

L 3 COMMUNICATIONS HOLDINGS INC

Form 11-K

March 30, 2010

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549**

FORM 11-K

(Mark one)

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009

OR

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from _____ **to**

Commission file number 001-14141

**L-3 COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
2009 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN
(Full title of the plan and the address of the plan,
if different from that of the issuer named below)
L-3 COMMUNICATIONS HOLDINGS, INC.**

600 Third Ave

New York, New York 10016

**(Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and
the address of its principal executive office)**

**L-3 COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
2009 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN
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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Participants and Administrator of the
L-3 Communications Corporation 2009 Employee Stock Purchase Plan:

In our opinion, the accompanying statement of assets and the related statement of changes in assets present fairly, in all material respects, the assets of the L-3 Communications Corporation 2009 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the Plan) at December 31, 2009, and the changes in assets for the period from July 1, 2009 (date of inception) to December 31, 2009 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit of these statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
New York, New York
March 30, 2010

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**L-3 COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
2009 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN
Statement of Assets**

| | December 31, 2009 |
|---|------------------------------|
| Assets: | |
| Participant contributions due from employer | \$ 36,366,373 |
| Total Assets | \$ 36,366,373 |

See Notes to Financial Statements

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**L-3 COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
2009 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN
Statement of Changes in Assets**

| | Period from July 1, 2009 (date of inception) to December 31, 2009 |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Participant contributions | \$ 36,366,373 |
| Less: Benefit payments | |
| Net additions | 36,366,373 |
| Total assets, at date of inception | |
| Total assets, end of year | \$ 36,366,373 |

See Notes to Financial Statements

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**L-3 COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
2009 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN
Notes to Financial Statements**

1. Plan Description

The following description of the L-3 Communications Corporation 2009 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete statement of the Plan's provisions. Should there be a conflict between the general information below and the Plan document, the Plan document takes precedence.

General Description

The Plan is an employee stock purchase plan that allows participants to purchase shares of L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc. (L-3 Holdings) through payroll deductions. The Plan's fiscal year ends on December 31 and is divided into two six-month periods (Offering Periods) for the purpose of stock offerings under the Plan. The Offering Periods begin on the first trading day on or after January 1 and July 1 and end on the last trading day on or before June 30 and December 31 and represent the periods during which participants' payroll deductions are accumulated. The participants' accumulated payroll deductions as of the last day of each Offering Period (Exercise Date) are used to purchase shares of Stock at an amount equal to 85% of the fair market value of the Stock on the Exercise Date. Fair market value is defined on any given date as the average of the highest and lowest sales price of a share of Stock.

The Plan was approved by L-3 Holdings' stockholders on April 28, 2009 and became effective on July 1, 2009. The Plan replaces the L-3 Communications Corporation Employee Stock Purchase Plan adopted in 2001 (the Old Plan). The final six-month offering period under the Old Plan ended on June 30, 2009, and the first six-month offering period under the Plan ended on December 31, 2009.

The total number of shares authorized for issuance under the Plan and the Old Plan is 13,314,937 shares. The total number of shares issued under the Old Plan through the final offering period is 5,893,678. Accordingly, the total number of shares that may be issued for all offering periods under the Plan is 7,421,259.

For the Offering Period ended December 31, 2009, Plan participants' accumulated payroll deductions amounted to \$36,366,373 and have been recorded as a contribution receivable by the Plan as of December 31, 2009. At December 31, 2009, participants' accumulated payroll deductions amounted to the equivalent of 485,988 shares of Stock, which were purchased subsequent to December 31, 2009. The shares of Stock purchased by the Plan subsequent to December 31, 2009 had a closing market value of \$42,256,657 as of the Exercise Date.

The Plan is neither qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, nor subject to any of the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). Fidelity Stock Plan Services, LLC is the recordkeeper of the Plan and Fidelity Brokerage Services, LLC is the custodian of the participants' brokerage accounts.

Eligibility and Participation

Generally, all employees of L-3 Communications Corporation (L-3 or the Company), or of certain subsidiaries or affiliates of L-3, are eligible to participate in the Plan, except that only those specified employees who work for a designated affiliate in a particular country or countries may participate in the Plan. L-3 has the discretion to designate whether particular subsidiaries or affiliates of L-3 will participate in the Plan.

L-3 may also adopt rules regarding the administration of the Plan to conform to local laws or to enable employees of the Company or certain subsidiaries or affiliates to participate in the Plan. Under certain circumstances, these rules may take precedence over other provisions of the Plan, except for certain provisions which may not be superceded, including with respect to the maximum discount at which Stock may be purchased and the maximum dollar amount of payroll deductions or contributions that may be used to purchase Stock under the Plan.

Employees who have (or who would have the ability to purchase) 5% or more of the total combined voting power or value of all classes of L-3 Holdings' stock may not participate in the Plan. Additionally, no employee may be granted an option to purchase more than \$25,000 worth of Stock under the Plan in any calendar year (based on the fair market value of the Stock at the time the option is granted).

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**L-3 COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
2009 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN
Notes to Financial Statements Continued**

Eligible employees may enroll in the Plan at any time. Once an election is made, the participant will automatically participate in all subsequent offering periods at the elected contribution rate, unless the participant (1) makes a new election or (2) withdraws from an Offering Period or from the Plan in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Plan document.

Stock Purchases

On the Exercise Date, the amount of each participant's accumulated payroll deductions is applied towards the purchase of the maximum number of whole and fractional shares of Stock possible, determined by dividing the participant's total contribution by 85% of the fair market value of the Stock on the last day of the Offering Period. Purchased shares of Stock are issued by L-3 Holdings to the custodian of the participant's brokerage accounts. The custodian maintains an individual account for each participant and tracks whole and fractional shares purchased and sold attributable to each participant account.

Participant Contributions

Participants may elect to have 1% to 10% of their compensation (as defined in the Plan) deducted on an after-tax basis for the purchase of Stock, provided that these payroll deductions do not exceed \$21,250 in a calendar year. Generally, participants may not make any separate contributions into their accounts, except during an approved leave of absence if certain conditions are met. During each offering period, a participant may elect to make one increase and one decrease to the rate of payroll deductions. A participant may also elect to withdraw from participation in the Plan at any time. An election to withdraw from participation or to increase or decrease the payroll deduction rate shall become effective as soon as administratively feasible following the date of such election.

Interest is not accrued or paid on participants' accumulated payroll deductions. Subject to local law requirements, the Company may use the payroll deductions for any corporate purpose, and the Company has no obligation to segregate employees' payroll deductions from any other funds of the Company or to hold funds representing the same pending the application thereof to the purchase of shares at the Exercise Date in accordance with the Plan.

Participant Accounts

The assets held in each Plan participant's individual account, are not included in the Plan nor in the Plan's financial statements. When Stock is distributed to each participant's individual account, the participant may elect to retain or sell the Stock at his or her discretion. Stock sale transactions are not included in the Plan's Statement of Changes in Assets.

Participant Withdrawal

Plan participants may withdraw from the Plan by decreasing their payroll deduction rate to zero during an Offering Period. Upon such withdrawal from the Plan, participants may elect to receive reimbursement of all of their accumulated payroll deductions during the current Offering Period, provided that the election is made no later than two weeks prior to the Exercise Date. In the event that the participant does not give proper instructions to request reimbursement in a timely manner, the participant's accumulated payroll deductions will be used for the purchase of shares of Stock on the Exercise Date. A participant who withdraws from participation during an Offering Period may not participate in the Plan until the next Offering Period.

Participant Termination

Participants who terminate their employment relationship with the Company (and with all designated subsidiaries and affiliates that participate in the Plan) are not eligible to continue participation in the Plan. All payroll deductions accumulated during the Offering Period through the date of such termination of employment are refunded to the employee or, in the event of the employee's death, to the employee's beneficiary. After a participant's termination of employment, the custodian shall continue to maintain the participant's account until such time as the participant sells or withdraws all shares in their account.

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**L-3 COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
2009 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN
Notes to Financial Statements Continued**

Plan Termination and Administration

The Board of Directors of L-3 Holdings may terminate the Plan at any time, provided that no such termination may, without the consent of an employee then having an option under the Plan to purchase Stock, adversely affect the rights of such employee under such option. The Plan is administered by the Benefit Plan Committee (the Committee). The Committee has the authority to interpret the Plan, to adopt rules and make determinations that are necessary or advisable for administering the Plan and to delegate some or all of its authority to one or more employees or officers of the Company.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared under the accrual method of accounting.

Plan Expenses

The Company bears all costs in connection with the Plan, including administrative fees and all fees associated with the issuance of Stock. The Plan participant is responsible for all individual brokerage fees and related expenses associated with the sale of Stock.

Benefit Payments

Benefit payments in the form of purchases and transfers of Stock to plan participants' brokerage accounts are recorded when paid.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America may require management to make significant estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets at the date of the financial statements, as well as the reported amounts of additions to and deductions from assets during the reporting period. The Plan's only asset is a receivable from the Company for participant contributions representing accumulated payroll deductions.

Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan holds as its only asset the accumulated participant contributions representing payroll deductions due from the Company. As such, the Plan is exposed to concentration of credit risk.

3. Tax Status

The Plan is not required to file income tax returns or pay income taxes in 2009.

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Signatures

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the administrator of the L-3 Communications Corporation 2009 Employee Stock Purchase Plan has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

L-3 Communications Corporation 2009
Employee
Stock Purchase Plan

March 30, 2010

/s/ Ralph G. D Ambrosio
Name: Ralph G. D Ambrosio
Title: Vice President and Chief Financial
Officer
L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc.
and
L-3 Communications Corporation