, the Company's Swiss subsidiary, and its European logistics provider (freight forwarding and customs agent) entered into a Representation Agreement whereby, among other things, the European logistics provider agreed to act as such subsidiary's fiscal representative in The Netherlands for the purpose of providing services in connection with any value added tax matters. As part of this agreement, the subsidiary agreed to provide an undertaking to the logistics provider with respect to any value added tax liability arising in The Netherlands that the logistics provider paid on the subsidiary's behalf. In February 2004, such subsidiary entered into a guarantee agreement with a Swiss bank relating to the repayment of any amount up to €224,000 (approximately \$271,000 as of March 31, 2006) paid by such bank to the logistics provider pursuant to a letter of credit that was issued by the bank in favor of the logistics provider in order to satisfy such undertaking. The subsidiary would be required to perform under the guarantee only in the event that: (i) a value added tax liability is imposed on the Company's sales in The Netherlands, (ii) the logistics provider asserts that it has been called upon in its capacity as surety by the Dutch Receiver of Taxes to pay such taxes, (iii) the subsidiary or the Company on its behalf fails or refuses to remit the amount of value added tax due to the logistics provider, and (iv) the logistics provider makes a drawing under the letter of credit. On December 31, 2004, and on each anniversary thereafter until December 31, 2009, it is intended that the bank letter of credit will be renewed automatically for one-year periods. The subsidiary has agreed to keep a letter of credit guarantee in place for five years following the date its relationship terminates with the logistics provider. As of March 31, 2006, the Company has not recorded a liability in connection with this guarantee.

# 7. <u>EQUITY</u>

# **Stock Option Exercises**

During the three-month period ended March 31, 2006, no shares of common stock were issued due to the exercise of stock options. During the six-month period ended March 31, 2006, 27,900 shares of common stock were issued due to the exercise of options with a range of exercise prices from \$2.21 to \$3.25.

# **Treasury Share Purchases**

The Company did not purchase any shares of its common stock during the three- and six-month periods ended March 31, 2006.

# ITEM 2: MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

# Cautionary statement for purposes of the "Safe Harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995

This quarterly report contains forward-looking statements that are not based on historical fact and that involve assessments of certain risks, developments, and uncertainties. Such forward looking statements, within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "may", "will", "should", "expect", "anticipate", estimate", "intend", "continue", or "believe", or the negatives or other variations of these terms or comparable terminology. Forward looking statements may include projections, forecasts, or estimates of future performance. Forward looking statements are based upon assumptions that we believe to be reasonable at the time such forward looking statements are made. Whether those assumptions will be realized will be determined by future factors, developments, and events, which are difficult to predict and may be beyond our control. Actual factors, developments, and events may differ materially from those assumed. Such risk factors, uncertainties, contingencies, and developments, including those discussed in this Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and those identified in "Risk Factors" in our annual report on Form 10-KSB for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2005, could cause our future operating results to differ materially from those set forth in any forward looking statement. Such factors include, among other, the following: our success in winning new business from our customers and against competing vendors, whether replacement programs that we win will be as successful as those that are replaced; levels of demand and pricing generally for cellular handsets and blood glucose monitoring devices for which we supply carry solutions; general economic and business conditions, nationally and internationally in the countries in which we do business; demographic changes; changes in technology, including developments in cellular handsets or the control and monitoring of diabetes; increased competition; changes affecting one or more of our principal Original Equipment Manufacturer ("OEM") customers; governmental regulations and changes in, or the failure to comply with, governmental regulations; and other factors included elsewhere in this report and our other reports filed with the Commission, including without limitation, those described under the caption Risk Factors contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-KSB for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2005. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that any such forward looking statement, projection, forecast or estimate can be realized or that actual returns or results will not be materially lower than those that may be estimated.

# Given these uncertainties, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements. The Company disclaims any obligation to update any such factors or to publicly announce the results of any revisions to any of the forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect future results, events or developments.

# Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with our unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements and the notes thereto and other financial information appearing elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-QSB and in our Annual Report on Form 10-KSB for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2005. This discussion and analysis compares our consolidated results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2006 (the "2006 Quarter"), with the three months ended March 31, 2005 (the "2005 Quarter"), and the six months ended March 31, 2006 (the "2006 Period"), with the six months ended March 31, 2005 (the "2005 Period") and are based on or derived from the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements included elsewhere in this Quarterly Report. There have been no material changes in critical accounting estimates since September 30, 2005. All figures in the following discussion are presented on a consolidated basis. All dollar amounts and percentages presented herein have been rounded to approximate values.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, 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 periods. On an on-going basis, we evaluate our estimates. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making estimates about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

# Variability of Revenues and Results of Operations

Because our sales revenues are highly concentrated in a few large customers, and because the volumes of these customers' order flows to us are highly variable, with short lead times, our quarterly revenues, and consequently our results of operations, are highly variable and subject to significant changes over a relatively short period of time.

We depend for the predominant proportion of our sales revenues on OEM orders from our six largest customers, each of which is a large, multinational corporation. Each of these customers launches many different products and purchases products accessories, such as carrying cases, from many different vendors. When we are selected to supply a carry solution "in-box" for a specific product and launch, we may not be in a position to know the frequency or volumes of our customers' orders, or the duration of such orders (which will depend on the OEM customer product's life cycle), all of which depend on our customers' ongoing assessments of the product's relative contribution to their businesses, as well as other factors. Adding further uncertainty to the lack of predictability to order flow, our customers are increasingly requesting that we furnish product to distribution hubs for future consumption by them, rather than in respect of direct purchase orders, as discussed below. Our OEM customers may keep products for which our carry solutions have been selected to be packaged "in-box" in active promotion for many months, or for a very short period of time, depending on the popularity of the product, product development cycles and new product introductions, and our customers' competitors' product offerings. Short product life cycles are particularly characteristic of the cellular handset market, where new functionality is constantly introduced, competition among vendors is high, and industry technical standards are subject to continuing change. When "in-box" programs end, and to the extent that the introduction of new programs by our customers does not include our products as an accessory "in-box", or such new programs do include our products as an accessory "in-box" but do not result in a comparable level of demand for our products, the level of our OEM product sales is susceptible to significant and rapid change.

All of this makes our quarterly revenue levels susceptible to a high degree of variability and difficult to predict. Significant, rapid shifts in our operating results may occur if and when one or more of these customers increases or decreases the size(s) of, or eliminates, its orders from us by amounts that are material to our business. These factors are largely responsible for the fluctuations between the period of sharply increasing revenues and net income experienced in Fiscal 2005 and the period of markedly decreasing revenues and net income in the 2006 Period.

# **Trends in Results of Operations**

Three of our major "in-box" programs that drove our results of operations to exceptional levels during Fiscal 2005 were characterized by declining revenue, gross profit, and net income in the 2006 Period. We believe that these three programs matured at the end of Fiscal 2005 and will continue to substantially decline, and will most likely terminate in the next quarter or two, continuing a declining trend in revenue, gross profit, and net income programs. Particularly in the largest of these three programs, we continue to experience pricing pressure, shifts in product mix to lower priced items, and a decline in demand from our OEM customer with respect to certain of our products included "in-box" for this program. Furthermore, we believe these factors will continue to impact our results of operations in Fiscal 2006 as these programs wind down. Contributions from new "in-box" programs from new and existing customers will partially offset these declines; however, we expect our levels of revenue, gross profit, and net income in Fiscal 2006 to be significantly lower than the exceptional results of Fiscal 2005.

Gross profit percentage deteriorated sharply in the 2006 Quarter and is expected to remain significantly lower in the next quarter compared with the levels experienced in the 2005 Period. In addition to compression of margins attributable to declining prices for certain products included in three major "in-box" programs referred to above, as the product revenues in respect of these programs declined, the relative contribution of other lower-margin "in-box" programs became proportionally greater, thereby further reducing gross profit percentage as a whole for the 2006 Quarter. In an effort to address the deterioration in our gross profit percentage, we are improving our purchasing practices for our major OEM "in-box" programs, developing alternate lower cost sources of supply, and are in the process of relocating our Hong Kong sourcing and inspection facility to mainland China in an effort to reduce our overall cost structure there.

We have recently entered into hub agreements with several of our large OEM customers that may increase our inventory levels above historical norms. Under these agreements, we are required to ship our products to our OEM customers' distribution hubs, but do not invoice the OEM customer until it withdraws our product from the hub for sale through its chain of distribution. We have entered into these agreements with three of our largest OEM customers for certain locations where they operate such hubs. As of March 31, 2006, we have purchased approximately \$1 million of inventory in support of these hub agreements based on customers' forecasts. We are unable at this time to predict what other one-time or recurring effects, if any, the implementation of these arrangements may have on the timing of our revenue recognition, costs, or other aspects of our operations.

Product manufacture is increasingly being outsourced by our OEM customers to contract manufacturing firms in China and in Southeast Asia. Such firms are performing assembly and product packaging functions, including the bundling of product accessories such as ours with the OEM customer's product. As a consequence of this trend, we are increasingly distributing our carry solution products to the contract manufacturing firm on behalf of our OEM customer. In some cases, depending on our sales and payment arrangements with our OEM customers, we may invoice the contract manufacturing firm and not the OEM customer. Therefore, it is the contract manufacturing firm's credit to which we must look for payment in such cases and not that of our OEM "customer". This may alter the credit profile of our customer base and may involve significant purchase order volumes. In some, but not all cases, the manufacturing firm is itself a large, multinational entity with significant financial resources. A second result of this trend toward origination of orders from contract manufacturers is that Asia has in recent periods accounted for an increasing percentage of our sales revenues, as seen in the tables below. In addition, we believe that the increasing reliance on contract manufacturers by our OEM customers in an effort to reduce costs of supply may be increasing pressure to compress margins in respect of accessory products packaged "in-box".

# Results of Operations for the 2006 Quarter compared to the 2005 Quarter

#### **Net Income**

Net income in the 2006 Quarter was approximately \$64,000 compared to net income of \$2.0 million in the 2005 Quarter, a decrease of approximately \$1.9 million or 95%. The decrease was primarily due to significantly lower sales of cell phone products and lower gross margin, offset in very small part by a \$0.3 million increase in other income. Basic and diluted earnings per share were \$0.01 for the 2006 Quarter, compared to basic and diluted earnings per share of \$0.30 and \$0.27, respectively, in the 2005 Quarter.

### **Net Sales**

Net sales decreased \$4.7 million or 42% to \$6.5 million in the 2006 Quarter compared to \$11.2 million in the 2005 Quarter due primarily to lower sales of OEM cell phone products, which attained historically high levels in the 2005 Quarter due primarily to the success of three "in-box" programs. Net sales of both cell phone and diabetic carry solution products were adversely affected due to price reductions, shifts in product mix to lower priced items, and a decline in demand from some of our OEM customers with respect to certain of our products included "in-box" for certain key programs. The tables below set forth approximate sales by product line and geographic location of our customers for the periods indicated.

### Net Sales for 2006 Quarter 3 Months ended March 31, 2006

| (millions of dollars) |       |        |       |       |  |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--|
|                       | US    | Europe | Asia  | Total |  |
| Cell Phone Products   | \$0.6 | \$1.1  | \$0.9 | \$2.6 |  |
| Diabetic Products     | 1.2   | 0.5    | 1.2   | \$2.9 |  |
| Other Products        | 0.6   |        | 0.3   | \$0.9 |  |
| Total*                | \$2.4 | \$1.6  | \$2.4 | \$6.5 |  |

#### Net Sales for 2005 Quarter 3 Months ended March 31, 2005

| (millions of dollars) |        |       |        |       |        |  |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--|
|                       |        | US    | Europe | Asia  | Total  |  |
| Cell Phone Products   |        | \$1.6 | \$3.7  | \$2.2 | \$ 7.4 |  |
| Diabetic Products     |        | 1.0   | 0.7    | 1.3   | \$ 3.0 |  |
| Other Products        |        | 0.7   |        | 0.2   | \$ 0.9 |  |
|                       | Total* | \$3.2 | \$4.4  | \$3.6 | \$11.2 |  |

\* Tables may not total due to rounding.

# Cell Phone Product Sales:

Our cell phone carry solutions products include carrying cases for handsets and camera attachments, plastic belt clips, carrying case straps and bags, screen cleaners, decorative faceplates, and other attachments used to carry or enhance the appearance of cellular telephone handsets.

We design to the order of and sell these products directly to cell phone handset original equipment manufacturers Motorola and Nokia. Our cases are packaged as an accessory "in-box" with the handsets that are sold by our OEM customers. In addition, under our license agreements with Motorola and SAGEM, we distribute our products as separately packaged accessories directly to third party wholesalers and retailers in the EMEA Region. In addition, under the Motorola license, we have been granted the right to distribute products in the APAC Region, where as yet no sales have been made that are considered material to our results of operations.

Total sales of cell phone products decreased \$4.7 million, or 64%, to \$2.6 million in the 2006 Quarter from \$7.4 million in the 2005 Quarter. Total cell phone product sales include our OEM "in-box" sales to Motorola and Nokia, as well as sales under our license agreements. OEM cell phone product sales were significantly lower as a result of decline in demand from Motorola and Nokia for certain of our products included "in-box" for three major programs that drove our sales to exceptional levels during Fiscal 2005. These three programs contributed approximately \$0.8 million, or 12%, of total net sales in the 2006 Quarter, compared to \$5.7 million, or 51%, of total net sales in the 2005 Quarter.

Sales to third parties under our license agreement with Motorola totaled \$1 million in the 2006 Quarter compared to \$0.5 million in the 2005 Quarter, an increase of \$0.5 million, or 100%, which we believe is inversely related to the sales of carry accessories included "in-box" by our OEM customers.

# **Diabetic Product Sales:**

We design to the order of and sell directly to OEMs carrying cases used by diabetics to carry their personal electronic, blood glucose monitoring kits. OEM customers for these carrying cases include Abbott Labs, Bayer, Lifescan (a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson), and Roche Diagnostics. Our carrying cases are packaged as an accessory "in-box" with the monitoring kits that are sold by our OEM customers.

Sales of cases for blood glucose monitoring kits decreased \$0.1 million, or 3%, to \$2.9 million in the 2006 Quarter from \$3.0 million in the 2005 Quarter. The decrease was due primarily to lower sales to Lifescan, our largest OEM customer for these cases, and Roche, sales to whom decreased \$0.3 million and \$0.2 million, or 21% and 90%, respectively. These decreases were substantially offset by a \$0.5 million increase in sales to Abbott Labs and an increase in sales to Bayer. OEM sales of carrying cases for blood glucose monitoring kits represented 45% of our total net sales in the 2006 Quarter compared to 27% of our total net sales in the 2005 Quarter as a result of the decrease in cell phone product sales revenues in the 2006 Quarter compared to the 2005 Quarter.

# **Other Product Sales:**

We design and sell a number of other carrying solutions for items such as cameras, portable oxygen tanks, bar code scanners, MP3 players, and other carrying solutions for an assortment of products on a made-to-order basis that are customized to meet the individual needs of our smaller OEM customers. By the nature of our distribution in this market, sales of these customized products to order in their product category vary from period to period without necessarily reflecting a significant trend in overall demand for these items. Sales of other products remained consistent between the 2006 Quarter and 2005 Quarter at \$0.9 million.

# **Gross Profit**

Gross profit decreased \$2.7 million, or 66%, to \$1.4 million in the 2006 Quarter from \$4.1 million in the 2005 Quarter. Gross Profit decreased due to lower sales volumes for OEM cell phone accessory products, pricing pressure, lower margins, shifts in product mix to lower price/lower margin items, and higher freight and costs of operating our Hong Kong facility. As a percentage of sales, gross profit decreased to 22% in the 2006 Quarter from 37% in the 2005 Quarter. Even with the significantly lower sales volumes: the costs of operating our Hong Kong facility increased to \$0.6 million, or 9.6% of net sales, in the 2006 Quarter from \$0.5 million, or 4.8% of total net sales in the 2005 Quarter as a result of higher personnel costs. Freight costs increased to \$0.4 million or 5.9% of net sales in the 2006 Quarter compared to \$0.3 million or 2.3% of net sales in the 2005 Quarter as a result of increased reliance on air freight to meet customer deadlines and a higher number of low dollar value shipments of licensed products that are subject to a fixed cost per shipment.

# Selling, General, and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general, and administrative expenses increased \$0.1 million, or 1%, to \$1.5 million in the 2006 Quarter from \$1.4 million in the 2005 Quarter primarily due to higher royalty, insurance, directors compensation, and travel and entertainment costs. In addition, personnel expenses for the 2005 Quarter included \$0.3 million of accrued performance-based bonuses, whereas the 2006 Quarter did not include such an accrual, thereby masking increases in personnel expenses, professional fees, and other general and administrative expenses.

# Other Income (Expense)

Other income (expense) improved \$250,000 to income of \$200,000 in the 2006 Quarter compared to expense of \$50,000 in the 2005 Quarter as a result of the increase in interest income earned on higher average cash balances and interest rates in the 2006 Quarter as compared to the 2005 Quarter. In the 2005 Quarter, other expense attributable to foreign exchange losses exceeded the level of our interest income.

# **Pretax Income**

Pretax income decreased \$2.6 million or 96% to \$0.1 million in the 2006 Quarter from \$2.7 million in the 2005 Quarter as a result of the decrease in gross profit as described above.

# **Income Taxes**

Our provision for income taxes decreased \$0.7 million in the 2006 Quarter to approximately \$60,000 from \$0.7 million in the 2005 Quarter. Our effective tax rate increased to 49% in the 2006 Quarter from 26% in the 2005 Quarter primarily because during the 2006 Quarter we earned a higher proportion of our income in the United States, where the statutory state and federal income tax rates are significantly higher, versus Switzerland.

We have in the past considered the earnings of our foreign subsidiaries indefinitely invested and, accordingly, have not recorded a provision for U.S. income taxes on their unrepatriated earnings. At March 31, 2006, those cumulative earnings were approximately \$4.7 million. On October 22, 2004, the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, or the "Act", became law. The Act creates a one-time tax incentive for United States corporations to repatriate accumulated income earned abroad by providing a tax deduction equal to 85% of the dividends received for certain foreign earnings that are repatriated. We are currently evaluating the impact of the Act and have not determined if it would be constructive as a strategic fiscal matter for us to make any repatriation under this new law. We expect to complete this evaluation during Fiscal 2006.

### Results of Operations for the 2006 Period compared to the 2005 Period

# Net Income

Net income in the 2006 Period was \$0.8 million compared to net income of \$3.4 million in the 2005 Period, a decrease of approximately \$2.5 million or 75%. The decrease was primarily due to significantly lower sales of cell phone products and lower gross margin. Basic and diluted earnings per share were \$0.11 and \$0.10, respectively, for the 2006 Period, compared to basic and diluted earnings per share of \$0.53 and \$0.48, respectively, in the 2005 Period.

### **Net Sales**

Net sales decreased \$5 million or 25% to \$15.1 million in the 2006 Period compared to \$20.2 million in the 2005 Period due primarily to lower sales of OEM cell phone products, which attained historically high levels in the 2005 Period due primarily to the success of three "in-box programs. Net sales of cell phone and diabetic carry solution products were adversely affected due to price reductions, shifts in product mix to lower priced items, and a decline in demand from some of our OEM customers with respect to our products included "in-box" for certain key programs. In addition, our revenue was adversely affected by adoption of a sourcing, billing, and payment arrangement in China for one OEM customer's products in which we recognized revenue only to the extent of the related gross profit on sales to this customer. In the 2005 Period, we recognized the full sale price of our products to this customer. The tables below set forth approximate sales by product line and geographic location of our customers for the periods indicated.



#### Net Sales for 2006 Period 6 Months ended March 31, 2006 .... e 1 11

| (millions of dollars) |       |        |       |        |  |  |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--|--|
|                       | US    | Europe | Asia  | Total  |  |  |
| Cell Phone Products   | \$2.2 | \$2.5  | \$3.6 | \$ 8.3 |  |  |
| Diabetic Products     | 2.3   | 0.8    | 2.0   | \$ 5.0 |  |  |
| Other Products        | 1.4   |        | 0.4   | \$ 1.8 |  |  |
| Total*                | \$5.8 | \$3.3  | \$6.1 | \$15.1 |  |  |

| Net Sales for 2005 Period<br>6 Months ended March 31, 2005<br>(millions of dollars) |        |       |        |       |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
|                                                                                     |        | US    | Europe | Asia  | Total  |
| Cell Phone Products                                                                 |        | \$2.5 | \$6.7  | \$3.7 | \$13.0 |
| Diabetic Products                                                                   |        | 1.7   | 1.1    | 2.6   | \$ 5.5 |
| Other Products                                                                      |        | 1.4   |        | 0.3   | \$ 1.7 |
|                                                                                     | Total* | \$5.7 | \$7.9  | \$6.6 | \$20.2 |

\* Tables may not total due to rounding.

# **Cell Phone Product Sales:**

Total sales of cell phone products decreased \$4.7 million, or 36%, to \$8.3 million in the 2006 Period from \$13 million in the 2005 Period. Total cell phone product sales include our OEM "in-box" sales to Motorola and Nokia, as well as sales under our license agreements. OEM cell phone product sales for the 2006 Period totaled \$7 million, compared to \$11.8 million in the 2005 Period, a decrease of \$4.8 million or 41%. OEM cell phone product sales were significantly lower as a result of decline in demand from Motorola and Nokia for certain of our products included "in-box" for three major programs that drove our sales to exceptional levels during Fiscal 2005. These three programs contributed approximately \$ 4.7 million, or 31%, of total net sales in the 2006 Period, compared to \$9.7 million, or 48%, of total net sales in the 2005 Period.

In addition, our OEM cell phone revenue was adversely affected by a sourcing, billing, and payment arrangement for one particular cell phone customer's products in which we recognized revenue only to the extent of the related gross profit on sales to this customer. Had we not implemented this arrangement, our OEM cell phone revenues would have been approximately \$1.0 million higher in the 2006 Period.

Sales to third parties under our license agreement with Motorola totaled \$1.4 million in the 2006 Period compared to \$1.1 million in the 2005 Period, an increase of \$0.3 million, or 27%, which we believe is inversely related to the sales of carry accessories included "in-box" by our OEM customers.

# **Diabetic Product Sales:**

Sales of cases for blood glucose monitoring kits decreased \$0.5 million, or 8%, to \$5 million in the 2006 Period from \$5.5 million in the 2005 Period. The decrease was due primarily to lower sales to Lifescan, our largest OEM customer for these cases, and Roche, sales to whom decreased \$0.9 million and \$0.4 million, or 32% and 86%, respectively. These decreases more than offset a \$0.6 million increase in sales to Abbott Labs and a more than \$0.2 million increase in sales to Bayer. OEM sales of carrying cases for blood glucose monitoring kits represented 33% of our total net sales in the 2006 Period compared to 27% of our total net sales in the 2005 Period, as a result of the decrease in cell phone product sales revenues in the 2006 Period compared to the 2005 Period.

# **Other Product Sales:**

Sales of other products remained consistent between the 2006 Period and 2005 Period at \$1.7 million.

### **Gross Profit**

Gross profit decreased \$3.3 million, or 45%, to \$4.1 million in the 2006 Period from \$7.4 million in the 2005 Period. Gross Profit decreased primarily due to lower sales volumes for OEM cell phone accessory products, pricing pressure, lower margins,, shifts in our OEM cell phone product mix, and higher freight and cost of operating our Hong Kong facility. As a percentage of sales, gross profit decreased to 27% in the 2006 Period from 37% in the 2005 Period. Even with the significantly lower sales volumes: the costs of operating our Hong Kong facility increased to \$1.2 million, or 7.8% of net sales, in the 2006 Period from \$1.0 million, or 5% of total net sales in the 2005 Period primarily as a result of higher personnel costs; and freight costs increased to \$0.6 million or 4.0% of net sales in the 2006 Period compared to \$0.5 million or 2.3% of net sales in the 2005 Period as a result of increased reliance on air freight to meet customer deadlines and a higher number of low dollar value shipments of licensed products that are subject to a fixed cost per shipment.

#### Selling, General, and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general, and administrative expenses increased \$0.1 million, or 4%, to \$2.9 million in the 2006 Period from \$2.8 million in the 2005 Period primarily due to higher royalty, insurance, directors compensation and travel and entertainment costs. In addition, personnel expenses for the 2005 Period included \$0.3 million of accrued performance-based bonuses, whereas the 2006 Period did not include such an accrual, thereby masking increases in personnel expenses, professional fees, and other general and administrative expenses.

### **Other Income (Expense)**

Other income (expense) improved \$299,000, or 879%, to income of \$333,000 in the 2006 Period compared to income of \$34,000 in the 2005 Period as a result of the increase in interest income earned on higher average cash balances and interest rates in the 2006 Period compared to the 2005 Period. In the 2005 Period, other expense primarily attributable to foreign exchange losses served to offset in part our interest income.

### **Pretax Income**

Pretax income decreased \$3.2 million or 70% to \$1.4 million in the 2006 Period from \$4.6 million in the 2005 Period as a result of the decrease in gross profit as described above.

# **Income Taxes**

Our provision for income taxes decreased \$0.6 million in the 2006 Period to \$0.6 million from \$1.2 million in the 2005 Period. Our effective tax rate increased to 41% in the 2006 Period from 26% in the 2005 Period primarily because during the 2006 Period we earned a higher proportion of our income in the United States,, where the statutory state and federal income tax rates are significantly higher, versus Switzerland.

We have in the past considered the earnings of our foreign subsidiaries indefinitely invested and, accordingly, have not recorded a provision for U.S. income taxes on their unrepatriated earnings. At March 31, 2006, those cumulative earnings were approximately \$4.7 million. On October 22, 2004, the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, or the "Act", became law. The Act creates a one-time tax incentive for United States corporations to repatriate accumulated income earned abroad by providing a tax deduction equal to 85% of the dividends received for certain foreign earnings that are repatriated. We are currently evaluating the impact of the Act and have not determined if it would be constructive as a strategic fiscal matter for us to make any repatriation under the Act. We expect to complete this evaluation during Fiscal 2006.

# Liquidity and Capital Resources

During the 2006 Period, we generated \$4.3 million of cash from operations compared to \$113,000 of cash used in operations in the 2005 Period. Our operating cash flows in the 2006 Period consisted of net income of \$0.8 million, increased by \$0.7 million for non-cash items, including \$0.5 million of tax benefit related to stock options exercised and provisions for obsolete inventory, deferred income taxes, and depreciation of \$0.2 million. These cash flows were increased by net changes in working capital items of \$2.7 million, consisting primarily of a decrease in accounts receivable \$7.3 million, which was offset, in part, by increases in inventories of \$1.6 million and decreases in accounts payable and accrued expenses of \$1.6 million, and \$1.2 million, respectively. The lower levels of accounts receivable and accounts payable in the 2006 Period are attributable to lower levels of sales in the 2006 Period compared to the exceptional sales levels experienced in the last quarter of Fiscal 2005. The higher level of inventory in the 2006 Period are in support of existing sales orders and the change to hub arrangements as described above. The decrease in accrued expenses is primarily a result of accrued remuneration that was subsequently paid in the 2006 Period. No such accrual for remuneration was required as of March 31, 2006.

Our operating cash flows in the 2005 Period consisted of net income of \$3.4 million, adjusted for non-cash items consisting of provisions for depreciation, obsolete inventory and deferred income taxes of \$1.1 million, less net changes in working capital items of \$4.6 million. Changes in working capital items in the 2005 Period consisted primarily of increases in accounts receivable and inventories of \$5.1 million and \$0.5 million, respectively. These increases were offset in part by an increase in accounts payable of \$0.9 million

Net investing activities generated \$65,000 in cash during the 2006 Period and consisted of \$75,000 of cash generated from the sale of marketable equity securities and \$11,000 of cash used for purchases of for property, plant and equipment, primarily computer and telecommunications hardware and software. Net investing activities used \$0.1 million of cash during the 2005 Period for purchases of property, plant and equipment, primarily computer and telecommunications hardware and software.

Net financing activities generated \$88,000 in cash during the 2006 Period and \$1.0 million in the 2005 Period, primarily from the issuance of common stock upon the exercise of stock options to purchase approximately 27,900 and 551,400 shares, respectively, of common stock under our 1996 Stock Incentive Plan. If the proposal to adopt the Forward Industries 2006 Restricted Stock Plan is approved at our Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held in late April 2006, it is our intention not to issue additional options under the 1996 Stock Incentive Plan except for approximately 50,000 options proposed to be issued to non-employee directors in April 2006. Accordingly, the Company in this case would not expect to generate cash from stock option exercises for the foreseeable future.

At March 31, 2006, our current ratio (current assets divided by current liabilities) was 6.59; our quick ratio (current assets less inventories divided by current liabilities) was 5.98; and our working capital (current assets less current liabilities) was \$24 million. As of such date, we had no short- or long-term debt balances outstanding.

Our primary sources of liquidity are cash on hand, our operating cash flow, our bank credit facilities, and, under current market conditions, exercises of employee stock options until such options are exercised or they expire. The primary demands on our working capital are: our accounts payable arising in the ordinary course of business, the most significant of which arise when our customers place orders and we order from our suppliers; and our commitments under our license agreement with Motorola.

We anticipate that our liquidity and financial resources for the ensuing fiscal year will be adequate to manage our financial requirements.

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In March 2006, Forward and Koszegi renewed its credit facility with a U.S. bank that provides for a committed line of credit in the maximum amount of \$3 million, including a \$1.5 million sub-limit for letters of credit. The line expires in March 2007 and is renewable annually, at the discretion of the bank, subject to our submission of satisfactory financial information and other documentation. Forward and Koszegi are required to eliminate borrowings for thirty consecutive days during the term of the facility and are required to maintain certain financial covenants including the maintenance of current and tangible net worth ratios, as defined. Amounts drawn under the credit facility bear interest at LIBOR plus 2.5% and are secured by substantially all of Koszegi's assets and certain assets of Forward. At March 31, 2006, there were no outstanding borrowings or letter of credit obligations under this facility.

In February 2003, Forward Innovations established a credit facility with a Swiss bank that provides for an uncommitted line of credit in the maximum amount of \$400,000. Amounts borrowed under the facility may be structured as a term loan or loans, with a maximum repayment period of 12 months, or as a guarantee facility, or any combination of the foregoing. Either party may terminate the facility at any time; however, such termination would not affect the stated maturity of any term loan outstanding under the facility. Amounts borrowed other than as a term loan must be settled quarterly or converted into term loans. In connection with this facility, Forward Innovations has agreed to certain covenants. Amounts drawn under this credit facility bear interest at variable rates established by the bank (5.5% as of March 31, 2006). At March 31, 2006, Forward Innovations is contingently liable to the bank under a letter of credit issued on its behalf in the amount of €224,000 (approximately \$271,000 as of March 31, 2006) in favor of Forward Innovations' freight forwarder and customs agent in connection with its logistics operations in The Netherlands. The effect of the issuance of the letter of credit is to reduce the availability of the credit line in an amount equal to the face amount of the letter of credit.

On September 27, 2002, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to 400,000 shares of our outstanding common stock, or approximately 7% of the number of shares then outstanding. On January 21, 2004, our Board increased the amount of shares authorized for repurchase to 486,200. As of March 31, 2006, we had repurchased an aggregate of 102,600 shares at a cost of approximately \$171,000, but none during the 2006 Quarter, under that authorization.

# **Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments**

The Company has entered into various contractual obligations and commercial commitments that, under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, are not recorded as a liability. The following is a summary of such contractual cash obligations as of March 31, 2006:

|                                             |        |                 | Apr<br>09 -<br>Mar |      |            |
|---------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------|--------------------|------|------------|
| <b>Contractual Obligation or Commitment</b> |        | Apr 06 - Mar 07 | Apr 07- Mar 09     | 11 ' | Thereafter |
| Employment & Consulting Agreements          |        | \$ 835,000      | \$ 858,000         | \$   | \$         |
| Operating Leases                            |        | 127,000         | 31,000             |      |            |
| License Agreements**                        |        | 267,000         | 183,000            |      |            |
|                                             | Totals | \$1,229,000     | \$1,072,000        | \$   | \$         |

\*\* The amounts shown as licensee agreement obligations represent the minimum amounts the Company would incur as a royalty expense under the present terms of its Motorola license agreement.

The Company has not guaranteed the debt of any unconsolidated entity and does not engage in derivative transactions or maintain any off-balance sheet special purpose entities.

# ITEM 3. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

# Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures.

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e)) under the Exchange Act) that is designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the Commission's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by an issuer in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to the issuer's management, including its principal executive officer or officers and principal financial officer or officers, or persons performing similar functions, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

In accordance with Exchange Act Rules 13a-15, our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, performed an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report. Based on that evaluation, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective, as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report, to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in the Company's reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Commission's rules and forms.

# Changes in internal controls.

Our management, with the participation our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, performed an evaluation as to whether any change in our internal controls over financial reporting occurred during the 2006 Quarter. Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer concluded that no change occurred in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting during the 2006 Quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal controls over financial reporting.

# PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

# ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

Exhibits filed herewith:

31.1 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer under Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

31.2 Certification of the Chief Financial Officer under Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

32.1 Certifications of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer under Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

# SIGNATURES

In accordance with the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: April 27, 2006

FORWARD INDUSTRIES, INC. (Registrant)

By: /s/Jerome E. Ball Jerome E. Ball Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

By: /s/Douglas W. Sabra Douglas W. Sabra Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer