



EXPANDING
SUCCESS

Used antifreeze is collected, transported and processed using vacuum distillation, transforming the used product to virgin quality ethylene glycol, then mixed with pure water and additives for resale to market.

EXPANDING GROWTH

EXPANDING REVENUE GROWTH We concluded the fourth quarter of 2017 with a year-over-year revenue growth rate of 9.4% in our Environmental Services segment and we are working hard to maintain high single digit organic growth into fiscal 2018.

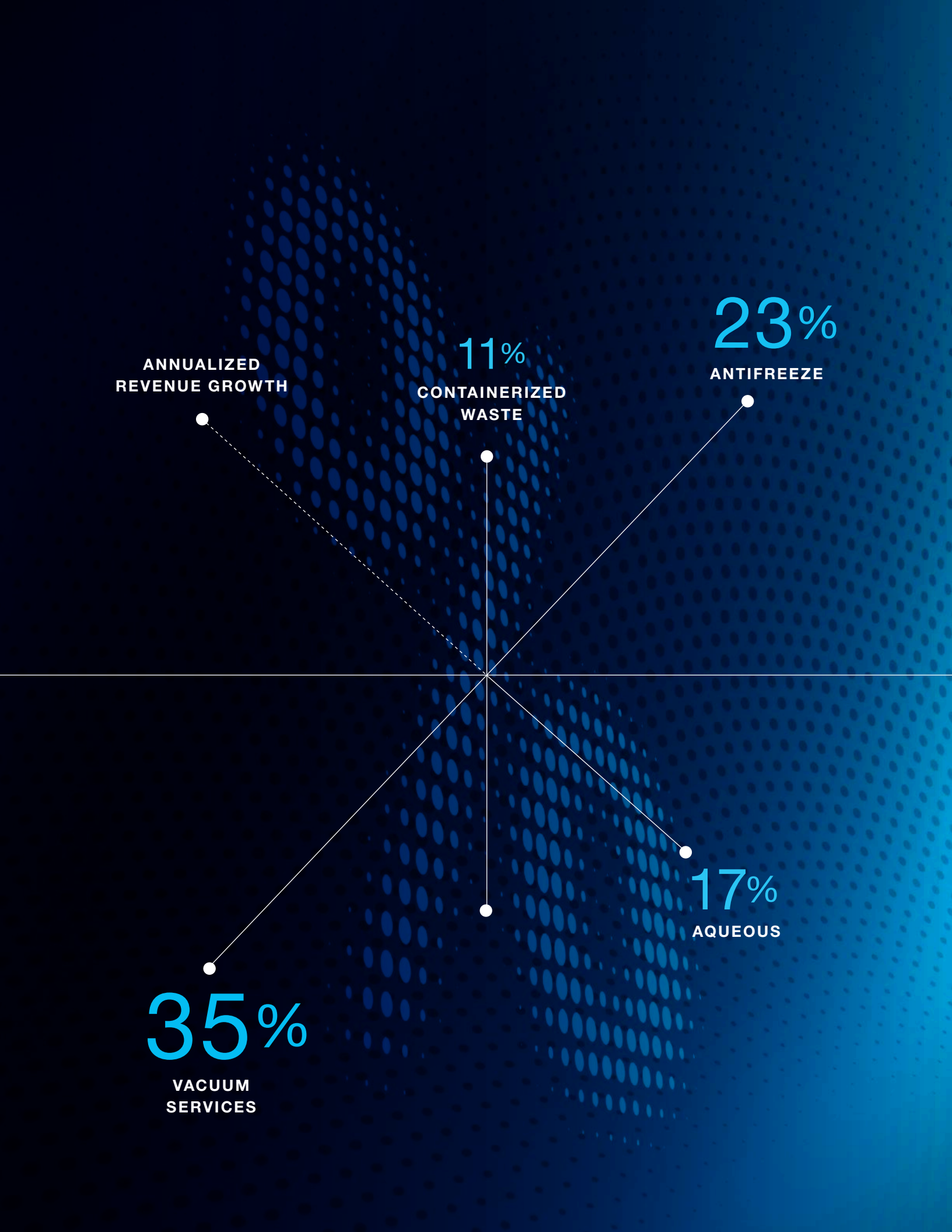
ANNUALIZED
REVENUE GROWTH

11%
CONTAINERIZED
WASTE

23%
ANTIFREEZE

17%
AQUEOUS

35%
VACUUM
SERVICES





OREGON

CALIFORNIA

**EASTERN
CANADA**

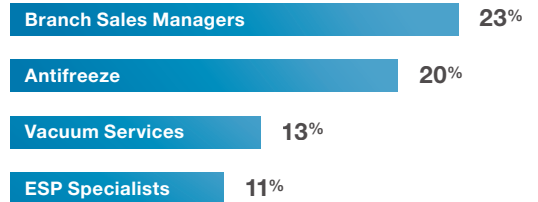
VIRGINIA

NEW MEXICO



EXPANDING COVERAGE

OUR COVERAGE AREA CONTINUES TO GROW In our Environmental Services segment, we added five new branches expanding our presence in the Western half of the United States and in Canada which gave us the opportunity to acquire new customers, as well as broaden our relationships with our existing customers. Our 2018 plan is to continue to invest in new branches to sustain the momentum we created during 2017.



In 2017 we expanded the breadth of our professional sales and services personnel to meet growing demands.

EXPANDING SERVICES

MORE SERVICES TO MORE CUSTOMERS In 2017 we expanded our professional sales and services resources by adding Branch Sales Managers, Antifreeze Sales and Service Reps, Vacuum Sales and Service Reps, and ESP Specialists to strategically align our service branches and bolster our services menu to better fit our customers' needs.

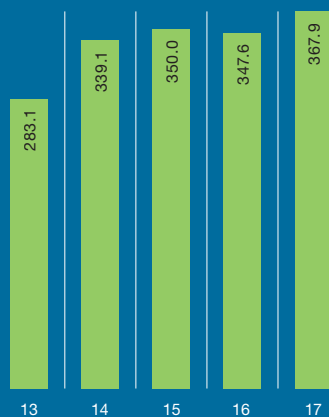


FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

| dollars in thousands | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Revenues | \$ 283,136 | \$ 339,052 | \$ 350,018 | \$ 347,627 | \$ 365,957 |
| Operating Income (Loss) | \$ 8,490 | \$ (9,659) | \$ 4,189 | \$ 10,894 | \$ 35,427 |
| EBITDA | \$ 18,014 | \$ 3,218 | \$ 21,386 | \$ 28,885 | \$ 53,394 |
| Adjusted EBITDA ⁽⁴⁾ | \$ 19,643 | \$ 18,296 | \$ 38,703 | \$ 40,853 | \$ 47,193 |
| Total Assets | \$ 215,958 | \$ 319,819 | \$ 301,848 | \$ 314,307 | \$ 314,657 |
| Total Debt | \$ 20,958 | \$ 79,153 | \$ 70,895 | \$ 64,195 | \$ 30,000 |
| Same Branch Sales Growth ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ | 10.3% | 10.9% | 10.3% | -0.7% | 6.1% |
| Branches | 74 | 84 | 82 | 83 | 86 |
| Employees | 958 | 1,441 | 1,251 | 1,195 | 1,274 |

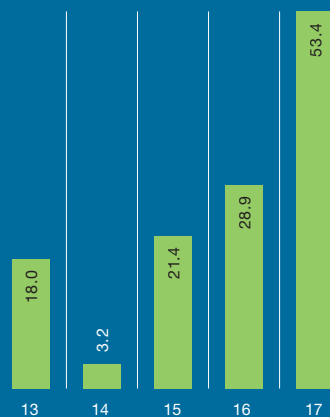
REVENUES

in millions of dollars



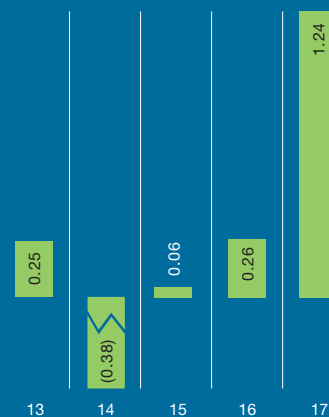
EBITDA

in millions of dollars



BASIC EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE

in dollars



(1) Excludes branches that were impacted by the FCC Environmental acquisition, and new parent branches. A new parent branch is defined as a branch that, during any of the periods being compared, has spun off an adjacent location that has become a branch.

(2) Environmental Services segment only.

(3) Excludes impact of the 53rd week in fiscal 2014.

(4) Adjusted EBITDA also represents EBITDA adjusted for certain non-cash or infrequently occurring items such as: (1) Non-cash inventory impairment charge, which is included in Operating Costs, (2) Acquisition and integration costs related to the purchase of FCC Environmental, which are included in SG&A, (3) Non-cash compensation expenses which are recorded in SG&A, (4) Legal fees, fines and restitution related to our acquisition of FCCE Environmental, and (5) Severance. We have presented Adjusted EBITDA because we consider it an important supplemental measure of our performance and believe it may be used by analysts, investors, our lenders and other interested parties in the evaluation of our performance. Adjusted EBITDA is not a measure of performance under U.S. GAAP and should not be considered as a substitute for net income prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Adjusted EBITDA has limitations as an analytical tool, and you should not consider it in isolation or as a substitute for analysis of our results as reported under U.S. GAAP.

DEAR FELLOW SHAREHOLDERS



Brian Recatto

During my first year as President and Chief Executive Officer, Heritage-Crystal Clean achieved another year of strong financial performance demonstrating the strength of our winning strategy of developing multiple engines of growth, fueled by geographic reach and diversity of services. Our vision is in response to our customer preferences to utilize one vendor for critical environmental services. I am proud of the progress we made in 2017 as we recorded a company best \$366.0 million in revenue and \$35.4 million in operating income, while generating \$45.3 million in cash from operations. We concluded the fourth quarter of 2017 with a year-over-year revenue growth rate of 9.4% in our Environmental Services segment and we are working hard to maintain high single digit organic growth into fiscal 2018. These results reflect a commitment to our vision and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to build upon this success in the years ahead.

Heritage-Crystal Clean's two core segments are well positioned and poised for long term success, as we have presented in this annual report. Our Environmental Services segment has a rich history of offering an extensive line of services that allow our customers to outsource their management and disposal of used parts cleaning solvents, spent antifreeze, as well as other hazardous and non-hazardous waste. Many of these substances are subject to extensive and complex regulations, and mismanagement can result in citations, penalties, and substantial direct costs both to the service provider and also to the generator. Our philosophy is to strategically align our service branches to fit our customers' needs which allows them to focus more on their core business and devote fewer resources to industrial and hazardous waste management obligations.

In our Environmental Services segment, we added five new branches and added sales and service resources such as Branch Sales Managers, Antifreeze Sales and Service Reps, Vacuum Sales and Service Reps, and ESP Specialists throughout 2017. This investment allowed us to expand geographically in the Western half of the United States, which gave us the opportunity to acquire new customers, as well as broaden our relationships with our existing customers by bolstering our services menu in several markets. Our 2018 plan is to continue to invest in new branches and additional professional sales and service resources to sustain the momentum we created during 2017. Our balance sheet is strong which affords us the opportunity to pursue strategic acquisitions which allow us to enter new geographic markets, create synergies within markets we currently serve or expand our menu by entering verticals that fit our industrial focus.

Turning to our Oil Business segment, in 2017 we made capital improvements to increase the efficiency of our re-refinery which allowed us to produce a record 43 million gallons of base oil. As a result of these improvements our re-refinery is now capable of producing approximately 47 million gallons of base oil annually when operating at 100% capacity. Increased production capacity and improved base oil fundamentals should provide us the opportunity to have another successful year in the Oil Business during 2018. Our 2018 focus will continue to be on optimization of the re-refinery by improving our annualized run time and driving down our UMO route collection and plant operating costs.

Looking back on my first year as President and CEO of the Company, I'm thrilled with the record setting financial performance we achieved during 2017. Such a performance would not have been possible without the willingness of our employees to embrace change and work hard to further improve what was already a very successful Company. We are also appreciative of the support we have received from our investors which has allowed us to focus on creating long-term value for the company. It is this focus and commitment to improvement that will propel us to continued growth and success during 2018 and beyond.

Thank you for your confidence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Recatto', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Recatto
President, Chief Executive Officer
and Shareholder

March, 2018

CORPORATE INFORMATION

Board of Directors

Fred Fehsenfeld, Jr.
Chairman of the Board
of Directors

Brian Recatto
Director, President and
Chief Executive Officer

Bruce Bruckmann
Director

Carmine Falcone
Director and Chair of
Nominating & Governance
Committee

Charles E. Schalliol
Director and Chair of
Compensation Committee

Jim Schumacher
Director

Robert W. Willmschen, Jr.
Director and Chair of
Audit Committee

Officers and Senior Management

Brian Recatto
President and
Chief Executive Officer

John Lucks
Senior Vice President,
Sales and Marketing

Mark DeVita
Chief Financial Officer

Ellie Bruce
Vice President, Business
Management and Marketing

Craig Rose
Chief Information Officer

Glenn Casbourne
Vice President, Engineering
and Oil Re-Refinery Operations

David P. Chameli
Vice President, General
Counsel and Secretary

Anita Decina
Vice President, Environment,
Health & Safety

Thomas G. Hillstrom
Vice President, Strategic
Operations and Acquisitions

Ted Sinclair
Vice President, Oil Services
and Logistics

Dennis J. Wolff
Vice President, Branch Sales
and Hub Operations

Matthew Snyder
Corporate Controller

Edward Guglielmi
Vice President of Sales
and Service, Division 1

Todd Rohde
Vice President of Sales
and Service, Division 2

Matthew Munz
Vice President of Base Oil Sales

Gary Farrar
Vice President of Oil Supply
and Distillate/Heavy Fuel
Management

Shareholder Information

Corporate Headquarters
Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc.
2175 Point Boulevard
Suite 375
Elgin, IL 60123

Internet Address Information
Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc.
Visit www.crystal-clean.com for
more information about Heritage-
Crystal Clean, Inc. Links are
available to learn more about
our services and to obtain a
copy of our Annual Report.

Common Stock
Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc.
is traded under the stock
symbol HCCI on the NASDAQ
stock exchange.

Independent Registered
Public Accounting Firm
Grant Thornton LLP
171 N. Clark Street
Suite 200
Chicago, IL 60601

Transfer Agent
Computershare
P.O. Box 30170
College Station, TX 77845
781.575.4223

Please read the Disclosure
regarding Forward-Looking
Statements located on page 4
of our 10-K.



Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc.
2175 Point Boulevard, Suite 375
Elgin, Illinois 60123

45 STATES 86 BRANCHES 826 VEHICLES 1,274 EMPLOYEES



● Branch Locations ● Re-refinery ● States Served ○ Ontario, Canada Service Area

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

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

- ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 30, 2017
- OR
- TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number 001-33987



HERITAGE-CRYSTAL CLEAN, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

State or other jurisdiction of
Incorporation

26-0351454

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

**2175 Point Boulevard
Suite 375
Elgin, IL 60123**

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code **(847) 836-5670**

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

Title of Class
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value

Name of each exchange on which registered
NASDAQ Global Select Market

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 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 No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth Company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes No

On June 16, 2017 (the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter), the aggregate market value of the common stock of the registrant held by non-affiliates of the registrant was approximately \$202.7 million, based on the closing price of such common stock as of that date on the NASDAQ Global Select Market.

On February 26, 2018, there were outstanding 22,961,823 shares of Common Stock, \$0.01 par value, of Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc.

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Disclosure Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

In addition to historical information, this annual report contains forward-looking statements that are based on current management expectations and that involve substantial risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ materially from the results expressed in, or implied by, these forward-looking statements. These statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. They use words such as “aim,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “could,” “estimate,” “expect,” “intend,” “may,” “plan,” “project,” “should,” “will be,” “will continue,” “will likely result,” “would,” and other words and terms of similar meaning in conjunction with a discussion of future or estimated operating or financial performance. You should read statements that contain these words carefully, because they discuss our future expectations, contain projections of our future results of operations or of our financial position, or state other “forward-looking” information.

The factors listed under “Risk Factors,” as well as any cautionary language in this annual report, provide examples of risks, uncertainties, and events that may cause our actual results to differ materially from the expectations or estimates we describe in our forward-looking statements. Although we believe that our expectations are based on reasonable assumptions, actual results may differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including, but not limited to, those described under the heading “Risk Factors” and elsewhere in this annual report.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this annual report. We do not have any intention, and do not undertake, to update any forward-looking statements. As a result of these risks and uncertainties, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements included in this annual report or that may be made elsewhere from time to time by, or on behalf of, us. All forward-looking statements attributable to us are expressly qualified by these cautionary statements.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Overview

Heritage-Crystal Clean, LLC (herein collectively referred to as “we,” “us,” “our,” “HCC” or “the Company”) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. (herein referred to as “HCCI”). HCC provides full-service parts cleaning, containerized waste management, used oil collection, vacuum truck services, antifreeze recycling, field services, and owns and operates a used oil re-refinery. We believe that we are the second largest provider of parts cleaning and hazardous and non-hazardous waste services to small and mid-sized customers in both the industrial and vehicle maintenance sectors in North America, and we are the second largest used oil re-refiner by capacity in North America. We operate our business through our Environmental Services and Oil Business segments.

Environmental Services Segment

Our Environmental Services segment consists of our parts cleaning, containerized waste management, vacuum truck, antifreeze, and field services. These services allow our customers to outsource their handling and disposal of parts cleaning solvents as well as other hazardous and non-hazardous waste. Many of these substances are subject to extensive and complex regulations, and mismanagement can result in citations, penalties, and substantial direct costs both to the service provider and also to the generator. We allow our customers to focus more on their core business and devote fewer resources to industrial and hazardous waste management and its related administrative burdens.

We have adopted innovative approaches in our Environmental Services segment to minimize the regulatory burdens for our customers and have made “ease of use” of our services and products a priority. Our company has pioneered two different programs whereby our customers' used parts cleaning solvent may be excluded from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (“EPA”) definition of hazardous waste. These two programs not only simplify the management of used solvent generated by our customers, but also reduce the total volume of hazardous waste generated at many of our customers' locations. This can allow the customer to achieve a lower “generator status” with the EPA and thereby reduce their overall regulatory burden, including reduced reporting obligations and inspections.

Our focus on providing ease of use for our customers is also part of our containerized waste management, vacuum services, antifreeze services, and field services offerings. As part of our containerized waste and vacuum service programs, we assist our customers in identifying and characterizing their regulated wastes as well as providing the proper labeling and shipping documentation for their regulated materials. Our antifreeze recycling service offers our customers a fully-compliant

method to safely manage their used antifreeze while providing a high quality, environmentally friendly, remanufactured product. Similarly, our field services allow our customers to focus on their core business activities while we manage non-core activities such as tank cleanings and spill clean-up.

Oil Business Segment

The Oil Business segment consists of used oil collection activities, re-refining activities, oil filter removal and disposal services, and the sale of recycled fuel oil. Through our re-refining process, we recycle used oil into high quality lubricant base oil and other products, and we are a supplier to firms that produce and market finished lubricants. We operate a used oil re-refinery with an annual nameplate capacity of 75 million gallons. We are currently feeding the re-refinery with a combination of used oil collected from our customers and used oil that we purchase from third parties.

Industry

We operate within markets for industrial and hazardous waste services in the U.S. and a portion of Ontario, Canada. Specifically, we focus on the parts cleaning, containerized waste management, used oil collection and re-refining, vacuum truck services, antifreeze recycling, and field services areas of the industrial and hazardous waste services markets for small to mid-sized establishments. These establishments have a need to remove grease and dirt from machine and engine parts and include businesses involved in vehicle maintenance operations, such as car dealerships, automotive repair shops, and trucking firms, as well as small manufacturers, such as metal product fabricators and printers. These businesses also generate waste materials such as used oil, waste paint, or antifreeze that generally cannot be legally discarded as municipal trash or poured down a standard drain.

Environmental Services Segment

Parts cleaning machines and the related cleaning chemicals and solutions are used by operators and maintenance personnel in industrial plants and technicians in automotive service locations to clean dirty machine parts. Through use, the cleaning chemicals and solutions become contaminated with oil and sediment and must be replaced regularly. This replacement of used cleaning chemicals and solutions is subject to environmental regulations prohibiting disposal with municipal trash or by pouring down the drain. Vehicle maintenance facilities as well as small to medium sized industrial businesses generate other regulated materials which cannot be legally disposed of in the municipal trash or poured down the drain, such as used oil, waste paint, antifreeze, used oil filters, discarded fluorescent light tubes, spent batteries, etc. Because the management of these wastes is subject to changing regulatory requirements, most businesses need specialized knowledge to prepare required paperwork, maintain records, and ensure compliance with environmental laws. Large businesses, which generate substantial volumes of industrial and hazardous wastes, may find it more efficient to employ highly trained employees to manage this waste. Small and mid-sized businesses that generate lesser quantities of waste often cannot justify such personnel investments and typically prefer to outsource these services to providers that can assist them in their disposal of used cleaning chemicals and solutions as well as other wastes subject to environmental regulations.

Oil Business Segment

Through our used oil collection services, we compete in the used oil collection market. Automotive shops generate used oil as a result of performing oil changes on passenger cars and trucks. Industrial plants also generate used oil, often as a result of changing lubricants used in heavy machinery. Environmental regulations prohibit the disposal of used oil into sewers or landfills, so most commercial generators arrange to have their used oil picked up periodically by a used oil collector.

Since fiscal 2012, we have produced and sold lubricating base oil from our re-refinery. Most lubricating base oil is produced at refineries that process crude oil, and lubricating base oil is just one of the many products of the refining process along with gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, asphalt, and other hydrocarbon products. Major refining companies such as Chevron, ExxonMobil, and Motiva produce a significant share of the total U.S. base oil output. Some of the major refining companies use this material to produce their own branded lubricant products and also sell base oil to other firms that focus on the blending and packaging of lubricants. Historically, base oil has been sold for prices based on the market price of the crude oil feedstock plus a premium. However, the level of supply and demand for base oil can also affect the market price.

As of December 30, 2017, we operate 12 oil processing operations. Certain locations remove excess water from the used oil and separate oil from oily water mixtures using thermal treatment, gravity separation, and mechanical filtration. The finished product from this process is called Recycled Fuel Oil ("RFO"). The RFO we produce is sold to industrial burners and used oil processors, such as Vacuum Gas Oil ("VGO") producers and used oil re-refiners, or sold as a blend or cutter stock. We

also operate four wastewater treatment operations that service our Environmental Services segment. These facilities allow us to remove oil from some of the wastewater we collect, treat the wastewater, and then discharge it according to the standards in the applicable discharge permits. Some of the oil removed in the wastewater treatment process may become RFO.

The Crystal Clean Solution

Through our network of 86 branches, as of December 30, 2017, we provided parts cleaning, used oil collection, industrial waste removal, vacuum services, antifreeze recycling services, and field services to approximately 90,000 active customer locations.

Environmental Services Segment

During fiscal 2018, we performed more than 550,000 environmental services in fiscal 2017, of which over 300,000 were parts cleaning services. We believe our services are highly attractive to our customers, who value features such as assistance in preparing waste manifests and drum labels, regularly-scheduled service visits to check inventories and remove accumulated waste, and minimizing the number of vendors they must deal with related to the management of these materials. Our focus is to meet the service requirements of small and mid-sized clients, which we define as firms that generally spend less than \$50,000 per year on industrial and hazardous waste services. Small and mid-sized clients have needs that are often highly differentiated from the needs of larger accounts. We believe that our company is structured to meet these particular needs. Revenues in our Environmental Services segment accounted for approximately 65% of our revenues for fiscal 2018 and are generated primarily from providing parts cleaning services, industrial waste removal, and vacuum services for our clients.

Oil Business Segment

Through our used oil collection service, we collect the used oil generated by our customers when they replace used lubricating oil in vehicles and machinery. Most customers store the used oil that they generate in tanks, which must be emptied regularly to mitigate the risk of overflow or termination of their oil change activities. As a result, these customers have a strong need for timely used oil service. We have designed our services to deliver regularly-scheduled pickups, as well as the capability to respond to unscheduled requests on short notice. The used oil we collect is either transported to our used oil re-refinery or processed into RFO. When we re-refine or recycle their used oil, we are able to provide our customers with the satisfaction that their used oil is re-refined into high quality lubricants, using the approach cited as preferred by the EPA, or recycled by being used in the production of RFO.

We operate our used oil re-refinery in Indianapolis, Indiana where we re-refine used oil, which we collect from our customers or purchase from other oil collection service providers, into lubricating base oil, which we sell to firms who then blend, package, and market finished lubricants. The nameplate capacity is 75 million gallons of annual input of used oil feedstock including the impact of periodic shutdowns to perform routine maintenance. In fiscal 2018, we collected over 61 million gallons of used oil from our customers. Revenues in our Oil Business segment accounted for approximately 35% of our total revenues in fiscal 2018.

Services

Across our full range of services, we focus on reducing our customers' burdens associated with their generation of hard-to-handle wastes. Many of these wastes are subject to extensive and complex regulations, and mismanagement can result in citations, penalties, and substantial direct costs, both to the service provider and the generator. Many customers are familiar with "Superfund liability" and the possibility that they will be required to pay for future cleanups if their waste is mismanaged in a way that leads to environmental damage. Our services allow customers to focus more on their core business and devote fewer resources to industrial and hazardous waste management. A majority of our customers use our parts cleaning, waste management, and/or used oil collection services, and these services are offered at most of our branches.

Environmental Services Segment

In our full-service parts cleaning business, we provide customers with parts cleaning equipment and chemicals to remove oil, grease, and other contaminants from engine parts and machine parts. Most commonly, we provide a parts cleaning machine that contains a petroleum-based solvent in a reservoir. The customer activates a pump that circulates the solvent through a nozzle where it is used to clean parts. The solvent can be reused for a period of time, after which it becomes too dirty and requires replacement. We typically visit our customers every 4 to 12 weeks to remove the used solvent and replace it with clean solvent, while at the same time cleaning and inspecting the parts cleaning equipment to ensure that it is functioning properly

and assisting our customers with relevant regulatory paperwork. We believe that many of the parts cleaning services performed in the U.S. are structured as hazardous waste services, meaning that when the solvent has been used, it is managed as a regulated hazardous waste subject to numerous laws and regulatory filings. We reduce this burden for our customers by offering three alternative parts cleaning programs (our non-hazardous and reuse programs for solvent parts cleaning and our aqueous parts cleaning program) that do not subject the customer to the same hazardous waste regulations. These low-burden approaches help our customers achieve regulatory compliance while minimizing the paperwork and bureaucracy associated with hazardous waste management - ultimately saving them time and money. For example, these programs currently enable many of our customers to reduce their generation of hazardous wastes below the 220 pounds per month maximum threshold for retaining the EPA generator status of Very Small Quantity Generator ("VSQG"). For our customers, maintaining a VSQG status provides significant savings associated with not having to maintain an EPA identification number; prepare, track, and file transportation manifests; or produce other reports related to the use, storage, and disposal of used solvents. We offer a wide variety of different models of parts cleaning machines from which our customers may choose the machine that best fits their specific parts cleaning needs. While the majority of our customers are provided or sold machines directly from us, we also offer parts cleaning services for customers who purchase their parts cleaning machines from other sources. We offer a variety of petroleum solvents and aqueous chemicals for use in parts cleaning machines. We also have a wide range of service schedules from weekly service visits to triannual service visits.

In our containerized waste services, we collect drums, pails, boxes, and other containers of hazardous and non-hazardous waste materials from our customers. Typical wastes from vehicle maintenance include used antifreeze, used oil filters, waste paint, and used absorbent material. Typical wastes from manufacturing operations include waste paint and solvents, oily water wastes, used absorbents, and discarded fluorescent lighting tubes. We endeavor to find the lowest burden regulatory approach for managing each of these materials for our clients. In some cases, we can develop lower burden alternatives based on recycling materials for component recovery, such as with oil filters, or by following the less onerous universal waste regulations, such as with fluorescent tubes and waste paint. In other cases, the hazardous waste regulations may apply, in which case we assist customers with the complete hazardous waste disposal process, including performing analysis to characterize their waste, preparing manifests and drum labels, and selecting the appropriate destination facility. As part of our full-service approach, we visit our customers periodically to check their inventory of used or waste materials and remove full containers as appropriate. Because there are statutory limits on the amount of time that customers can store these waste materials, these service visits are valuable to help customers stay in compliance. To the extent that we can coordinate these service visits together with a regularly scheduled parts cleaning service, we are able to perform both tasks during the same visit, with the same truck and service employee.

In selected branch locations, we provide vacuum truck services for the removal of mixtures of oil, water, and sediment from wastewater pretreatment devices and other sources. Many shops and plants have floor drain systems that lead to pits, sumps, or separators that are designed to separate and retain oil and dirt, but allow clear water to flow out to a municipal sewer. Periodically, these drains and collection points accumulate excess oil or sediment needing removal. Because some of the material is very thick, a specialized vacuum truck is utilized for efficient removal of the material. Our vacuum truck service includes the removal of the oil, water, and sediment so that the customer's equipment operates as intended. We also offer bulk oily water removal. These services are scheduled on a regular basis. We currently offer vacuum truck service at only 57 of our branches. We believe we have the opportunity to grow this business by adding vacuum truck service to almost all of our remaining branches. We operate four waste water treatment facilities that allow us to remove oil from some of the wastewater we collect, treat the wastewater, and discharge it according to the standards in the applicable discharge permits.

Through our antifreeze recycling service, we offer customers a legally-compliant method to safely manage their used antifreeze while providing a high quality, environmentally friendly, remanufactured product. We offer responsive, on-time scheduled or on-demand collection and transportation of used automotive antifreeze to our four antifreeze recycling facilities, where it is recycled into high quality clean antifreeze. We then sell a variety of formulations of this antifreeze to our vehicle maintenance customers.

We also offer a variety of Field Services to assist customers with on-site equipment cleaning and the removal and proper management of various types of waste. Typical projects include lab pack services, the cleaning of above ground storage tanks, sumps, separators, ship-to-shore fluid transfers, and other environmental remediation services. We typically serve as contractor and engage contract labor or outsourced labor to provide our field services.

Oil Business Segment

As of the end of fiscal year 2017, we offered bulk used oil collection services in 75 of our branch locations. Although we manage some used oil through our containerized waste program, most customers who generate used oil (typically from vehicle engine oil changes) produce large quantities that are stored in bulk tanks, and these volumes are handled more efficiently via

bulk tank trucks such as the type we utilize. We pump the customer's material into our tank truck for proper management. We transfer a majority of the used oil we collect to our re-refinery to be recycled into lubricating base oil. We recycle the remaining used oil into RFO, some of which is sold to industrial burners, such as asphalt plants that use the RFO as a less expensive substitute for other fuels, and some of which is sold to used oil processors such as VGO producers and used oil re-refiners and some of it is sold for use as blend or cutter stock. As with our other services, we offer to visit customers on a regularly scheduled basis to arrange for the removal of their accumulated oil.

Competitive Strengths

We believe that we are the second largest provider of full-service parts cleaning services and used oil collection services in the U.S., and a leading provider of containerized waste services to small and medium sized customers. From our base of 86 branch locations, we employ an organized and disciplined approach to increasing our market share, taking advantage of the following competitive strengths:

Excellent Customer Service. Since our founding, we have followed a standardized, sales-oriented approach to our customers across our branch network. Our branch personnel are focused on local sales and service delivery, and a significant portion of their compensation is linked to revenue growth and new business development. In order to achieve this revenue growth, our personnel understand that they must retain existing business, which is best achieved by providing a very high level of customer service which can lead to cross-selling opportunities and referrals to new prospects. During fiscal 2018, approximately 90% of our Environmental Services revenues were generated from customers that we also served during fiscal 2017.

Cost-Efficient Branch Rollout Model. Our branch model allows us to consolidate operational and administrative functions not critical to sales and service at a regional hub, treatment or processing facility, or at our headquarters. This model has been the foundation for our new branch rollout as we have expanded from 14 branches in 1999, and we expect to extend this model to new locations. Furthermore, as we grow within each branch, we improve our route density, which is an important contribution to profitability in our business.

Large Branch Network. We have spent over eighteen years building and developing a large network of branches that has enabled us to rapidly grow our environmental services and used oil collection services efficiently and cost effectively. Our investments in this network help us to rapidly open new branches and cross sell products and services through existing branches.

Large and Highly Diverse Customer Base. Our focus on small and mid-sized businesses has enabled us to attract a variety of customers engaged in a range of businesses spread across the spectrum of the manufacturing, vehicle service, and transportation industries which helps insulate us from disruption caused by the possible loss of a single large account. Our customer base consists of approximately 90,000 active customer locations. In fiscal 2018, our largest single customer in our Environmental Services segment represented 1.3% of our consolidated revenues, and our largest ten customers represented approximately 3.7% of our consolidated revenues. In the Oil Business segment, revenues from our largest single customer accounted for 6.6% of our consolidated revenues for fiscal 2018, and our largest ten customers represented 20.7% of our consolidated revenues for fiscal 2018.

Experience in Re-Refining Technology. Our management team has substantial experience in the development and operation of used oil re-refineries, as several members of our management team were significant contributors to the development of approximately 65% of the used oil re-refining capacity in North America. Our team is able to design and construct re-refining capacity for a comparatively low capital cost. In 2012, we began operating our re-refinery which had an original nameplate capacity of 50 million gallons of used oil. We were able to construct the original re-refining capacity for approximately \$54 million, or approximately \$1 per gallon of capacity. In 2015, we completed the re-refinery expansion from 50 million to 75 million gallons of annual capacity for approximately \$1 of capital cost per gallon of annual capacity. We believe other re-refineries recently constructed in the United States have had a capital cost of substantially more than \$1 per gallon of capacity.

Innovative Services that Reduce Customers' Regulatory Burdens. We have designed our service programs to meet the needs of our target customers. In particular, these customers desire to minimize their regulatory compliance burdens, and we have developed innovative methods to help our customers achieve this objective. For example, we have created parts-cleaning service programs which exempt our customers from certain hazardous waste regulations and filing requirements:

- *Non-hazardous Program for Parts Cleaning.* In our non-hazardous program for parts cleaning, we provide our customers with an alternative solvent that is not included in the EPA's definition of hazardous waste due to its

increased flashpoint, and we educate each participating customer to prevent harmful contaminants from being added to the solvent during use. Because of the reduced solvent flammability, as long as the customer does not add toxic or flammable contaminants during use, neither the clean solvent that we supply nor the resulting used solvent generated by customers participating in the program is classified as hazardous waste by the EPA, and as a result can be managed as non-hazardous waste. To participate in this program, our customers must provide certification that no hazardous wastes have been added to the parts cleaning solvent. After we collect the used solvent from customers participating in our non-hazardous program for parts cleaning, we recycle it via distillation for re-delivery to our parts cleaning customers. The recycling process removes oil, water, and other impurities, resulting in solvent suitable to be re-used by our customers for parts cleaning. At the same time, this process minimizes the burdensome hazardous waste regulations faced by our customers and allows us to minimize our virgin solvent purchases. Our solvent recycling system located in Indianapolis is capable of recycling up to six million gallons per year of used solvent generated by customers participating in our non-hazardous program. This provides significant capacity in excess of our current requirements.

- *Product Reuse Program for Parts Cleaning.* Rather than managing used solvent as a waste, we have developed a program that uses the solvent as an ingredient in the manufacture of asphalt roofing materials. Used solvent generated by customers participating in our product reuse program for parts cleaning is sold as a direct substitute for virgin solvent that is otherwise used in the manufacturing process for asphalt roofing materials. Because the used solvent is destined for reuse, it is not deemed a waste, and therefore it is not subject to hazardous waste regulations. To enhance the marketing of these programs, in the past 20 plus years we and our predecessor, Heritage Environmental Services, have voluntarily obtained concurrence letters from more than 30 state environmental agencies to validate this approach.
- *Aqueous Program.* In addition to our petroleum-based solvent, we offer a full suite of proprietary aqueous-based parts cleaning solutions, including our patented aqueous parts cleaning equipment and patented filtration technology for water-based fluids, which we believe is the most comprehensive aqueous-based solutions offering in the industry. After our customer is finished using the solution, we remove the used solution and almost exclusively manage it as non-hazardous waste. Similar to the two solvent-based programs described above, our customers' used cleaning material will not be included in the EPA's definition of a hazardous waste, which helps reduce our customers' regulatory burdens. In addition, our patented Aqua Filtration Unit provides our customers with an innovative method to remove contaminants from their water-based fluids.

Experienced Management Team. Our management team has substantial experience in the industry and possesses particular expertise in the small to mid-sized customer segment. Our senior managers have on average more than 30 years of industry experience and our middle managers have on average more than 20 years of industry experience.

Growth Strategies

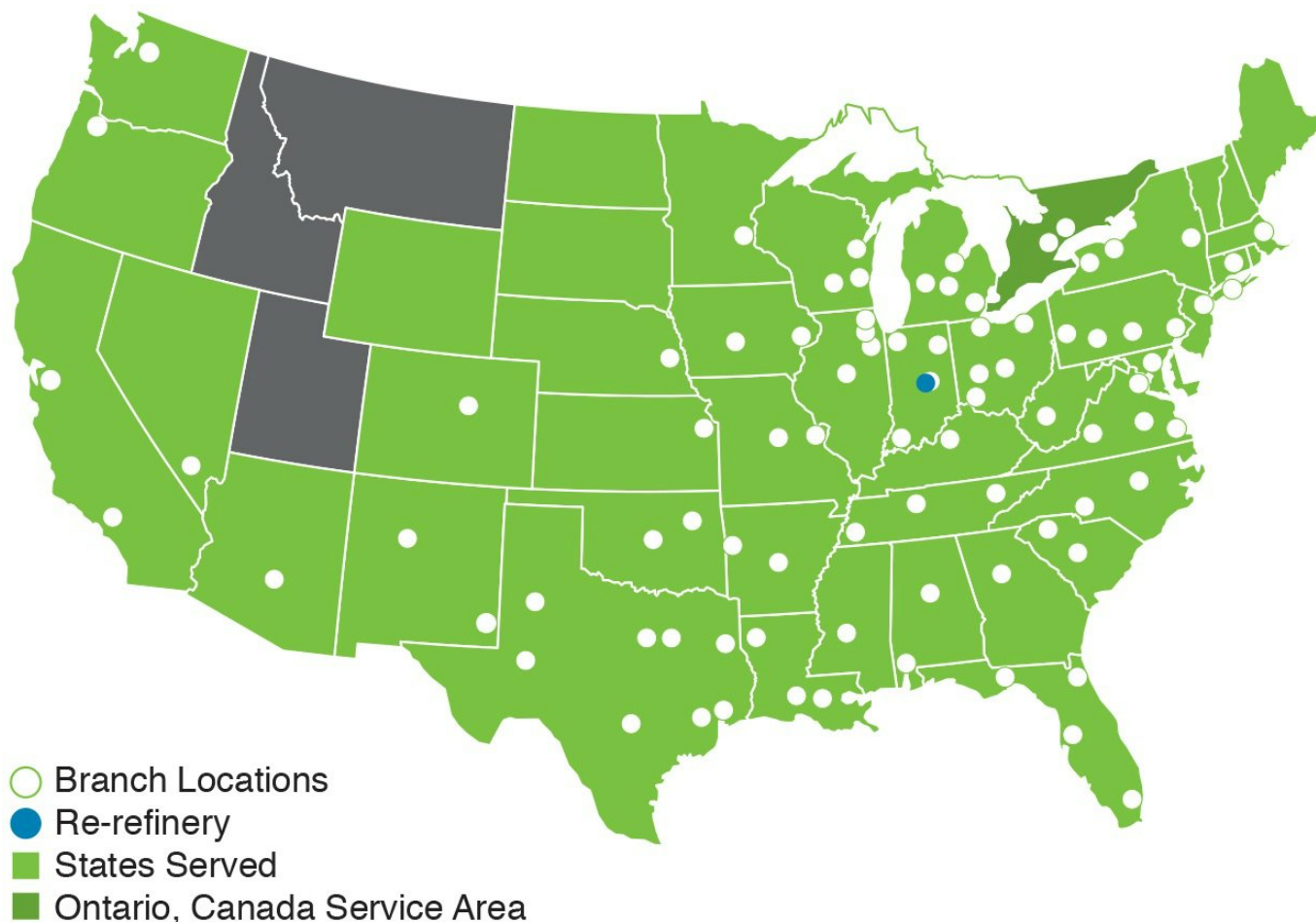
We intend to grow by providing environmental solutions that meet the needs of our customers. We have several different strategies to accomplish this and they include:

Same-Branch Sales Growth. We seek to generate year-over-year growth in existing markets by obtaining new customers and by cross-selling multiple services to existing customers. Our sales and marketing strategy includes providing significant incentives to our field sales and service personnel to find and secure new business. These incentives include commission compensation for individuals and managers as well as prize awards and contests at the individual and team level. Our company culture is designed to consistently emphasize the importance of sales and service excellence and to build and maintain enthusiasm that supports continued sales success. Additionally, we intend to drive profitability by leveraging fixed costs against incremental sales growth at our existing branches.

Expanded Service Offerings. Of our 86 branches, all branches currently offer parts cleaning and containerized waste management services, 75 offer used oil collection services, and 57 offer vacuum truck services. As our business grows and we achieve sufficient market penetration, we have the opportunity to expand our used oil collection and vacuum truck services to each branch location. We also have other new business programs in various stages of development which have the potential to be offered through our branch locations in the future.

Geographic Expansion. We currently operate from 86 branch locations that offer all or portions of our service menu to customers in the vast majority of the United States, the District of Columbia, and parts of Ontario, Canada. We have historically been able to install new branches at a relatively low cost, although installation of branches in the Western U.S. is relatively

more costly. Within the contiguous United States, we believe that there are opportunities to open more branches and provide convenient local service to additional markets.



Selectively Pursue Acquisition Opportunities. Our management team has significant experience in identifying and integrating acquisition targets. Given the number of small competitors in our business, there are generally multiple acquisition opportunities available to us at any given time. In fiscal 2013, we made various strategic acquisitions to help grow our used oil collection business and to enter the antifreeze recycling business. In fiscal 2014, we acquired FCC Environmental and International Petroleum Corporation which allowed us to add significant density to our used oil collection and vacuum truck services businesses primarily in the Southern and Eastern U.S. This acquisition also provided us additional density in our parts cleaning and antifreeze businesses as well as providing us a platform on which to start our field services business. Earlier that year we also acquired Sav-Tech Solvents Inc. which allowed us to enter into business in Canada. In fiscal 2016, we acquired Phoenix Environmental Services, Inc. and Recycled Engine Coolant, Inc. in order to expand our operations into the Pacific Northwest and to increase our used antifreeze recycling capabilities, respectively. As the markets for some of our services mature, we will increasingly consider making acquisitions which are adjacent to the businesses we currently operate in. Specifically, we will explore opportunities to leverage our core strengths which include our branch network and our customer relationships. Our growth plan is not dependent on acquisitions, but we will continue to pursue acquisitions that leverage our established infrastructure.

Sales and Marketing

Our mission and culture emphasize sales and service excellence and entrepreneurship, and our sales philosophy starts with the principle of “sales through service.” We assign a territory to each of our Sales & Service Representatives (“SSRs”), and require and encourage them to grow their business on their routes by delivering excellent service to existing customers. This helps our SSRs retain business, sell more services to satisfied customers, and obtain valued referrals to potential new customers. In addition to the efforts of our SSRs, we employ a branch manager at each of our branches, and we also employ branch sales managers, all of whom have dedicated sales territories and responsibilities.

Suppliers and Recycling/Disposal Facilities

We purchase goods such as parts cleaning machines, solvent (petroleum naphtha mineral spirits), cleaning chemicals, bulk used oil, bulk antifreeze (ethylene glycol) and used antifreeze, and absorbent from a limited group of suppliers. We also have arrangements with various firms that can recycle, burn, or dispose of the waste materials we collect from customers. These suppliers and disposal facilities are important to our business, and we have identified backup suppliers in the event that our current suppliers and disposal facilities cannot satisfy our supply or disposal needs. Heritage Environmental Services, an affiliate of The Heritage Group, Fred Fehsenfeld and the Fehsenfeld family trusts, which collectively beneficially owned 32.2% of our common stock as of December 30, 2017, operates one of the largest privately-owned hazardous waste treatment businesses in the U.S. We have used their hazardous waste services in the past, and it is likely that we will continue some level of use in the future.

We operate four waste water treatment facilities. These facilities allow us to remove oil from some of the waste water we collect, treat the waste water, and then discharge it according to the standards in the applicable discharge permits. These facilities allow us the flexibility to dispose of our oily water and vacuum services waste water collected from certain branches internally.

Competition

The markets for parts cleaning, containerized waste management, used oil collection, vacuum truck services, antifreeze recycling, and field services in which we participate are intensely competitive. While numerous small companies provide these services, our largest competitor, Safety-Kleen (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Clean Harbors, Inc.), has held substantial market share in the full-service parts cleaning industry for the last four decades and has developed significant market share in used oil collection and containerized waste management. We believe that Safety-Kleen has greater financial and other resources and greater name recognition than us. We estimate that in the full-service portion of the parts cleaning market, Safety-Kleen is significantly larger than us, and that we are substantially larger than the next largest competitor.

Many of our smaller competitors tend to be regional firms or parts cleaning companies that operate in a single city. Although many of these smaller competitors lack the resources to offer clients a full menu of services, they generally offer parts cleaning services ancillary to a primary line of business, such as used oil collection, in order to present a more complete menu to customers. In addition, companies involved in the waste management industry, including waste hauling, separation, recovery, and recycling, may have the expertise, access to customers, and financial resources that would encourage them to develop and market services and products competitive with those offered by us. We also face competition from alternative services that provide similar benefits to our customers as those provided by us.

Price, service quality and timeliness, breadth of service offering, reputation, financial strength, and compliance history are the principal competitive factors in the markets in which we compete. While we feel that most market competitors compete primarily on price, we believe that our competitive strength comes from our focus on customer service and our broad menu of services. Although we employ a pricing structure that controls discounts, we are able to deliver a sound value proposition through the reduced regulatory burden achieved through our programs. We could lose a significant number of customers if Safety-Kleen or other competitors materially lower their prices, improve service quality, develop more competitive product and service offerings, or offer a non-hazardous, reuse or aqueous program for parts cleaning more appealing to customers than ours.

We have the second largest used oil re-refinery, by capacity, in North America. We believe that our largest competitor, Safety-Kleen, currently controls a majority of the used oil re-refining capacity in North America.

Seasonality

Our operations may be affected by seasonal fluctuations due to weather cycles influencing the timing of customers' need for products and services. Typically during the first quarter and the end of the fourth quarter of each year there is less demand for most of our products and services due to the lower levels of activities by our customers as a result of the cold weather, particularly in the Northern and Midwestern regions of the United States. This lower level of activity also results in lower volumes of used oil generated for collection by us in the first quarter. In the winter months there is less construction activity, which reduces demand for certain re-refinery products. In addition, factory closings for the year-end holidays reduce the volume of industrial waste generated, which results in lower volumes of waste handled by us during the first quarter of the following year. However, we generally experience the opposite seasonality (higher levels of activity in the first quarter and end of the fourth quarter) in our antifreeze business.

Information Technology

We believe that automation and technology can enhance customer convenience, lower labor costs, improve cash management, and increase overall profitability. We are constantly evaluating opportunities to develop technologies that can improve our sales and service processes. Our commitment to the application of technology has resulted in the creation of a custom web-based application for scheduling, tracking, and management of customer services, billing, and collections. This system has been used as an integral part of our business operations since 2003. We believe that our standardized processes and controls enhance our ability to successfully add new branches and expand our operations into new markets. Mobile devices are used by our employees in the field to access customer service information. In our used oil collection and vacuum services businesses, these devices are also used to capture service transactions and inventory movements. We are beginning to capture services transactions in all of our other businesses using mobile devices. We expect that this project will be complete during fiscal 2018. After completion of this project substantially all of our transactions will be captured using mobile devices. Statistics are gathered and reported on a daily and weekly basis. These capabilities provide timely, automated data measurement and control for service activities to accelerate response to market and operational change.

Employees

As of December 30, 2017, we employed 1,197 full time and 77 part time employees. None of our employees are represented by a labor union or covered by a collective bargaining agreement. We believe that our employee relations are good.

Intellectual Property

We regard our intellectual property as important to our success and we rely on trademark, copyright, and other intellectual property laws in the United States to protect our proprietary rights. We have, in the past, successfully defended our patents against infringement, and we intend to continue to defend our intellectual property rights. In addition, we seek to protect our proprietary rights through the use of confidentiality agreements with employees, consultants, vendors, advisors, and others.

Our intellectual property includes the Crystal Clean brand and logo as well as our patented aqueous parts cleaning equipment, chemistry formulae, and filtration technology. Our patents expire at various times through 2034. Although we do not regard any single trade secret or component of our proprietary know-how to be material to our operations as a whole, if one or more of our competitors were to use or independently develop such know-how or trade secrets, our market share, sales volumes and profit margins could be adversely affected.

Regulation

Substantially all of our services and products involve the collection, transportation, storage, recycling and/or disposal of industrial and hazardous waste or hazardous materials, including solvents used in parts cleaners; containerized waste including waste paint, inks, adhesives, used antifreeze, used oil, and used oil filters; and bulk waste including used oil, oily water, and antifreeze. Our services are highly regulated by various governmental agencies at the federal, state, and local levels, as described in more detail below. Regulations govern matters such as the disposal of residual chemical wastes, operating procedures, storm water and wastewater discharges, fire protection, worker and community right-to-know, and emergency response plans.

Our services and products require us to comply with these laws and regulations and to obtain federal, state, and local environmental permits or approvals for some of our operations. Some of these permits must be renewed periodically, and governmental authorities have the ability to revoke, deny, or modify these permits. Zoning and land use restrictions also apply to all of our facilities. Siting and other state-operating approvals also apply in some states.

We are subject to federal and state regulations governing hazardous and solid wastes. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA") is the principal federal statute governing hazardous waste generation, treatment, transportation, storage, and disposal. Under RCRA, the EPA has established comprehensive "cradle-to-grave" regulations for the management of a wide range of materials identified as hazardous or solid waste. The regulations impose technical and operating requirements that must be met by facilities that generate, store, treat, transport, and dispose of these wastes. A number of states have regulatory programs governing the operations and permitting of hazardous and solid waste facilities. In addition, some states classify as hazardous some wastes that are not regulated under RCRA. Accordingly, we must comply with the state requirements for handling state regulated wastes.

In 2013, the EPA issued preliminary regulations regarding its plans to replace paper manifests with an electronic manifesting system and electronic database that will be developed and maintained by the EPA. Users of the system will pay transaction fees to the EPA for maintaining the system. Congress established a statutory deadline of October 2015 for the EPA to have a functioning "e-manifest" system. The EPA has directed that the implementation occur by June 30, 2018. We believe it is possible that the EPA may further delay the target implementation date beyond June 30, 2018. We intend to develop systems that will allow us to utilize the EPA's "e-manifest" system for shipments of hazardous waste and other waste materials that will be linked to the EPA's data management.

Our operations are governed by 10-day transfer requirements and do not typically require a hazardous waste facility permit. Most of our branches and distribution hubs in the U.S. operate as 10-day transfer facilities. Under RCRA, states are delegated to implement the regulatory programs through state regulations, which can be more stringent than those of the federal EPA. We have obtained facility waste permits for our locations in certain states and are currently pursuing waste permits in other states that do not allow the typical 10-day transfer option.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ("CERCLA") governs the cleanup of inactive hazardous waste sites and imposes liability for the cleanup on "responsible parties" generating or transporting waste to a site. CERCLA further provides for immediate response and removal actions coordinated by the EPA to releases of hazardous substances into the environment and authorizes the government to respond to the release or threatened release of hazardous substances or to order responsible persons to perform any necessary cleanup. CERCLA imposes strict liability on current or former owners and operators of facilities that release hazardous substances into the environment as well as on businesses that generate those substances or transport them to the facilities. Responsible parties may be liable for substantial investigation and cleanup costs even if they operated their businesses properly and complied with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Liability under CERCLA may be joint and several. Certain of our customers' and third-party contractors' facilities have been in operation for many years and, over time, the operators of these facilities may have generated, used, handled, and disposed of hazardous and other regulated wastes or other hazardous substances. Environmental liabilities could therefore exist under CERCLA, including cleanup obligations at these facilities or off-site locations where materials from our operations were disposed. In the past, we have been involved as a potentially responsible party ("PRP") at CERCLA cleanup sites, and it is possible that we may be involved at similar cleanup sites in the future.

In addition to regulations under RCRA and CERCLA, the EPA has adopted regulations under the Clean Air Act ("CAA") and the Clean Water Act ("CWA"). The CAA regulates emissions of pollutants into the air from mobile and stationary sources. CAA permits limit the emissions from parts cleaning units. One of our distribution hubs, our used oil re-refinery, and several of our oily water treatment operations are subject to facility-based permits under the CAA. The used oil re-refinery was constructed and is operating under CAA New Source Performance Standards and an associated permit. This air permit was modified to accommodate the ongoing expansion of the re-refinery. Our transportation fleet of trucks is regulated for emissions as mobile sources. Regulations under the CWA govern the discharge of pollutants into surface waters and sewers and require discharge permits and sampling and monitoring requirements. The CWA also requires specific spill plans governing the storage of waste and product hydrocarbons. A more detailed spill plan is also required at the used oil re-refinery because of the large volume of certain storage tanks. All of our recycling, used oil and oily water processing facilities currently hold CWA National Pollution Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permits for stormwater runoff and water pollution prevention. Our operations are also regulated pursuant to state statutes and implementing regulations, including those addressing clean water and clean air.

Our transportation fleet, truck drivers, and the transportation of hazardous materials are regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation ("DOT") Motor Carrier and the Federal Railroad Administration ("FRA"), as well as by the regulatory agencies of each state in which we operate or through which our vehicles pass. Governmental regulations apply to the vehicles used by us to transport the chemicals we distribute to customers and the waste and other residuals collected from customers. These vehicle requirements include the licensing requirements for the vehicles and the drivers, vehicle safety requirements, vehicle weight limitations, shipping papers, and vehicle placarding requirements.

The Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administration ("OSHA") safety standards are applicable to all of our operations. The used oil re-refinery and mineral spirits distillation facility are also subject to OSHA Process Safety Management standards that govern the operation of the facilities.

In August 1997, the South Coast Air Quality Management District in California (the "SCAQMD"), enacted Rule 1171, which prohibits the use of certain types of solvents that we currently sell for parts cleaning operations. In the areas of California affected by this or similar regulations (including Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Sacramento), aqueous parts cleaning is the primary substitute. We currently have two branches located in California, one in Los Angeles and another in Oakland. Although

other states have not passed regulations similar to Rule 1171, we cannot predict if or when other state and/or local governments will promulgate similar regulations which may restrict or prevent the use of solvent for parts cleaning. Pending air regulation laws in the northeastern United States may restrict, or possibly eliminate, the use of our typical parts washer solvent in cold parts cleaners. Due to the size of the states in the northeastern U.S. and the transport of pollutants over state boundaries, the Ozone Transport Commission ("OTC") develops overarching air pollution programs for member states to adopt. While there has been some delay in implementation of the regulations throughout the northeastern OTC states, additional regulations limiting the use of certain solvents and other ozone forming chemicals are expected to begin going into effect within the next five years. The OTC states include twelve states in the far northeastern U.S. as well as the District of Columbia. Among the OTC states, Maryland and Delaware have initiated development of rules to limit the use of ozone pollution forming compounds.

More specifically to our traditional parts cleaning services, federal and state laws and regulations dictate and restrict to varying degrees what types of cleaning solvents may be used, how a solvent may be stored, and the manner in which contaminated or used solvents may be handled, transported, disposed of, or recycled. These legal and regulatory mandates have been instrumental in shaping the parts cleaning industry. We have developed methods of managing solvent as non-hazardous so as to significantly reduce the regulatory burden on us and on our customers. Any changes to, relaxation of, or repeal of federal or state laws and regulations affecting the parts cleaning industry may significantly affect the demand for our products as well as our competitive position in the market.

The EPA has promulgated regulations that govern the management of used oils. Although used oil is not classified as a hazardous waste under federal law, certain states do regulate used oil as state-regulated waste. Our used oil collection services require compliance with both federal and state regulations. As with our parts cleaning services, we make use of various programs to reduce the administrative burden associated with our customers' compliance with used oil regulations. Any used oil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls ("PCBs") is regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act ("TSCA"). The rules set minimum requirements for storage, treatment, and disposal of PCB wastes. Used oil contaminated with a certain level of PCBs may require incineration or special TSCA authorization or permits. The EPA has recently proposed CAA regulations requiring more stringent air permits governing the burning of certain recyclable materials, including non-specification used oil. We do not anticipate any negative impacts to the Company from this pending court ordered regulation.

One of the products of the re-refining process is Vacuum Tower Asphalt Extender ("VTAE"). VTAE is sold for use as an ingredient in asphalt used in the construction of roadways and other applications. State Departments of Transportation may regulate the characteristics of materials that are used as ingredients in roadway asphalt. A small number of states have banned the use of VTAE as an ingredient in asphalt used on roadways. We believe, when used in the proper proportion, the VTAE produced at our re-refinery can be used in a paving asphalt formulation that meets all relevant performance standards. Regulatory restrictions on the use of VTAE have negatively impact the marketability of this product and the profitability of our oil business.

Governmental authorities have the power to enforce compliance with these and other regulations, and violators are subject to civil and criminal penalties. Private individuals may also have the right to sue to enforce compliance with certain of the governmental requirements.

Available Information

We maintain a website at the following Internet address: <http://www.crystal-clean.com>. Through a link on this website to the SEC website, <http://www.sec.gov>, we provide free access to our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as soon as reasonably practicable after electronic filing with the SEC. The public can obtain copies of these materials by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington DC 20549 or by accessing the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. The public may obtain information on the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room by calling 1-800-SEC-0330. Our guidelines on corporate governance, the charters for our Board Committees, and our code of ethics are also available on our website, and we will post on our website any waivers of, or amendments to, such code of ethics. Our website and the information contained therein or connected thereto are not incorporated by reference into this annual report.

Executive Officers of Registrant

The following table sets forth the names, ages and titles, as well as a brief account of the business experience of each person who is an executive officer of Heritage-Crystal Clean.

| Name | Age | Position |
|---------------|------------|---|
| Brian Recatto | 53 | President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director |
| John Lucks | 64 | Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing |
| Mark DeVita | 49 | Chief Financial Officer |
| Ellie Bruce | 54 | Vice President of Business Management and Marketing |
| Tom Hillstrom | 57 | Vice President of Strategic Operations and Acquisitions |

Brian Recatto **President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director**

On February 1, 2017, Mr. Recatto was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer and has been a director of the Company since 2012. From 2014 to January 2017, Mr. Recatto served as President U.S. Operations for Gibson Energy Inc., one of the largest independent midstream energy companies in Canada and a major U.S. crude oil logistics operator. Mr. Recatto joined Gibsons through its acquisition of OMNI Energy Services, where he had served in various executive positions since 2007, including Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Recatto was President from 2004 to 2007 of Charles Holston, Inc., a waste management and environmental cleaning company, which OMNI acquired. He served in various operating and executive positions from 1997 to 2004 with Philip Services Corporation, an environmental and industrial services company, including roles as General Manager of Gulf Coast Waste Operations, Senior Vice President By-Products Services Group and President Industrial Services. Mr. Recatto joined Philip Services Corporation through its acquisition of Meklo, Inc., an industrial waste management company, where he had served as President for six years. Mr. Recatto holds a bachelor's degree in Finance from Louisiana State University.

John Lucks **Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing**

Mr. Lucks has been our Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing since 2012. Before that, Mr. Lucks served as our Vice President of Sales and Marketing from 2010, and prior to that as our Vice President of Sales from 2000 - 2010. From 1988 to 1997, Mr. Lucks served as the Vice President of Industrial Marketing and Business Management of Safety-Kleen, where he was in charge of and oversaw a \$300 million revenue business unit. Mr. Lucks also led the development of several lines of business, in particular the industrial parts cleaning and drum waste business which became the largest segment of Safety-Kleen. Mr. Lucks has over 30 years of experience in the industrial and hazardous waste services industry.

Mark DeVita **Chief Financial Officer**

Mr. DeVita has been our Chief Financial Officer since 2012. He served as Vice President, Business Management in 2011. Mr. DeVita has been with the Company since 2000 and has served in a variety of roles related to business management, finance, and acquisitions. He took the lead in developing multi-million dollar lines of business for the Company. Mr. DeVita has 20 years of experience in the industrial and hazardous waste services industry. Mr. DeVita earned his Bachelor of Science in Accountancy with honors from the University of Illinois and his MBA from Northern Illinois University. Mr. DeVita earned his CPA and worked in public accounting for four years.

Ellie Bruce
Vice President of Business Management and Marketing

Ms. Bruce became Vice President Business Management and Marketing in 2016. Prior to this, Ms. Bruce was Vice President of Sales from 2012 to 2015. She has also served as Vice President Oil from 2010 to 2015. She served as Chief Accounting Officer from June of 2007 to 2012 and has been with the Company since March 2006. She began her career in the used oil collection and re-refining business in 1988 when she joined Safety-Kleen, working at the oil re-refinery in Breslau Canada and served in a number of positions, including Controller of Safety-Kleen Canada Inc., responsible for the accounting and business management for all of the branch lines of business.

Tom Hillstrom
Vice President of Strategic Operations and Acquisitions

Mr. Hillstrom has served in various capacities since joining Heritage-Crystal Clean, LLC in 2002 and is currently our Vice President of Strategic Operations and Acquisitions. From 1983 to 2000, Mr. Hillstrom served in various functions at Safety-Kleen. He was a member of the planning and design team for the construction of Safety-Kleen's used oil re-refinery in East Chicago, Indiana and held the position of Facility Manager during the re-refinery's start-up and through its first years of operation. From 1996 to 1998, he was Director of Planning and Evaluation, where he was responsible for strategic planning and acquisitions. Mr. Hillstrom holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame, and has over 25 years of experience in the industrial and hazardous waste services industry.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the following factors, as well as other information contained or incorporated by reference in this report, before deciding to invest in shares of our common stock. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only risks and uncertainties we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations. If any of those risks actually occurs, our business, financial condition and results of operations would suffer. In that event, the trading price of our common stock could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment. The risks discussed below also include forward-looking statements and our actual results may differ substantially from those discussed in these forward-looking statements. See "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" included elsewhere in this document.

Risks Relating to Our Business

Our operating margins and profitability may be negatively impacted by the volatility in crude oil, solvent, fuel, energy, and commodity prices.

The price at which we sell oil-based products in our Oil Business segment, such as re-refined base oil, hydrotreated fuel, VTAE, and RFO is affected by changes in certain oil indices, such as the price for crude oil. If the relevant oil indices rise or fall, we can typically expect a corresponding increase or decrease in prices for the oil products we sell to reflect the change in the relevant oil indices. However, there may be a lag between the time an oil index increases or decreases and the time when we are able to increase or decrease the price of the oil products we sell. The costs to collect used oil, including the amounts we must pay or charge to obtain used oil and the fuel costs of our oil collection fleet, generally increases or decreases when the relevant index increases or decreases. As with the prices for the oil products we sell there may be a time lag between when an oil index increases or decreases and when we are able to adjust the amounts we pay or charge to obtain used oil. Even though the prices we can charge for the oil products we sell and the costs to collect and re-refine used oil generally correlate, they do not always increase or decrease by the same magnitude, and we cannot assure you that any increased costs we experience can be passed through to the prices we charge for the oil products we sell or that the costs to collect and re-refine used oil will decline when re-refined oil prices decline. Because of the competitive nature of the oil collection industry, we may not be able to adjust the amounts we pay or charge for used oil in a timely manner or to fully compensate for decreases in the prices for the oil products we sell which could materially and negatively impacted our operating results and profitability. Any increases in our costs to collect used oil could adversely affect the profitability of our Oil Business segment.

Increased costs of crude oil can significantly increase our operating costs in our Environmental Services segment. Because solvent is a product of crude oil, we are also susceptible to increases in solvent costs when crude oil costs increase. During a period of rising crude oil costs, we typically experience increases in the cost of solvent, fuel, and other petroleum-based products. We have in the past been able to mitigate increased solvent and fuel costs through the imposition of price increases

and energy surcharges to customers. However, because of the competitive nature of the industry, there can be no assurance that we will be able to pass on future price increases. Due to political instability in oil-producing countries, oil prices could increase significantly in the future. A significant or sudden increase in solvent or fuel costs could lower our operating margins and negatively impact our profitability. We currently do not use financial instruments to hedge against fluctuations in oil, solvent, or energy prices. If this volatility continues, our operating results could be volatile and adversely affected.

In addition, a significant portion of our inventory consists of new and used solvents and oil products. Volatility in the price of crude oil has impacted the value of this inventory in the past and can significantly impact the value of this inventory in the future. Further, because we apply a first-in first-out accounting method, volatility in oil prices and solvent can significantly impact our operating margins. If volatility in the price of crude oil continues, our operating results will be difficult to predict and could be adversely affected. If we do not increase how much we charge to generators to acquire their used oil as quickly as the price for our oil products declines, the profitability of our Oil Business segment would be negatively impacted.

Many small automotive repair shops and manufacturing companies burn used oil as a source of heat as an alternative to using natural gas. If the price of natural gas were to increase significantly, these potential customers may choose to retain their used oil for fuel purposes rather than allowing us to collect their used oil. This could make it difficult to supply our re-refinery with internally collected feedstock at competitive prices. In addition, increases in the cost of natural gas may increase the cost to operate our used oil re-refinery.

Our indebtedness could harm our operating flexibility and competitive position as well as adversely affect our financial condition and ability to fulfill our obligations, and expose us to interest rate risk.

As of December 30, 2017, we had \$30.0 million outstanding under the Credit Agreement in the form of Term A Loans. Amounts borrowed under the Credit Agreement are secured by a security interest in substantially all of our tangible and intangible assets. The Credit Agreement contains various requirements and covenants, including one that requires us to maintain a specified total leverage ratio. Our ability to comply with these ratios or tests may be affected by events beyond our control, including prevailing economic, financial, and industry conditions. A breach of any of these covenants, ratios, or tests could result in a default under the Credit Agreement. Our level of debt and the limitations imposed on us by the debt agreements related to such indebtedness could adversely affect our operating flexibility and put us at a competitive disadvantage. Our debt level may adversely affect our future performance, because, among other things:

- we may be placed at a competitive disadvantage relative to our competitors, some of which have lower debt service obligations and greater financial resources than we do;
- our ability to complete future acquisitions may be limited;
- we will have to use a portion of our cash flow for debt service rather than for operations;
- we may not be able to obtain further debt financing and may have to pay more for financing;
- the indebtedness may bear interest at variable interest rates, making us vulnerable to increases in interest rates; and
- we will be more vulnerable to adverse economic conditions.

The indebtedness will require future interest and principal payments. Our ability to make scheduled payments of principal, to pay interest on, or to refinance our indebtedness and to satisfy our other debt obligations will depend upon our future operating performance, which may be affected by factors beyond our control. In addition, there can be no assurance that future borrowings or equity financing will be available to us on favorable terms or at all for the payment or refinancing of our indebtedness. If we are unable to service our indebtedness, our business, financial condition and results of operations would be materially adversely affected. Borrowings under our Credit Agreement are tied to the various stated interest rates. In the event of an increase in interest rates or an increase in the amount of our indebtedness, our interest expense will increase and could have a material adverse effect on our net income.

Our used oil re-refinery may not generate the operating results that we anticipate and may lead to greater volatility in our revenue and earnings.

There can be no assurance that unforeseen market conditions, such as a significant drop in crude oil prices, will not adversely impact the operation or profitability of our re-refinery. Our success in operating our re-refinery at capacity and realizing the anticipated benefits therefrom in a timely manner, or at all, may be affected by the following factors:

- Operation of the Re-refinery - Operating at capacity depends on the ability of our employees and management to run the re-refinery at design rates safely and in compliance with all relevant regulations. Nameplate capacity includes the impact of periodic shutdowns for routine maintenance. Any extended or unscheduled shutdowns may inhibit our ability to operate the re-refinery at or near capacity.
- Balance of Base Lube Oil Demand vs Supply - Operating at capacity depends on the demand for base lube oil in general and specifically the base lube oil produced at our Indianapolis site. If the capacity for base lube oil production (i.e. supply) exceeds the demand for base lube oil then it is likely that there will be downward pressure on the price of base lube oil. In addition, we may experience increased downward pricing pressure when compared to suppliers of virgin lubricating base oil, which has historically sold at a premium to re-refined lubricating base oil.
- Logistics - Operating at capacity depends on our ability to efficiently transport used oil to our Indianapolis site and to transport base lube oil and related products out of our Indianapolis site as well as on our access to adequate storage facilities for raw materials and products. Our ability to transport used oil and oil products efficiently is dependent on the third parties we utilize to help us execute these activities.
- Base Lube Oil Pricing - The price at which we sell oil-based products from our used oil re-refinery is affected by changes in certain oil indices. If the relevant oil indices decline, we would typically reduce prices for our re-refined lubricating base oil, even if our costs do not experience a similar decline. If we reduce prices for our products, we may not realize expected results, and our operating margins may be adversely impacted.
- Used Oil Feedstock - Operating at capacity depends on our ability to obtain the required volume from either Company customers or third-party collectors and to acquire the feedstock at competitive rates.

Our operations are subject to numerous environmental, transportation, and other laws and regulations and, to the extent we are found to be in violation of any such laws and regulations, we may be subject to involuntary shutdowns and/or significant financial penalties.

Our operations are subject to extensive federal, state, and local laws and regulations relating to the protection of the environment which, among other things:

- regulate the collection, sale, transportation, handling, processing, and disposal of the hazardous and non-hazardous wastes that we collect from our customers;
- regulate the treatment and processing of waste material that we collect from our customers and the discharge of treated material;
- impose liability on persons involved in generating, handling, processing, transporting, or disposing hazardous materials; and
- impose joint and several liability for the remediation and clean-up of environmental contamination

We are also subject to various transportation rules and regulations enforced by the DOT, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and the Department of Homeland Security. The breadth and complexity of these laws and regulations affecting our business make consistent compliance extremely difficult and often result in increased operating and compliance costs. Even with these programs, we and other companies in the industry are routinely faced with legal and administrative proceedings which can result in civil and criminal penalties (including the loss of certain licenses and permits that are required for our business), interruption of business operations, fines or other sanctions, and require expenditures for remedial work at our and third-party facilities. Under current law, we may be held liable for damage caused by conditions that existed before we acquired the assets or operations involved or if we arrange for the transportation, disposal, or treatment of hazardous substances that cause environmental contamination. We may also be held liable for the mishandling of waste streams resulting from the misrepresentations by a customer as to the nature of such waste streams. We may be subject to monetary fines, civil or criminal penalties, remediation, clean-up or stop orders, injunctions, orders to cease or suspend certain practices, or denial of permits we require to operate our facilities.

We are also required to obtain and maintain permits, licenses, and approvals to conduct our operations in compliance with such laws and regulations. If we are unable to maintain our currently held permits, licenses, and approvals, we may not be able to continue certain of our operations. If we are unable to obtain additional permits, licenses, and approvals which may be required as we expand our operations, we may not be able to grow our business. We have in the past been subject to penalties and fines for noncompliance with environmental regulations and could be subject to penalties and fines in the future.

In addition, the operation of our used oil re-refinery exposes us to risks related to the potential loss of permits, contamination of feedstock, adverse environmental impact of a spill or other release, the risk of explosion or fire or other hazards, the risk of injury to our employees or others, as well as the negative publicity due to public concerns regarding our operation. The occurrence of any of these events could result in reduced production rates, loss of inventory, operational inefficiencies, clean-up costs, or other items that might negatively affect the operating results of the Company. While these risks are in some respects similar to risks that we have experienced in our traditional service businesses, the magnitude of exposure may be greater due to the nature of the used oil re-refining industry and the greater volumes, temperatures, and pressures involved. While we may maintain some insurance that covers portions of these exposures, in many cases the risks are uninsurable or we will not choose to procure insurance at levels that will cover all potential exposure.

CERCLA and similar state laws impose strict liability on current or former owners and operators of facilities that release hazardous substances into the environment, as well as on the businesses that generate those substances or transport them to the facilities. As a potentially responsible party, or PRP, we may be liable under CERCLA for substantial investigation and cleanup costs even if we operate our business properly and comply with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Liability under CERCLA may be joint and several, which means that if we were found to be a business with responsibility for a particular CERCLA site, we could be required to pay the entire cost of the investigation and cleanup, even though we were not the party responsible for the release of the hazardous substance and even though other companies might also be liable. Even if we were able to identify who the other responsible parties might be, we may not be able to compel them to contribute to the remediation costs, or they might be insolvent or unable to contribute due to lack of financial resources. Our facilities and the facilities of our customers and third party contractors may have generated, used, handled and/or disposed of hazardous substances and other regulated wastes. Environmental liabilities could exist, including cleanup obligations at these facilities or at off-site locations where materials from our operations were disposed of, which could result in future expenditures that cannot be currently quantified and which could materially reduce our profits. It is also possible that government officials responsible for enforcing environmental laws may view an environmental liability as more significant than we then currently estimate, or that we will fail to identify or fully appreciate an existing liability before we become legally responsible to address it.

Our pollution liability insurance excludes certain liabilities under CERCLA. Thus, if we were to incur liability under CERCLA that was not covered by our insurance, and if we could not identify other parties responsible under the law whom we are able to compel to contribute to the liabilities, the cost to us could be substantial and could impair our profitability, reduce our liquidity, and have a material adverse effect on our business. Although our customer service agreements typically provide that the customer is responsible for ensuring that only appropriate materials are disposed of, we could be exposed to third party claims if customers dispose of improper waste, and we might not be successful in recovering our damages from those customers. In addition, new services or products offered by us could expose us to further environmental liabilities for which we have no historical experience and cannot estimate our potential exposure to liabilities.

In addition, there currently exists a high level of public concern over hazardous waste operations, including with respect to the siting and operation of transfer, processing, storage, and disposal facilities. For example, under the DOT's Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) initiative, a compliance and enforcement initiative designed to monitor commercial motor vehicle safety, the fleets and drivers in our network are evaluated and ranked based on certain safety-related standards. A poor fleet ranking or a reduction in eligible drivers could impact our ability to service our customers and could cause our customers to use a competitor with higher fleet rankings than ours, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Part of our business strategy is to increase revenues by adding branch operations in new geographies. This effort may require us to undergo a regulatory approval process that could be time consuming and impact the success of our business strategy. Zoning, permit, and licensing applications and proceedings, as well as regulatory enforcement proceedings, are all matters open to public scrutiny and comment. Accordingly, from time to time we have been, and may in the future be, subject to public opposition and publicity which may damage our reputation and delay or limit the expansion of our business or impair our ability to renew existing permits which could prevent us from implementing our growth strategy and have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

A system failure could delay or interrupt our ability to provide services and products and could increase our costs and reduce our sales.

Our operations are dependent upon our ability to support our branch infrastructure. Our business operates through four hubs that service our 86 local branches. Any damage or failure that causes interruptions in our operations could result in the loss of customers. To date, we have not experienced any significant interruptions or delays which have affected our ability to provide services and products to our customers. The occurrence of a natural disaster, technological, transportation, or operational disruption or other unanticipated problem could cause interruptions in the services we provide and impair our ability to generate sales and achieve profits.

A cyber incident could result in information theft, data corruption, operational disruption, and/or financial loss.

We are increasingly dependent on digital technology, including information systems and related infrastructure, to process and record financial and operating data, and communicate with our employees and business partners. Cyber incidents, including deliberate attacks or unintentional events, have increased. A cyber-attack could include gaining unauthorized access to digital systems for purposes of misappropriating assets or sensitive information, corrupting data, or causing operational disruption or result in denial of service on websites.

Our technologies, systems, networks, and those of our business partners may become the target of cyber-attacks or information security breaches that could result in the unauthorized release, gathering, monitoring, misuse, loss, or destruction of proprietary and other information, or other disruption of our business operations. Any cyber attack on our business could materially harm our business and operating results. While we carry insurance for cyber security and network interruption risks there is no guarantee that any losses we may suffer in the future will not exceed coverage amounts or that all cyber incidents will be covered by our insurance.

As cyber threats continue to evolve, we may be required to expend significant additional resources to continue to modify or enhance our protective measures or to investigate and remediate any information security vulnerabilities.

If current environmental laws and regulations are changed, we may be forced to significantly alter our business model, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial performance.

Environmental laws and regulations are subject to change and may become increasingly stringent or relaxed. Interpretation or enforcement of existing laws and regulations, or the adoption of new laws and regulations, may require us to modify or curtail our operations or replace or upgrade our facilities or equipment at substantial costs which we may not be able to pass on to our customers. On the other hand, if new laws and regulations are less stringent, then our customers or competitors may be able to manage waste more effectively without reliance on our service, which could decrease the need for our services and/or increase competition which could adversely affect our revenues and profitability.

For example, the EPA currently excludes waste used as an ingredient in the production of a product from being defined as hazardous waste. Our product reuse program for parts cleaning operates under this exclusion and provides an advantage by excluding our customers' used solvent from being regulated as hazardous waste. Similarly, under our non-hazardous program for parts cleaning, we provide our customers with a different solvent that has a higher flashpoint than traditional solvents. The resulting used solvent is not considered to be hazardous waste so long as our customers ensure that no inappropriate contaminants were contributed to the used solvent.

If the EPA were to broaden the definition of hazardous waste to include used solvents generated by our customers under our product reuse and/or non-hazardous programs for parts cleaning, the value of our offerings may be significantly reduced, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial performance. Examples of changes by the EPA that could adversely affect our services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- elimination of the reuse exception to the definition of hazardous waste;
- increase in the minimum flashpoint threshold at which solvent becomes included in the definition of hazardous waste;
- increased requirements to test the used solvent that we pick up from our customers for the presence of toxic or more flammable contaminants; and
- adoption of regulations similar to those enacted in some California air quality districts that prohibit the use of the solvents of the type that we sell for parts cleaning operations.

Similarly, if current environmental laws were changed so as to ban the use of mineral spirits in parts cleaning, we may be forced to discontinue offering mineral spirits-based parts cleaning services. This could lead to a write-down in the value of our inventory of mineral spirits, mineral spirits drums, and our parts cleaning machines (both at our sites and customer locations) designed to utilize mineral spirits, as well as our mineral spirits distillation equipment.

One of the products produced at the re-refinery process is Vacuum Tower Asphalt Extender ("VTAE"). VTAE is sold for use as an ingredient in asphalt used in the construction of roadways. State Departments of Transportation may regulate the characteristics of materials that are used as ingredients in roadway asphalt. A small number of states have banned the use of VTAE as an ingredient in asphalt used on roadways. We believe, when used in the proper proportion, the VTAE produced at our re-refinery can be used in a paving asphalt formulation that meets all relevant performance standards. Regulatory restrictions on the use of VTAE have negatively impacted the marketability of this product and the profitability of our oil business.

In addition, new laws and regulations, new interpretations of existing laws and regulations, increased governmental enforcement, or other developments could require us to make additional unforeseen expenditures. We are not able to predict the impact of new or changed laws or regulations or changes in the ways that such laws or regulations are administered, interpreted, or enforced. The requirements to be met, as well as the technology and length of time available to meet those requirements, continue to develop and change. To the extent that our costs associated with meeting any of these requirements are substantial and cannot adequately be passed through to our customers, our earnings and cash flows could suffer.

A decline in expected profitability of the Company or individual reporting units of the Company could result in the impairment of assets, including goodwill, other long-lived assets, and deferred tax assets.

We hold material amounts of goodwill, other long-lived assets, and deferred tax assets on our balance sheet. A decline in expected profitability of one of our operating segments or a decline in the global economy, could call into question the recoverability of our related goodwill, other long-lived tangible and intangible assets, or deferred tax assets and require us to write down or write off these assets or, in the case of deferred tax assets, recognize a valuation allowance through a charge to income. Such an occurrence could have a material adverse effect on our annual results of operations and financial position.

We operate our business through many locations, and if we are unable to effectively oversee all of these locations, our business reputation and operating results could be materially adversely affected.

Because we rely on our extended network of 86 branch locations to operate independently to carry out our business plan, we are subject to risks related to our ability to oversee these locations. If in the future we are unable to effectively oversee our branch locations, our results of operations could be materially adversely affected, we could fail to comply with environmental regulations, we could lose customers, we could lose control of inventory and other assets, and our business could be materially adversely affected.

Our results of operations and financial condition have been and could in the future be materially adversely impacted by an economic downturn.

The overall levels of demand for our parts cleaning products and supplies and other services are influenced by fluctuations in levels of end-user demand, which depend in large part on general macroeconomic conditions in the U.S. and the regional economic conditions affecting our branches. Our customers and suppliers may face severe financial difficulties, causing them to cease some or all their business operations or to reduce the volume of products or services they purchase from us in the future. We may have accounts receivable from customers who may not be able to honor their obligations to us. Failure to collect a significant portion of amounts due on those receivables could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. Many of our customers are heavily dependent on general economic conditions, including the availability of affordable energy sources, employment levels, interest rates, financial credit availability, consumer confidence, and housing demand. Downturns in these general economic conditions can significantly affect the business of our customers, which in turn affects demand, volumes, pricing, and operating margins for our services and products. In past economic downturns, demand from our services has declined as our customers' reduced their costs which in turn reduced their demand for our services. During 2016, we felt the impact of a downturn in economic activity for businesses in, and doing business with, the oil industry due to the continued decline in the price of crude oil. Such downturns in the oil industry negatively impact the operating results of our Environmental Services segment.

In addition, adverse economic and financial market conditions may cause our suppliers to be unable to provide materials and components to us or may cause suppliers to make changes in the credit terms they extend to us, such as shortening the required payment period for our amounts owing them or reducing the maximum amount of trade credit available to us. Such changes could adversely affect our liquidity and could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. If we are unable to successfully anticipate changing economic and financial market conditions, we could be adversely affected.

We face intense competition in the industrial and hazardous waste services industries and from other used oil re-refiners.

The markets for parts cleaning, containerized waste management, used oil collection, vacuum truck services, antifreeze recycling, and field services are intensely competitive. Numerous small companies provide these services at a regional or local level and may be able to compete with lower overhead and operating costs. In addition, Safety-Kleen, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Clean Harbors, Inc. and our largest competitor, has held substantial market share in the full-service parts cleaning industry for the last four decades and has developed a significant market share in used oil services, including used oil collection and containerized waste management. Safety-Kleen has greater financial and other resources and greater name recognition than us. Our business growth, financial performance, and prospects may be adversely affected if we cannot effectively compete against these competitors, or if any of our competitors develop products or services superior to those offered by us. We could lose a significant number of customers if Safety-Kleen or other competitors materially lower their prices, improve service quality, or develop more competitive product and service offerings.

In addition, companies involved in the waste management industry, including waste hauling, separation, recovery, and recycling, may have the expertise, access to customers, and financial resources that would encourage them to develop and market services and products competitive with those offered by us. We also face competition from alternative services that provide similar benefits to our customers as those provided by us. In addition, new technology regarding the treatment and recycling of used solvent may lead to functionally equivalent or superior products becoming available, which may decrease the demand for our services and products or cause our products and services to become obsolete.

In the past many of our competitors announced plans to enter the used oil re-refining or base oil production business or expand their existing used oil re-refining or base oil producing businesses by adding additional capacity. If crude oil price and the price for re-refined oil products increases, competitors may again consider these plans. The additional competition may make it harder for us to sell our re-refined base lube oil. In addition, extra competition in the collection of used oil feedstock may require us to pay more for our used oil or prevent us from collecting enough feedstock to operate the used oil re-refinery at capacity.

Consolidation and/or declines in the U.S. vehicle repair and U.S. manufacturing industries could cause us to experience lower sales volumes which could materially affect our growth and financial performance.

Our business relies on continued demand for our parts cleaning and waste management services in the U.S. vehicle repair and U.S. manufacturing industries, which may suffer from declining market size and number of locations, due in part to the uncertainty of economic conditions, international competition, and consolidation in U.S. markets. Industry trends affecting our customers have caused our customers' businesses to contract. Additional decline could reduce the demand for our parts cleaning and other services and products and have a material adverse impact on our business. As a result, we may not be able to continue to grow our business by increasing penetration into the industries which we serve, and our ability to retain our market share and base of sales could become more difficult.

Our focus on small business customers causes us to be subject to the trends and downturns impacting small businesses, which could adversely affect our business.

Our customer base is primarily composed of small companies in the vehicle repair and manufacturing industries. The high concentration of our customers that are small businesses exposes us to some of the broad characteristics of small businesses across the U.S. Small businesses start, close, relocate, and get purchased or sold frequently. In addition, small businesses tend to be more significantly affected by economic recessions than larger businesses. This leads to a certain amount of ongoing turnover in the market. As a result, we must continually identify new customers and expand our business with existing customers in order to sustain our growth. If we experience a rise in levels of customer turnover, it may have a negative impact on the profitability of our business.

We depend on the service of key individuals, the loss of whom could materially harm our business.

Our success will depend, in part, on the efforts of our executive officers and other key employees, including Brian Recatto, President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director; John Lucks, our Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing; Tom Hillstrom, our Vice President of Strategic Operations and Acquisitions; Mark DeVita, our Chief Financial Officer; Ellie Bruce, our Vice President of Business Management and Marketing; and Glenn Casbourne, our Vice President of Engineering. These individuals possess extensive experience in our markets and are critical to the operation and growth of our business. If we lose or suffer an extended interruption in the services of one or more of our executive officers or other key employees, our business, results of operations, and financial condition may be negatively impacted. Moreover, the market for qualified individuals is highly competitive and we may not be able to attract and retain qualified personnel to succeed members of our management team or other key employees, should the need arise. We do not maintain key man life insurance policies on any of our named executive officers.

In addition, our operations and growth strategy rely on the expansion of our business through the creation and growth of new and existing branches. In order for us to create and grow new and existing branches properly, we must continually recruit and train a pool of hardworking and motivated sales and service representatives, or SSRs, to develop new customer leads as well as support our existing customer base. If we are not able to retain and recruit a sufficient number of SSRs, or if we experience an increase in the turnover of existing SSRs, we may not be able to support the continued growth of our business, which could have a material adverse impact on our financial performance.

Our future capital needs are uncertain and our ability to access additional financing may be negatively impacted by the volatility and disruption of the capital and credit markets and adverse changes in the global economy.

Our capital requirements in the future will depend on many factors, including:

- acceptance of and demand for and pricing of our products and services;
- the extent to which we invest in new technology and product development;
- the costs of developing new products, services or technologies;
- the costs associated with the growth of our business, if any.

If global economic conditions worsen, we could experience a decrease in cash flows from operations and may need additional financing to fund operations and access to additional debt or equity may not be available on acceptable terms or at all. In addition, the terms of the Credit Agreement restrict our ability to incur additional indebtedness. If we cannot raise funds on acceptable terms when necessary, we may not be able to develop or enhance products and services, execute our business plan, take advantage of future opportunities or respond to competitive pressures or unanticipated customer requirements.

We are dependent on third parties to supply us with the necessary components and materials to service our customers. We are also dependent on third party transport, including rail, recycling, and disposal contractors.

In the operation of our business, we supply a large amount of virgin solvent and parts cleaning equipment to our customers. We do not maintain extensive inventories for most of these products. If we become unable to obtain, or experience delays in the transportation of, adequate supplies and components in a timely and/or cost-effective manner, we may be unable to adequately provide sufficient quantities of our services and products to our customers, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We are dependent on third parties for the disposal of most of our customers' non-used oil waste streams. We and our third party transporters ship waste collected from our customers to a number of third party recycling and disposal facilities, including incinerators, landfill operators, and waste-to-energy facilities. We generally do not have long-term fixed price contracts with our third party contractors. If our current disposal vendors or subcontractors cannot perform up to our standards, our reputation with our customers could be damaged, and we may be required to replace these vendors. Although we believe there are a number of potential replacement disposal vendors and subcontractors that could provide such services, we may incur additional costs and delays in identifying and qualifying such replacements. In addition, any mishandling of our customers' waste streams by disposal vendors or subcontractors could expose both us and our customers to liability. Any failure by disposal vendors or subcontractors to properly collect, transport, handle or dispose of our customers' waste streams, or any insolvency or business

closure of disposal vendors or subcontractors, could expose us to liability, damage our reputation and generally have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, or results of operations.

The operation of our antifreeze recycling centers and waste water processing facilities expose us to risks that may be uninsurable.

Similar to our re-refining operation, the operations of our antifreeze recycling centers and waste water processing facilities expose us to risks related to the potential contamination of feedstock, adverse environmental impact of a spill or other release, or the risk of injury to our employees or others. While we may maintain some insurance that covers portions of these exposures, in many cases the risks are uninsurable, or we will not choose to procure insurance at levels that will cover all potential exposure.

We may not be able to protect our intellectual property adequately.

We rely upon know-how and technological innovation and other trade secrets to develop and maintain our competitive position. We rely, to a significant extent, on trade secrets, confidentiality agreements, and other contractual provisions to protect our proprietary technology, and such agreements may not adequately protect us. Our competitors could gain knowledge of our know-how or trade secrets, either directly or through one or more of our employees or other third parties. Although we do not regard any single trade secret or component of our proprietary know-how to be material to our operations as a whole, if one or more of our competitors were to use or independently develop such know-how or trade secrets, our market share, sales volumes and profit margins could be adversely affected.

In the event we become involved in defending or pursuing intellectual property litigation, such action may increase our costs and divert management's time and attention from our business. In addition, any potential intellectual property litigation could force us to take specific actions, including, but not limited to, the following:

- cease selling products that use the challenged intellectual property;
- obtain from the owner of the infringed intellectual property a license to sell or use the relevant technology, which license may not be available on reasonable terms, or at all; or
- redesign those products that use infringing intellectual property.

We have financial assurance requirements, and increases in the costs of obtaining adequate financial assurance could negatively impact our business, financial condition or results of operations.

We are required to provide financial assurance that funds will be available, if needed, to cover various environmental, insurance and other obligations. The costs of these obligations could be material. We typically have several options to demonstrate satisfactory financial assurance requirements, including letters of credit, surety bonds, trust funds, and a financial (net worth) test. The financial assurance instrument is provided for the benefit of the insurance underwriter, permitting authority, or other entity and is not available for use at our discretion. The amount of financial assurance required varies based on the specific obligations it is designed to satisfy and it may change based on the requesting parties assessment of risk related to each obligation. The cost of financial assurance instruments is difficult to accurately predict and depends on many factors, some of which are outside of our control, including the availability of instruments in the marketplace, the amount and form of financial assurance required by a state, our creditworthiness and our operating history. General economic factors, including developments within the insurance industry, may adversely affect the cost of our current financial assurance instruments and changes in regulations may impose stricter requirements on the types of financial assurance that will be accepted. In the event the cost of financial assurance instruments we are required to provide increases or we are otherwise unable to obtain sufficient coverage, our business, financial condition, or results of operations could be materially adversely affected. Our ability to continue conducting our industrial waste management operations could be adversely affected if we should become unable to obtain sufficient insurance and/or financial assurance to meet our business and regulatory requirements in the future.

Climate change legislation or regulations restricting emissions of "Greenhouse Gases" could result in increased operating costs and reduced demand for our services.

In 2009, the EPA published its findings that emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases ("GHGs"), present an endangerment to public health and the environment because emissions of such gases are, according to the EPA, contributing to the warming of the earth's atmosphere and other climate changes. These findings allow the EPA to adopt and implement regulations that would restrict emissions of GHGs under existing provisions of the federal Clean Air Act. The EPA

has adopted two sets of regulations under the existing Clean Air Act that would require a reduction in emissions of GHGs from motor vehicles and could trigger permit review for GHG emissions from certain stationary sources. In addition, both houses of Congress have actively considered legislation to reduce emissions of GHGs, and almost one-half of the states have taken legal measures to reduce emissions of GHGs, primarily through the planned development of GHG emission inventories and/or regional GHG cap and trade programs. Most of these cap and trade programs work by requiring either major sources of emissions or major producers of fuels to acquire and surrender emission allowances, with the number of allowances available for purchase reduced each year until the overall GHG emission reduction goal is achieved. The adoption and implementation of any regulations imposing GHG reporting obligations on, or limiting emissions of GHGs from, our equipment and operations could require us to incur costs to monitor emissions and to reduce emissions of GHGs associated with our operations.

Expansion of our business may result in unanticipated adverse consequences.

In the future, we may seek to grow our business by investing in new or existing facilities, making acquisitions, entering into partnerships and joint ventures, or constructing or expanding facilities such as the used oil re-refinery. Acquisitions, partnerships, joint ventures, investments, or construction projects may require significant managerial attention, which may divert our management from our other activities and may impair the operation of our existing businesses. Any future acquisitions of businesses or facilities or the development of a new business line could entail a number of additional risks.

We may not be able to realize the expected benefits from any recent or future acquisitions, new facility developments, partnerships, joint ventures or other investments.

We may be unable to manage our growth.

Our growth to date has placed and may continue to place significant strain on our management and operational and financial resources. We anticipate that continued growth will require us to recruit, hire, and retain new managerial, finance, sales, marketing, and operational personnel. We cannot be certain that we will be successful in recruiting, hiring, or retaining those personnel. Our ability to compete effectively and to manage our future growth, if any, will depend on our ability to maintain and improve operational, financial and management information systems on a timely basis and to expand, train, motivate, and manage our work force. If we continue to grow, we cannot be certain that our personnel, systems, procedures, and controls will be adequate to support our operations.

We carry inventory of used solvents generated by customers participating in our product reuse program for parts cleaning.

Our inventory of used solvent has fluctuated and it may continue to fluctuate. If we are unable to sell our reuse inventory, we may be required to write down the value of the inventory, and we may incur additional costs for storage and/or disposal which would adversely impact our operating results. In addition, while we sold enough used solvent to satisfy speculative accumulation requirements of the EPA for fiscal 2018 and prior years, we may not in future years.

Our insurance policies do not cover all losses, costs, or liabilities that we may experience.

We maintain insurance coverage, but these policies do not cover all of our potential losses, costs, or liabilities. We could suffer losses for uninsurable or uninsured risks or in amounts in excess of our existing insurance coverage which would significantly affect our financial performance. For example, our pollution legal liability insurance excludes costs related to fines, penalties, or assessments. Our insurance policies also have deductibles and self-retention limits that could expose us to significant financial expense. Our ability to obtain and maintain adequate insurance may be affected by conditions in the insurance market over which we have no control. The occurrence of an event that is not fully covered by insurance could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operations. In addition, our business requires that we maintain various types of insurance. If such insurance is not available or not available on economically acceptable terms, our business could be materially and adversely affected.

We are subject to potential liability claims relating to our services and products.

We offer our customers specific guarantees that we will be responsible for all expenses resulting from any spill that occurs while we are transporting, processing, or disposing of customers' used solvent and other waste. Accordingly, we may be required to indemnify our customers for any liability under CERCLA or other environmental, employment, health and safety laws and regulations. We may also be exposed to product liability claims by our customers, users of our parts cleaning products, or third parties claiming damages stemming from the mechanical failure of parts cleaned with solvents and/or equipment provided by us. Although we maintain product liability insurance coverage, if our insurance coverage proves

inadequate or adequate insurance becomes unreasonably costly or otherwise unavailable, future claims may not be fully insured. An uninsured or partially insured successful claim against us could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

Litigation related to personal injury from exposure to solvents and the operation of our business may result in significant liabilities and affect our profitability.

We have been and in the future may be involved in claims and litigation filed on behalf of persons alleging injury predominantly as a result of exposure to hazardous chemicals that are a part of the solvents that we provide. In addition, the hazards and risks associated with the use, transport, storage, handling, and disposal of our customers' waste by us and our customers (such as fires, natural disasters, explosions, and accidents) and our customers' improper or negligent use or misuse of solvent to clean parts may also expose us to personal injury claims, property damage claims, and/or products liability claims from our customers or third parties. As protection against such claims and operating hazards, we maintain insurance coverage against some, but not all, potential losses. However, we could sustain losses for uninsurable or uninsured risks, or in amounts in excess of existing insurance coverage. Due to the unpredictable nature of personal injury litigation, it is not possible to predict the ultimate outcome of these claims and lawsuits, and we may be held liable for significant personal injury or damage to property or third parties, or other losses, that are not fully covered by our insurance, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

The liabilities that we assumed as a result of our acquisition of FCC Environmental on October 16, 2014, may prove to be greater than anticipated and may negatively affect our operating results.

As a result of our acquisition of FCC Environmental (the "Acquisition"), we have assumed all of FCC Environmental's liabilities, except as provided in indemnifications and remedies in the Stock Purchase Agreement. We may learn additional information about FCC Environmental's business that adversely affects us, such as unknown or contingent liabilities, including environmental liabilities. If FCC Environmental's liabilities are greater than projected, or if we are not successful in our indemnification claims, our business could be materially adversely affected.

Our fixed cost structure may result in reduced earnings or a loss.

Our network, including our re-refinery and other facilities, fleet, and personnel, subjects us to fixed costs, which makes our margins and earnings sensitive to changes in revenues. In periods of declining demand, our fixed cost structure may limit our ability to cut costs, which may put us at a competitive disadvantage to firms with lower cost structures, or may result in reduced operating margins and operating losses.

Risks Related to our Common Stock

The price of our shares of common stock may be volatile.

The trading price of shares of our common stock may fluctuate substantially. In particular, it is possible that our operating results may be below the expectations of public market analysts and investors, including the results of our entry into the used oil re-refining industry, and, as a result of these and other factors, the price of our common stock may decline. These fluctuations could cause you to lose part or all of your investment in shares of our common stock. Factors that could cause fluctuations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- variations in our operating results, including variations due to changes in the price of crude oil or base lubricating oil;
- announcements by us, our competitors, or others of significant business developments, changes in customer relationships, acquisitions, or expansion plans;
- analysts' earnings estimates, ratings, and research reports;
- the depth and liquidity of the market for our common stock;
- speculation in the press;
- strategic actions by us or our competitors, such as sales promotions or acquisitions;
- actions by our large stockholders or by institutional and other stockholders;
- material litigation;
- conditions in the industrial and hazardous waste services industry as a whole and in the geographic markets served by our branches; and
- domestic and international economic factors unrelated to our performance.

The stock markets, in general, periodically experience volatility that is sometimes unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies. These broad market fluctuations may cause the trading price of our common stock to decline.

The small public float for our shares may make it difficult to sell your shares and may cause volatility in our stock price.

A substantial portion of our shares of common stock are closely held by certain inside investors, and our common stock has experienced limited trading volume since our initial public offering. As of December 30, 2017, our directors and executive officers, and stockholders affiliated with our directors and executive officers, beneficially owned 35.6% of our common stock. In addition, under a participation rights agreement between us and The Heritage Group, an affiliate of our Chairman Fred Fehsenfeld ("Heritage"), Heritage has the right, except in limited circumstances, to purchase shares from us when we issue common stock so that its percentage ownership interest in our common stock does not decrease. Therefore, if Heritage purchases all of the shares reserved for sale to Heritage when we issue common stock, Heritage will maintain its ownership interests in our common stock. Consequently, our public float is expected to remain small for a public company, the availability of our shares may be limited, and you may encounter difficulty selling your shares or obtaining a suitable price at which to sell your shares. In addition, as a result of the small float, you could experience meaningful volatility in the trading price of our common stock.

There may be future sales or issuances of our common stock, which will dilute the ownership interests of stockholders and may adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

We may issue additional common stock, including securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for, or that represent the right to receive, common stock or substantially similar securities, which may result in dilution to our stockholders. In addition, our stockholders may be further diluted by future issuances, or exercises or vesting of outstanding equity awards, under our equity incentive plans. Sales of substantial amounts of common stock by us or our stockholders in the public market could adversely affect the market price of the common stock. The market price of our common stock could decline as a result of sales or issuances of a large number of our common stock or similar securities in the market after this offering or the perception that such sales or issuances could occur.

If securities or industry analysts do not publish research or reports about our business or publish unfavorable research, or our results are below analysts' estimates, our stock price and trading volume could decline.

The trading market for our common stock may depend on the research and reports that industry or securities analysts publish about us or our business. We do not have any control over these analysts. If one or more of the analysts who cover us downgrade our stock or our results are below analysts' estimates, our stock price would likely decline. If one or more of these analysts cease coverage of our company or fail to regularly publish reports on us, we could lose visibility in the financial markets, which in turn could cause our stock price or trading volume to decline. Moreover, if our operating results do not meet the expectations of the investor community, it is possible that the analysts who cover us may change their recommendations regarding our company, and our stock price could decline.

Heritage, the Fehsenfeld family trusts, and Mr. Fehsenfeld are affiliates of each other and have significant influence over our company, and their influence could delay or deter a change of control or other business combination or otherwise cause us to take actions with which you may disagree.

As of December 30, 2017, Heritage, the Fehsenfeld family trusts and Mr. Fehsenfeld, who are all affiliates of each other (collectively, the “Heritage Stockholders”), collectively beneficially own over 32.2% of our common stock. As a result, the Heritage Stockholders have significant influence over the outcome of matters requiring a stockholder vote, including the election of directors and the approval of significant matters and their interests may not align with the interest of other stockholders. This concentration of voting power could have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a change of control or other business combination that might otherwise be beneficial to our stockholders.

We are required to evaluate our internal controls over financial reporting under Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and any adverse results from such evaluation could result in a loss of investor confidence in our financial reports and could have an adverse effect on our stock price.

Pursuant to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, we are required to furnish a report by our management on our internal control over financial reporting. Such report contains, among other matters, an assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of the end of our fiscal year, including a statement as to whether or not our internal control over financial reporting is effective. This assessment must include disclosure of any material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting identified by management. Each year we must prepare or update the process documentation and perform the evaluation needed to comply with Section 404. During this process, if our management identifies one or more material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting, we will be unable to assert such internal control is effective. Ensuring that we have adequate internal financial and accounting controls and procedures in place is a costly and time-consuming effort that needs to be re-evaluated frequently. We and our independent auditors may in the future discover areas of our internal controls that need further attention and improvement, particularly with respect to any other businesses that we decide to acquire in the future. Implementing any appropriate changes to our internal controls may require specific compliance training of our directors, officers, and employees, entail substantial costs in order to modify our existing accounting systems, and take a significant period of time to complete. Such changes may not, however, be effective in maintaining the adequacy of our internal controls, and any failure to maintain that adequacy, or consequent inability to produce accurate financial statements on a timely basis, could increase our operating costs and could harm our ability to operate our business. Any failure to implement required new or improved controls, or difficulties encountered in their implementation, could harm our operating results or cause us to fail to meet our reporting obligations. Investor perception that our internal controls are inadequate or that we are unable to produce accurate financial statements on a timely, consistent basis may adversely affect our stock price. Failure to comply with Section 404 could also potentially subject us to sanctions or investigations by the Securities and Exchange Commission, (“SEC”), NASDAQ, or other regulatory authorities.

We do not currently intend to pay cash dividends on our common stock to our stockholders and any determination to pay cash dividends in the future will be at the discretion of our Board of Directors.

We currently intend to retain any profits to provide capacity for general corporate uses and growth of our business. Our Board of Directors does not intend to declare cash dividends in the foreseeable future. Any determination to pay dividends to our stockholders in the future will be at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend on our results of operations, financial condition, and other factors deemed relevant by our Board of Directors. Further, our Credit Agreement restricts the amount of dividends which can be paid in a given year. Consequently, it is uncertain when, if ever, we will declare dividends to our stockholders. If we do not pay dividends, investors will only obtain a return on their investment if the value of our shares of common stock appreciates. In addition, the terms of our existing or future borrowing arrangements may limit our ability to declare and pay dividends.

Provisions in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws and under Delaware law could prevent or delay transactions that stockholders may favor.

Our company is incorporated in Delaware. Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, as well as Delaware corporate law, contain provisions that could delay or prevent a change of control or changes in our management that a stockholder might consider favorable, including a provision that authorizes our Board of Directors to issue preferred stock with such voting rights, dividend rates, liquidation, redemption, conversion, and other rights as our Board of Directors may fix and without further stockholder action. The issuance of preferred stock with voting rights could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire a majority of our outstanding voting stock. This could frustrate a change in the composition of our Board of Directors, which could result in entrenchment of current management. Takeover attempts generally include offering stockholders a premium for

their stock. Therefore, preventing a takeover attempt may cause you to lose an opportunity to sell your shares at a premium. If a change of control or change in management is delayed or prevented, the market price of our common stock could decline.

Delaware law also prohibits a corporation from engaging in a business combination with any holder of 15% or more of its capital stock until the holder has held the stock for three years unless, among other possibilities, the Board of Directors approves the transaction. This provision may prevent changes in our management or corporate structure. Also, under applicable Delaware law, our Board of Directors is permitted to and may adopt additional anti-takeover measures in the future.

Our certificate of incorporation provides that the affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent (75%) of our total voting power is required to amend our certificate of incorporation or to approve mergers, consolidations, conversions, or the sale of all or substantially all of our assets. Given the voting power of the Heritage Stockholders, we would need the approval of two of the Heritage Stockholders for any of these transactions to occur.

Our bylaws provide for the division of our Board of Directors into three classes with staggered three year terms. The classification of our Board of Directors could have the effect of making it more difficult for a third party to acquire, or discourage a third party from attempting to acquire, control of us.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

Corporate Headquarters. Our headquarters is based in a 31,935 square foot leased facility in Elgin, Illinois and is leased with a term expiring in 2022.

Re-refinery, recycling and waste processing operations. We own and operate a used oil re-refinery in Indianapolis, IN, with an annual nameplate capacity of approximately 75 million gallons of used oil feedstock and we own and operate a solvent recycling facility at the same site which has an annual capacity of approximately six million gallons. We operate twelve oil processing facilities, of which four perform waste water treatment and one performs oil filter processing. Our wastewater treatment operations have the capacity to process approximately 105 million gallons per year. We own the properties where eleven of our oil processing operations are located, including our waste water treatment operations and one of our used oil filter processing operations. We lease the remaining oil processing facility with a term of year to year tenancy. In addition, we operate five antifreeze recycling centers, of which two facilities are owned and three facilities are leased.

Hubs. We operate five distribution hubs. One in Indianapolis, IN; Shreveport, LA; Philadelphia, PA; Atlanta, GA; and Kansas City, KS. All of our hubs are leased with terms ranging two to ten years. These operating hubs are warehouse operations with the capability to receive and unload multiple trailers. The used solvent that arrives at the hubs is bulked and stored for future sale or stored for future shipment to our solvent recycling unit, depending on whether the used solvent came from our non-hazardous program or our reuse program. Containers of hazardous and non-hazardous waste that arrive at the hubs are organized based on the destination facility. These containers are staged and loaded back into trailers for reshipment to third-party recyclers, incinerators, landfills, and waste-to-energy facilities.

Branches. We operate 86 branches that vary in size and serve customer locations in the vast majority of the United States, the District of Columbia, and parts of Ontario, Canada. Depending on the maturity of our branches, our branch facilities range from small locations that only provide space to park a few vehicles and semi-trailers to larger locations that provide office space and warehouse storage as well as additional parking. We own 10 branch facilities, and the remaining 76 are leased with terms ranging from month-to-month to up to ten years.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

In February 2017, we received a partial award for a claim made in arbitration related to our acquisition of FCC Environmental, LLC and International Petroleum Corp. of Delaware (together "FCCE") in 2014. As a result of this partial award we recorded Other Income of \$5.1 million and Interest Income of \$0.4 million in the first quarter of 2017. On March 8, 2017, we entered into a settlement agreement with the sellers of FCCE pertaining to all matters that remained in our arbitration which were not covered by the partial award referenced above. Under the terms of the settlement agreement we agreed to withdraw all remaining claims in the arbitration, and the sellers of FCCE agreed to pay us \$8.6 million in two equal installments. The first installment of \$4.3 million was received in the first fiscal quarter of 2017, and the second installment of \$4.3 million was received in the second fiscal quarter of 2017.

In February 2016 the Company received an information request from the U.S. EPA ("EPA") regarding the operation of our Indianapolis, Indiana re-refinery in relation to our Clean Air Act permit for the facility. During 2016 we responded fully to the EPA's information request. On April 7, 2017 we received a notice of violation and finding of violation of the Clean Air Act related to our operation of the re-refinery. We continue to cooperate with the EPA in order to address the notice and finding of violation. As of the end of fiscal 2017, no liability was accrued related to this situation.

In October 2016, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issued a Notice of Intent to file an administrative complaint against the Company for certain alleged violations of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act and regulations under the Clean Water Act (involving Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure plans). We have responded to the Notice and have provided USEPA with information in accordance with their request. We continue to have discussions with the USEPA regarding the issues included in the Notice. As a result of further communications regarding this matter, an estimated liability of an immaterial amount is recorded as of the end of fiscal 2017.

In March 2017, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) issued a Cease and Desist Order (Order) related to the Company's activities to clean up and shutdown our facility located in Wilmington, DE which we acquired as part of our acquisition of FCC Environmental and International Petroleum Corporation. The Order required the Company to submit analytical and shipping documentation related to our clean-up activities as well as to submit to DNREC a plan on how the remaining material at the facility was to be sampled, tested, removed and disposed. We have responded to the Order and have provided DNREC with information in accordance with their request. We continue to have discussions with DNREC regarding the issues included in the Order. As a result of further communications regarding this matter, an estimated liability of an immaterial amount is recorded as of the end of fiscal 2017.

The Company is currently defending a putative class action lawsuit, Adelphia, Inc. d/b/a/ Village Auto and Dan's One Stop Shop, LLC v. Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. and Heritage-Crystal Clean, LLC, Case No. 15-L-386, in the Circuit Court for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit in Kane County, Illinois, alleging that the Company charged fees in violation of both its contracts and applicable state laws. The case involves claims brought under the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 ILCS 505/1 et seq., as well as claims for breach of contract and unjust enrichment. The case has been brought as a putative class action on behalf of all customers of HCC who entered into a written contract and have paid a fuel surcharge from 2005 to present. As of the end of fiscal 2017, no liability was accrued related to this lawsuit.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR THE REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS, AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Common Stock

Our common stock trades on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "HCCI". The following table sets forth the high and low sales prices of our common stock for the indicated periods as reported by NASDAQ.

| 2016 | High | Low |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| First Quarter | \$ 10.45 | \$ 7.19 |
| Second Quarter | \$ 13.10 | \$ 8.90 |
| Third Quarter | \$ 14.20 | \$ 11.21 |
| Fourth Quarter | \$ 16.75 | \$ 11.85 |
| 2017 | High | Low |
| First Quarter | \$ 15.75 | \$ 13.10 |
| Second Quarter | \$ 16.20 | \$ 13.30 |
| Third Quarter | \$ 20.50 | \$ 15.00 |
| Fourth Quarter | \$ 22.35 | \$ 18.30 |

On February 26, 2018, the closing price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$20.45 per share. On February 26, 2018, there were 477 stockholders of record of our common stock. Several brokerage firms, banks, and other institutions ("nominees") are listed once on the stockholders of record listing. However, in most cases, the nominees' holdings represent blocks of our common stock held in brokerage accounts for a number of individual stockholders. As such, our actual number of beneficial stockholders would be higher than the number of registered stockholders of record.

We have never declared nor paid any cash dividends on our common stock, and we do not intend to pay any dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. We intend to retain any future earnings for use in the operation and expansion of our business and payment of our outstanding debt. In addition, our current credit agreement limits the amount of dividends we can pay on our common stock (see "Liquidity and Capital Resources" under Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations").

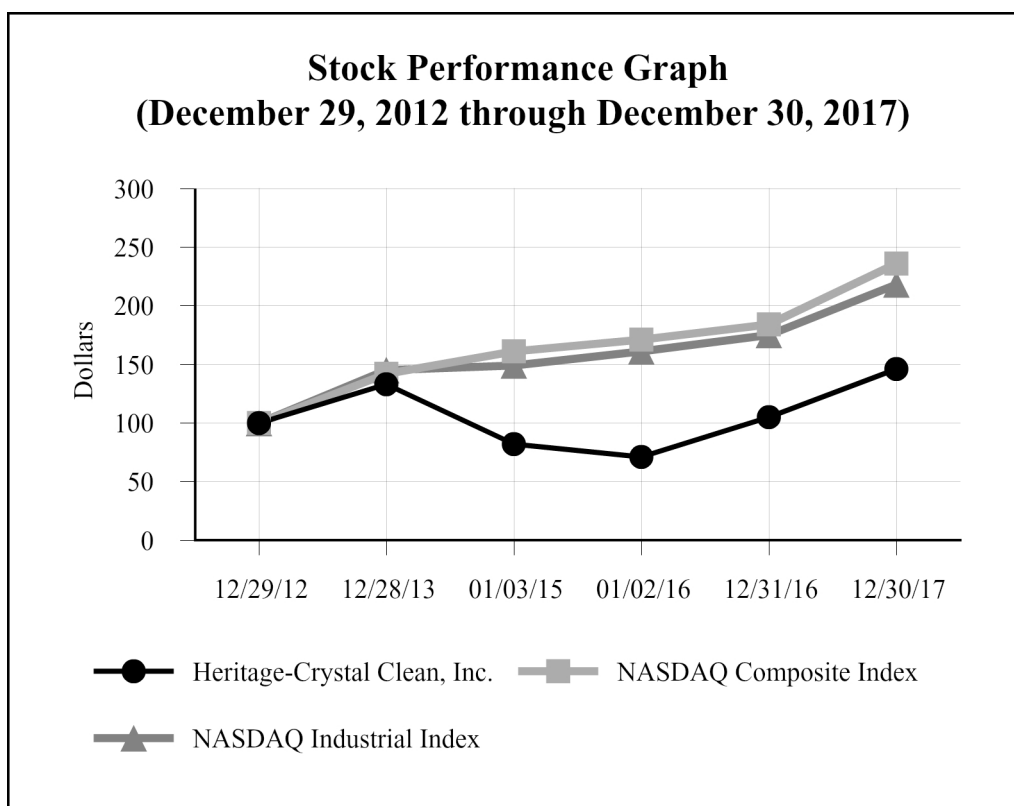
Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

All repurchase activity of equity securities during the period covered by this Annual Report were previously disclosed in our current Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q. The Company had no unregistered sales of equity securities during 2017.

Performance Graph

The graph set forth below compares the cumulative total stockholder return on our common stock between December 29, 2012 and December 30, 2017, with the cumulative total return of (i) the NASDAQ Composite Index and (ii) the NASDAQ Industrial Index, over the same period. This graph assumes the investment of \$100 on December 29, 2012 in our common stock, in the NASDAQ Composite Index, and in the NASDAQ Industrial Index, and assumes the reinvestment of dividends, if any.

The comparisons shown in the graph below are based upon historical data. We caution that the stock price performance shown in the graph below is not necessarily indicative of, nor is it intended to forecast, the potential future performance of our common stock.



| | December 29, 2012 | December 28, 2013 | January 3, 2015 | January 2, 2016 | December 30, 2017 | December 30, 2017 |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. | \$ 100.00 | \$ 133.00 | \$ 82.00 | \$ 71.00 | \$ 105.00 | \$ 146.00 |
| NASDAQ Composite Index | \$ 100.00 | \$ 142.00 | \$ 161.00 | \$ 171.00 | \$ 184.00 | \$ 236.00 |
| NASDAQ Industrial Index | \$ 100.00 | \$ 145.00 | \$ 149.00 | \$ 161.00 | \$ 175.00 | \$ 217.00 |

Securities Authorized for Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans

See Item 12, "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters," for a description of the securities which are authorized for issuance under our equity compensation plans.

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following summary of consolidated financial information has been derived from the audited consolidated financial statements included in Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data," of this report. This information should be reviewed in conjunction with Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," and the consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" of this report. Our fiscal year ends on the Saturday closest to December 31. "Fiscal 2018" represents the 52-week period ended December 30, 2017. "Fiscal 2017" represents the 52-week period ended December 31, 2016. "Fiscal 2015" represents the 52-week period ended January 2, 2016. "Fiscal 2014" represents the 53-week period ended January 3,

2015. "Fiscal 2013" represents the 52-week period ended December 28, 2013. We have derived the statement of operations for the fiscal years ended January 2, 2016 and January 3, 2015 and the balance sheet data at December 31, 2016, January 2, 2016, and January 3, 2015, from our audited consolidated financial statements not included in this report.

| | Fiscal Year | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | (Dollars in thousands, except per share data) | | | | |
| | 2017 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS DATA | | | | | |
| Revenues | | | | | |
| Product revenues | \$ 131,958 | \$ 111,729 | \$ 134,320 | \$ 160,079 | \$ 132,409 |
| Service revenues | 233,999 | 235,898 | 215,698 | 178,973 | 150,727 |
| Total revenues | \$ 365,957 | \$ 347,627 | \$ 350,018 | \$ 339,052 | \$ 283,136 |
| Operating Expenses | | | | | |
| Operating Costs | \$ 276,102 | \$ 267,503 | \$ 280,708 | \$ 290,622 | \$ 234,638 |
| Selling, general, and administrative expenses | 47,401 | 49,823 | 45,269 | 45,646 | 30,274 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 17,967 | 17,991 | 17,197 | 12,877 | 9,524 |
| Impairment of goodwill | — | — | 3,952 | — | — |
| Other (income) expense - net | (10,940) | 1,416 | (1,297) | (434) | 210 |
| Operating income (loss) | 35,427 | 10,894 | 4,189 | (9,659) | 8,490 |
| Interest expense - net | 1,094 | 2,069 | 1,880 | 689 | 417 |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | \$ 34,333 | \$ 8,825 | \$ 2,309 | \$ (10,348) | \$ 8,073 |
| Provision for (benefit from) income taxes | 5,923 | 2,811 | 899 | (3,483) | 3,428 |
| Net income (loss) | 28,410 | 6,014 | 1,410 | (6,865) | 4,645 |
| Income attributable to noncontrolling interest | 287 | 172 | 160 | 143 | 100 |
| Income (loss) attributable to Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. common stockholders | \$ 28,123 | \$ 5,842 | \$ 1,250 | \$ (7,008) | \$ 4,545 |
| Net income (loss) per share available to common stockholders: basic | | | | | |
| | \$ 1.24 | \$ 0.26 | \$ 0.06 | \$ (0.38) | \$ 0.25 |
| Net income (loss) per share available to common stockholders: diluted | | | | | |
| | \$ 1.23 | \$ 0.26 | \$ 0.06 | \$ (0.38) | \$ 0.24 |
| Number of weighted average common shares outstanding : | | | | | |
| Basic | 22,662 | 22,258 | 22,146 | 18,604 | 18,224 |
| Diluted | 22,922 | 22,516 | 22,408 | 18,604 | 18,552 |

| | Fiscal Year | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | (Dollars in thousands, except per share data) | | | | |
| | 2017 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| OTHER OPERATING DATA (UNAUDITED): | | | | | |
| Average revenues per working day - Environmental Services (in thousands) | 970 | 885 | 895 | 740 | 615 |
| Number of branches at end of fiscal year | 86 | 83 | 82 | 84 | 74 |

| (thousands) | At Fiscal Year End | | | | |
|---|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2017 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| BALANCE SHEET DATA: | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 41,889 | \$ 36,610 | \$ 23,608 | \$ 21,555 | \$ 22,632 |
| Total assets | 314,657 | 314,307 | 301,848 | 319,819 | 215,958 |
| Debt, net of unamortized issuance costs | 28,744 | 63,454 | 69,478 | 77,045 | 20,564 |
| Total stockholders' equity | \$ 235,926 | \$ 198,269 | \$ 189,833 | \$ 187,414 | \$ 159,304 |

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Disclosure Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

You should read the following discussion in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes in our Annual Report on Form 10-K. In addition to historical information, this discussion contains forward-looking statements that involve risks, uncertainties, and assumptions that could cause actual results to differ materially from our expectations. Factors that could cause such differences include those described in the section titled "Risk Factors" and elsewhere in our Annual Report on Form 10-K. We undertake no obligation to update any of the forward-looking statements. Certain tabular information may not foot due to rounding. Our fiscal year ends on the Saturday closest to December 31. "Fiscal 2017" represents the 52-week period ended December 30, 2017. "Fiscal 2016" represents the 52-week period ended December 31, 2016. "Fiscal 2015" represents the 53-week period ended January 2, 2016.

Overview

We provide parts cleaning, containerized waste management, used oil collection, vacuum truck services, antifreeze recycling, and field services, and we own and operate a used oil re-refinery where we re-refine used lubricating oils into high quality lubricant base oil and other products. We are the second largest provider of industrial and hazardous waste services to small and mid-sized customers in both the vehicle maintenance and manufacturing services industries, and we have the second largest used oil re-refining capacity in North America. Our services help our customers manage their used chemicals and liquid and solid wastes, while also helping to minimize their regulatory burdens. We operate from a network of 86 branch facilities providing services to customers in 45 states and parts of Canada. We conduct business through two principal operating segments: Environmental Services and Oil Business.

Our Environmental Services segment revenues are generated primarily from providing parts cleaning, containerized waste management, vacuum truck, antifreeze recycling services, and field services. Revenues from this segment accounted for 65.1% of our total company revenues for fiscal 2018. In the Environmental Services segment, we define and measure same-branch revenues for a given period as the subset of all our branches that have been open and operating throughout and between the periods being compared, and we refer to these as established branches. We calculate average revenues per working day by dividing our revenues by the number of non-holiday weekdays in the applicable fiscal year or fiscal quarter.

Our Oil Business segment consists primarily of our used oil collection and used oil re-refining activities, which accounted for 34.9% of our fiscal 2018 total company revenues.

No single customer accounted for more than 10% of consolidated revenues in fiscal 2017, 2016, or 2015. There were no intersegment revenues during fiscal 2018.

We have established prices for our services primarily based on the perceived value of those services in the marketplace. Our customer agreements typically provide for annual renewal and price increases. With respect to our oil product sales, some prices are set through contracts or purchase orders with customers, which may be based on the market prices of an underlying commodity or market indicator.

Our operating costs include the costs of the materials we use in our products and services, such as used oil collected from customers or purchased from third party collectors, solvent, and other chemicals. The used solvent that we retrieve from customers in our product reuse program is accounted for as a reduction in our net cost of solvent under operating costs, whether placed in inventory or sold to a purchaser for reuse. Changes in the price of crude oil can impact operating costs indirectly as it

may impact the price we pay for solvent or used oil, although we attempt to offset volatility in the oil markets by managing the spread between the costs we pay for our materials and the prices we charge for our products and services. Operating costs also include transportation of solvents and waste, payments to third parties to recycle or dispose of the waste materials that we collect, and the costs of operating our re-refinery, recycling centers, hubs, and branch system including personnel costs (including commissions), facility rent, truck leases, fuel, and maintenance. Our operating costs as a percentage of sales generally increase in relation to the number of new branch openings. As new branches achieve route density and scale efficiencies, our operating costs as a percentage of sales generally decrease.

We use profit before corporate selling, general, and administrative expenses ("SG&A") as a key measure of segment profitability. We define profit before SG&A as revenue less operating costs and depreciation and amortization from operations.

Our selling, general, and administrative expenses include the costs of performing centralized business functions, including sales management at or above the regional level, business management, billing, receivables management, accounting and finance, information technology, environmental health and safety, and legal.

We operate a used oil re-refinery located in Indianapolis, Indiana, through which we recycle used oil into high quality lubricant base oil and other products. We supply the base oil to firms that produce and market finished lubricants. Our re-refinery has an annual nameplate capacity of approximately 75 million gallons of used oil feedstock, allowing it to produce approximately 47 million gallons of lubricating base oil per year when operating at full capacity.

Critical Accounting Policies

Critical accounting policies are those that both are important to the accurate portrayal of a company's financial condition and results and require subjective or complex judgments, often as a result of the need to make estimates about the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain.

In order to prepare financial statements that conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, commonly referred to as GAAP, we make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in our financial statements and accompanying notes. Certain estimates are particularly sensitive due to their significance to the financial statements and the possibility that future events may be significantly different from our expectations.

We have identified the following accounting policies as those that require us to make the most subjective or complex judgments in order to fairly present our consolidated financial position and results of operations. Actual results in these areas could differ materially from management's estimates under different assumptions and conditions.

Acquisitions

We account for acquired businesses using the purchase method of accounting, which requires that the assets acquired, liabilities assumed, and contingent consideration be recorded as of the date of acquisition at their respective fair values. It further requires acquisition-related costs to be recognized separately from the acquisition and expensed as incurred and restructuring costs to be expensed in periods subsequent to the acquisition date.

Identifiable Intangible Assets

The fair value of intangible assets may be based on significant judgments made by management. We sometimes engage third party valuation appraisal firms to assist us in determining the fair values and useful lives of the assets acquired. Such valuations and useful life determinations require us to make significant estimates and assumptions. These estimates and assumptions are based on historical experience and information obtained from the management of the acquired companies, and also include, but are not limited to, future expected cash flows to be earned from the continued operation of the acquired business and discount rates applied in determining the present value of those cash flows. Unanticipated events and circumstances may occur that could affect the accuracy or validity of such assumptions, estimates, or actual results. These intangible assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated economic lives.

Goodwill

In fiscal 2015, we tested goodwill for impairment. In fiscal 2015, the fair value of the Environmental Services reporting unit was substantially in excess of its carrying value. In fiscal 2015, our tests indicated impairment of all of the goodwill in our

Oil Business reporting unit. Therefore during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2015 we recorded a charge of approximately \$4.0 million related to impairment of goodwill in our Oil Business reporting unit. The facts and circumstances leading to the impairment were primarily related to the deterioration of market conditions in the markets in which the Company's Oil Business reporting unit operates. The deterioration of those market conditions manifested in lower average selling prices for the Company's re-refined lubricating base oil, recycled fuel oil, and byproducts within the Oil Business. The method for determining the fair value of the Oil Business reporting unit was a combination of an income approach using a discounted cash flow method in combination with a market approach using a guideline company method. There was a moderate degree of uncertainty associated with key Oil Business fair value assumptions such as the selling prices of our oil products and byproducts, the price paid or charged for raw material inputs such as used oil, operating efficiency of the used oil re-refinery, etc. A contraction of the spread between the selling prices of our oil products and the price paid or charged to vendors for raw material inputs could reasonably be expected to negatively affect the key assumptions used to determine fair value.

In fiscal 2016, we tested goodwill for impairment. The Oil Business reporting unit had zero goodwill throughout fiscal 2016. The fair value of the Environmental Services reporting unit was substantially in excess of its carrying amount including goodwill, and therefore no impairment was indicated.

In fiscal 2017, the Company performed a qualitative assessment to determine whether the two-step quantitative impairment test was necessary. The Oil Business reporting unit had zero goodwill throughout fiscal 2017. Based on the qualitative assessment, the Company concluded it is more likely than not that the fair value of the Environmental Services reporting unit is greater than its carrying amount including goodwill, and therefore the two-step quantitative test was not necessary and no impairment was indicated.

Accounts Receivable and Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

Trade accounts receivable are recorded at the invoiced amount and do not bear interest. Consistent with industry practices, we require payment from most customers within 30 days of invoice date. The allowance for doubtful accounts is our best estimate of the amount of probable credit losses in our existing accounts receivable. We determine the allowance based on analysis of customer creditworthiness, historical losses, and general economic trends and conditions. We perform periodic credit evaluations of our customers and typically do not require collateral. We have an estimation procedure, based on historical data and recent changes in the aging of these receivables that we use to record reserves throughout the year. In the last five years, our provisions for doubtful accounts have averaged 0.2% of sales. We do not have any off-balance sheet credit exposure related to our customers.

Inventory

Inventory consists primarily of used oil, processed oil, catalyst, new and used solvents, new and used antifreeze products, new and refurbished parts cleaning machines, drums, and other items. Inventories are valued at the lower of first-in, first-out ("FIFO") cost and net realizable value, net of any reserves for excess, obsolete, or unsalable inventory. We perform a physical inventory count on a periodic basis and use the results of these counts to determine inventory quantities. The quantities are used to help determine the value of our inventory. We continually monitor our inventory levels at each of our distribution locations and evaluate inventories for excess or slow-moving items.

In evaluating inventory for impairment, the Company considers factors that may impact the valuation of inventory, including declines in net realizable value. If circumstances indicate the cost basis of inventories exceed their net realizable value, inventories are reduced to net realizable value. In fiscal 2017, we recorded no inventory impairment charges.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

Long-lived assets, such as property and equipment and purchased intangibles subject to amortization, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its estimated future cash flows, an impairment charge is recognized as the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the fair value of the asset. Assets to be disposed of would be separately presented in the balance sheet and reported at the lower of the carrying amount or fair value less costs to sell, and would no longer be depreciated.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

General

Fiscal Year Ended December 30, 2017 versus Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2016

The following table sets forth certain operating data as a percentage of revenues for the periods indicated:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | For the Fiscal Years Ended, | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|-------------------|--------|
| | December 30, 2017 | | December 31, 2016 | |
| Revenues | | | | |
| Product revenues | \$ 131,958 | 36.1 % | \$ 111,729 | 32.1% |
| Service revenues | 233,999 | 63.9 % | 235,898 | 67.9% |
| Total Revenues | \$ 365,957 | 100.0 % | \$ 347,627 | 100.0% |
| Operating expenses - | | | | |
| Operating costs | \$ 276,102 | 75.4 % | \$ 267,503 | 77.0% |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 47,401 | 13.0 % | 49,823 | 14.3% |
| Depreciation and amortization | 17,967 | 4.9 % | 17,991 | 5.2% |
| Other (income) expense - net | (10,940) | (3.0)% | 1,416 | 0.4% |
| Operating income | 35,427 | 9.7 % | 10,894 | 3.1% |
| Interest expense – net | 1,094 | 0.3 % | 2,069 | 0.6% |
| Income before income taxes | \$ 34,333 | 9.4 % | \$ 8,825 | 2.5% |
| Provision for income taxes | 5,923 | 1.6 % | 2,811 | 0.8% |
| Net income | 28,410 | 7.8 % | 6,014 | 1.7% |
| Income attributable to noncontrolling interest | 287 | 0.1 % | 172 | —% |
| Net income attributable to Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. common stockholders | \$ 28,123 | 7.7 % | \$ 5,842 | 1.7% |

Revenues

In fiscal 2017, revenues increased \$18.3 million, or 5.3%, to \$366.0 million from \$347.6 million in fiscal 2016. Revenues in the Environmental Services segment increased primarily due to growth in our containerized waste, aqueous parts cleaning, and antifreeze businesses, along with year over year increase in revenue from our Oil Business segment mainly due to higher pricing for our base oil products, partially offset by lower used oil collection charges. During fiscal 2017, the average spot market price for the type of base oil product we produce increased approximately 31% compared to fiscal 2016.

Operating costs

Operating costs increased \$8.6 million, or 3.2%, in fiscal 2017 versus fiscal 2016. The increase in operating costs was primarily a result of significantly higher labor and transportation costs, partially offset by lower disposal costs throughout fiscal 2017. Higher labor costs is the result of investment in new resources to support future revenue growth. Higher transportation costs in the Environmental Services segment was driven mainly by continued expansion geographically, and the roll-out of some of our newer service offerings to existing branches. We expect that in the future our operating costs in the Environmental Services business will continue to increase as our service volume increases; however, a decrease in crude oil prices could partially offset this cost increase because a decrease in price could cause a decline in the price we pay for parts cleaning solvent and diesel fuel. Whether or not we have an increase in service volume, an increase in the price of crude oil could result in an increase in operating costs in the Environmental Services segment since this will likely result in an increase in the price we pay for parts cleaning solvent and diesel fuel. In the Oil Business segment, our operating costs could increase or decrease in the future depending on changes in the price for crude oil which could directly impact our used oil collection costs and processing costs at our re-refinery.

Selling, general, and administrative expenses

Selling, general, and administrative expenses decreased \$2.4 million, or 4.9%, in fiscal 2017 versus fiscal 2016. Overall, selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of revenues decreased to 13.0% in fiscal 2017 from 14.3% in fiscal 2016 primarily due to lower legal and bank fees and a higher revenue base, partially offset by higher personnel expenses.

Other (income) expense - net

Other (income) expense includes a gain of \$5.1 million received in the first quarter of fiscal 2017 as a result of having received a partial award for a claim made in arbitration and a gain of \$3.6 million received during the second quarter of fiscal 2017 from a settlement agreement, both of which were related to our acquisition of FCC Environmental, LLC and International Petroleum Corp. of Delaware in 2014, partially offset by other net losses of \$0.9 million. Additionally, during the third quarter of 2017, the Company recorded a gain of \$3.1 million from having sold the Company's facility located in Pompano Beach, Florida.

Interest expense - net

Interest expense - net for fiscal 2017 was \$1.1 million, compared \$2.1 million in fiscal 2016. The decrease in interest expense was due mainly to lower weighted average debt in fiscal 2017 versus fiscal 2016. In fiscal 2017 we recorded interest expense of \$1.2 million, along with \$0.4 million for the amortization of debt issuance costs as a result of our Term Loan, partially offset by \$0.4 million of interest income we received as part of our award from the arbitration related to our acquisition of FCC Environmental and International Petroleum Corp. of Delaware in 2014.

Provision for income taxes

Our effective tax rate for fiscal 2017 was 17.3% compared to 31.9% in fiscal 2016. The difference in the effective tax rate is principally attributable to the impact on our deferred taxes as of December 30, 2017 of the reduction in the U.S. federal corporate tax rate to 21% beginning in fiscal 2018.

Segment Information

The following table presents revenues by segment:

| <i>(thousands)</i> | For the Fiscal Year Ended, | | Increase | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| | December 30, 2017 | December 31, 2016 | \$ | % |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Environmental Services | \$ 238,055 | \$ 224,378 | \$ 13,677 | 6.1% |
| Oil Business | 127,902 | 123,249 | 4,653 | 3.8% |
| Total | <u>\$ 365,957</u> | <u>\$ 347,627</u> | <u>\$ 18,330</u> | <u>5.3%</u> |

In fiscal 2017, Environmental Services revenues increased \$13.7 million, or 6.1%, compared to fiscal 2016. The revenue increase in this segment was primarily driven by growth in our containerized waste, aqueous parts cleaning, vacuum services, and antifreeze businesses.

In fiscal 2017, Oil Business revenues increased \$4.7 million, or 3.8%, mainly driven by a 31% increase in the spot market price for the type of lube oil we sell compared to fiscal 2016, partially offset by a decrease in the prices we charged our customers for used oil collection services. During fiscal 2017 and 2016, we sold approximately 42 million gallons of base oil.

Segment Profit before Corporate Selling, General and Administrative Expenses ("SG&A")

The following table presents profit by segment before corporate SG&A:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | For the Fiscal Year Ended, | | Increase | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | December 30, 2017 | December 31, 2016 | \$ | % |
| Profit before corporate SG&A* | | | | |
| Environmental Services | \$ 66,896 | \$ 65,001 | \$ 1,895 | 2.9% |
| Oil Business | 8,657 | 822 | 7,835 | 953.2% |
| Total | <u>\$ 75,553</u> | <u>\$ 65,823</u> | <u>\$ 9,730</u> | <u>14.8%</u> |

*Includes depreciation and amortization related to operating activity but not depreciation and amortization related to corporate selling, general, and administrative activity. For further discussion see Note 12 in our consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in Item 8.

In fiscal 2017, Environmental Services profit before SG&A increased \$1.9 million, or 2.9%, due to higher revenue more than offsetting higher labor and transportation expenses year over year. Revenues in the Environmental Services segment increased primarily due to growth in our containerized waste, aqueous parts cleaning, vacuum services and antifreeze businesses. However, operating margin in the Environmental Services segment dropped slightly to 28.1% in fiscal 2017 compared to 29.0% in fiscal 2016 due to higher labor costs as well as higher solvent and fuel costs associated with geographic expansion.

The sale of used solvent generated by customers participating in our product reuse program for parts cleaning is not accounted for as revenues, but rather as a reduction in our net cost of solvent under operating costs. In both fiscal 2017 and 2016, the impact of reused solvent sales was immaterial.

In fiscal 2017, the Oil Business generated profit before corporate SG&A of \$8.7 million compared to a profit before corporate SG&A of \$0.8 million during fiscal 2016. The improvement in profitability of the Oil Business during fiscal 2017 was primarily due to the higher spread between our base oil selling price and our used oil collection charges, along with increased operating efficiencies and the absence of any inventory write-downs in fiscal 2017 as compared to fiscal 2016.

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2016 versus Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2015

The following table sets forth certain operating data as a percentage of revenues for the periods indicated:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | For the Fiscal Years Ended, | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--------|-----------------|---------|
| | December 31, 2016 | | January 2, 2016 | |
| Revenues | | | | |
| Product revenues | \$ 111,729 | 32.1% | \$ 134,320 | 38.4 % |
| Service revenues | 235,898 | 67.9% | 215,698 | 61.6 % |
| Total Revenues | \$ 347,627 | 100.0% | \$ 350,018 | 100.0 % |
| Operating expenses - | | | | |
| Operating costs | \$ 267,503 | 77.0% | \$ 280,708 | 80.2 % |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 49,823 | 14.3% | 45,269 | 12.9 % |
| Depreciation and amortization | 17,991 | 5.2% | 17,197 | 4.9 % |
| Impairment of goodwill | — | —% | 3,952 | 1.1 % |
| Other expense (income) - net | 1,416 | 0.4% | (1,297) | (0.4)% |
| Operating income | 10,894 | 3.1% | 4,189 | 1.2 % |
| Interest expense – net | 2,069 | 0.6% | 1,880 | 0.5 % |
| Income before income taxes | \$ 8,825 | 2.5% | \$ 2,309 | 0.7 % |
| Provision for income taxes | 2,811 | 0.8% | 899 | 0.3 % |
| Net income | 6,014 | 1.7% | 1,410 | 0.4 % |
| Income attributable to noncontrolling interest | 172 | —% | 160 | — % |
| Net income attributable to Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. common stockholders | \$ 5,842 | 1.7% | \$ 1,250 | 0.4 % |

Revenues

In fiscal 2016, revenues decreased \$2.4 million, or 0.7%, to \$347.6 million from \$350.0 million in fiscal 2015. Revenues in the Environmental Services segment decreased primarily due to lower volumes with customers directly and indirectly involved in the energy sector and lower energy surcharge revenue. In particular our solvent parts cleaning and vacuum service lines-of-businesses were negatively impacted by the above factors. Oil Business revenues of \$123.2 million remained flat year over year as lower selling prices for our base oil and RFO products were offset by both a higher volume of base oil sold and higher used oil collection charges.

During fiscal 2016, the average spot market price for the Group II base oil product we produce declined approximately 19% compared to fiscal 2015.

Operating costs

Operating costs decreased \$13.2 million, or 4.7%, in fiscal 2016 versus fiscal 2015. The decrease in operating costs was primarily a result of significantly lower inventory write-downs, significantly less expense for used oil, and lower disposal costs throughout fiscal 2016. In addition, lower crude oil prices resulted in lower solvent cost in our Environmental Services segment and lower fuel cost for our vehicle fleet in both segments. The overall decrease in operating cost was partially offset by higher transportation costs in the Environmental Services segment as we continued to expand geographically, and rollout some of our newer service offerings to existing branches. We expect that in the future our operating costs in the Environmental Services business will continue to increase as our service volume increases; however, a decrease in crude oil prices could partially offset this cost increase because a decrease in price could cause a decline in the price we pay for parts cleaning solvent and diesel fuel. Whether or not we have an increase in service volume, an increase in the price of crude oil could result in an increase in operating costs in the Environmental Services segment since this will likely result in an increase in the price we pay for parts cleaning solvent and diesel fuel. In the Oil Business segment, our operating costs could increase or decrease in the future depending on changes in the price for crude oil which could directly impact our used oil collection costs and processing costs at our re-refinery.

Selling, general, and administrative expenses

Selling, general, and administrative expenses increased \$4.6 million, or 10.1%, in fiscal 2016 versus fiscal 2015. Overall, selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of revenues increased to 14.3% in fiscal 2016 from 12.9% in fiscal 2015. The increase in SG&A is mainly due to higher legal fees of \$4.2 million relating to routine and non-routine matters stemming from the acquisition of FCC Environmental and International Petroleum Corp., along with \$1.8 million higher management incentive compensation, partially offset by \$1.0 million of lower outsourcing expenses year over year.

Interest expense

Interest expense for fiscal 2016 was \$2.1 million, compared \$1.9 million in fiscal 2015. The increase in interest expense in fiscal 2016 was mainly the result of a higher annual effective interest rate in fiscal 2016 compared to fiscal 2015.

Provision for income taxes

Our effective tax rate for fiscal 2016 was 31.9% compared to 38.9% in fiscal 2015. The rate difference is principally attributable to the differing treatment of transaction related costs for financial reporting purposes and for purposes of determining income tax liabilities.

Segment Information

The following table presents revenues by segment:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | For the Fiscal Year Ended, | | Decrease | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| | December 31, 2016 | January 2, 2016 | \$ | % |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Environmental Services | \$ 224,378 | \$ 226,313 | \$ (1,935) | (0.9)% |
| Oil Business | 123,249 | 123,705 | (456) | (0.4)% |
| Total | \$ 347,627 | \$ 350,018 | \$ (2,391) | (0.7)% |

In fiscal 2016, Environmental Services revenues decreased \$1.9 million, or 0.9%, compared to fiscal 2015. The decline in revenue was mainly due to a downturn in activity at customers directly involved in, or related to, the energy sector and lower energy surcharge revenue.

In fiscal 2016, Oil Business revenues decreased \$0.5 million, or 0.4%, mainly driven by a 19% decrease in the spot market price for the type of lube oil we sell compared to fiscal 2015, partially offset by an increase in the prices we charged our customers for used oil collection services. During fiscal 2016, we sold approximately 42 million gallons of base oil compared to 37.8 million gallons in fiscal 2015 which helped to partially offset the decline from lower pricing.

Segment Profit before Corporate Selling, General and Administrative Expenses ("SG&A")

The following table presents profit (loss) by segment before corporate SG&A:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | For the Fiscal Year Ended, | | Increase (Decrease) | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| | December 31, 2016 | January 2, 2016 | \$ | % |
| Profit (loss) before corporate SG&A* | | | | |
| Environmental Services | \$ 65,001 | \$ 63,524 | \$ 1,477 | 2.3% |
| Oil Business | 822 | (7,695) | 8,517 | NA |
| Total | \$ 65,823 | \$ 55,829 | \$ 9,994 | 17.9% |

*Includes depreciation and amortization related to operating activity but not depreciation and amortization related to corporate selling, general, and administrative activity. For further discussion see Note 12 in our consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in Item 8.

In fiscal 2016, Environmental Services profit before SG&A increased 2.3% while revenues declined 0.9%. The decline in revenues was due to lower service volume provided to customers directly involved in, or related to the energy sector. However, operating margin in the Environmental Services segment was 29.0% in fiscal 2016 compared to 28.1% in fiscal 2015 mainly due to lower solvent and fuel costs as a result of lower crude oil prices, as well as lower disposal costs.

The sale of used solvent generated by customers participating in our product reuse program for parts cleaning is not accounted for as revenues, but rather as a reduction in our net cost of solvent under operating costs. In both fiscal 2016 and 2015, the impact of reused solvent sales was immaterial.

In fiscal 2016, the Oil Business generated profit before corporate SG&A of \$0.8 million compared to a loss of \$7.7 million during fiscal 2015. The improvement in profitability of the Oil Business during fiscal 2016 was primarily due to significantly lower inventory write-downs year over year, and our ability to switch from paying for used oil to charging our used oil collection customers for removal of their used oil at the end of fiscal 2015. We began doing this in a significant manner during the first quarter of fiscal 2016 and continued this practice throughout the year. As a result we increased our revenue from used oil collection services by over \$17 million during fiscal 2016 compared to fiscal 2015 and significantly decreased our expenses to procure used oil feedstock.

FINANCIAL CONDITION

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Cash and Cash Equivalents

As of December 30, 2017 and December 30, 2017, cash and cash equivalents were \$41.9 million and \$36.6 million, respectively. Our primary sources of liquidity are cash flows from operations and funds available to borrow under our term loan and revolving bank credit facility.

Debt and Financing Arrangements

On February 21, 2017, the Company entered into a new Credit Agreement ("Credit Agreement") replacing the prior Credit Agreement ("Prior Credit Agreement") dated as of June 29, 2015. The Credit Agreement provides for borrowings of up to \$95.0 million, subject to the satisfaction of certain terms and conditions, comprised of a term loan of \$30.0 million and up to \$65.0 million of borrowings under the revolving loan portion. The actual amount available under the revolving loan portion of the Credit Agreement is limited by the Company's total leverage ratio. The amount available to draw at any point in time would be further reduced by any standby letters of credit issued.

Loans made under the Credit Agreement may be Base Rate Loans or LIBOR Rate Loans, at the election of the Company subject to certain exceptions. Base Rate Loans have an interest rate equal to (i) the higher of (a) the federal funds rate plus 0.5%, (b) the London Interbank Offering Rate ("LIBOR") plus 1%, or (c) Bank of America's prime rate, plus (ii) a variable margin of between 0.75% and 1.75% depending on the Company's total leverage ratio, calculated on a consolidated basis. LIBOR rate loans have an interest rate equal to (i) the LIBOR rate plus (ii) a variable margin of between 1.75% and 2.75% depending on the Company's total leverage ratio. Amounts borrowed under the Credit Agreement are secured by a security interest in substantially all of the Company's tangible and intangible assets. In June 2017, the Company entered into a First Amendment to the Credit Agreement which expanded the Company's ability to make dispositions without bank group approval.

As of the Effective date of the Credit Agreement February 21, 2017, the effective interest rate on the Term A loan was 3.28% and the effective rate on the revolving loan was 3.28%.

The Agreement contains customary terms and provisions (including representations, covenants, and conditions) for transactions of this type. Certain covenants, among other things, restrict the Company's and its Subsidiaries' ability to incur indebtedness, grant liens, make investments and sell assets. The Agreement contains customary events of default, covenants and representations and warranties. Financial covenants include:

- An interest coverage ratio (based on interest expense and EBITDA) of at least 3.5 to 1.0;
- A total leverage ratio no greater than 3.0 to 1.0, provided that in the event of a permitted acquisition having an aggregate consideration equal to \$10.0 million or more, at the Borrower's election, the foregoing 3.00 to 1.00 shall be deemed to be 3.25 to 1.00 for the fiscal quarter in which such permitted acquisition occurs and the three immediately following fiscal quarters and will thereafter revert to 3.00 to 1.00;
- A capital expenditures covenant limiting capital expenditures to \$100.0 million plus, if the capital expenditures permitted have been fully utilized, an additional amount for the remaining term of the Agreement equal to 35% of EBITDA for the thirteen "four-week" periods most recently ended immediately prior to the full utilization of such \$100.0 million basket

As of December 30, 2017 and December 30, 2017, we were in compliance with all covenants of our credit facility then in effect. As of December 30, 2017, and December 30, 2017, we had \$0.9 million and \$3.0 million of standby letters of credit issued, respectively, and \$64.1 million and \$27.6 million was available for borrowing under the bank credit facility, respectively.

We believe that our existing cash, cash equivalents, available borrowings, and other sources of financings will be sufficient to meet our anticipated cash needs for working capital and capital expenditures for at least the next 12 months. We cannot guarantee this will be the case or that our assumptions regarding revenues and expenses underlying this belief will be accurate. If, in the future, we require more liquidity than is available to us under our credit facility, we may need to raise additional funds through debt or equity offerings. Adequate funds may not be available when needed or may not be available on terms favorable to us, especially given the current condition of the financial credit markets. If additional funds are raised by issuing equity securities, dilution to existing stockholders may result. If we raise additional funds by obtaining loans from third parties, the terms of those financing arrangements may include negative covenants or other restrictions on our business that could impair our operational flexibility, and would also require us to fund additional interest expense. If funding is insufficient at any time in the future, we may be unable to develop or enhance our products or services, take advantage of business opportunities, or respond to competitive pressures, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Summary of Cash Flow Activity

| <i>(thousands)</i> | For the Fiscal Years Ended, | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | December 30, 2017 | December 31, 2016 | December 31, 2016 |
| Net cash provided by (used in): | | | |
| Operating activities | \$ 45,331 | \$ 38,099 | \$ 29,008 |
| Investing activities | (10,008) | (18,901) | (18,535) |
| Financing activities | (30,044) | (6,196) | (8,420) |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | <u>\$ 5,279</u> | <u>\$ 13,002</u> | <u>\$ 2,053</u> |

The most significant items affecting the comparison of our operating activities for fiscal 2017 and fiscal 2016 are summarized below:

Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities —

- *Earnings increase* — Our increase in net income for fiscal 2017 favorably impacted our net cash provided by operating activities by \$22.4 million compared to fiscal 2016. Earnings were favorably impacted by higher spreads in our Oil Business Segment and gains from an arbitration award and settlement with the sellers of FCC Environmental.
- *Accounts Payable* — The decrease in accounts payable negatively affected cash flows from operations by \$12.7 million in fiscal 2017 compared to fiscal 2016. The decrease in accounts payable in fiscal 2017 was mainly driven by cash outlays to settle our legal fees payable.
- *Inventory* — The increase in inventory had a unfavorable impact on cash provided by operating activities of \$7.7 million in fiscal 2017 compared to fiscal 2016 primarily due to higher carrying value of solvents and solutions, and higher stock levels of machines.
- *Accounts Receivable* — The decrease in accounts receivable had a favorable impact on cash provided by operating activities of \$7.9 million in fiscal 2017 compared to fiscal 2016 primarily due to collection of a \$5.0 million receivable related to a settlement agreement with the sellers of FCC Environmental.

Net Cash Used in Investing Activities —

- *Capital expenditures and software and intangible assets* — We used \$14.4 million and \$15.9 million for capital expenditures during fiscal 2017 and fiscal 2016, respectively. In fiscal 2017, we spent \$5.7 million for capital improvements to the re-refinery, compared to \$8.0 million on capital improvements at the re-refinery in fiscal 2016. Additionally, we spent approximately \$4.7 million for purchases of parts cleaning machines in fiscal 2017 compared to \$4.3 million in fiscal 2016. The remaining \$4.0 million spend in fiscal 2017 was for leasehold improvements and other items compared to approximately \$3.6 million spent in fiscal 2016.
- *Proceeds from the disposal of assets* — During the third quarter of fiscal 2017, the Company received \$4.1 million of cash from having sold a facility located in Pompano Beach, Florida.

Net Cash Used in Financing Activities —

- *Proceeds from New Credit Agreement* — We received \$30.0 million of proceeds from our new Term Loan.
- *Repayment of our Old Credit Agreement* — We paid \$64.2 million to repay our prior Term Loan.
- *Proceeds from exercise of stock options* — We received \$5.5 million of proceeds from stock option exercises in fiscal 2017 compared to \$0.2 million of proceeds in fiscal 2016 due to many options expiring in March of 2018.

The most significant items affecting the comparison of our operating activities for fiscal 2016 and fiscal 2015 are summarized below:

Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities —

- *Earnings increase* — Our increase in net income for fiscal 2016 favorably impacted our net cash provided by operating activities by \$4.6 million compared to fiscal 2015.
- *Accounts Payable* — The increase in accounts payable favorably affected cash flows from operations by \$15.5 million in fiscal 2016 compared to fiscal 2015. The increase in accounts payable year over year was mainly driven by higher legal fees and amounts payable in conjunction with the settlement described in Part I, Item 3 "Legal Proceedings." In fiscal 2015, accounts payable decreased significantly due to the lower unit cost of raw materials such as used oil and solvent.
- *Inventory* — The decrease in inventory had a favorable impact on cash provided by operating activities of \$8.0 million in fiscal 2016 compared to fiscal 2015 primarily due to significantly lower ending used oil inventory levels year over year.
- *Accounts Receivable* — The increase in accounts receivable had a negative impact on cash provided by operating activities of \$9.7 million in fiscal 2016 compared to fiscal 2015 primarily due to a net increase in the selling price of oil products and used oil collection services in fiscal 2016 compared to a net decrease in the selling price of oil products in fiscal 2015.

Net Cash Used in Investing Activities —

- *Capital expenditures and software and intangible assets* — We used \$15.9 million and \$19.7 million for capital expenditures and software and intangible assets during fiscal 2016 and fiscal 2015, respectively. In fiscal 2016, we spent \$8.0 million for capital improvements and expansion to the re-refinery, compared to \$9.8 million on capital improvements and expansion at the re-refinery in fiscal 2015. Additionally, we spent approximately \$4.3 million for purchases of parts cleaning machines in fiscal 2016 compared to \$5.3 million in fiscal 2015. The remaining \$3.6 million spend in fiscal 2016 was for leasehold improvements and other items compared to approximately \$4.6 million spent in fiscal 2015.
- *Acquisitions* — In fiscal 2016, we spent \$3.4 million on acquisitions. For additional information on our acquisitions see Footnote 3 in the consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in Item 8.

Net Cash Used in Financing Activities —

- *Term loan* — In fiscal 2016 total cash outflows from financing activities were \$6.2 million resulting mainly from \$6.7 million of repayments of our term loan compared to \$8.0 million of repayments of our term loan in fiscal 2015. There were no offerings of common stock, or increases to our Term A loan in fiscal 2016 or in fiscal 2015.

Contractual Obligations

Our contractual commitments consist of operating leases and short-term purchasing commitments. We anticipate that we will experience an increase in our lease commitments consistent with anticipated growth in operations, infrastructure, and personnel and additional resources devoted to building our network of hubs and branches.

The following table summarizes our existing obligations as of December 30, 2017:

| Contractual Obligations | Payments Due by Fiscal Year | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| | (In thousands) | | | | | | |
| | Total | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Thereafter |
| Operating lease obligations ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 62,569 | \$ 19,737 | \$ 15,123 | \$ 10,167 | \$ 7,689 | \$ 5,533 | \$ 4,320 |
| Future maturities of long term debt ⁽²⁾ | 30,000 | — | — | — | — | 30,000 | — |
| Interest on long term debt ⁽³⁾ | 4,053 | 974 | 974 | 993 | 974 | 138 | — |
| Purchase obligations ⁽⁴⁾ | 15,595 | 15,595 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total ⁽⁵⁾ | \$ 112,217 | \$ 36,306 | \$ 16,097 | \$ 11,160 | \$ 8,663 | \$ 35,671 | \$ 4,320 |

- (1) We lease office space, equipment and vehicles under noncancelable operating lease agreements which expire at various dates through 2025.
- (2) Excludes interest payments.
- (3) Interest on long term debt is calculated at the contractual rate or, in the case of the Term A loan, at the effective rate as of December 30, 2017.
- (4) Our purchase obligations are open purchase orders as of December 30, 2017, and are primarily for capital expenditures, used oil, catalyst, disposal, and solvent. They represent expected payments to third party service providers and other commitments entered into during the normal course of our business. While our purchase obligations are generally cancelable with or without notice without penalty, certain vendor agreements provide for cancellation fees or penalties depending on the terms of the contract.
- (5) Unrecognized tax benefits have not been included because no reasonable estimate can be made as to the likelihood, dollar amount, or timing of potential future cash expenditures.

We offer a guarantee for our services. To date, costs relating to this guarantee have not been material.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of the end of fiscal 2017, we had no off-balance sheet arrangements, other than operating leases reported above under "Contractual obligations."

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We are exposed to interest rate risks primarily through borrowings under our bank credit facility. Interest on these borrowings is based upon variable interest rates. Our weighted average borrowings under our bank credit facility during fiscal 2018 were \$35.1 million, and the annual effective interest rate for fiscal 2018 was 3.5%. We currently do not hedge against interest rate risk. Based on the foregoing, a hypothetical 1.0% increase or decrease in interest rates would have resulted in a \$0.4 million change to our interest expense in fiscal 2018.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Board of Directors and Shareholders

Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc.

Opinion on the financial statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. (a Delaware corporation) and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders’ equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 30, 2017, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the “financial statements”). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 30, 2017, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”), the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 30, 2017, based on criteria established in the 2013 *Internal Control-Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (“COSO”), and our report dated March 1, 2018 expressed an unqualified opinion.

Basis for opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

We have served as the Company’s auditor since 2008.

Chicago, IL

March 1, 2018

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Board of Directors and Stockholders
Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc.

Opinion on internal control over financial reporting

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. (a Delaware corporation) and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 30, 2017, based on criteria established in the 2013 *Internal Control-Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (“COSO”). In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 30, 2017, based on criteria established in the 2013 Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by COSO.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”), the consolidated financial statements of the Company as of and for the year ended December 30, 2017, and our report dated March 1, 2018 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

Basis for opinion

The Company’s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying “Management’s Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting”. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Definition and limitations of internal control over financial reporting

A company’s internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company’s internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company’s assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

Chicago, IL
March 1, 2018

Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc.
Consolidated Balance Sheets
(In Thousands, Except Share and Par Value Amounts)

| | <u>December 30, 2017</u> | <u>December 30, 2017</u> |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current Assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 41,889 | \$ 36,610 |
| Accounts receivable - net | 45,491 | 47,533 |
| Inventory - net | 21,639 | 18,558 |
| Other current assets | 5,895 | 6,094 |
| Total Current Assets | <u>114,914</u> | <u>108,795</u> |
| Property, plant and equipment - net | 128,119 | 131,175 |
| Equipment at customers - net | 23,312 | 23,033 |
| Software and intangible assets - net | 16,732 | 19,821 |
| Goodwill | 31,580 | 31,483 |
| Total Assets | <u>\$ 314,657</u> | <u>\$ 314,307</u> |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Current Liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 25,568 | \$ 30,984 |
| Current maturities of long-term debt and term loan | — | 6,936 |
| Accrued salaries, wages, and benefits | 6,386 | 6,312 |
| Taxes payable | 5,787 | 6,729 |
| Other current liabilities | 2,690 | 3,245 |
| Total Current Liabilities | <u>40,431</u> | <u>54,206</u> |
| Term loan, less current maturities - net | 28,744 | 56,518 |
| Deferred income taxes | 9,556 | 5,314 |
| Total Liabilities | <u>\$ 78,731</u> | <u>\$ 116,038</u> |
| Commitments and contingencies (Note 13) | | |
| STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY: | | |
| Common stock - 26,000,000 shares authorized at \$0.01 par value, 22,891,674 and 22,300,007 shares issued and outstanding at December 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively | \$ 229 | \$ 223 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 193,640 | 185,099 |
| Retained earnings | 41,359 | 12,227 |
| Total Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. Stockholders' Equity | <u>235,228</u> | <u>197,549</u> |
| Noncontrolling Interest | 698 | 720 |
| Total Equity | <u>235,926</u> | <u>198,269</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity | <u>\$ 314,657</u> | <u>\$ 314,307</u> |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc.
Consolidated Statements of Operations
(In Thousands, Except per Share Amounts)

| | For the Fiscal Years Ended, | | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | December 30, 2017 | December 31, 2016 | December 31, 2016 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Revenues | | | |
| Product revenues | \$ 131,958 | \$ 111,729 | \$ 134,320 |
| Service revenues | 233,999 | 235,898 | 215,698 |
| Total revenues | <u>\$ 365,957</u> | <u>\$ 347,627</u> | <u>\$ 350,018</u> |
| Operating expenses | | | |
| Operating costs | \$ 276,102 | \$ 267,503 | \$ 280,708 |
| Selling, general, and administrative expenses | 47,401 | 49,823 | 45,269 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 17,967 | 17,991 | 17,197 |
| Impairment of goodwill | — | — | 3,952 |
| Other (income) expense - net | (10,940) | 1,416 | (1,297) |
| Operating income | <u>35,427</u> | <u>10,894</u> | <u>4,189</u> |
| Interest expense – net | 1,094 | 2,069 | 1,880 |
| Income before income taxes | <u>\$ 34,333</u> | <u>\$ 8,825</u> | <u>\$ 2,309</u> |
| Provision for income taxes | 5,923 | 2,811 | 899 |
| Net income | <u>28,410</u> | <u>6,014</u> | <u>1,410</u> |
| Income attributable to noncontrolling interest | 287 | 172 | 160 |
| Income attributable to Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. common stockholders | <u>\$ 28,123</u> | <u>\$ 5,842</u> | <u>\$ 1,250</u> |
| Net income per share: basic | \$ 1.24 | \$ 0.26 | \$ 0.06 |
| Net income per share: diluted | <u>\$ 1.23</u> | <u>\$ 0.26</u> | <u>\$ 0.06</u> |
| Number of weighted average shares outstanding: basic | 22,662 | 22,258 | 22,146 |
| Number of weighted average shares outstanding: diluted | <u>22,922</u> | <u>22,516</u> | <u>22,408</u> |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc.
Consolidated Statement of Stockholders' Equity
(In Thousands, Except Share Amounts)

| | Shares | Par Value Common | Additional Paid-in Capital | Retained Earnings | Total Heritage- Crystal Clean, Inc. Stockholders' Equity | Noncontrolling Interest | Total Equity |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Balance, January 3, 2015 | 22,109,875 | \$ 221 | \$ 181,140 | \$ 5,135 | \$ 186,496 | \$ 918 | \$ 187,414 |
| Net income | — | — | — | 1,250 | 1,250 | 160 | 1,410 |
| Distribution | — | — | — | — | — | (410) | (410) |
| Issuance of common stock – ESPP | 41,141 | — | 473 | — | 473 | — | 473 |
| Share-based compensation | 62,348 | 1 | 945 | — | 946 | — | 946 |
| Balance, January 2, 2016 | <u>22,213,364</u> | <u>\$ 222</u> | <u>\$ 182,558</u> | <u>\$ 6,385</u> | <u>\$ 189,165</u> | <u>\$ 668</u> | <u>\$ 189,833</u> |
| Net income | — | — | — | 5,842 | 5,842 | 172 | 6,014 |
| Distribution | — | — | — | — | — | (120) | (120) |
| Issuance of common stock – ESPP | 39,805 | — | 423 | — | 423 | — | 423 |
| Exercise of stock options | 20,141 | — | 200 | — | 200 | — | 200 |
| Share-based compensation | 26,697 | 1 | 1,918 | — | 1,919 | — | 1,919 |
| Balance, December 31, 2016 | <u>22,300,007</u> | <u>\$ 223</u> | <u>\$ 185,099</u> | <u>\$ 12,227</u> | <u>\$ 197,549</u> | <u>\$ 720</u> | <u>\$ 198,269</u> |
| Adjustment from adopting ASU 2016-09 | — | — | — | 1,009 | 1,009 | — | 1,009 |
| Net income | — | — | — | 28,123 | 28,123 | 287 | 28,410 |
| Distribution | — | — | — | — | — | (309) | (309) |
| Issuance of common stock – ESPP | 26,153 | — | 402 | — | 402 | — | 402 |
| Exercise of stock options | 491,619 | 5 | 5,459 | — | 5,464 | — | 5,464 |
| Share-based compensation | 73,895 | 1 | 2,680 | — | 2,681 | — | 2,681 |
| Balance, December 30, 2017 | <u>22,891,674</u> | <u>\$ 229</u> | <u>\$ 193,640</u> | <u>\$ 41,359</u> | <u>\$ 235,228</u> | <u>\$ 698</u> | <u>\$ 235,926</u> |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flow

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | For the Fiscal Years Ended, | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | December 30, 2017 | December 31, 2016 | December 31, 2016 |
| Cash flows from Operating Activities: | | | |
| Net income | \$ 28,410 | \$ 6,014 | \$ 1,410 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash from operating activities: | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 17,967 | 17,991 | 17,197 |
| Net (gain) on disposition of assets | (2,680) | — | — |
| Non-cash inventory impairment | — | 1,651 | 9,217 |
| Non-cash goodwill impairment | — | — | 3,952 |
| Bad debt provision | 402 | 687 | 1,009 |
| Share-based compensation | 3,036 | 1,919 | 1,077 |
| Deferred taxes | 5,251 | 2,589 | 621 |
| Other, net | 624 | 575 | (416) |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | | |
| Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable | 1,627 | (6,276) | 3,467 |
| (Increase) decrease in inventory | (3,081) | 4,648 | (3,392) |
| Decrease (increase) in prepaid and other current assets | 198 | (1,283) | 5,140 |
| (Decrease) increase in accounts payable | (4,912) | 7,881 | (7,614) |
| (Decrease) increase in accrued expenses | (1,511) | 1,703 | (2,660) |
| Cash provided by operating activities | \$ 45,331 | \$ 38,099 | \$ 29,008 |
| Cash flows from Investing Activities: | | | |
| Capital expenditures | \$ (14,400) | \$ (15,875) | \$ (19,734) |
| Proceeds from the disposal of property, plant, and equipment | 4,392 | 367 | 1,199 |
| Business acquisitions, net of cash acquired | — | (3,393) | — |
| Cash used in investing activities | \$ (10,008) | \$ (18,901) | \$ (18,535) |
| Cash flows from Financing Activities: | | | |
| Payments of Term Loan | \$ (64,195) | \$ (6,699) | \$ (7,994) |
| Proceeds of Term Loan | 30,000 | — | — |
| Proceeds from the exercise of stock options | 5,464 | 200 | — |
| Proceeds under revolving credit facility | 4,000 | — | — |
| Payments of revolving credit facility | (4,000) | — | — |
| Payments of debt issuance costs | (1,051) | — | — |
| Proceeds from the issuance of common stock | 402 | 423 | 473 |
| Share repurchases to satisfy tax withholding obligations ^(a) | (355) | — | (131) |
| Payments of contingent consideration | — | — | (95) |
| Distributions to noncontrolling interest | (309) | (120) | (410) |
| Repayments of notes payable | — | — | (263) |
| Cash used in financing activities | \$ (30,044) | \$ (6,196) | \$ (8,420) |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | 5,279 | 13,002 | 2,053 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period | 36,610 | 23,608 | 21,555 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | \$ 41,889 | \$ 36,610 | \$ 23,608 |
| Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information: | | | |
| Income taxes paid | \$ 485 | \$ 316 | \$ 584 |
| Cash paid for interest, net of capitalized interest of \$ -, \$106, and \$628, respectively | 1,129 | 2,223 | 1,753 |
| Supplemental disclosure of non-cash information: | | | |
| Payables for construction in progress | 386 | 666 | 2,917 |

^(a) In conjunction with the adoption of ASU 2016-09, the Company reclassified \$131 of cash outflows for share repurchases to satisfy tax withholding obligations from Cash flows from Operating Activities to Cash flows from Financing Activities compared to the amounts previously reported for the fiscal year ended January 2, 2016.

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

HERITAGE-CRYSTAL CLEAN, INC.
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 30, 2017

(1) ORGANIZATION AND NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc., a Delaware corporation and its subsidiaries (collectively the "Company"), provide parts cleaning, hazardous and non-hazardous containerized waste, used oil collection, vacuum, antifreeze recycling and field services primarily to small and mid-sized industrial and vehicle maintenance customers. The Company owns and operates a used oil re-refinery where it re-refines used oils and sells high quality base oil for lubricants as well as other re-refinery products. The Company also has multiple locations where it dehydrates used oil. The oil processed at these locations is sold as recycled fuel oil. The Company also operates multiple wastewater treatment plants and antifreeze recycling facilities at which it produces virgin-quality antifreeze. The Company's locations are in the United States and Ontario, Canada. The Company conducts its primary business operations through Heritage-Crystal Clean, LLC, its wholly owned subsidiary, and all intercompany balances have been eliminated in consolidation.

The Company has two reportable segments: "Environmental Services" and "Oil Business." The Environmental Services segment consists of the Company's parts cleaning, containerized waste management, vacuum truck services, antifreeze recycling activities, and field services. The Oil Business segment consists of the Company's used oil collection, recycled fuel oil sales, used oil re-refining activities, and used oil filter removal and disposal services. No customer represented greater than 10% of consolidated revenues for any of the periods presented. There were no intersegment revenues. The Environmental Services segment operates in the United States and, to an immaterial degree, in Ontario, Canada. As such, the Company is not disclosing operating results by geographic segment.

The Company's fiscal year ends on the Saturday closest to December 31. "Fiscal 2017" represents the 52-week period ended December 30, 2017. "Fiscal 2017" represents the 52-week period ended December 30, 2017, and "Fiscal 2016" represents the 53-week period ended December 31, 2016. The most recent fiscal year ended on December 30, 2017. Each of the Company's first three fiscal quarters consists of twelve weeks while the last fiscal quarter consists of sixteen or seventeen weeks.

In the Company's Environmental Services segment, product revenues include sales of solvent, machines, absorbent, accessories, and antifreeze; service revenues include servicing of parts cleaning machines, drum waste removal services, vacuum truck services, field services, and other services. In the Company's Oil Business segment, product revenues include sales of re-refined base oil, recycled fuel oil, and other products; service revenues include revenues from used oil collection activities, collecting and disposing of waste water and removal and disposal of used oil filters. Due to the Company's integrated business model, it is impracticable to separately present costs of tangible products and costs of services.

(2) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") requires the use of certain estimates by management in determining the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions are the allowance for doubtful accounts receivable, valuation of inventory at lower of cost or market, valuation of goodwill and other intangible assets, share-based compensation, and income taxes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Revenue Recognition

The Company derives its revenues primarily from the services it performs and from the sale of processed oil from its used oil re-refinery. Parts cleaning and other service revenues are recognized as the service is performed. Product revenues are recognized at the time risk of loss passes to the customer. The risk of loss passes to customers at various times depending on the particular terms of the sales agreement in force with each individual customer. Common thresholds for when risk of loss passes

to the customer are at the time that product is loaded onto the shipping vessel or at the time that product is offloaded at the customer's receiving location. Revenues are recognized only if collection of the relevant receivable is probable, persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, and the sales price is fixed or determinable.

Sales Tax

Amounts billed for sales tax, value added tax, or other transactional taxes imposed on revenue producing transactions are presented on a net basis and are not recognized as revenues.

Operating Costs

Within operating costs are cost of sales. Cost of sales in the Environmental Services segment includes the cost of the materials the Company sells and provides in its services, such as solvents and other chemicals, transportation of inventory and waste, and payments to third parties to recycle or dispose of the waste materials that the Company collects. Parts cleaning machines are either sold to a customer or continue to be owned by the Company but placed offsite at a customer location to be used in parts cleaning services. When sold to a customer, machines are removed from inventory, and the costs are recognized under operating costs. The used solvent that the Company retrieves from customers in its product reuse program is accounted for as a reduction in net cost of solvent under cost of sales, whether placed in inventory or sold to a purchaser for reuse. If the used solvent is placed in inventory it is recorded at lower of cost or net realizable value. Cost of sales in the Oil Business include the costs paid to customers for used oil (if any), transportation out to customers, and costs to operate the used oil refinery, including utilities.

Operating costs also include the Company's costs of operating its branch system and hubs. These costs include personnel costs, facility rent and utilities, truck leases, fuel, transportation, and maintenance. Operating costs are not presented separately for products and services.

Selling, General, and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general, and administrative expenses include costs of performing centralized business functions, including sales management at or above the regional level, billing, receivables management, accounting and finance, information technology, environmental health and safety, and legal.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Company considers highly liquid investments, purchased with an original maturity of ninety days or less, to be cash equivalents. Included in cash and cash equivalents are \$0.5 million and \$0.2 million of cash on deposit outside the United States of America as of December 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively.

Concentration Risk

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to concentration of credit risk consist principally of cash deposits. Accounts at each institution in the United States of America are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") up to \$250,000. The Company had cash deposits in excess of the FDIC insured limit of \$41.1 million and \$35.9 million at December 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively. The Company has not experienced any losses in such accounts. The Company has a broad customer base and believes it is not exposed to any significant concentration of credit risk.

Accounts Receivable

Trade accounts receivable represent amounts due from customers. The allowance for doubtful accounts is the Company's best estimate of the amount of probable credit losses in the Company's existing accounts receivable. The Company determines the allowance based on analysis of customer credit worthiness, historical losses, and general economic trends and conditions. Accounts receivable are written off once the Company determines the account to be uncollectible. The Company does not have any off-balance-sheet credit exposure related to its customers.

Inventory

Inventory consists primarily of used oil, processed oil, catalyst, new and used solvents, new and refurbished parts cleaning machines, new and used antifreeze products, drums, and other items. Inventories are valued at the lower of first-in, first-out ("FIFO") cost or market, net of any reserves for excess, obsolete, or unsalable inventory. The Company performs a physical

inventory count on a periodic basis and uses the results of these counts to determine inventory quantities. These quantities are used to help determine the value of the inventory.

Processed oil inventory consists of the costs of feedstock, transportation, labor, conversion costs, and re-refining overhead costs incurred in bringing the inventory to its existing condition and location. Fixed production overhead costs are capitalized in processed oil inventory based on the normal capacity of the production facility. In periods of abnormal production levels, excess overhead costs are recognized as expense in the period they are incurred. The Company continually monitors its inventory levels at each of its distribution locations and evaluates inventories for excess or slow-moving items. If circumstances indicate the cost of inventories exceed their recoverable value, inventories are reduced to net realizable value. In fiscal 2017 the Company did not incur inventory write-downs. In fiscal 2016, the Company wrote down inventory by \$1.7 million due to sharply declining prices of oil and other petroleum-based products.

Prepaid and Other Current Assets

Prepaid and other current assets include, but are not limited to, insurance and vehicle license contract costs, which are expensed over the term of the underlying contract.

Property, Plant, and Equipment

Property, plant, and equipment are stated at cost. Expenditures for major renewals and betterments are capitalized, while expenditures for repair and maintenance charges are expensed as incurred. Property, plant, and equipment acquired in business combinations is stated at fair value as of the date of the acquisition.

Depreciation of property, plant, and equipment is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The estimated useful lives of buildings and storage tanks range from 10 to 39 years. The estimated useful lives of machinery, vehicles, and equipment range from 3 to 25 years. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the shorter of the lease terms or five years using the straight-line method.

The Company capitalizes interest on borrowings during the active construction period of major capital projects. Capitalized interest is added to the cost of the underlying assets and is amortized over the useful lives of the assets once the assets are placed into service. The interest rate used to capitalize interest is based upon the borrowing rate on the Company's bank debt outstanding. In fiscal 2017 the Company capitalized no interest for capital projects, and in fiscal 2016 and 2015, the Company capitalized interest of \$0.1 million, and \$0.6 million, respectively.

Equipment at Customers

The Company records purchases of new parts cleaning machines as inventory. Parts cleaning machines are either sold to a customer or continue to be owned by the Company but placed off-site at a customer location to be used in parts cleaning services. When sold to a customer, machines are removed from inventory, and the appropriate revenues and costs are recognized in the Income Statement. When the Company retains title to a machine that is placed off-site at a customer location to be used in parts cleaning services, the Company capitalizes the machine as a productive non-current asset under the Balance Sheet caption "Equipment at Customers" at the time the machine is placed at the customer's site. Machines capitalized as Equipment at Customers are depreciated over their estimated useful lives of 7 to 15 years, depending on the model. Depreciation of in-service equipment commences when equipment is placed in service at a customer location. Expenditures for machines that are sold to a customer are treated as a cash outflow from operating activities on the Statement of Cash Flows. Expenditures for machines that are placed at a customer's site to be used in parts cleaning services are treated as a cash outflow from investing activities.

Acquisitions

The Company accounts for acquired businesses using the purchase method of accounting, which requires that the assets acquired, liabilities assumed, and contingent consideration be recorded as of the date of acquisition at their respective fair values. It further requires that acquisition-related costs be recognized separately from the acquisition and expensed as incurred and that restructuring costs be expensed in periods subsequent to the acquisition date. In many cases, the Company engages third party valuation appraisal firms to assist the Company in determining the fair values and useful lives of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed. The Company records a preliminary purchase price allocation for its acquisitions and finalizes purchase price allocations as additional information relative to the fair values of the assets acquired becomes known.

Identifiable Intangible Assets

The fair value of identifiable intangible assets is based on significant judgments made by management. The Company engaged third party valuation appraisal firms to assist the Company in determining the fair values and useful lives of the assets acquired. Such valuations and useful life determinations require the Company to make significant estimates and assumptions. These estimates and assumptions are based on historical experience and information obtained from the management of the acquired companies and include, but are not limited to, future expected cash flows to be earned from the continued operation of the acquired business and discount rates applied in determining the present value of those cash flows. Unanticipated events and circumstances may occur that could affect the accuracy or validity of such assumptions, estimates, or actual results. Acquisition-related finite lived intangible assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated economic lives. The Company evaluates the estimated benefit periods and recoverability of its intangible assets when facts and circumstances indicate that the lives may not be appropriate and/or the carrying value of the asset may not be recoverable. If the carrying value is not recoverable, impairment is measured as the amount by which the carrying value exceeds its estimated fair value. There were no impairment charges in fiscal 2017.

Software Costs

The Company expenses costs incurred in the research stage of developing or acquiring internal use software, such as research and feasibility studies, as well as costs incurred in the post-implementation/operational stage, such as maintenance and training. Capitalization of software costs occurs only after the research stage is complete and after the development stage begins. The capitalized costs are amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the software, ranging from 5 to 10 years.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

Long-lived assets, such as property and equipment and intangibles subject to amortization, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its estimated future cash flows, an impairment charge is recognized as the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the fair value of the asset. There were no impairment charges in fiscal 2017. Assets to be disposed of would be separately presented in the balance sheet and reported at the lower of the carrying amount or fair value less costs to sell, and would no longer be depreciated.

Income Taxes

The Company accounts for income taxes to recognize the amount of taxes payable or refundable for the current year and the amount of deferred tax assets and liabilities resulting from the future tax consequences of differences between the financial statements and tax basis of the respective assets and liabilities. The Company estimates and reserves for any material uncertain tax position that is unlikely to withstand an audit by the taxing authorities. These estimates are based on judgments made with currently available information. The Company reviews these estimates and makes changes to recorded amounts of any uncertain tax positions as facts and circumstances warrant. For additional information about income taxes, see Note 14.

Shipping Costs

For all periods presented, amounts billed to customers related to shipping and handling are classified as revenue, and the Company's shipping and handling costs are included in operating costs.

Research and Development

Research and development costs are expensed as incurred within general, selling, and administrative expenses. Such costs incurred during fiscal 2017, 2016 and 2015 were \$0.5 million, \$0.2 million, and \$0.2 million, respectively.

Advertising Costs

Advertising costs are expensed as incurred. Advertising expense was \$0.5 million, \$0.5 million, and \$0.6 million for fiscal 2017, 2016, and 2015, respectively.

Share-Based Compensation

When a future restricted grant is approved, the Company evaluates the probability that the award will be granted, based on certain performance conditions. If satisfaction of the performance criteria is deemed probable, the Company accrues compensation expense related to these awards prior to the grant date. The Company accrues compensation expense based on the fair value of the performance awards at each reporting period when the performance criteria are deemed probable. Once the performance awards have been granted, the Company values the awards at fair value on the date of grant and amortizes the expense through the end of the vesting period, or requisite service period, on a straight-line basis. The requisite service period is a function of the service condition defined for each award on a case by case basis. See Note 15 “Share-Based Compensation” for more details.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The Company uses a three-tier fair value hierarchy to classify and disclose all assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis, as well as assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis, in periods subsequent to their initial measurement. These tiers include: Level 1, defined as quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities; Level 2, defined as inputs other than Level 1 that are observable, either directly or indirectly, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities, quoted prices in markets that are not active, model-based valuation techniques for which all significant assumptions are observable in the market, or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities; and Level 3, defined as unobservable inputs that are not corroborated by market data.

The Company’s financial instruments consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents, trade receivables, trade payables, notes payable, and term debt. As of December 30, 2017 and December 30, 2017, the carrying values of cash and cash equivalents, trade receivables, trade payables, and notes payable are considered to be representative of their respective fair values due to the short maturity of these instruments. Term debt is representative of its fair value due to the interest rates being applied.

Insurance and Self-Insurance Policy

The Company purchases insurance providing financial protection from a range of risks; as of the end of fiscal 2017, the Company’s insurance policies provided coverage for general liability, vehicle liability, and pollution liability, among other exposures. Each of these policies contains exclusions and limitations such that they would not cover all related exposures and each of these policies have maximum coverage limits and deductibles such that even in the event of an insured claim, the Company’s net exposure could still have a material adverse effect on its financial results.

The Company is self-insured for certain healthcare benefits provided to its employees. The liability for the self-insured benefits is limited by the purchase of stop-loss insurance. The stop-loss coverage provides payment for medical and prescription claims exceeding \$200,000 per covered person, as well as an aggregate, cumulative claims cap for any given year. Accruals for losses are made based on the Company’s claim experience and actuarial estimates based on historical data. Actual losses may differ from accrued amounts. At December 30, 2017 and December 30, 2017, the Company’s liability for its self-insured benefits was \$1.3 million and \$1.2 million, respectively. Should actual losses exceed the amounts expected and the recorded liabilities be insufficient, additional expense will be recorded. Expenses incurred for healthcare benefits in fiscal 2017, 2016, and 2015 were \$11.9 million, \$11.6 million, and \$11.6 million, respectively.

Goodwill

Goodwill is measured as a residual amount as of the acquisition date, which in most cases results in measuring goodwill as an excess of the purchase consideration transferred plus the fair value of any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree over the fair value of the net assets acquired, including any contingent consideration. The Company tests goodwill for impairment annually in the fourth quarter and in interim periods if an event occurs or circumstances change that would more likely than not reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying amount. The Company’s determination of fair value requires certain assumptions and estimates, such as margin expectations, market conditions, growth expectations, expected changes in working capital, etc., regarding expected future profitability and expected future cash flows. The Company tests goodwill for impairment at each of its two reporting units, Environmental Services and Oil Business.

In fiscal 2015, we tested goodwill for impairment. In fiscal 2015, the fair value of the Environmental Services reporting unit was substantially in excess of its carrying value. In fiscal 2015, our tests indicated impairment of all of the goodwill in our Oil Business reporting unit. Therefore during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2015 we recorded a charge of approximately \$4.0 million related to impairment of goodwill in our Oil Business reporting unit. The facts and circumstances leading to the impairment were primarily related to the deterioration of market conditions in the markets in which the Company's Oil Business reporting unit operates. The deterioration of those market conditions manifested in lower average selling prices for the Company's re-refined lubricating base oil, recycled fuel oil, and byproducts within the Oil Business. The method for determining the fair value of the Oil Business reporting unit was a combination of an income approach using a discounted cash flow method in combination with a market approach using a guideline company method. There was a moderate degree of uncertainty associated with key Oil Business fair value assumptions such as the selling prices of our oil products and byproducts, the price paid or charged for raw material inputs such as used oil, operating efficiency of the used oil re-refinery, etc. A contraction of the spread between the selling prices of our oil products and the price paid or charged to vendors for raw material inputs could reasonably be expected to negatively affect the key assumptions used to determine fair value.

In fiscal 2016, we tested goodwill for impairment. The Oil Business reporting unit had zero goodwill throughout fiscal 2016. The fair value of the Environmental Services reporting unit was substantially in excess of its carrying amount including goodwill, and therefore no impairment was indicated.

In fiscal 2017, the Company performed a qualitative assessment to determine whether the two-step quantitative impairment test was necessary. The Oil Business reporting unit had zero goodwill throughout fiscal 2017. Based on the qualitative assessment, the Company concluded it is more likely than not that the fair value of the Environmental Services reporting unit is greater than its carrying amount including goodwill, and therefore the two-step quantitative test was not necessary and no impairment was indicated.

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

Accounting standards not yet adopted

| Standard | Issuance Date | Description | Our Effective Date | Effect on the Financial Statements |
|--|-------------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| ASU 2014-09 “Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606),” ASU 2014-15 “Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606): Deferral of the Effective Date,” ASU 2016-08 “Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606): Principal versus Agent Considerations (Reporting Revenue Gross versus Net),” ASU 2016-10 “Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606): Identifying Performance Obligations and Licensing,” and ASU 2016-12 “Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606): Narrow-Scope Improvements and Practical Expedients” | May 2014 and subsequent | These standards outline a single comprehensive model for entities to use in accounting for revenue using a five-step process that supersedes virtually all existing revenue guidance. The underlying principle is that an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. Entities have the option of using either a full retrospective approach or a modified retrospective approach to adopt the guidance. Early adoption is permitted. | December 31, 2017 | The Company analyzed the impact of the standard on our contracts by reviewing our current accounting policies and practices to identify potential differences that would result from applying the requirements of the new standard to our revenue contracts. In addition, we have identified appropriate changes to our business processes, systems, and controls to support recognition and disclosure under the new standard. The Company will adopt the new revenue guidance effective December 31, 2017, using the modified retrospective transition method, by recognizing the cumulative effect of initially applying the new standard as a decrease to the opening balance of retained earnings. We expect this adjustment to be less than \$1 million, with an immaterial impact to our revenues and net income on an ongoing basis. The impact to our results is not material because, for the vast majority of our revenue, the analysis of our contracts under the new revenue recognition standard supports the recognition of revenue which is consistent with our current revenue recognition model. With the adoption of the standard, the consolidated financial statements will be supplemented by new disclosure requirements. |
| ASU 2016-02 Leases (Topic 842) | February 2016 | This update was issued to increase transparency and comparability among organizations by recognizing lease assets and lease liabilities on the balance sheet and disclosing key information about leasing arrangements. Early application of the amendments in this update is permitted for all entities. | January 4, 2019 | The Company is currently evaluating the effect that implementation of this update will have on its consolidated financial position and results of operations. The Company anticipates that implementation of this standard will result in an increase to assets and an increase to liabilities. To date, certain personnel have attended technical training concerning this new lease accounting standard. |

Recently issued accounting standards adopted

| Standard | Issuance Date | Description | Effective Date | Effect on the Financial Statements |
|---|---------------|--|-----------------|---|
| ASU 2016-09 Compensation - Stock Compensation: Improvements to Employee Share- Based Payment Accounting. (Topic 718) | March 2016 | This update addresses the simplification of accounting for employee share-based payment transactions as it pertains to income taxes, the classification of awards as equity or liabilities, accounting for forfeitures, statutory tax withholding requirements, and certain classifications on the statement of cash flows. Early adoption is permitted. | January 1, 2017 | ASU 2016-09 simplified the treatment for employee share-based compensation by allowing an entity to recognize excess tax benefits in the current period whether or not current taxes payable are reduced. Prior to 2017 the Company could not recognize windfall tax benefits associated with employee share-based compensation because it was in an NOL position and current taxes payable would not be reduced by the excess tax benefits. As a result of ASU 2016-09 the Company recognized excess tax benefits of \$2.5 million from share-based compensation from prior years, resulting in cumulative-effect increases to retained earnings and deferred tax assets of approximately \$1.0 million. In conjunction with the adoption of ASU 2016-09, the Company reclassified \$131 thousand of cash outflows for share repurchases to satisfy tax withholding obligations from Cash flows from Operating Activities to Cash flows from Financing Activities compared to the amounts previously reported for the fiscal year ended January 2, 2016. |
| ASU 2015-11, Simplifying the Measurement of Inventory. (Topic 330) | July 2015 | This update requires the measurement of inventory at the lower of cost or net realizable value. Net realizable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less reasonably predictable costs of completion, disposal and transportation. | January 1, 2017 | The adoption of ASU 2015-11 at the start of fiscal 2017 resulted in no impact to our consolidated financial statements. |

| | | | | |
|---|----------------|---|-------------------|---|
| ASU 2014-15 Presentation of Financial Statements - Disclosure of Uncertainties about an Entity's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern. (Subtopic 205-40) | August 2014 | This update provides guidance about management's responsibility to evaluate whether there is substantial doubt about an entity's ability to continue as a going concern and to provide related footnote disclosures. Early adoption is permitted. | December 31, 2016 | The adoption of ASU 2014-15 in fiscal 2016 resulted in no impact to our consolidated financial statements. |
| ASU 2015-03 Interest—Imputation of Interest: Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs, and 2015-15 Interest— Imputation of Interest (Subtopic 835-30) | April 2015 | These updates require debt issuance costs to be presented in the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the carrying value of the associated debt, and allows for the presentation of debt issuance costs as an asset regardless of whether or not there is an outstanding balance on the line-of-credit arrangement. | January 3, 2016 | The adoption of ASU 2015-03 resulted in the reclassification of \$1.4 million of unamortized debt issuance costs from "Other current assets" to "Term loan, less current maturities" as of January 2, 2016. |
| ASU 2015-16 Business Combinations: Simplifying the Accounting for Measurement-Period Adjustments (Topic 805) | September 2015 | This update simplifies the accounting for measurement-period adjustments in a business combination by requiring the acquirer to recognize adjustments to provisional amounts identified during the measurement period in the reporting period in which the adjustments are determined. The acquirer is also required to record in the reporting period in which the adjustments are determined the effect on earnings of changes in depreciation, amortization, and other items resulting from the change to the provisional amounts. | January 3, 2016 | The Company early adopted the amendments of this ASU No. 2015-16 in fiscal 2015 and it did not have an impact on our consolidated financial condition and results of operations. |

(3) BUSINESS COMBINATIONS

On December 2, 2016, the Company purchased the assets of Recycle Engine Coolant, Inc. ("REC"). The purchase price for the acquisition was \$0.7 million, including \$0.1 million placed into escrow. The Company purchased the assets of REC in order to expand our antifreeze recycling capabilities.

On March 24, 2016, the Company purchased the assets of Phoenix Environmental Services, Inc. and Pipeline Video and Cleaning North Corporation (together "Phoenix Environmental"). The purchase price for the acquisition was \$2.7 million, including \$0.3 million placed into escrow. The Company purchased the assets of Phoenix Environmental in order to expand our service coverage area into the Pacific Northwest. Factors leading to goodwill being recognized are the Company's expectations of synergies from integrating Phoenix Environmental into the Company as well as the value of intangible assets that are not separately recognized, such as assembled workforce.

During the measurement period, the Company made adjustments to the provisional amounts reported as the estimated fair values of assets acquired as part of the Phoenix Environmental business combination. Compared to the provisional values reported as of December 31, 2016, the fair values in the table below reflect a decrease to accounts receivable of less than \$0.1 million, a decrease to property, plant, and equipment of \$0.1 million, and an increase to goodwill of \$0.1 million.

The following table summarizes the estimated fair values of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed, net of cash acquired, related to each acquisition:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | Phoenix Environmental | REC |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Accounts receivable | \$ 260 | \$ 80 |
| Inventory | 27 | 56 |
| Property, plant, & equipment | 398 | 457 |
| Equipment at customers | 38 | — |
| Intangible assets | 700 | 132 |
| Goodwill | 1,245 | — |
| Total purchase price, net of cash acquired | <u>\$ 2,668</u> | <u>\$ 725</u> |

(4) ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts receivable consisted of the following:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | December 30, 2017 | December 30, 2017 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Trade | \$ 43,301 | \$ 42,332 |
| Less: allowance for doubtful accounts | 1,881 | 2,176 |
| Trade - net | 41,420 | 40,156 |
| Related parties | 1,906 | 1,324 |
| Other | 2,165 | 6,053 |
| Total accounts receivable - net | <u>\$ 45,491</u> | <u>\$ 47,533</u> |

The following table provides the changes in the Company's allowance for doubtful accounts for the fiscal year ended December 30, 2017 and the fiscal year ended December 30, 2017:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | December 30, 2017 | December 30, 2017 |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Balance at beginning of period | \$ 2,176 | \$ 2,207 |
| Provision for bad debts | 402 | 687 |
| Accounts written off, net of recoveries | (697) | (718) |
| Balance at end of period | <u>\$ 1,881</u> | <u>\$ 2,176</u> |

(5) INVENTORY

Inventory consists primarily of used oil and processed oil, solvents and solutions, new and refurbished parts cleaning machines, drums and supplies, and other items. Inventories are valued at the lower of FIFO cost or market, net of any reserves for excess, obsolete, or unsalable inventory.

The carrying value of inventory consisted of the following:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | December 30, 2017 | December 30, 2017 |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Solvents and solutions | \$ 6,201 | \$ 5,014 |
| Used oil and processed oil | 5,788 | 5,493 |
| Drums and supplies | 4,430 | 3,790 |
| Machines | 3,679 | 2,576 |
| Other | 1,936 | 1,899 |
| Total inventory | <u>22,034</u> | <u>18,772</u> |
| Less: Machine refurbishing reserve | 395 | 214 |
| Total inventory - net | <u>\$ 21,639</u> | <u>\$ 18,558</u> |

The Company continually monitors its inventory levels at each of its locations and evaluates inventories for excess or slow-moving items. If circumstances indicate the cost of inventories exceed their recoverable value, inventories are reduced to net realizable value. In fiscal 2017, the Company recorded no inventory impairment charges. In fiscal 2016 the Company recorded inventory impairment charges of \$1.7 million due to a sharp decline in crude oil prices, which resulted in the market value for the Company's oil-based inventory, and solvents and solutions inventory declining below the historic FIFO values.

The following table provides the changes in the Company's machine refurbishing reserve related to inventory for fiscal years 2017 and 2016:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | December 30, 2017 | December 30, 2017 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Balance at beginning of period | \$ 214 | \$ 290 |
| Net change in reserve | 181 | (76) |
| Balance at end of period | <u>\$ 395</u> | <u>\$ 214</u> |

(6) PROPERTY, PLANT, AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant, and equipment consisted of the following:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | December 30, 2017 | December 30, 2017 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Machinery, vehicles, and equipment | \$ 85,427 | \$ 78,592 |
| Buildings and storage tanks | 69,009 | 69,977 |
| Land | 9,562 | 10,363 |
| Leasehold improvements | 5,427 | 4,876 |
| Construction in progress | 9,378 | 8,646 |
| Assets held for sale | 53 | 177 |
| Total property, plant, and equipment | <u>178,856</u> | <u>172,631</u> |
| Less: accumulated depreciation | 50,737 | 41,456 |
| Property, plant, and equipment - net | <u>\$ 128,119</u> | <u>\$ 131,175</u> |

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | December 30, 2017 | December 30, 2017 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Equipment at customers | \$ 68,234 | \$ 63,502 |
| Less: accumulated depreciation | 44,922 | 40,469 |
| Equipment at customers - net | <u>\$ 23,312</u> | <u>\$ 23,033</u> |

Depreciation expense was \$14.7 million, \$14.7 million, and \$13.7 million for fiscal 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

(7) GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Goodwill is measured as a residual amount as of the acquisition date, which in most cases results in measuring goodwill as an excess of the purchase consideration transferred plus the fair value of any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree over the fair value of the net assets acquired, including any contingent consideration. The Company tests goodwill for impairment annually in the fourth quarter and in interim periods if an event occurs or circumstances change that would more likely than not reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying amount. The Company's determination of fair value requires certain assumptions and estimates, such as margin expectations, market conditions, growth expectations, expected changes in working capital, etc., regarding expected future profitability and expected future cash flows. The Company tests goodwill for impairment at each of its two reporting units, Environmental Services and Oil Business.

In fiscal 2015, we tested goodwill for impairment. In fiscal 2015, the fair value of the Environmental Services reporting unit was substantially in excess of its carrying value. In fiscal 2015, our tests indicated impairment of all of the goodwill in our Oil Business reporting unit. Therefore during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2015 we recorded a charge of approximately \$4.0 million related to impairment of goodwill in our Oil Business reporting unit. The facts and circumstances leading to the impairment were primarily related to the deterioration of market conditions in the markets in which the Company's Oil Business reporting unit operates. The deterioration of those market conditions manifested in lower average selling prices for the Company's re-refined lubricating base oil, recycled fuel oil, and byproducts within the Oil Business. The method for determining the fair value of the Oil Business reporting unit was a combination of an income approach using a discounted cash flow method in combination with a market approach using a guideline company method. There was a moderate degree of uncertainty associated with key Oil Business fair value assumptions such as the selling prices of our oil products and byproducts, the price paid or charged for raw material inputs such as used oil, operating efficiency of the used oil re-refinery, etc. A contraction of the spread between the selling prices of our oil products and the price paid or charged to vendors and oil collection customers for raw material inputs could reasonably be expected to negatively affect the key assumptions used to determine fair value.

In fiscal 2016, we tested goodwill for impairment. The Oil Business reporting unit had zero goodwill throughout fiscal 2016. The fair value of the Environmental Services reporting unit was substantially in excess of its carrying amount including goodwill, and therefore no impairment was indicated.

In fiscal 2017, the Company performed a qualitative assessment to determine whether the two-step quantitative impairment test was necessary. The Oil Business reporting unit had zero goodwill throughout fiscal 2017. Based on the qualitative assessment, the Company concluded it is more likely than not that the fair value of the Environmental Services reporting unit is greater than its carrying amount including goodwill, and therefore the two-step quantitative test was not necessary and no impairment was indicated.

The following table shows changes to our goodwill balances by segment during the years ended December 30, 2017, and December 30, 2017:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | Oil Business | Environmental Services | Total |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Balance at January 2, 2016 | | | |
| Gross carrying amount | \$ 3,952 | \$ 30,325 | \$ 34,277 |
| Accumulated impairment loss | (3,952) | — | (3,952) |
| Net book value at January 2, 2016 | \$ — | \$ 30,325 | \$ 30,325 |
| Acquisitions | — | 1,158 | 1,158 |
| Goodwill at December 31, 2016 | | | |
| Gross carrying amount | 3,952 | 31,483 | 35,435 |
| Accumulated impairment loss | (3,952) | — | (3,952) |
| Net book value at December 31, 2016 | \$ — | \$ 31,483 | \$ 31,483 |
| Measurement period adjustments | — | 97 | 97 |
| Goodwill at December 30, 2017 | | | |
| Gross carrying amount | 3,952 | 31,580 | 35,532 |
| Accumulated impairment loss | (3,952) | — | (3,952) |
| Net book value at December 30, 2017 | \$ — | \$ 31,580 | \$ 31,580 |

Following is a summary of software and other intangible assets:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | December 30, 2017 | | | December 30, 2017 | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization | Net Carrying Amount | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization | Net Carrying Amount |
| Customer & supplier relationships | \$ 23,077 | \$ 9,027 | \$ 14,050 | \$ 23,045 | \$ 6,682 | \$ 16,363 |
| Patents, formulae, and licenses | 1,769 | 642 | 1,127 | 1,769 | 576 | 1,193 |
| Software | 4,724 | 3,899 | 825 | 4,573 | 3,655 | 918 |
| Non-compete agreements | 2,949 | 2,617 | 332 | 2,934 | 2,180 | 754 |
| Other | 1,348 | 950 | 398 | 1,348 | 755 | 593 |
| Total software and intangible assets | \$ 33,867 | \$ 17,135 | \$ 16,732 | \$ 33,669 | \$ 13,848 | \$ 19,821 |

Amortization expense was \$3.3 million, \$3.3 million, and \$3.5 million for fiscal 2017, 2016, and 2015, respectively. The weighted average useful lives of customer and supplier relationships; patents, formulae, and licenses; software; non-compete agreements, and other intangibles were 10 years, 15 years, 9 years, 5 years, and 6 years, respectively.

The expected amortization expense for fiscal years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 is \$3.0 million, \$2.6 million, \$2.5 million, \$2.4 million, and \$2.1 million, respectively. The preceding expected amortization expense is an estimate. Actual amounts of amortization expense may differ from estimated amounts due to additional intangible asset acquisitions, disposal of intangible assets, accelerated amortization of intangible assets, adjustment to purchase price allocations for assets acquired, and other events. No impairment of software or other intangible assets (excluding goodwill) was recorded in fiscal 2017, 2016, or 2015.

(8) ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Accounts payable consisted of the following:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | December 30, 2017 | December 30, 2017 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Accounts payable | \$ 25,540 | \$ 29,935 |
| Accounts payable - related parties | 28 | 1,049 |
| Total accounts payable | \$ 25,568 | \$ 30,984 |

(9) DEBT AND FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS

Bank Credit Facility

On February 21, 2017, the Company entered into a new Credit Agreement ("Credit Agreement") replacing the prior Credit Agreement ("Prior Credit Agreement") dated as of June 29, 2015. The Credit Agreement provides for borrowings of up to \$95.0 million, subject to the satisfaction of certain terms and conditions, comprised of a term loan of \$30.0 million and up to \$65.0 million of borrowings under the revolving loan portion. The actual amount of borrowings available under the revolving loan portion of the Credit Agreement is limited by the Company's total leverage ratio. The amount available to draw at any point in time would be further reduced by any standby letters of credit issued.

Loans made under the New Credit Agreement may be Base Rate Loans or LIBOR Rate Loans, at the election of the Company subject to certain exceptions. Base Rate Loans have an interest rate equal to (i) the higher of (a) the federal funds rate plus 0.5%, (b) the London Interbank Offering Rate ("LIBOR") plus 1%, or (c) Bank of America's prime rate, plus (ii) a variable margin of between 0.75% and 1.75% depending on the Company's total leverage ratio, calculated on a consolidated basis. LIBOR rate loans have an interest rate equal to (i) the LIBOR rate plus (ii) a variable margin of between 1.75% and 2.75% depending on the Company's total leverage ratio. Amounts borrowed under the New Credit Agreement are secured by a security interest in substantially all of the Company's tangible and intangible assets. In June 2017, the Company entered into a First Amendment to the Credit Agreement that expands the Company's ability to make dispositions without bank group approval.

As of the Effective date of February 21, 2017, the effective interest rate on the term loan was 3.28% and the effective rate on the revolving loan was 3.28%.

The Credit Agreement contains customary terms and provisions (including representations, covenants, and conditions) for transactions of this type. Certain covenants, among other things, restrict the Company's and its subsidiaries' ability to incur indebtedness, grant liens, make investments and sell assets. The Credit Agreement also contains customary events of default, covenants and representations and warranties. Financial covenants include:

- An interest coverage ratio (based on interest expense and EBITDA) of at least 3.5 to 1.0;
- A total leverage ratio no greater than 3.0 to 1.0, provided that in the event of a permitted acquisition having an aggregate consideration equal to \$10.0 million or more, at the Borrower's election, the foregoing 3.00 to 1.00 shall be deemed to be 3.25 to 1.00 for the fiscal quarter in which such permitted acquisition occurs and the three immediately following fiscal quarters and will thereafter revert to 3.00 to 1.00; and
- A capital expenditures covenant limiting capital expenditures to \$100.0 million plus, if the capital expenditures permitted have been fully utilized, an additional amount for the remaining term of the Credit Agreement equal to 35% of EBITDA for the thirteen "four-week" periods most recently ended immediately prior to the full utilization of such \$100.0 million basket

The Credit Agreement places certain limitations on acquisitions and the payment of dividends.

During fiscal 2017, the Company paid and capitalized \$1.1 million of debt issuance costs pertaining to the New Credit Agreement and charged \$0.2 million of unamortized debt issuance costs pertaining to the Prior Credit Agreement to selling, general, and administrative expenses.

Debt at December 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016 consisted of the following:

| <i>(thousands)</i> | December 30, 2017 | December 31, 2016 |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Principal amount | \$ 30,000 | \$ 64,195 |
| Less: unamortized debt issuance costs | 1,256 | 741 |
| Debt less unamortized debt issuance costs | \$ 28,744 | \$ 63,454 |

The Company incurred interest expense of \$1.2 million and \$2.1 million during the first fiscal quarters of 2018 and 2017, respectively. During the first quarter 2018, the Company also recorded \$0.4 million of amortization of debt issuance costs compared to \$0.2 million of amortization of debt issuance costs in the first quarter of 2017. No interest was capitalized in the first quarter of fiscal 2018 compared to less than \$0.1 million of interest that was capitalized for various capital projects in the first quarter of 2017.

As of December 30, 2017 and December 30, 2017, the Company was in compliance with all covenants under the credit facility then in effect. As of December 30, 2017, and December 30, 2017, the Company had \$0.9 million and \$3.0 million of standby letters of credit issued, respectively, and \$64.1 million and \$27.6 million was available for borrowing under the bank credit facility, respectively.

The Company's weighted average interest rate for all debt as of March 24, 2018 and March 25, 2017 was 3.5%.

Future Maturities

The aggregate contractual annual maturities for debt as of December 30, 2017 are as follows:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Fiscal Year: | Term Loan |
| 2018 | — |
| 2019 | — |
| 2020 | — |
| 2021 | — |
| 2022 | 30,000 |
| Aggregate Maturities | \$ 30,000 |

(10) EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN

Heritage-Crystal Clean offers a defined contribution benefit plan for its employees. All regular employees who have completed at least one hour of service are eligible to participate in the plan. Participants are allowed to contribute 1% to 70% of their pre-tax earnings to the plan. The Company matches 100% of the first 3% contributed by the participant and 50% of the next 2% contributed by the participant for a maximum contribution of 4% per participant. The Company's matching contribution under this plan was \$1.8 million, \$1.7 million, and \$1.5 million in fiscal 2017, 2016, and 2015, respectively.

(11) RELATED PARTY AND AFFILIATE TRANSACTIONS

As of December 30, 2017, the Heritage Group beneficially owned 32.2% of the Company's common stock. The Fehsenfeld Family Trusts, which are related to the Heritage Group owned 6.5% of the Company's common stock, and Fred Fehsenfeld, Jr., the Chairman of the Board and an affiliate of the Heritage Group, beneficially owned 4.4% of the Company's common stock. Companies affiliated with the Heritage Group are listed as affiliates.

During fiscal 2017, 2016, and 2015, the Company had transactions with the Heritage Group affiliates and other related parties. The following table sets forth related-party transactions:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | Fiscal 2017 | | Fiscal 2016 | | Fiscal 2015 | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| | Revenues | Expenses | Revenues | Expenses | Revenues | Expenses |
| Heritage Group affiliates | \$ 4,740 | \$ 2,965 | \$ 4,031 | \$ 6,150 | \$ 6,166 | \$ 5,675 |
| Other related parties / affiliates | 4,516 | 50 | 4,383 | 3,381 | 6,040 | 2,756 |
| Total | \$ 9,256 | \$ 3,015 | \$ 8,414 | \$ 9,531 | \$ 12,206 | \$ 8,431 |

Revenues from related parties and affiliates are for sales of products and services performed by the Company.

Payments to related parties and affiliates include solvent purchases, insurance premiums, disposal services, transportation, and various other services.

The Company participates in a self-insurance program for workers' compensation with a shareholder and several related companies. In connection with this program, payments are made to the shareholder. Expenses paid to the shareholder in fiscal 2017, 2016, and 2015 were approximately \$2.5 million, \$2.2 million, and \$1.4 million, respectively.

(12) SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Company has two reportable segments: "Environmental Services" and "Oil Business." The Environmental Services segment consists of the Company's parts cleaning, containerized waste management, vacuum truck services, antifreeze recycling activities, and field services. The Oil Business segment consists of the Company's used oil collection, recycled fuel oil sales, used oil re-refining activities, and used oil filter removal and disposal services. No customer represented greater than 10% of consolidated revenues for any of the periods presented. There were no intersegment revenues. The Environmental Services segment operates in the United States and, to an immaterial degree, in Ontario, Canada. As such, the Company is not disclosing operating results by geographic segment.

Segment results for the fiscal years ended December 30, 2017, December 31, 2016, and December 31, 2016 were as follows:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | For the Fiscal Years Ended, | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | December 30, 2017 | | | |
| | Environmental Services | Oil Business | Corporate and Eliminations | Consolidated |
| Revenues | | | | |
| Product revenues | \$ 25,172 | \$ 106,786 | \$ — | \$ 131,958 |
| Service revenues | 212,883 | 21,116 | — | 233,999 |
| Total revenues | <u>\$ 238,055</u> | <u>\$ 127,902</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 365,957</u> |
| Operating expenses | | | | |
| Operating costs | 163,633 | 112,469 | — | 276,102 |
| Operating depreciation and amortization | 7,526 | 6,776 | — | 14,302 |
| Profit before corporate selling, general, and administrative expenses | <u>\$ 66,896</u> | <u>\$ 8,657</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 75,553</u> |
| Selling, general, and administrative expenses | | | 47,401 | 47,401 |
| Depreciation and amortization from SG&A | | | 3,665 | 3,665 |
| Total selling, general, and administrative expenses | | | <u>\$ 51,066</u> | <u>\$ 51,066</u> |
| Other (income) - net | | | <u>(10,940)</u> | <u>(10,940)</u> |
| Operating income | | | | 35,427 |
| Interest expense - net | | | 1,094 | 1,094 |
| Income before income taxes | | | | <u><u>\$ 34,333</u></u> |

| | December 31, 2016 | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>(Thousands)</i> | Environmental Services | Oil Business | Corporate and Eliminations | Consolidated |
| Revenues | | | | |
| Product revenues | \$ 21,882 | \$ 89,847 | \$ — | \$ 111,729 |
| Service revenues | 202,496 | 33,402 | — | 235,898 |
| Total revenues | \$ 224,378 | \$ 123,249 | \$ — | \$ 347,627 |
| Operating expenses | | | | |
| Operating costs | 151,860 | 115,643 | — | 267,503 |
| Operating depreciation and amortization | 7,517 | 6,784 | — | 14,301 |
| Profit before corporate selling, general, and administrative expenses | \$ 65,001 | \$ 822 | \$ — | \$ 65,823 |
| Selling, general, and administrative expenses | | | 49,823 | 49,823 |
| Depreciation and amortization from SG&A | | | 3,690 | 3,690 |
| Total selling, general, and administrative expenses | | | \$ 53,513 | \$ 53,513 |
| Other expense - net | | | 1,416 | 1,416 |
| Operating income | | | | 10,894 |
| Interest expense - net | | | 2,069 | 2,069 |
| Income before income taxes | | | | \$ 8,825 |

| | January 2, 2016 | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>(Thousands)</i> | Environmental Services | Oil Business | Corporate and Eliminations | Consolidated |
| Revenues | | | | |
| Product revenues | \$ 22,462 | \$ 111,858 | \$ — | \$ 134,320 |
| Service revenues | 203,851 | 11,847 | — | 215,698 |
| Total revenues | \$ 226,313 | \$ 123,705 | \$ — | \$ 350,018 |
| Operating expenses | | | | |
| Operating costs | 155,321 | 125,387 | — | 280,708 |
| Operating depreciation and amortization | 7,468 | 6,013 | — | 13,481 |
| Profit (loss) before corporate selling, general, and administrative expenses | \$ 63,524 | \$ (7,695) | \$ — | \$ 55,829 |
| Selling, general, and administrative expenses | | | 45,269 | 45,269 |
| Depreciation and amortization from SG&A | | | 3,716 | 3,716 |
| Total selling, general, and administrative expenses | | | \$ 48,985 | \$ 48,985 |
| Impairment of goodwill | | | 3,952 | 3,952 |
| Other (income) - net | | | (1,297) | (1,297) |
| Operating income | | | | 4,189 |
| Interest expense - net | | | 1,880 | 1,880 |
| Income before income taxes | | | | \$ 2,309 |

Total assets by segment as of December 30, 2017 and December 30, 2017 were as follows:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | December 30, 2017 | December 30, 2017 |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Total Assets: | | |
| Environmental Services | \$ 131,457 | \$ 129,506 |
| Oil Business | 129,936 | 135,323 |
| Unallocated Corporate Assets | 53,264 | 49,478 |
| Total | <u>\$ 314,657</u> | <u>\$ 314,307</u> |

Segment assets for the Environmental Services and Oil Business segments consist of property, plant, and equipment, intangible assets, goodwill, accounts receivable, and inventories allocated to each segment. Assets for the corporate unallocated amounts consist of cash, prepaids, and property, plant, and equipment used at the corporate headquarters.

Capital expenditures by segment for fiscal 2017, 2016, and 2015 were as follows:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | For the Fiscal Year Ended, | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | December 30, 2017 | December 31, 2016 | January 2, 2016 |
| Total Capital Expenditures: | | | |
| Environmental Services | \$ 6,843 | \$ 5,643 | \$ 5,466 |
| Oil Business | 6,998 | 9,548 | 13,327 |
| Unallocated Corporate Assets | 559 | 684 | 941 |
| Total | <u>\$ 14,400</u> | <u>\$ 15,875</u> | <u>\$ 19,734</u> |

(13) COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Company may enter into purchase obligations with certain vendors. They represent expected payments to third party service providers and other commitments entered into during the normal course of our business. These purchase obligations are generally cancelable with or without notice without penalty, although certain vendor agreements provide for cancellation fees or penalties depending on the terms of the contract.

The Company had purchase obligations in the form of open purchase orders of \$15.6 million as of December 30, 2017, and \$9.7 million as of December 31, 2016, primarily for capital expenditures, used oil, catalyst, disposal, and solvent.

The Company may be subject to investigations, claims, or lawsuits as a result of operating its business, including matters governed by environmental laws and regulations. When claims are asserted, the Company evaluates the likelihood that a loss will occur and records a liability for those instances when the likelihood is deemed probable and the exposure is reasonably estimable. The Company carries insurance at levels it believes are adequate to cover loss contingencies based on historical claims activity. When the potential loss exposure is limited to the insurance deductible and the likelihood of loss is determined to be probable, the Company accrues for the amount of the required deductible, unless a lower amount of exposure is estimated. As of December 30, 2017 and December 30, 2016, the Company had accrued \$4.5 million and \$5.5 million related to loss contingencies, respectively.

The Company leases office space, equipment and vehicles under noncancelable operating leases that expire at various dates through 2025. Many of the building leases obligate the Company to pay real estate taxes, insurance, and certain maintenance costs and contain multiple renewal provisions, exercisable at the Company's option. Leases that contain predetermined fixed escalations of the minimum rentals are recognized in rental expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Rental expense under operating leases was approximately \$27.2 million, \$26.2 million, and \$26.5 million for fiscal years 2017, 2016, and 2015, respectively.

Future minimum lease payments under noncancelable operating leases as of December 30, 2017 are as follows:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Fiscal year: | |
| 2018 | \$ 19,737 |
| 2019 | 15,123 |
| 2020 | 10,167 |
| 2021 | 7,689 |
| 2022 | 5,533 |
| Thereafter | 4,320 |
| Total | <u>\$ 62,569</u> |

(14) INCOME TAXES

On December 22, 2017, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was enacted into law and introduced significant changes to U.S. tax law. The Act reduces the U.S. federal corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%, requires companies to pay a one-time transition tax on earnings of certain foreign subsidiaries that were previously tax deferred, and creates new taxes on certain foreign sourced earnings. The new legislation also sets forth a variety of other changes, including a limitation on the tax deductibility of interest expense, the acceleration of business asset expensing, a limitation on the use of net operating losses generated in future years, the repeal of the alternative minimum tax ("AMT"), and a reduction in the amount of executive pay that could qualify as a tax deduction.

ASC 740 requires the Company to recognize the effect of the tax law changes in the period of enactment. The lower corporate income tax rate requires the Company to re-measure our U.S. deferred tax assets and liabilities as well as reassess the realizability of our deferred tax assets and liabilities. As a result, the Company recognized a \$6.2 million non-cash tax benefit through income from continuing operations for the re-measurement of deferred tax assets and liabilities due to the reduction in the federal tax rate to 21%. This re-measurement of deferred taxes had no impact on cash flows.

On December 22, 2017, the SEC issued Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 118 (SAB 118) which addresses income tax accounting implications of the Tax Act. The purpose of SAB 118 was to address any uncertainty or diversity of view in applying ASC 740 Income Taxes in the reporting period in which the Tax Act was enacted. SAB 118 allows for a measurement period to finalize the impacts of the Tax Act, not to extend beyond one year from the date of enactment.

The Tax Act requires the Company to recognize the impact of the transition tax on earnings of certain foreign subsidiaries that were previously tax deferred, and to recognize the impact of new taxes on foreign sourced earnings. The Company has a Canadian foreign subsidiary that was acquired in 2014. The Company has not made sufficient progress on the earnings and profit ("E&P") analysis of this foreign subsidiary to reasonably estimate the effects of the one-time transition tax and, therefore, have not recorded provisional amounts. Based upon the Company's estimates, the impact of the deemed repatriation of foreign earnings is expected to be offset by net operating losses and the impact to the tax rate is expected to be immaterial, however further work is necessary to confirm this position. We have continued to apply ASC 740 based on the provisions of the tax laws that were in effect immediately prior to the Act being enacted. The Company will continue to refine its accumulated E&P calculation and associated tax pool support for the Canadian foreign subsidiary and will recognize the impact of the transition tax during the measurement period as provided in SAB 118.

Even though our fiscal year 2018 began on December 31, 2017, the Company will implement the new Tax Act effective for fiscal 2018.

The Company deducted for federal income tax purposes accelerated "bonus" depreciation on the majority of its capital expenditures for assets placed in service in fiscal 2011 through fiscal 2017. Therefore, the Company recorded a noncurrent deferred tax liability as to the difference between the book basis and the tax basis of those assets. In addition, as a result of the federal bonus depreciation, the Company recorded a Net Operating Loss ("NOL") of \$44.7 million, which will begin to expire in 2031. The unexpired balance of the NOL generated in 2011 is \$11.1 million as of December 30, 2017. The company recorded additional NOL during 2012 -2015 of \$13 million. The balance on the federal NOL's generated from 2011 through 2015 at December 30, 2017 was \$24.1 million, and the remaining deferred tax asset related to the Company's state and federal NOL was a tax effected balance of \$5.9 million.

ASU 2016-09 simplified the treatment for employee share-based compensation by allowing an entity to recognize excess tax benefits in the current period whether or not current taxes payable are reduced. Prior to 2017, the Company could not recognize windfall tax benefits associated with employee share-based compensation because it was in an NOL position and current taxes payable would not be reduced by the excess tax benefits. As a result of ASU 2016-09, the Company recognized excess tax benefits of \$2.5 million from share-based compensation from prior years as an adjustment to opening retained earnings.

The Company's effective tax rate for fiscal 2017 was 17.3% compared to 31.8% in fiscal 2016. The difference in the effective tax rate is principally attributable to the impact on our deferred taxes as of December 30, 2017 of the reduction in the U.S. federal corporate tax rate to 21%.

Components of the Company's income tax benefit and provision consist of the following for fiscal years 2017, 2016, and 2015:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | For the Fiscal Years Ended, | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | December 30, 2017 | December 31, 2016 | January 2, 2016 |
| Current: | | | |
| Federal | \$ 409 | \$ 19 | \$ 53 |
| State | 263 | 203 | 216 |
| Foreign | — | — | 9 |
| Total current | <u>\$ 672</u> | <u>\$ 222</u> | <u>\$ 278</u> |
| Deferred: | | | |
| Federal | \$ 4,501 | \$ 1,943 | \$ 794 |
| State | 829 | 643 | (155) |
| Foreign | (79) | 3 | (18) |
| Total deferred | <u>\$ 5,251</u> | <u>\$ 2,589</u> | <u>\$ 621</u> |
| Income tax provision | <u><u>\$ 5,923</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 2,811</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 899</u></u> |

A reconciliation of the expected income tax expense at the statutory federal rate to the Company's actual income tax expense is as follows:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | For the Fiscal Years Ended, | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | December 30, 2017 | December 31, 2016 | January 2, 2016 |
| Tax expense at statutory federal rate | \$ 11,673 | \$ 3,004 | \$ 785 |
| State and local tax, net of federal expense | 720 | 561 | 42 |
| Shortfalls from share-based compensation | (412) | 23 | 124 |
| Transaction and transaction-related costs | — | (808) | (454) |
| Impact of Federal Rate Change | (6,156) | — | — |
| Other | 98 | 31 | 402 |
| Total income tax provision | <u><u>\$ 5,923</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 2,811</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 899</u></u> |

Components of deferred tax assets (liabilities) are as follows:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | As of, | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | December 30, 2017 | December 31, 2016 |
| Deferred tax assets: | | |
| Net operating loss carryforward | \$ 5,869 | \$ 16,213 |
| Stock compensation | 1,097 | 1,629 |
| Tax intangible assets | 1,515 | 2,317 |
| Reserves and accruals | 4,452 | 2,894 |
| Income tax credits | 1,545 | 912 |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts | 527 | 858 |
| Total deferred tax asset | <u>\$ 15,005</u> | <u>\$ 24,823</u> |
| Less: valuation allowance | 1 | 127 |
| Net deferred tax asset | <u>15,004</u> | <u>24,696</u> |
| Deferred tax liabilities: | | |
| Prepays | \$ (544) | \$ (754) |
| Depreciation and amortization | (24,016) | (29,256) |
| Total deferred tax liability | <u>(24,560)</u> | <u>(30,010)</u> |
| Net deferred tax liability | <u>\$ (9,556)</u> | <u>\$ (5,314)</u> |

As of December 30, 2017, the Company is no longer subject to U.S. federal examinations by taxing authorities for years prior to 2014. Federal and state income tax returns for fiscal years 2014 through 2017 are still open for examination.

The Company establishes reserves when it is more likely than not that the Company will not realize the full tax benefit of a position. The Company had a reserve of \$2.5 million and \$2.4 million for uncertain tax positions as of December 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively. The gross unrecognized tax benefits would, if recognized, decrease the Company's effective tax rate.

Although it is reasonably possible that certain unrecognized tax benefits may increase or decrease within the next twelve months due to tax examination changes, settlement activities, expirations of statute of limitations, or the impact on recognition and measurement considerations related to the results of published tax cases or other similar activities, we do not anticipate any significant changes to unrecognized tax benefits over the next 12 months.

The Company recognizes interest and penalties associated with income tax liabilities as income tax expense in the Statement of Operations. No significant penalties or interest are included in income taxes or accounted for on the balance sheet related to unrecognized tax positions as of December 30, 2017.

The following table summarizes the movement in unrecognized tax benefits:

| <i>(Thousands)</i> | For the Fiscal Years Ended, | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| | December 30, 2017 | December 31, 2016 |
| Gross Unrecognized Tax Benefits: | | |
| Beginning Balance | \$ 2,443 | \$ 2,516 |
| Additions based on current year's tax positions | 10 | 6 |
| Net changes based on prior year's tax positions | 56 | (79) |
| Ending Balance | <u>\$ 2,509</u> | <u>\$ 2,443</u> |

(15) SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION

The aggregate number of shares of common stock which may be issued under the Company's 2008 Omnibus Plan ("Plan") is 2,602,077 plus any common stock that becomes available for issuance pursuant to the reuse provision of the Plan. As of December 30, 2017, the number of shares available for issuance under the Plan was 633,418 shares.

Stock Option Awards

A summary of stock option activity under this Plan is as follows:

| Stock Options | Number of Options Outstanding | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Weighted Average Contractual Term (in years) | Aggregate Intrinsic Value as of Date Listed (in thousands) |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Options outstanding at January 2, 2016 | 534,428 | \$ 10.97 | 2.34 | \$ 224 |
| Exercised | (20,141) | \$ 9.95 | | |
| Options outstanding at December 31, 2016 | 514,287 | \$ 11.00 | 1.33 | \$ 2,414 |
| Exercised | (494,852) | \$ 11.15 | | |
| Options outstanding at December 30, 2017 | 19,435 | \$ 7.33 | 1.23 | \$ 280 |

Restricted Stock Compensation/Awards

Annually, the Company grants restricted shares to its Board of Directors. The shares become fully vested one year from their grant date. The fair value of each restricted stock grant is based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on the date of grant. The Company amortizes the expense over the service period, which is the fiscal year in which the award is granted. In addition, the Company may grant restricted shares to certain members of management based on their services and contingent upon continued service with the Company. The restricted shares vest over a period of approximately three years from the grant date. The fair value of each restricted stock grant is based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on the date of grant.

The following table shows a summary of restricted shares grants and expense resulting from the awards:

| <i>(thousands, except share amounts)</i> | Recipient of Grant | Grant Date | Restricted Shares | Compensation Expense | | | Unrecognized Expense as of, | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | For the fiscal years ended, | | | December 30, 2017 | December 31, 2016 |
| | | | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | | | |
| | Board of Directors | April, 2017 | 14,980 | \$241 | \$285 | \$285 | \$ — | \$ — |
| | Members of Management | February, 2015 | 38,732 | 102 | 117 | 129 | — | 110 |
| | Members of Management | January, 2016 | 43,208 | 86 | 111 | 104 | 101 | 209 |
| | Members of Management | February, 2017 | 146,564 | 360 | 875 | — | 841 | 1,398 |
| | Chief Executive Officer | February, 2017 | 500,000 | 1,112 | — | — | 2,423 | — |

During fiscal 2017, the Company also incurred \$1.1 million of share-based compensation expense for potential expected restricted share grants.

In February 2017, as part of Mr. Recatto's employment agreement, the Company granted a restricted stock award of 500,000 shares of common stock, which vests through January 2021 in an amount based on the vesting table below, with the common stock price increase to be determined based on the increase in the price of the Company's common stock (if any) from the

closing price of the common stock as reported by Nasdaq on the employment commencement date (\$15.00) and the common stock price on the potential vesting date (determined by using the weighted average closing price of a share of the Company's common stock for the 90-day period ending on the vesting date). If the stock price does not increase by \$5.00, then no shares shall vest. In fiscal 2017, the Company recorded approximately \$1.1 million of compensation expense related to this award. In the future, the Company expects to recognize compensation expense of approximately \$2.4 million over the remaining requisite service period, which ends January 31, 2021. The fair value of this restricted stock award as of the grant date was estimated using a Monte Carlo simulation model. Key assumptions used in the Monte Carlo simulation to estimate the grant date fair value of this award are a risk-free rate of 1.70%, expected dividend yield of zero, and an expected volatility assumption of 41.73%.

Vesting Table

| Increase in Stock Price From the Employment Commencement Date to the Vesting Date | Total percentage of Restricted Stock Shares to Be Vested |
|---|--|
| Less than \$5 per share increase | —% |
| \$5 per share increase | 25% |
| \$10 per share increase | 50% |
| \$15 per share increase | 75% |
| \$20 or more per share increase | 100% |

Provision for possible accelerated vesting of award

If the weighted average closing price of the Company's common stock increases by the marginal levels set forth in the above vesting table for 180 consecutive days during any period between the award date and final vesting date, Mr. Recatto shall become vested in 50% of the corresponding total percentage of restricted shares earned on the last day of the 180 day period.

The following table summarizes information about restricted stock awards for the periods ended January 2, 2016 through December 30, 2017:

| Restricted Stock (Nonvested Shares) | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Grant-Date Fair Value Per Share |
|---|------------------|--|
| Nonvested shares outstanding at January 2, 2016 | 91,529 | \$ 14.47 |
| Granted | 71,882 | 9.92 |
| Vested | (27,240) | 12.68 |
| Nonvested shares outstanding at December 31, 2016 | 136,171 | \$ 12.42 |
| Granted | 659,842 | 15.11 |
| Vested | (96,514) | 13.17 |
| Forfeited | (13,500) | 14.28 |
| Nonvested shares outstanding at December 30, 2017 | 685,999 | \$ 14.52 |

Employee Stock Purchase Plan

The Employee Stock Purchase Plan of 2008 ("ESPP") is a shareholder approved plan under which all employees regularly scheduled to work 20 or more hours per week may purchase the Company's common stock through payroll deductions at a price equal to 95% of the fair market values of the stock as of the end of the first day following each three-month offering period. An employee's payroll deductions under the ESPP are limited to 10% of the employee's regular earnings, and employees may not purchase more than \$25,000 of stock during any calendar year.

As of December 30, 2017, the Company had reserved 150,026 shares of common stock available for purchase under the ESPP. In fiscal 2018, employees purchased 26,153 shares of the Company's common stock with a weighted average fair market value of \$16.18 per share.

(16) STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Heritage Participation Rights

The Company has a Participation Rights Agreement with The Heritage Group (“Heritage”), an affiliate of Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. pursuant to which Heritage has the option to participate, pro rata based on its percentage ownership interest in the Company's common stock in any equity offerings for cash consideration, including (i) contracts with parties for equity financing (including any debt financing with an equity component) and (ii) issuances of equity securities or securities convertible, exchangeable or exercisable into or for equity securities (including debt securities with an equity component). If Heritage exercises its rights with respect to all offerings, it will be able to maintain its percentage ownership interest in the Company's common stock. The Participation Rights Agreement does not have an expiration date. Heritage is not required to participate or exercise its right of participation with respect to any offerings. Heritage's right to participate does not apply to certain offerings of securities that are not conducted to raise or obtain equity capital or cash such as stock issued as consideration in a merger or consolidation, in connection with strategic partnerships or joint ventures, or for the acquisition of a business, product, license, or other asset by the Company.

(17) EARNINGS PER SHARE

The following table reconciles the number of shares outstanding for fiscal 2018, 2017, and 2015 respectively, to the number of weighted average basic shares outstanding and the number of weighted average diluted shares outstanding for the purposes of calculating basic and diluted earnings per share:

| | For the Fiscal Years Ended, | | |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | December 30, 2017 | December 31, 2016 | January 2, 2016 |
| <i>(Thousands, except per share data)</i> | | | |
| Net income | \$ 28,410 | \$ 6,014 | \$ 1,410 |
| Less: Income attributable to noncontrolling interest | 287 | 172 | 160 |
| Net income attributable to Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. common stockholders | \$ 28,123 | \$ 5,842 | \$ 1,250 |
| Weighted average basic shares outstanding | 22,662 | 22,258 | 22,146 |
| Dilutive shares for share-based compensation plans | 260 | 258 | 262 |
| Weighted average diluted shares outstanding | <u>22,922</u> | <u>22,516</u> | <u>22,408</u> |
| Number of anti-dilutive potentially issuable shares excluded from diluted shares outstanding | — | — | — |
| Net income per share: basic | \$ 1.24 | \$ 0.26 | \$ 0.06 |
| Net income per share: diluted | <u>\$ 1.23</u> | <u>\$ 0.26</u> | <u>\$ 0.06</u> |

(18) OTHER (INCOME) EXPENSE - NET

Other expense (income) includes a gain of \$5.1 million received in the first quarter of fiscal 2017 as a result of having received a partial award for a claim made in arbitration and a gain of \$3.6 million received during the second quarter of fiscal 2017 from a settlement agreement, both of which were related to our acquisition of FCC Environmental, LLC and International Petroleum Corp. of Delaware in 2014, partially offset by other net losses of \$0.9 million. Additionally, during the third quarter of 2017, the Company recorded a gain of \$3.1 million from having sold the Company's facility located in Pompano Beach, Florida.

(19) SELECTED QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA (UNAUDITED)

| | Fiscal 2017 | | | | Fiscal 2016 | | | |
|--|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| | First Quarter | Second Quarter | Third Quarter | Fourth Quarter ^(a) | First Quarter | Second Quarter | Third Quarter | Fourth Quarter ^(a) |
| (In thousands, except per share data) | | | | | | | | |
| STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS DATA: | | | | | | | | |
| Revenues | | | | | | | | |
| Product revenues | \$ 26,980 | \$ 31,832 | \$ 29,283 | \$ 43,863 | \$ 23,704 | \$ 24,695 | \$ 27,183 | \$ 36,147 |
| Service revenues | 53,473 | 54,550 | 54,048 | 71,928 | 54,749 | 55,857 | 54,690 | 70,602 |
| Total Revenues | \$ 80,453 | \$ 86,382 | \$ 83,331 | \$ 115,791 | \$ 78,453 | \$ 80,552 | \$ 81,873 | \$ 106,749 |
| Operating expenses | | | | | | | | |
| Operating Costs | \$ 61,290 | \$ 63,270 | \$ 63,650 | \$ 87,892 | \$ 64,247 | \$ 61,711 | \$ 61,696 | \$ 79,849 |
| Selling, general, and administrative expenses | 12,341 | 10,575 | 10,955 | 13,530 | 12,208 | 11,521 | 10,726 | 15,368 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 4,132 | 4,184 | 4,186 | 5,465 | 4,128 | 4,118 | 4,196 | 5,549 |
| Other (income) expense | (5,006) | (3,027) | (3,079) | 172 | (58) | (142) | 1,440 | 176 |
| Operating income (loss) | 7,696 | 11,380 | 7,619 | 8,732 | (2,072) | 3,344 | 3,815 | 5,807 |
| Interest expense – net | 87 | 412 | 275 | 320 | 518 | 451 | 463 | 637 |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | \$ 7,609 | \$ 10,968 | \$ 7,344 | \$ 8,412 | \$ (2,590) | \$ 2,893 | \$ 3,352 | \$ 5,170 |
| Provision for (benefit of) income taxes | 2,792 | 3,982 | 2,587 | (3,438) | (864) | 1,062 | 941 | 1,672 |
| Net income (loss) | 4,817 | 6,986 | 4,757 | 11,850 | (1,726) | 1,831 | 2,411 | 3,498 |
| Less: Income attributable to noncontrolling interest | 53 | 52 | 52 | 130 | 42 | — | 75 | 55 |
| Net income (loss) attributable to Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. common stockholders | \$ 4,764 | \$ 6,934 | \$ 4,705 | \$ 11,720 | \$ (1,768) | \$ 1,831 | \$ 2,336 | \$ 3,443 |
| Net income (loss) per share: basic | 0.21 | 0.31 | 0.21 | 0.51 | (0.08) | 0.08 | 0.10 | 0.15 |
| Net income (loss) per share: diluted | 0.21 | 0.30 | 0.21 | 0.51 | (0.08) | 0.08 | 0.10 | 0.15 |
| Number of weighted average shares outstanding: basic | | | | | | | | |
| | 22,353 | 22,506 | 22,686 | 22,887 | 22,225 | 22,246 | 22,267 | 22,285 |
| Number of weighted average shares outstanding: diluted | | | | | | | | |
| | 22,892 | 22,832 | 22,970 | 23,099 | 22,225 | 22,419 | 22,550 | 22,603 |
| OTHER OPERATING DATA: | | | | | | | | |
| Average revenues per working day - Environmental Services | \$ 900 | \$ 935 | \$ 935 | \$ 890 | \$ 870 | \$ 890 | \$ 885 | \$ 890 |

(a) Reflects a sixteen week quarter.

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Effectiveness of Controls and Procedures

The Company's Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") have concluded, based on their evaluation as of the end of the period covered by this report, that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that the Company files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our CEO and CFO, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding financial disclosures.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

The Company's management, together with our CEO and CFO, evaluated the changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended December 30, 2017. There was no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the quarter ended December 30, 2017 that has materially affected or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Management's Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

The Company's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f). The Company's management, with the participation of the Company's CEO and CFO, has evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in Internal Control-Integrated Framework (2013 Framework) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this evaluation, the Company's management has concluded that, as of December 30, 2017, the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Grant Thornton LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has audited the Company's consolidated financial statements and the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting as of December 30, 2017 as stated in its reports which are included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Certain information required by Item 401 of Regulation S-K will be included under the caption “Proposal 1 - Election of Directors” and “Executive Compensation” in the 2018 Proxy Statement, and that information is incorporated by reference herein. The information required by Item 405 of Regulation S-K will be included under the caption “Corporate Governance - Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance” in the 2018 Proxy Statement, and that information is incorporated by reference herein.

The information required by Item 407(c)(3) of Regulation S-K will be included under the caption “Corporate Governance - Director Selection Procedures,” and the information required under Items 407(d)(4) and (d)(5) of Regulation S-K will be included under the caption “Corporate Governance - Committees of the Board of Directors - Audit Committee” in the 2018 Proxy Statement, and that information is incorporated by reference herein.

We have adopted a Code of Conduct that applies to our key officers. This code of conduct is available on our website at www.crystal-clean.com. Amendments to, or waivers from, the Code of Conduct applicable to these senior executives will be posted on our website and provided to you without charge upon written request to Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc., Attention: Corporate Secretary, 2175 Point Boulevard, Suite 375, Elgin, Illinois, 60123.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information required by Item 402 of Regulation S-K will be included under the caption “Executive Compensation” in the 2018 Proxy Statement, and that information is incorporated by reference herein.

The information required by Items 407(e)(4) and (e)(5) of Regulation S-K will be included under the captions “Corporate Governance - Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation” and “Compensation Committee Report” in the 2018 Proxy Statement, and that information is incorporated by reference herein.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The information required by Item 403 of Regulation S-K will be included under the caption “Security Ownership” in the 2018 Proxy Statement, and that information is incorporated by reference herein.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

| Plan category | Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a) | Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b) | Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c) |
|--|--|--|--|
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders | 19,435 | \$ 7.33 | 633,418 |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Total | 19,435 | \$ 7.33 | 633,418 |

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The information required by Item 404 of Regulation S-K will be included under the caption “Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions” in the 2018 Proxy Statement, and that information is incorporated by reference herein.

The information required by Item 407(a) of Regulation S-K will be included under the caption “Corporate Governance - Independence of Directors” in the 2018 Proxy Statement, and that information is incorporated by reference herein.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

The information concerning principal accounting fees and services and the information required by Item 14 will be included under the caption “Fees Incurred for Services of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm” and “Approval of Services Provided by Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm” in the 2018 Proxy Statement, and that information is incorporated by reference herein.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a)(1) Consolidated Financial Statements:

Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firms
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016
Consolidated Statements of Income for the years ended December 30, 2017, December 31, 2016, and January 2, 2016
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 30, 2017, December 31, 2016, and January 2, 2016
Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the years ended December 30, 2017, December 31, 2016, and January 2, 2016
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(a)(2) Consolidated Financial Statement Schedules:

All schedules have been omitted because the required information is not significant or is included in the financial statements or notes thereto or is not applicable.

(a)(3) Exhibits

See the Exhibit Index below for a list of the exhibits being filed or furnished with or incorporated by reference into this annual report on Form 10-K.

| Exhibit No. | Exhibit Description |
|-------------|---|
| 3.1 | Certificate of Incorporation of Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc., amended (Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Annual Report on 10-K filed with the SEC on February 29, 2012). |
| 3.2 | By-Laws of Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. (Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of Amendment No. 6 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (No. 333-1438640) filed with the SEC on February 25, 2008). |
| 4.1 | Form of Specimen Common Stock Certificate of Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. (Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of Amendment No. 7 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (No. 333-1438640) filed with the SEC on March 7, 2008). |
| 10.1 | 2017 Credit Agreement by and among Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. and its subsidiaries identified therein and Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent. (Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 27, 2017). |
| 10.2 | First Amendment to 2017 Credit Agreement*** |

- 10.3* [Employment Agreement, dated as of August 24, 1999 by and between Heritage-Crystal Clean, LLC and Joseph Chalhoub, as amended March 1, 2000 \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.8 of Amendment No. 1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 \(No. 333-1438640\) filed with the SEC on August 3, 2007\).](#)
- 10.4 [Form of Participation Rights Agreement between Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. and The Heritage Group \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.9 of Amendment No. 7 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 \(No. 333-1438640\) filed with the SEC on March 7, 2008\).](#)
- 10.42* [Form of Restricted Stock Award under Omnibus Incentive Plan***](#)
- 10.5* [Employment Agreement, dated as of March 1, 2000 by and between Heritage-Crystal Clean, LLC and John Lucks \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.10 of Amendment No. 1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 \(No. 333-1438640\) filed with the SEC on August 3, 2007\).](#)
- 10.6* [Employment Agreement, dated as of July 14, 2002 by and between Heritage-Crystal Clean, LLC and Tom Hillstrom \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.14 of Amendment No. 1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 \(No. 333-1438640\) filed with the SEC on August 3, 2007\).](#)
- 10.7 [Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. Omnibus Incentive Plan \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.25 of Amendment No. 6 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 \(No. 333-1438640\) filed with the SEC on February 25, 2008\).](#)
- 10.8* [Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. Performance-Based Annual Incentive Plan \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.26 of Amendment No. 6 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 \(No. 333-1438640\) filed with the SEC on February 25, 2008\).](#)
- 10.9* [Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Plan \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.27 of Amendment No. 7 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 \(No. 333-1438640\) filed with the SEC on March 7, 2008\).](#)
- 10.10* [Form of Option Grant Agreement under Omnibus Incentive Plan \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.28 of Amendment No. 6 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 \(No. 333-1438640\) filed with the SEC on February 25, 2008\).](#)
- 10.11* [Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.29 of Amendment No. 7 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 \(No. 333-1438640\) filed with the SEC on March 7, 2008\).](#)
- 10.12* [Form of Indemnity Agreement with Directors of the Company \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.30 of Amendment No. 7 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 \(No. 333-1438640\) filed with the SEC on March 7, 2008\).](#)
- 10.13* [Non-Competition and Non-Disclosure Agreement between Joseph Chalhoub and Heritage-Crystal Clean, LLC dated August 24, 1999 \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.32 of Amendment No. 1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 \(No. 333-1438640\) filed with the SEC on August 3, 2007\).](#)
- 10.14* [Non-Competition and Non-Disclosure Agreement between Gregory Ray and Heritage Crystal Clean, LLC dated November 15, 1999 \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.33 of Amendment No. 1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 \(No. 333-1438640\) filed with the SEC on August 3, 2007\).](#)
- 10.15* [Non-Competition and Non-Disclosure Agreement between John Lucks and Heritage-Crystal Clean, LLC dated March 1, 2000 \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.34 of Amendment No. 1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 \(No. 333-1438640\) filed with the SEC on August 3, 2007\).](#)
- 10.16* [Non-Competition and Non-Disclosure Agreement among BRS-HCC Investment Co., Inc., Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co. II, L.P., Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co., Inc., Bruce C. Bruckmann and Heritage-Crystal Clean, LLC dated February 24, 2004 \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.35 of Amendment No. 1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 \(No. 333-1438640\) filed with the SEC on August 3, 2007\).](#)
- 10.17* [Form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on May 9, 2011\).](#)
- 10.18* [Retirement Agreement between Joseph Chalhoub, and Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on December 9, 2016\).](#)
- 10.19* [Employment Agreement between Brian Recatto, and Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. \(Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on December 9, 2016\).](#)

- 10.20* [Employment Agreement](#) between Mark DeVita, and Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. (Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on October 23, 2017).
- 10.21* [Employment Agreement](#) between Ellie Bruce, and Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. (Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 3, 2017).
- 21.1 [Subsidiaries of Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc.***](#)
- 23.1 [Consent of Grant Thornton LLP, Independent Registered Public Accountants***](#)
- 31.1 [Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002***](#)
- 31.2 [Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002***](#)
- 32.1 [Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002***](#)
- 32.2 [Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002***](#)
- 101.INS XBRL Instance Document***
- 101.SCH XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document***
- 101.CAL XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document***
- 101.LAB XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document***
- 101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document***
- 101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document***

* Management or compensatory plan or arrangement

*** Included herein

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, thereunto duly authorized.

HERITAGE-CRYSTAL CLEAN, INC.

Date: March 1, 2018

By: /s/ Brian Recatto

Brian Recatto
President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities indicated as of March 1, 2018.

| <u>Signature</u> | <u>Title</u> |
|---|---|
| <u>/s/ Brian Recatto</u> Brian Recatto | President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer of the Registrant) |
| <u>/s/ Mark DeVita</u> Mark DeVita | Chief Financial Officer, (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer of the Registrant) |
| <u>/s/ Fred Fehsenfeld, Jr.</u> Fred Fehsenfeld, Jr. | Director |
| <u>/s/ Bruce Bruckmann</u> Bruce Bruckmann | Director |
| <u>/s/ Carmine Falcone</u> Carmine Falcone | Director |
| <u>/s/ Charles E. Schalliol</u> Charles E. Schalliol | Director |
| <u>/s/ Robert W. Willmschen, Jr.</u> Robert W. Willmschen, Jr. | Director |
| <u>/s/ James Schumacher</u> Jim Schumacher | Director |