

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

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**FORM 8-K**

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

**Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): September 6, 2005**

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**OPTICAL CABLE CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Virginia**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**000-27022**  
(Commission File Number)

**54-1237042**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

**5290 Concourse Drive**  
**Roanoke, VA**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**24019**  
(Zip Code)

**(540) 265-0690**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

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

On September 6, 2005, Optical Cable Corporation issued a press release announcing its 2005 third quarter financial results. On September 7, 2005, Optical Cable Corporation held its earning call. The press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and the transcript for the earnings call is attached as Exhibit 99.2.

#### **Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits**

(c) Exhibits

The following are filed as Exhibits to this Report.

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description of Exhibit</u>
99.1	Press release issued September 6, 2005 (FILED HEREWITH)
99.2	Transcript of earnings call on September 7, 2005 (FILED HEREWITH)

**SIGNATURES**

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

OPTICAL CABLE CORPORATION

By:           /s/ TRACY G. SMITH          

Name: Tracy G. Smith

Title: Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Dated: September 8, 2005

**EXHIBIT INDEX**  
**OPTICAL CABLE CORPORATION**

Current report on Form 8-K

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**OPTICAL CABLE CORPORATION**

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 Roanoke, VA 24019  
 (Nasdaq NM: OCCF)  
[www.occfiber.com](http://www.occfiber.com)

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**OPTICAL CABLE CORPORATION REPORTS  
 THIRD QUARTER 2005 FINANCIAL RESULTS**

***Net Income Increased 22.9% for Third  
 Quarter 2005 and 133.3% for the Nine Month Period***

**ROANOKE, VA, September 6, 2005** — Optical Cable Corporation (Nasdaq NM: OCCF) today announced financial results for its fiscal third quarter and nine months ended July 31, 2005, reporting increased net sales and net income compared to the comparable periods last year.

*Third Quarter 2005 Financial Results*

Optical Cable reported that net income increased 22.9% to \$391,000 or \$0.07 per basic and diluted share for its third fiscal quarter ended July 31, 2005, compared to \$318,000 or \$0.06 per basic and diluted share for the same period last year.

For fiscal years 2005 and 2004, third quarter net sales remained fairly consistent at \$11.3 million with a minimal increase of \$83,000 in the third quarter of fiscal 2005. Sequentially, net sales for the third quarter of fiscal 2005 decreased slightly to \$11.3 million, compared to net sales of \$11.6 million for the second quarter of fiscal 2005, but increased slightly compared to net sales of \$11.1 million for the first quarter of fiscal 2005.

Gross profit margin, or gross profit as a percentage of net sales, decreased to 37.7% for the third quarter of fiscal 2005, compared to 40.6% for the third quarter of fiscal 2004. By comparison, gross profit margins for the first and second quarters of 2005 were 41.2% and 40.7%, respectively.

Selling, general and administrative expenses (“SG&A expenses”) decreased 8.3% to \$3.7 million in the third quarter of fiscal year 2005 compared to \$4.0 million for the same period in 2004. SG&A expenses were \$4.2 million and \$4.1 million during the first and second quarters of fiscal year 2005. Decreases in compensation, travel, marketing and other costs all contributed to the overall decrease in SG&A expenses in the third quarter of fiscal 2005 compared to the same period last year. The decreases in travel and marketing costs were the result of targeted efforts to control SG&A expenses.

#### *Fiscal Year-to-Date 2005 Financial Results*

The Company recorded an increase in net income of 133.3% for the first nine months of fiscal 2005 to \$977,000, or \$0.17 per basic and diluted share, compared to net income of \$419,000, or \$0.08 per basic share and \$0.07 per diluted share for the first nine months of fiscal 2004.

Net sales for the first nine months of fiscal 2005 increased 9.0% to \$34.1 million from \$31.3 million for the same period in fiscal 2004. The Company’s gross profit margin increased slightly to 39.9% for the first nine months of fiscal 2005, compared to 39.6% for the same period in fiscal 2004.

SG&A expenses for the first nine months of fiscal 2005 increased 3.7% to \$12.1 million from \$11.6 million for the same period last year. The increase in SG&A expenses during the first nine months of fiscal 2005 compared to the same period last year was primarily due to: employee compensation costs, professional fees (including legal and accounting fees), and costs associated with obtaining certain military qualifications for certain of the Company’s ground tactical fiber optic cable.

#### *Management’s Comments*

“It is gratifying to announce today further increases in Optical Cable’s quarterly net income results—22% growth when compared to the third quarter of 2004 and 7.4% sequential growth when compared to the second quarter of 2005,” said Neil Wilkin, President and Chief Executive Officer of Optical Cable Corporation.

“We are also pleased with our net sales increase of 9% during the first nine months of fiscal 2005 compared to the same period last year, which is consistent with our guidance for fiscal 2005. Further, our gross profit margin of 39.9% so far in fiscal year 2005, and our significant net income growth during the first nine months of fiscal year 2005 compared to last year, have both exceeded our expectations,” Mr. Wilkin added.

“We did not see an expected seasonal increase in third quarter net sales and that was disappointing. We believe this was partially due to the timing of certain future projects and possibly a temporary softening of certain segments of the enterprise fiber optic cable market. However, we will continue to take the steps we believe necessary to deliver improved sales results,” stated Mr. Wilkin.

#### *Company Information*

Optical Cable Corporation is a leading manufacturer of fiber optic cables primarily sold into the enterprise market, and the premier manufacturer of military ground tactical fiber optic cable for the U.S. military. Founded in 1983, Optical Cable Corporation pioneered the design and production of fiber optic cables for the most demanding military field applications, as well as fiber optic cables suitable for both indoor and outdoor use. The Company’s current broad product offering is built on the evolution of these fundamental technologies, and is designed to provide end-users with fiber optic cables that are easy and economical to install, provide a high degree of reliability and offer outstanding performance characteristics. Optical Cable Corporation sells its products worldwide for uses ranging from commercial and campus installations to customized products for specialty applications and harsh environments, including military applications. The Company manufactures its high quality fiber optic cables at its ISO 9001:2000 registered facility located in Roanoke, Virginia.

Further information about Optical Cable Corporation is available on the World Wide Web at [www.occfiber.com](http://www.occfiber.com).

#### **FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION**

This news release by Optical Cable Corporation (the “Company”) may contain certain “forward-looking” information within the meaning of the federal securities laws. The forward-looking information may include, among other information, (i) statements concerning the Company’s outlook for the future, (ii) statements of belief, anticipation or expectation, (iii) future plans, strategies or anticipated events, and (iv) similar information and statements concerning matters that are not historical facts. Such forward-looking information is subject to risks and uncertainties that may cause actual events to differ materially from the Company’s expectations. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, the level of sales to key customers, including distributors; the economic conditions affecting network service providers; corporate spending on information technology; actions by competitors; fluctuations in the price of raw materials (including optical fiber); the Company’s dependence on a single manufacturing facility; the Company’s ability to protect its proprietary manufacturing technology; market conditions influencing prices or pricing; the Company’s dependence on a limited number of suppliers; an adverse outcome in litigation, claims and other actions, and potential litigation, claims and other actions against the Company; an adverse outcome in regulatory reviews and audits and potential regulatory reviews and audits; further adverse changes in laws and regulations associated with the extraterritorial income exclusion; adverse changes in state tax laws and/or positions taken by state taxing

authorities affecting the Company; technological changes and introductions of new competing products; economic conditions that affect the telecommunications sector, certain technology sectors or the economy as a whole; terrorist attacks or acts of war, particularly given the acts of terrorism against the United States and subsequent military responses by the United States, and any potential future military conflicts; ability to retain key personnel; the Company's ability to successfully implement planned changes to its information technology systems and manufacturing processes; the impact of changes in accounting policies, including those by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board; the Company's ability to successfully comply with and the cost of compliance with, the provisions of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002; impact of future consolidation among competitors and/or among customers adversely affecting the Company's position with its customers and/or our market position; impact of weather or natural disasters in the areas of the world in which the Company operates and markets its products; changes in market demand, exchange rates, productivity, or market and economic conditions in the areas of the world in which the Company markets its products and the Company's success in managing the risks involved in the foregoing. The Company cautions readers that the foregoing list of important factors is not exclusive and the Company incorporates by reference those factors included in current reports on Form 8-K.

(Financial Tables Follow)



OPTICAL CABLE CORPORATION  
CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF INCOME  
(thousands, except per share data)  
(unaudited)

	Three Months Ended July 31,		Nine Months Ended July 31,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Net sales	\$ 11,348	\$ 11,265	\$ 34,097	\$ 31,268
Cost of goods sold	7,071	6,695	20,502	18,878
Gross profit	4,277	4,570	13,595	12,390
Selling, general and administrative expenses	3,704	4,040	12,065	11,638
Income from operations	573	530	1,530	752
Interest income (expense), net	4	(28)	(29)	(89)
Other, net	9	(10)	13	(15)
Other income (expense), net	13	(38)	(16)	(104)
Income before income taxes	586	492	1,514	648
Income tax expense	195	174	537	229
Net income	\$ 391	\$ 318	\$ 977	\$ 419
Net income per share				
Basic	\$ 0.07	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.08
Diluted	\$ 0.07	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.07
Weighted average shares outstanding				
Basic	5,803	5,612	5,767	5,579
Diluted	5,810	5,625	5,779	5,626

—MORE—

OPTICAL CABLE CORPORATION  
CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET DATA  
(thousands)  
(unaudited)

	July 31, 2005	October 31, 2004
Cash	\$ 3,683	\$ 4,342
Trade accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts	7,239	8,210
Inventories	9,128	6,549
Other current assets	789	696
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$20,839</b>	<b>\$ 19,797</b>
Non-current assets	13,313	12,316
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$34,152</b>	<b>\$ 32,113</b>
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 5,138</b>	<b>\$ 4,438</b>
Total shareholders' equity	29,014	27,675
<b>Total liabilities and shareholders' equity</b>	<b>\$34,152</b>	<b>\$ 32,113</b>

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**OPTICAL CABLE CORPORATION**  
**Third Quarter Earnings**  
**September 7, 2005, 10:00 a.m. EDT**  
**Financial Relations Board**  
**Moderator: Marilyn Meek**

- Operator Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the Optical Cable third quarter earnings conference call. At this time all participants are in a listen-only mode. Following today's presentation, instructions will be given for the question and answer session. If anyone needs assistance at any time during the conference, please press the star followed by the zero. As a reminder, this conference is being recorded Wednesday, September 7, 2005.
- I would now like to turn the conference over to Marilyn Meek of the Financial Relations Board. Please go ahead.
- M. Meek Thank you. Good morning and thank you all for participating on Optical Cable Corporation's fiscal 2005 third quarter conference call. By this time everyone should have obtained a copy of the earnings release. However, if you haven't, please call my office at Financial Relations Board, 212-827-3777, and we'll fax or email a copy to you immediately.
- On the call with us today is Neil Wilkin, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Optical Cable Corporation, as well as other members of the senior management team.
- Before we begin, I'd like to remind everyone this call may contain forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. The actual future results of Optical Cable Corporation may differ materially due to a number of factors including but not limited to those factors set forth in detail in the forward-looking statement section of yesterday's press release. These cautionary statements apply to the contents of the internet website on [www.earnings.com](http://www.earnings.com) as well as today's call.
- I'd like to now turn the call over to Neil Wilkin. Neil, please go ahead.
- N. Wilkin Thank you, Marilyn, and good morning everyone. Joining me here today at Optical Cable Corporation's offices are: Tracy Smith, our Chief Financial Officer; Luke Huybrechts, our Senior Vice President of Operations; and Charlie Carson, our Senior Vice President of Marketing and Sales.
- We'll begin with a few introductory remarks. We will then briefly review the financial results for the third quarter of fiscal year 2005, as well as comment on some recent developments at OCC, and finally we'll answer as many of your questions as we can.
- As you know, Optical Cable Corporation, like a number of other companies,

does not provide specific earnings guidance. However, we continue to provide certain information that we believe gives you a sense of Optical Cable Corporation's direction.

In the third quarter we were disappointed not to realize the seasonal increase in net sales we expected given our seasonality patterns during the past 2 years, where net sales during the third and fourth quarters of the fiscal year are generally higher than net sales during the first and second quarters of the fiscal year.

Sequentially, net sales for the third quarter of fiscal 2005 decreased 2.2% compared to the second quarter of the year and increased 1.9% compared to the first quarter of the year.

We believe contributing to the lower than expected net sales during the third quarter was the timing of certain future projects and possibly a temporary softening of certain segments of the enterprise fiber optic cable market. Despite that fact, Optical Cable Corporation did post sequential increases in quarterly net income results in the third quarter of 2005 – growing net income 7.4% when compared to the second quarter of this year and 75.5% when compared to the first quarter of this year.

Additionally, Optical Cable's net sales have increased 9% during the first nine months of fiscal 2005 compared to the same period last year, in line with our expectations.

We continue to believe that the short- to moderate-distance fiber optic cable market is slowly growing and while net sales during the third quarter of fiscal 2005 deviated from our expected seasonality pattern of higher net sales during the last 2 quarters of the fiscal year, we do not believe this is evidence of a trend at this time.

Some large projects we believed might be manufactured and shipped in the third quarter, we now hope will be shipped during the fourth quarter. And despite any temporary softening of the fiber optic cable market, we believe that our market share has remained stable.

So while we cannot be certain, we believe Optical Cable's net sales will increase during the last quarter of fiscal 2005 when compared to the third quarter of fiscal 2005. By year end, we expect the net sales growth percentage for the year to be in the high single digits.

While looking to realize net sales gains during the year, we also recognize the need to deliver strong gross profit margins through productivity gains and market segmentation initiatives.

With respect to gross profit margin percentages, we continue to target gross profit margin percentages of 37%. And while gross profit margins were

37.7% during the third quarter of fiscal 2005 — lower than the 41.2% and 40.7% we experienced during the first and second quarters of fiscal 2005, respectively — we do not believe this indicates a trend towards lower gross margins generally. Our gross profit margin percentages are heavily dependent on product mix on a quarterly basis and may deviate from expectations based on unexpected and expected changes in product mix. Specifically we believe the 37.7% gross profit margin is consistent with our product mix sold during the third quarter rather than evidence of lower margins generally.

With respect to SG&A expenses, we continue to recognize the need to control expenses without sacrificing our long term growth strategy. SG&A expenses decreased during the third quarter of fiscal 2005 for a number of reasons, including specific efforts to control certain costs. However, we expect potential increases in SG&A expenses during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2005 as a result of a number of factors including current hiring plans, travel by our sales personnel, professional fees (including accounting and legal fees) and certain performance based restricted stock expenses.

We are pleased with our progress towards delivering financial performance gains while continuing to take actions which we believe are necessary to support future growth — creating an organization that will support substantially higher sales — and earnings — over the long term.

Toward that end, we have invested approximately \$1.4 million including deposits in capital expenditures for the first nine months of fiscal 2005. You will recall that we budgeted \$3 million in capital expenditures for the year and invested approximately \$1.3 million in capital expenditures during all of fiscal 2004.

Now, let's review some specifics regarding our third quarter financial results. I'm pleased to report that net income increased 133.3% to \$977,000 or 17 cents per basic and diluted share for the first 9 months of fiscal 2005, up from \$419,000 or 8 cents per basic and 7 cents per diluted share for the same period last year. Net sales increased 9% to \$34.1 million for the 9 months ended July 31, 2005, up from \$31.3 million for the same period last year.

For our third quarter ended July 31, 2005, we reported net income of \$391,000 or 7 cents per basic and diluted share, up compared to net income of \$318,000 or 6 cents per basic and diluted share for the same period last year.

Net sales for the third quarters of both our 2005 and 2004 fiscal years remained fairly consistent at \$11.3 million with a minimum increase of \$83,000 in the third quarter of 2005. Sequentially, net sales for the third quarter of fiscal year 2005 decreased slightly compared to net sales of \$11.6 million for the second quarter of fiscal 2005, but increased slightly compared to net sales of \$11.1 million for the first quarter of 2005.

Gross profit margin as a percentage of net sales for our third quarter decreased to 37.7% compared to 40.6% for the comparable period in 2004. By comparison, the gross profit margins for the first and second quarters of 2005 were 41.2% and 40.7%, respectively.

As I mentioned previously, our gross profit margin percentages are heavily dependent on product mix changes on a quarterly basis and may deviate from expectations based on both anticipated and unanticipated changes in product mix. This was the case during the third quarter of fiscal 2005. Timing of product mix changes and other factors caused fluctuations in gross profit margins from the first 2 quarters of our fiscal year.

The impact of these product mix changes on a year-to-date basis, however, has been minimal. The company's gross profit margin increased to 39.9% for the first nine months of fiscal year 2005 compared to 39.6% for the same period in fiscal 2004. As a reminder, while we finished our fiscal year 2004 with a gross profit margin of 38.6%, our quarterly gross profit margins ranged from 36.7% to 40.6% during the year.

SG&A expenses decreased 8.3% to \$3.7 million in the third quarter of the year from \$4 million for the same period last year. This compares to SG&A expenses of \$4.2 million and \$4.1 million during the first and second quarters of fiscal year 2005, respectively.

SG&A expenses for the first nine months of fiscal 2005 increased 3.7% to \$12.1 million from \$11.6 million for the same period in fiscal 2004. The increase in SG&A expenses during the first nine months of fiscal 2005 compared to the same period last year was primarily due to: employee compensation costs, professional fees (including legal and accounting fees) and costs associated with obtaining certain military qualifications for certain of our ground tactical fiber optic cable.

Compensation costs have increased as a result of increases in commissions as net sales have increased; increases in employee incentives targeted to improve financial results (including restricted stock grants which we believe are essential to better align management's interest with your interests); and also new hires. These are consistent with our expectations.

Professional fees (including legal and accounting fees) have increased during the first nine months of fiscal 2005 compared to the same period last year. This includes the costs we have begun to incur in connection with compliance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 as well as other legal and accounting fees.

As stated in prior conference calls, the Securities and Exchange Commission extended the deadline for compliance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act for non-accelerated filers, extending our required compliance date

to our fiscal year ending October 31, 2006. Additionally, the SEC Advisory Committee on smaller public companies, at its meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup>, recommended a further extension of the deadline for compliance with Section 404 of the Act for certain registrants, which would likely include Optical Cable Corporation. Regardless of this possible extension, we will continue to work towards compliance and we anticipate we will continue to incur additional expenses during fiscal year 2005 as a result of our efforts to become compliant before the required date no matter what that may be.

We continue to monitor all of our expenses, including SG&A, in order to keep costs down, while at the same time accomplishing our goal to build the company for future growth.

As of the end of our third quarter, we had a cash balance of approximately \$3.7 million with no outstanding debt on our bank line of credit and with \$10.1 million in unused and available credit.

Your management team continues to work to further improve financial results in fiscal year 2005 and beyond. We are quite optimistic about our prospects, our opportunities, and our ability to create significant shareholder value over the long term. We still have a lot of work to do, but we are showing steady financial performance gains and continue to execute our strategy as planned.

Now before I get to your questions, I'd like to highlight a recent development and announcement by Optical Cable. On August 8, 2005, we announced that we had achieved 2 significant milestones in our continuing pursuit of excellence as a long time supplier of rugged military fiber optic cable for the U.S. and allied militaries:

- The U.S. Department of Defense has certified us as a fully qualified supplier of ground tactical fiber optic cable, meeting all military requirements. As a result, these products have been added to the DOD's qualified products list.
- Our manufacturing facility has also been certified by DOD as a MIL-STD-790F facility. This certification is considered one of the most respected in the defense industry as it requires compliance with stringent government requirements for quality and consistency. Our manufacturing facility met all requirements for this certification.

We are quite proud of this accomplishment, which we believe demonstrates our continuing capabilities and commitments as a premiere manufacturer of military ground tactical fiber optic cable for the U.S. military as one important segment of our business.

Now, we are happy to answer as many of your questions as we can. Marilyn, if you'd please indicate or have the operator indicate the instructions for the participants to call in their questions, I'd appreciate it.

M. Meek Sure, Neil. Just as a reminder, we are taking questions only from analysts and fund investors and in the interest of time, each person wishing to ask a question will be permitted two questions initially. We will allow additional questions at the end of this time if there is time available. Operator, could you please give further instructions?

Operator If you have a question, please press the star followed by the one on your touchtone phone. If you'd like to decline from the polling process, press the star followed by the two. You will hear a three-tone prompt acknowledging your selection and your questions will be polled in the order they are received. If you are using a speakerphone you will need to lift the handset before pressing the numbers. Kevin Wenck, please state your company name followed by your question.

K. Wenck Polynous Capital Management. Good morning, Neil.

N. Wilkin Good morning, Kevin.

K. Wenck The first question has a couple of aspects about it concerning the gross margins. But if the expected orders had shipped, theoretically how might that have affected the gross margins for the quarter?

N. Wilkin I don't have a precise number for you, but our gross margins would have been higher and obviously our net sales would have been higher.

K. Wenck And then for those expected orders, if you could give us a little bit of color as to what might have happened with some of them. Were they construction projects that just hadn't ramped up yet? Was it enterprise networking projects where there wasn't a final sign off yet by the ultimate buyer? Any color you can give us on that would be helpful.

N. Wilkin It was really a timing issue. As you know, we are just one component of an installation and so when we sell there's other components that have to come together at the same time. At least in one of the projects that I'm thinking of that was the situation where one of the other component manufacturers wasn't ready to supply the product. We've had some projects that have actually been pushed off a little bit while not cancelled, but the 2 projects that I'm thinking about are ones that we're certain are going to occur, just haven't dropped in yet.

K. Wenck Okay. And then the second question for now, the SG&A decrease, any connection in that for the quarter with what the sales pipeline looked like? Because it's a fairly significant decrease on a sequential quarterly basis and at some point during the quarter did it look like some of these projects might look doubtful they'd fall in the quarter and so you really clamped down on SG&A?



- N. Wilkin Not really. I mean we've been focused on controlling SG&A expenses all year. The SG&A expenses were a little bit lower than I think even we anticipated in the third quarter, but it was partially the result of some timing of hires as well as some departures of employees and also travel expenses as we discussed. Our sales force, particularly the international sales force, spends a fair amount of money on travel and depending on when they're traveling it affects the results. There was no specific effort to restrict their travel, rather just to make it more efficient and there's been no specific attempt to sort of pull back on a short term basis what otherwise are necessary and legitimate expenses.
- K. Wenck A couple of the usual annoying balance sheet questions. Accounts receivable dropped \$800K roughly sequentially. How much of that is an indication of just the timing of how orders occur during the quarter and how much of that is just better collections?
- N. Wilkin I'm going to make one statement because I understand what you're getting at specifically and then I'm going to let Tracy address it more generally. Specifically there wasn't anything that happened with the timing of orders during the quarter that would indicate that we're on a downward slide in sales that would somehow justify a change or indicate a change in accounts receivable. It's really been efforts by Tracy's department in managing accounts receivable. Do you want to comment on that?
- T. Smith I don't have anything real significant to add to that. I can't really give you specific numbers of how much was created by the aggressive collection effort versus how much related to the fact that the sales in the third quarter were down slightly, so there is going to be some expected decrease in accounts receivable due to the fact that the sales are lower in the third quarter compared to either the fourth quarter of last year or the second quarter of this fiscal year. I can't really give you specific amounts.
- N. Wilkin Do you have the second quarter number off the top of your head?
- K. Wenck I actually have that. The receivables at the end of the second quarter were roughly \$8 million.
- T. Smith \$8 million with...
- N. Wilkin So it's still a substantial decrease, but what you see in our earnings release obviously shows end of fiscal 2004 versus end of third quarter and so that's not always the best indication. I think it's just normal timing as far as I'm aware, Kevin.
- K. Wenck The next one concerns inventories. Sequentially they went up about \$950K.

If you put in a normal assumption for cost of goods sold, potentially that supports another \$1.5 million, \$1.6 million of sales during the quarter. How much of that was from the expected orders that did not ship in the quarter and are still in inventory and how much of that was just more general restocking and broadening of your inventories?

N. Wilkin There's some that wasn't shipped, but it's mainly because we specifically built up our inventories. I don't have the specific numbers in front of me, but when we reviewed it as part of the quarter we saw that our work in process didn't change substantially sequentially from second quarter to third quarter. The increase really came in finished goods which is consistent with our efforts to have more product available for customer needs and also some increases in raw materials which is a function of certain products, particularly certain fiber products that we've increased or changed our product mix with respect to needs in order to meet our customers' requirements.

The finished goods change was a conscious change that we've talked about in the past in trying to make sure that we have available product as needed and in fact I would say I would expect that might increase even a little bit more in the fourth quarter.

The raw material change wasn't so much a planned change as a result of change in different cable types and demands and expected changes in our stocking levels to meet those.

K. Wenck Okay and one last question for now in case somebody else has gotten in queue. But your comments about the softening of the enterprise cable market or possible softening of it, any additional color you'd like to add to that, whether it was primarily on the networking side or primarily on the data storage side?

N. Wilkin It's definitely not on the data storage side and I'll let Charlie comment on it a little bit. I saw some of the weakening seem to occur on the general commercial side of the business as well as some of the severe duty applications and that's where the changes really seem to be. Do you want to add anything, Charlie?

C. Carson I think that pretty well covers it, Neil. If you look at office buildings for example, there are still some very soft regions of the country that have not started building yet, but overall the primary cause of the change were delays as you have outlined.

N. Wilkin We've gotten some feedback from distributors. Did you want to comment on that generally too?

C. Carson Yes. Again it's a mixed bag so to speak, Kevin, in terms of which distributor and what area of the country. In some areas of the country it's really regional specific. Both copper and fiber are down. In other areas both are up; in some areas copper's up and fiber is down so it's really a mixed bag.

As Neil has outlined, the primary cause of the lower sales has been delays in projects, however, due to budgets and customer administration issues, as Neil has already outlined.

- K. Wenck Okay. Thanks, Charlie. Thanks, Neil.
- Operator Kevin Cohen, please state your company name followed by your question.
- J. Cohen Good morning. This is Jeff Cohen with Mulholland Capital. I was just curious. Do you anticipate any particular impact on your business from Hurricane Katrina and if so could you elaborate a little bit?
- N. Wilkin That's a very good question and Tracy has looked at just before, we're going to be filing our 10-Q, has looked at just before this earnings call and our press release the issue with respect to existing customers. Do you want to comment on that?
- T. Smith Sure. We've looked at what the current accounts receivable are outstanding with existing customers in the Mississippi and Louisiana states and currently it doesn't look like we have a very significant exposure in those situations so I don't really anticipate that we'll have a significant write off related to accounts receivable in those areas. It's far too early at this point to know for sure what might be, but based on our initial look at it, I don't think there's a significant exposure there.
- N. Wilkin There may be some opportunity to sell into those areas as part of rebuilding and our sales folks are going to be focused on that, particularly in the oil patch areas and refineries – we sell into those markets.
- C. Carson One of the issues our inside salespeople face right now is many of the distributors in the New Orleans and Mississippi area have been evacuated from the area and we are of course in contact with them to Neil's point.
- J. Cohen Clearly it'd be very preliminary, but can you give any sort of ballpark quantification of what sort of opportunity you might have in terms of a percentage of your overall business?
- N. Wilkin I really can't give you that at this time and I think at this point most companies wouldn't know. I think they're more focused on just trying to get everyone evacuated and stabilizing the situation, but we stand ready to supply product as needed into those areas and we'll do that.
- J. Cohen Thank you.
- Operator Kevin Wenck, please go ahead with your follow up question.

- K. Wenck Just a couple more. Other noncurrent assets went up about \$700K sequentially from Q2. Is that mostly the cap ex deposits or additional cap ex being put in place?
- N. Wilkin I'm going to let Tracy address that issue. There's been a couple of things in there and you can go ahead and discuss it. One was we have helped with the employee relocation expenses which has involved some loans to a non-officer and that's affected other assets and there's a couple of other things.
- T. Smith One other item that we have in there is a note receivable related to a non-affiliated company which is about \$375,000 and that is something we look at for strategic purposes.
- N. Wilkin It's really those two things, Kevin, and thank you for reminding me, Tracy. There are a couple of things. One was we had an employee that relocated and there were some loans to help them relocate. And the other item is we continue to and have looked for quite some time at building strategic relationships with certain folks mainly who are customers of ours, but in other cases too and that's been very beneficial and in one instance it made sense to loan some money.
- Another instance where we've got a customer we've been working with, they have a fairly significant outstanding accounts receivable that while it's written to appropriate net realizable value, we've also included some amounts. While not in this loan, that's in accounts receivable, and so that's part of our working with - one of the things that we try to be is flexible with our strategic partners in trying to make sure that we're growing their business and they're growing our business and so those are the items that are in there. One item that I mentioned I said was in accounts receivable and those are the other items that are in the other receivables.
- T. Smith I'm sorry, Kevin, to go back to your original question, there are some deposits in there for property, plant and equipment.
- K. Wenck The loan to the strategic partner, is that somebody here in the U.S. or somebody outside the U.S.?
- N. Wilkin It's something that we prefer not to spend a lot of time commenting on if you don't mind, Kevin. We work with a number of different folks and we try not to publicly talk about what we're doing with our different strategic partners specifically.
- K. Wenck Okay and then one final question. On the potential total amount of Sarbanes-Oxley work even with the deadlines having been possibly put off, where do you think you are? Are you 25% of the way, 40% of the way at this point?
- T. Smith I would have to say probably closer to 25% although I haven't really

quantified it like that, Kevin. One of the things that we are doing as you will recall from previous calls is we're also in the process of implementing a new ERP system and as we do that, there are certain process changes and things that will occur and our Sarbanes-Oxley work is dependent upon that work happening first.

K. Wenck Okay. Thanks for you help.

N. Wilkin Thank you for your questions, Kevin, I appreciate it.

K. Wenck It was a good quarter. It's too bad somebody felt disappointed by it this morning.

N. Wilkin I appreciate that comment, Kevin. I think that here we're all focused on growth, both from the top line and on the bottom line and that's what we're working towards.

K. Wenck You're generating cash and you don't have any debt so it looks pretty good to me.

Operator At this time I am showing no further questions. Please continue with your presentation.

N. Wilkin Thank you, everyone, for taking the time to participate on our fiscal 2005 third quarter earnings call this morning. We appreciate your time, your questions and your interest in Optical Cable Corporation and look forward to talking to you again in the future.

Operator Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes the Optical Cable third quarter earnings conference call. You may now disconnect and thank you for using ACT Teleconferencing.