# FIRST QUARTER INTERIM REPORT



For the three months ended March 31, 2018

## **Performance Data**

Three Months Ended March 31,	2018	2017 (Restated)	Change
(CDN 000s, except per share data)	(\$)	(\$)	(%)
Revenue	73,813	59,049	25
Net Income <sup>(1)</sup>	12,359	6,804	82
Per share – basic <sup>(1)</sup>	0.15	0.08	81
Per share – diluted <sup>(1)</sup>	0.14	0.08	81
EBITDA <sup>(2)</sup>	32,220	23,469	37
As a % of revenue	43.7	39.7	4
Adjusted EBITDA (2)	34,753	24,908	40
As a % of revenue	47.1	42.2	5
Funds flow from operations	33,958	21,074	61
Per share – basic	0.40	0.25	60
Per share – diluted	0.40	0.25	60
Cash from operating activities	24,344	29,831	(18)
Free cash flow <sup>(2)</sup>	18,906	28,511	(34)
Capital expenditures	5,797	1,134	411
Working capital	211,703	203,224	4
Total assets	413,931	427,075	(3)
Total long-term debt	_	_	
Cash dividends declared	0.17	0.17	_
Shares outstanding end of period (#000's)	85,172	84,672	1

(1) As disclosed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, in 2017 the Company identified an immaterial non-cash re-classification error with respect to a component of its deferred income tax expense associated with accounting for the deferred tax on its net investment in foreign operations related to an inter-company financing. The reclassification is between the deferred tax provision in the statement of operations and foreign currency translation reserve in equity. This adjustment has been corrected on a retrospective basis with all prior period comparative figures being restated.

(2) Non-IFRS financial measures are defined in the Management's Discussion and Analysis section.

### Q1 2018 vs Q1 2017

The Company generated consolidated revenue of \$73.8 million in the first quarter of 2018, an increase of 25% from the same period in 2017. Stabilized oil prices have resulted in increased number of active drilling rigs in the US. In Canada, the weak natural gas prices and uncertainly within the industry have led to declines in activity compared to the prior year. The International business unit saw increases in activity in each of the Company's major markets.

Consolidated adjusted EBITDA increased to \$34.8 million in the first quarter, up from \$24.9 million in the first quarter of 2017. Significant increases in operating profit in the US business unit led to the improvement in this key measure.

The Company recorded net income of \$12.4 million (\$0.14 per share) in the first quarter of 2018, compared to a net income of \$6.8 million (\$0.08 per share) recorded in the same period in 2017. The increase in US revenue and a significant decline in depreciation expense from prior year levels led to the increase in income from 2017. These factors were partially offset by a strengthening Canadian dollar relative to the US dollar and higher recorded foreign exchange losses.

# **President's Message**

Pason achieved solid first quarter 2018 results. We generated revenue of \$73.8 million in the period, an increase of 25% from the prior year quarter and up 11% from the fourth quarter 2017. The main drivers of revenue growth were increased drilling activity and market share gains in the United States and higher product penetration in both Canada and the United States. Revenue from the International business unit was up 23% year over year, driven by activity improvements in Argentina and Australia.

Adjusted EBITDA was \$34.8 million for the quarter, an increase of 40% from the prior year quarter and up 26% sequentially. Adjusted EBITDA as a percentage of revenue increased to 47%. The biggest driver of this improvement was the significant increase in revenue with high incremental margins

Pason recorded net income of \$12.4 million (\$0.14 per share) compared to \$6.8 million (\$0.08 per share) in the prior year quarter, an increase of 82%. Capital expenditures for the quarter were \$5.8 million and free cash flow was \$18.9 million.

At March 31, 2018, our working capital position stood at \$211.7 million, including cash of \$162.8 million. There is no debt on our balance sheet. We are maintaining our quarterly dividend at \$0.17 share.

Starting this quarter, we are breaking down our revenue along five product categories to better reflect the changing nature of Pason's business, aligned with how we think about our investments in new products and services:

- Drilling Data contains all products and services associated with acquiring, displaying, storing, and delivering drilling data. This includes our core product, the Electronic Drilling Recorder (and all its peripherals); Pason Live / DataHub, various data feed services; and the Electronic Service Recorder. The Drilling Data segment currently accounts for about half of Pason's total revenue.
- *Mud Management & Safety* includes products such as the Pit Volume Totalizer (PVT), Gas Analyzer, Hazardous Gas Alarm, and the Electronic Choke Actuator. In the first quarter, Mud Management & Safety generated 29% of total revenue.
- The *Communications* segment includes satellite and terrestrial Internet bandwidth, Wireless Rigsite, VOIP, and Intercom services and accounted for 11% of total revenue.
- The Drilling Intelligence segment bundles Pason's offers targeted at enabling our customers' drilling optimization and automation efforts. It contains product such as AutoDrillers, abbl Directional Advisor<sup>™</sup> and the deployment of the advanced ExxonMobil Drilling Advisory System<sup>™</sup>. In the first quarter, Drilling Intelligence generated 6% of total revenue.
- Finally, *Analytics & Other* includes our Verdazo Discovery Analytics product suite, various types of reports, and other, which accounted for 4% of revenue.

Our level of confidence in the successful commercialization of new products and services has steadily grown through the first quarter of 2018 as the number of successful technical and commercial trials has increased. During the peak of the winter drilling season, we had over 70 concurrent installations of new Drilling Intelligence products in Canada, resulting in a year-over-year increase of Revenue per EDR Day of 10%.

We have increased our investment in R&D and IT in the first quarter compared to the previous year period, with a particular focus on machine learning algorithms, with some further growth planned during the remainder of 2018.

Our capital expenditures will be relatively modest going forward with a larger portion of development efforts focused on software and analytics. We intend to spend up to \$25 million in capital expenditures in 2018. Our highly capable and flexible IT and communications platform can host additional new Pason and third-party software at the rig site and in the cloud.

Supported by the OPEC- and Russia-led production cuts, there were no increases in global oil stocks during the first quarter. In addition, after three years of underinvestment in global E&P spending, the worldwide

production base has started to show signs of decline with year-over-year production decreases in several countries. This has led to higher oil prices and confirms that the oil market is now coming into balance. It is becoming increasingly likely that the industry will face supply challenges over the coming years and a significant increase in global E&P investment will be required to minimize the impending deficit. The only major sources of short-term supply growth to address global production decline are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Russia, and the US shale oil industry.

Pason's market positions remain very strong. We are the service provider of choice for many leading operators and drilling contractors with Pason equipment installed on over 65% of all active land drilling rigs in the Western Hemisphere. We are uniquely positioned to participate in the industry's growth.

Hanul Neulo

Marcel Kessler President and Chief Executive Officer May 2, 2018

# **Management's Discussion and Analysis**

The following discussion and analysis has been prepared by management as of May 2, 2018, and is a review of the financial condition and results of operations of Pason Systems Inc. (Pason or the Company) based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes.

Certain information regarding the Company contained herein may constitute forward-looking statements under applicable securities laws. Such statements are subject to known or unknown risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated or implied in the forward-looking statements.

All financial measures presented in this report are expressed in Canadian dollars unless otherwise indicated.

## Additional IFRS Measures

In its interim condensed consolidated financial statements, the Corporation uses certain additional IFRS measures. Management believes these measures provide useful supplemental information to readers.

### Funds flow from operations

Management believes that funds flow from operations, as reported in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, is a useful additional measure as it represents the cash generated during the period, regardless of the timing of collection of receivables and payment of payables. Funds flow from operations represents the cash flow from continuing operations, excluding non-cash items. Funds flow from operations is defined as net income adjusted for depreciation and amortization expense, non-cash, stock-based compensation expense, deferred taxes, and other non-cash items impacting operations.

### Cash from operating activities

Cash from operating activities is defined as funds flow from operations adjusted for changes in working capital items.

### **Non-IFRS Financial Measures**

These definitions are not recognized measures under IFRS, and accordingly, may not be comparable to measures used by other companies. These Non-IFRS measures provide readers with additional information regarding the Company's ability to generate funds to finance its operations, fund its research and development and capital expenditure program, and pay dividends.

### **Revenue per EDR Day**

Revenue per EDR day is defined as the daily revenue generated from all products that the Company has on rent on a drilling rig that has the Company's base EDR installed. This metric provides a key measure on the Company's ability to increase production adoption and evaluate product pricing.

### EBITDA

EBITDA is defined as net income before interest expense, income taxes, stock-based compensation expense, depreciation and amortization expense, and gains on disposal of investments.

### Adjusted EBITDA

Adjusted EBITDA is defined as EBITDA, adjusted for foreign exchange, impairment of property, plant, and equipment, restructuring costs, and other items which the Company does not consider to be in the normal course of continuing operations.

Management believes that EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA are useful supplemental measures as they provide an indication of the results generated by the Company's principal business activities prior to the consideration of how these results are taxed in multiple jurisdictions, how the results are impacted by foreign exchange or how the results are impacted by the Company's accounting policies for equity-based compensation plans.

### Free cash flow

Free cash flow is defined as cash from operating activities plus proceeds on disposal of property, plant, and equipment, less capital expenditures (including changes to non-cash working capital associated with capital expenditures), and deferred development costs. This metric provides a key measure on the Company's ability to generate cash from it's principal business activities after funding the capital expenditure program, and provides an indication of the amount of cash available to finance, among other items, the Company's dividend and other investment opportunities.

## **Overall Performance**

Three Months Ended March 31,	2018	2017	Change
(000s)	(\$)	(\$)	(%)
Revenue			
Drilling Data	37,295	28,768	30
Mud Management and Safety	21,260	17,514	21
Communications	7,798	6,493	20
Drilling Intelligence	4,581	3,993	15
Analytics and Other	2,879	2,281	26
Total revenue	73,813	59,049	25

The Pason Electronic Drilling Recorder (EDR) remains the Company's primary product. The EDR provides a complete system of drilling data acquisition, data networking, and drilling management tools and reports at both the wellsite and customer offices. The EDR is the base product from which all other wellsite instrumentation products are linked. By linking these products, a number of otherwise redundant elements such as data processing, display, storage, and networking are eliminated. This ensures greater reliability and a more robust system of instrumentation for the customer.

EDR rental day performance for Canada and the United States is reported below:

Pason Electronic Drilling Recorder (EDR )Rental Days						
Three Months Ended March 31,	2018	2017	Change			
	#	#	(%)			
Canada	21,100	23,800	(11)			
United States	50,900	35,300	44			

Pason Electronic Drilling Recorder (	(EDR	)Rental Days
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Total revenue increased 25% for the three months ending March 2018, over the same period in 2017. This increase is attributable to an increase in drilling activity in the Company's US and certain International markets, partially offset by lower Canadian activity. The first guarter 2018 results were negatively impacted from a stronger Canadian dollar relative to the US dollar.

Industry activity in the US market increased 32% in the first guarter of 2018 compared to the corresponding period in 2017, while first guarter Canadian rig activity decreased 9%. Canadian EDR days, which includes some non-oil and gas-related activity, decreased 11% in the first quarter of 2018 from 2017 levels, while US EDR days increased by 44% from the first guarter of 2017.

For the first three months of 2018, the Pason EDR was installed on 60% of the land rigs in the US compared to 55% during the same time period in 2017.

For the three months ended March 31, 2018, the Pason EDR was installed on 88% of the land rigs in the Canadian market; for the same time period in 2017 the Pason EDR was installed on 90% of the land rigs. For the purposes of market share, the Company uses the number of EDR days billed and oil and gas drilling days as reported by accepted industry sources.

Revenue generated from the Company's other wellsite instrumentation products was largely driven by the increases in drilling activity. The Company also benefited from increased adoption of certain EDR peripherals and higher-tiered communications offerings. In Canada, despite the decrease in industry activity, the Company saw increased revenue from its Drilling Intelligence products, including the Company's implementation of the Drilling Advisory System<sup>™</sup> technology licensed from ExxonMobil<sup>™</sup>.

For the first quarter of 2018, the Company saw an increase in activity in all major regions of the International segment with the largest increases in Australia and Argentina.

# **Discussion of Operations**

## **United States Operations**

Three Months Ended March 31,	2018	2017	Change
(000s)	(\$)	(\$)	(%)
Revenue			
Drilling Data	23,698	15,276	55
Mud Management and Safety	13,236	9,499	39
Communications	3,698	2,597	42
Drilling Intelligence	2,144	1,484	44
Analytics and Other	1,332	1,110	20
Total revenue	44,108	29,966	47
Rental services and local administration	16,885	14,210	19
Depreciation and amortization	3,828	5,001	(23)
Segment gross profit	23,395	10,755	118
Three Months Ended March 31,		2018	2017
		\$	\$
Revenue per EDR day - USD		678	634
Revenue per EDR day - CAD		857	839

US land-based drilling continued its sequential increase quarter over quarter resulting from the improvement of global commodity price fundamentals and the continued WTI pricing in excess of \$60 USD. These fundamentals continue to support an increase in rig count in all the major regions.

US segment revenue increased by 47% in the first quarter of 2018 over the 2017 comparable period (54% when measured in USD). The value of the Canadian dollar relative to the US dollar had a negative impact on revenue when measured in Canadian dollars in the first quarter of 2018 compared to the first quarter of 2017.

Industry activity in the US market during the first quarter of 2018 increased 32% from the prior year. US market share was 60% for the first quarter of 2018 compared to 55% during the same period of 2017, primarily driven by market share growth in key US regions combined with changes in the mix of active customers.

EDR rental days increased by 44% for the quarter ended March 31, 2018 over the same time period in 2017, while revenue per EDR day in the first quarter of 2018 increased to US\$678, an increase of US\$44 over the same period in 2017. The increase was driven by higher adoption of certain peripheral products and selective price increases on certain products.

Operating costs increased by 19% in the 2018 first quarter relative to the same period in the prior year. When measured in USD, operating costs increased by 27%, with the increase attributable higher field staff levels and higher direct costs to support additional activity.

Depreciation expense for the first quarter of 2018 decreased 23% over 2017 amounts due to the reduction in the capital program since 2014.

Segment profit increased by \$12.6 million in the first quarter of 2018 compared to the corresponding period in 2017.

## **Canadian Operations**

Three Months Ended March 31,	2018	2017	Change
(000s)	(\$)	(\$)	(%)
Revenue			
Drilling Data	9,920	10,445	(5)
Mud Management and Safety	6,661	6,992	(5)
Communications	3,769	3,683	2
Drilling Intelligence	2,118	2,032	4
Analytics and Other	956	835	14
Total revenue	23,424	23,987	(2)
Rental services and local administration	7,328	5,794	26
Depreciation and amortization	4,385	5,934	(26)
Segment gross profit	11,711	12,259	(4)

Three Months Ended March 31,	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Revenue per EDR day- CAD	1,070	975

The first quarter Canadian rig activity showed year-over-year decrease in activity. Industry uncertainty and lower natural gas prices caused a reduction of activity compared to the prior year.

Canadian segment revenue decreased by 2% for the quarter ended March 31, 2018 compared to the same period in 2017. This decrease is the result of a 9% decrease in the number of drilling industry days in the first quarter compared to 2017 levels.

EDR rental days decreased 11% in the first quarter of 2018 compared to 2017.

Revenue per EDR day increased by \$95 to \$1,070 during the first quarter of 2018 compared to 2017. The increase is driven by higher adoption of certain communication solutions and the successful introduction of ExxonMobil DAS<sup>TM</sup> in the Canadian market.

Operating costs increased by 26% in the first quarter of 2018 relative to the same period in 2017, with repair costs and other direct field costs responsible for the increase.

Depreciation and amortization expense decreased by approximately 26% for the three months ended March 31, 2018. The decrease is a result of lower capital programs since 2014.

Operating profit for the first quarter of 2018 was \$11.7million, down \$0.5 million from the same quarter in 2017.

## **International Operations**

2018	2017	Change
(\$)	(\$)	(%)
3,677	3,047	21
1,363	1,023	33
331	213	55
319	477	(33)
591	336	76
6,281	5,096	23
4,683	4,192	12
962	1,038	(7)
636	(134)	_
	(\$) 3,677 1,363 331 319 591 6,281 4,683 962	(\$) (\$)   3,677 3,047   1,363 1,023   331 213   319 477   591 336   6,281 5,096   4,683 4,192   962 1,038

The international rig count was up in all of the Company's major International markets with the largest increases in Australia and Argentina. The increase in activity in Argentina was offset by a weaker Argentinian Peso compared to the prior year. Revenue in the International operations segment increased in the first quarter of 2018 by 23% compared to the same period in 2017.

Operating costs increased by 12% in the first quarter relative to the same period as a result of increased field costs in certain regions.

Depreciation expense decreased by approximately 7% for the three months ended March 31, 2018.

The segment operating profit was \$0.6 million for the first quarter of 2018, an improvement from the \$0.1 million loss recorded in the corresponding period in 2017.

## **Corporate Expenses**

Three Months Ended March 31,	2018	2017	Change
(000s)	(\$)	(\$)	(%)
Other expenses			
Research and development	6,359	5,877	8
Corporate services	3,805	4,068	(6)
Stock-based compensation	2,534	2,547	(1)
Other			
Foreign exchange loss	2,404	223	978
Other	129	1,216	(89)
Total corporate expenses	15,231	13,931	9

### Q1 2018 vs Q4 2017

Consolidated revenue was \$73.8 million in the first quarter of 2018 compared to \$66.2 million in the fourth quarter of 2017, an increase of \$7.6 million or 11%. The first quarter of the year is typically the strongest for the Company due to the seasonality of Canadian drilling activity. An increase in US activity also contributed to the increase in revenue.

The Canadian segment earned revenue of \$23.4 million in the first quarter of 2018 compared to \$17.7 million in the fourth quarter of 2017, an increase of \$5.7 million. Revenue in the US market increased by \$2.0 million; from \$42.1 million in the fourth quarter of 2017 to \$44.1 million in the first quarter of 2018, as both industry activity and revenue per EDR day increased. The International segment realized a revenue decrease of \$0.1 million.

The Company recorded a net profit in the first quarter of 2018 of \$12.4 million (\$0.14 per share) compared to a profit of \$5.0 million (\$0.06 per share) in the fourth quarter of 2017. The increase in net income is mainly attributable to improved operating results in both the Canadian and US business segments compared to the fourth quarter of 2017 and a higher effective tax rate in the fourth quarter of 2017 due to a one-time tax adjustment relating to the Company's change in transfer pricing methodology.

Sequentially, EBITDA increased from \$26.7 million in the fourth quarter of 2017 to \$32.2 million in the first quarter of 2018. Adjusted EBITDA, which adjusts for foreign exchange and certain non-recurring charges, increased from \$27.8 million in the fourth quarter of 2017 to \$34.8 million in the first quarter of 2018. Funds flow from operations increased from \$27.4 million in the fourth quarter of 2017 to \$34.0 million in the first quarter of 2018.

## **Summary of Quarterly Results**

Three Months Ended	Jun 30, 2016	Sept 30, 2016	Dec 31, 2016	Mar 31, 2017	Jun 30, 2017	Sept 30, 2017	Dec 31, 2017	Mar 31, 2018
(000s, except per share data)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Revenue	27,173	38,633	48,827	59,049	55,792	64,576	66,226	73,813
(Loss) income restated <sup>(1)</sup>	(11,472)	(6,550)	(10,446)	6,804	5,968	7,404	5,014	12,359
Per share – basic restated $^{(1)}$	(0.13)	(0.07)	(0.12)	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.15
Per share – diluted restated <sup>(1)</sup>	(0.13)	(0.07)	(0.12)	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.14
EBITDA <sup>(2)</sup>	(2,231)	8,347	(2,291)	23,469	21,050	25,493	26,651	32,220
Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(2)</sup>	(1,470)	8,487	15,225	24,908	19,361	26,158	27,797	34,753
Funds flow (used in) from operations	(974)	9,130	15,324	21,074	18,795	19,896	27,356	33,958
Per share – basic	(0.01)	0.11	0.18	0.25	0.22	0.23	0.32	0.40
Per share – diluted	(0.01)	0.11	0.18	0.25	0.22	0.23	0.32	0.40
Cash from operating activities	2,993	4,653	665	29,831	24,201	15,128	16,637	24,344
Free cash flow <sup>(2)</sup>	(2,461)	4,404	(153)	28,511	19,628	11,002	6,690	18,906

(1) As disclosed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, in 2017 the Company identified an immaterial non-cash re-classification error with respect to a component of its deferred income tax expense associated with accounting for the deferred tax on its net investment in foreign operations related to an inter-company financing. The reclassification is between the deferred tax provision in the statement of operations and foreign currency translation reserve in equity. This adjustment has been corrected on a retrospective basis with all prior period comparative figures being restated. Refer to table below on the impact of the restatement on prior period figures.

(2) Non-IFRS financial measures are defined in the Management's Discussion and Analysis section.

#### Restatement of Prior Period Error (refer to Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements)

Three Months Ended	Jun 30, 2016	Sept 30, 2016	Dec 31, 2016	Mar 31, 2017	Jun 30, 2017	Sept 30, 2017	Dec 31, 2017	Mar 31, 2018
(000s)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Previously reported (Loss) income	(11,319)	(7,117)	(11,325)	7,153	6,895	8,813	5,014	12,359
Per share – basic	(0.13)	(0.08)	(0.13)	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.15
Per share – diluted	(0.13)	(0.08)	(0.13)	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.14
Increase (decrease) in tax provision	153	(567)	(879)	349	927	1,409	_	_
Restated (Loss) income	(11,472)	(6,550)	(10,446)	6,804	5,968	7,404	5,014	12,359
Per share – basic	(0.13)	(0.07)	(0.12)	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.15
Per share – diluted	(0.13)	(0.07)	(0.12)	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.14

#### Reconcile (Loss) income to EBITDA

Three Months Ended	Jun 30, 2016	Sept 30, 2016	Dec 31, 2016	Mar 31, 2017	Jun 30, 2017	Sept 30, 2017	Dec 31, 2017	Mar 31, 2018
(000s)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
(Loss) income restated (1)	(11,472)	(6,550)	(10,446)	6,804	5,968	7,404	5,014	12,359
Add:								
Taxes restated <sup>(1)</sup>	(6,575)	(1,489)	(3,898)	2,145	1,082	3,760	7,043	8,152
Depreciation and amortization	13,578	14,929	10,515	11,973	10,823	11,184	11,701	9,175
Stock-based compensation	2,238	1,457	1,538	2,547	3,177	3,145	2,893	2,534
EBITDA <sup>(2)</sup>	(2,231)	8,347	(2,291)	23,469	21,050	25,493	26,651	32,220

#### **Reconcile EBITDA to Adjusted EBITDA**

Three Months Ended	Jun 30, 2016	Sept 30, 2016	Dec 31, 2016	Mar 31, 2017	Jun 30, 2017	Sept 30, 2017	Dec 31, 2017	Mar 31, 2018
(000s)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
EBITDA	(2,231)	8,347	(2,291)	23,469	21,050	25,493	26,651	32,220
Add:								
Impairment charges	_		17,474	_	_		_	_
Foreign exchange	396	96	284	223	(689)	113	1,459	2,404
Other	365	44	(242)	1,216	(1,000)	552	(313)	129
Adjusted EBITDA (2)	(1,470)	8,487	15,225	24,908	19,361	26,158	27,797	34,753

#### Reconcile cash from operating activities to free cash flow

Three Months Ended	Jun 30, 2016	Sept 30, 2016	Dec 31, 2016	Mar 31, 2017	Jun 30, 2017	Sept 30, 2017	Dec 31, 2017	Mar 31, 2018
(000s)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Cash from operating activities	2,993	4,653	665	29,831	24,201	15,128	16,637	24,344
Less:								
Additions to property, plant and equipment	(4,437)	410	(1,827)	(1,027)	(3,913)	(3,881)	(8,749)	(4,452)
Deferred development costs	(1,017)	(659)	1,009	(293)	(660)	(245)	(1,198)	(986)
Free cash flow <sup>(2)</sup>	(2,461)	4,404	(153)	28,511	19,628	11,002	6,690	18,906

Pason's quarterly financial results vary quarter to quarter due in part to the seasonality of the oil and gas service industry in Canada, which is somewhat offset by the less seasonal nature of US and International operations. The first quarter is generally the strongest quarter for the Company due to strong activity in Canada, where location access is best during the winter. The second quarter is typically the slowest due to spring break-up in Canada, when many areas are not accessible due to ground conditions, and, therefore, do not permit the movement of heavy equipment. Activity generally increases in the third quarter, depending on the year, as ground conditions have often improved and location access becomes available; however, a rainy summer can have a significant adverse effect on drilling activity. By the fourth quarter, often the Company's second strongest quarter, access to most areas in Canada becomes available when the ground freezes. Consequently, the performance of the Company may not be comparable quarter to consecutive

quarter, but should be considered on the basis of results for the whole year, or by comparing results in a quarter with results in the same quarter for the previous year.

# **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

As at March 31,	2018	2017	Change
(000s)	(\$)	(\$)	(%)
Cash and cash equivalents	162,842	163,346	_
Working capital	211,703	203,224	4
Funds flow from operations <sup>(1)</sup>	33,958	21,074	61
Capital expenditures <sup>(1)</sup>	5,797	1,134	411
As a % of funds flow $^{(1)(2)}$	17.1%	5.4%	12

(1) Figures are for the Three months ended March 31.

(2) Calculated by dividing capital expenditures by funds flow from operations.

## **Contractual Obligations**

	Less than 1 year	1–3 years	Thereafter	Total
(000s)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Operating leases and other contracts	11,651	7,385	4,195	23,231

Contractual obligations relate primarily to minimum future lease payments required primarily for telecommunication charges and operating leases for certain facilities and vehicles.

At March 31, 2018, the Company had no capital lease obligations, and other than the operating leases detailed above, and the onerous lease obligation recorded, has no off-balance sheet arrangements.

The Company has available a \$5.0 million demand revolving credit facility. At March 31, 2018, no amount had been drawn on the facility.

## **Disclosure of Outstanding Share and Options Data**

As at March 31, 2018, there were 85.2 million common shares and 5.5 million options issued and outstanding.

## SEDAR

Additional information relating to the Company can be accessed on the Company's website at www.pason.com and on the Canadian Securities Administrators' System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval (SEDAR) at www.sedar.com.

# **Critical Accounting Estimates**

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements requires that certain estimates and judgments be made with respect to the reported amounts of revenue and expenses and the carrying value of assets and liabilities. These estimates are based on historical experience and management's judgments, and as a result, the estimates used by management involve uncertainty and may change as additional experience is acquired.

### **Depreciation and Amortization**

The accounting estimate that has the greatest impact on the Company's financial statements is depreciation and amortization. Depreciation of the Company's capital assets includes estimates of useful lives. These estimates may change with experience over time so that actual results could differ significantly from these estimates.

## **Carrying Value of Assets**

The carrying amounts of the Company's non-financial assets, other than deferred tax assets, are reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. Judgments and assessments are made to determine whether an event has occurred that indicates a possible impairment. If any such indication exists, then the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. For goodwill and intangible assets that have indefinite useful lives or that are not yet available for use, the recoverable amount is estimated each year.

## **Stock-Based Payments**

The fair value of stock-based payments is calculated using a Black-Scholes option pricing model. There are a number of estimates used in the calculation, such as the future forfeiture rate, expected option life, and the future price volatility of the underlying security, which can vary from actual future events. The factors applied in the calculation are management's best estimates based on historical information and future forecasts.

## **Income Taxes**

The calculation of deferred income taxes is based on a number of assumptions, including estimating the future periods in which temporary differences, tax losses, and other tax credits will reverse. Tax interpretations, regulations, and legislation in the various jurisdictions in which the Company and its subsidiaries operate are subject to change. See note 2 to the Condensed Consolidated Interim Financial Statements for additional information.

The estimation of deferred tax assets and liabilities includes uncertainty with respect to the reversal of temporary differences.

Deferred tax assets are recognized for the carry-forward of unused tax losses and unused tax credits when it is probable that taxable income will be available to utilize unused tax losses and unused tax credits. This requires estimation of future taxable income and usage of tax loss carry-forwards for a considerable period into the future. Income tax expense in future periods may be affected to the extent actual taxable income is not sufficient or available to use the temporary differences giving rise to the deferred tax asset.

# **Risk and Uncertainties**

Pason has implemented a risk management framework that helps the Company manage the reality that future events, decisions, or actions may cause undesirable effects. The framework takes a value-based approach to identifying, prioritizing, communicating, mitigating, and monitoring risks, and aligns this with the organization's appetite for risk considering our culture, strategy, and objectives.

Although a framework can help the Company to manage its risks, the Company's performance is subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties. Although the risks described below are the risks that we believe are material, there may also be risks of which we are currently unaware, or that we currently regard as immaterial based upon the information available to us. Interested parties should be aware that the occurrence of the events described in these risk factors could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results, and financial condition.

## **Operating Risks**

Pason derives the majority of its revenue from the rental of instrumentation and data services to oil and gas companies and drilling contractors in Canada, the US, Australia, and Latin America. The demand for our products is directly related to land-based or offshore drilling activity funded by energy companies' capital expenditure programs. A substantial or extended decline in energy prices or diversion of funds to large capital programs could adversely affect capital available for drilling activities, directly impacting Pason's revenue.

## **Commodity Prices**

Prices for crude oil and natural gas fluctuate in response to a number of factors beyond Pason's control. The factors that affect prices include, but are not limited to, the following: the actions of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, world economic conditions, government regulation, political stability in the Middle East and elsewhere, the foreign supply of crude oil, the price of foreign imports, the availability of alternate fuel sources, and weather conditions. Any of these can reduce the amount of drilling activity.

## Seasonality

Drilling activity in Canada is seasonal due to weather that limits access to leases in the spring and summer, making the first and last quarters of each year the peak level of demand for Pason's services due to the higher level of drilling activity. The length of the drilling season can be shortened due to warmer winter weather or rainy seasons. Pason can offset some of this risk, although not eliminate it, through continued growth in the US and internationally, where activity is less seasonal.

## **Proprietary Rights**

Pason relies on innovative technologies and products to protect its competitive position in the market. To protect Pason's intellectual property, the company employs trademarks, patents, employment agreements, and other measures to protect trade secrets and confidentiality of information. Pason also believes that due to the rapid pace of technological change in the industry, technical expertise, knowledge, and innovative skill, combined with an ability to rapidly develop, produce, enhance, and market products, also provides protection in maintaining a competitive position.

## Litigation

The Company is involved in various claims and litigation arising in the normal course of business. While the outcome of these matters is uncertain and there can be no assurance that such matters will be resolved in Pason's favour, the Company does not currently believe that the outcome of any pending or threatened proceedings related to these or other matters, or the amounts which the Company may be required to pay by reason thereof, would individually or in the aggregate have a material adverse impact on its day-to-day business operations.

## Credit Risk

Pason is exposed to credit risk to the extent that its customers, operating primarily in the oil and natural gas industry, may experience financial difficulty and be unable to meet their obligations. However, Pason has a large number of customers on both the Operator and Contractor side, which minimizes exposure to any single customer.

## **Availability of Qualified Personnel**

Due to the specialized and technical nature of Pason's business, Pason is highly dependent on attracting and retaining qualified or key personnel. There is competition for qualified personnel in the areas where Pason operates, and there can be no assurance that qualified personnel can be attracted or retained to meet the growth needs of the business. To mitigate this risk, Pason has a Human Resources department within each significant business unit to support that function.

## **Alternative Energies**

There continues to be extensive discussion at all levels of government worldwide and by the public concerning the burning of fossil fuels and the impact this may have on the global environment. Environmental legislation is evolving in a manner expected to result in stricter standards and enforcement, larger fines and liability, which could lead to potentially increased capital expenditures and operating costs. Implementation of strategies for reducing greenhouse gases could have a material impact on the nature of operations of the Company. Given the evolving nature of the debate related to climate change and the control of greenhouse gases and the possible resulting requirements, it is not possible to predict either the nature of those requirements or the impact on the Company.

## **International Operations**

Assets outside of Canada and the US may be adversely affected by changes in governmental policy, social instability, or other political or economic developments beyond the Company's control, including expropriation of property, exchange rate fluctuations, and restrictions on repatriation of cash. The Company has mitigated these risks where practical and considered warranted. Approximately 85% of the Company's revenues are generated in Canada and the US, which limits exposure to risks and uncertainties in foreign countries.

## Foreign Exchange Exposure

The Company operates internationally and is primarily exposed to exchange risk relative to the US dollar. The Canadian operations are exposed to currency risk on US denominated financial assets and liabilities with fluctuations in the rate recognized as foreign exchange gains or losses in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. The Company's self-sustaining foreign subsidiaries expose the Company to exchange rate risk on the translation of their financial assets and liabilities to Canadian dollars for consolidation purposes.

Adjustments arising when translating the foreign subsidiaries into Canadian dollars are reflected in the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Other Comprehensive Income as unrealized foreign currency translation adjustments. The Company has not hedged either one of these risks.

The Company does not employ any financial instruments to manage risk or hedge its activities. The vast majority of the Company's activities are conducted in Canada and the US, where local revenue is earned against local expenses and the Company is therefore naturally hedged.

## **Major Customers**

Pason has a large customer base, consisting of both Operators and Contractors, and does not rely on any single customer for a significant portion of its revenue. During the year ended December 31, 2017, no single customer accounted for more than 10% of the consolidated revenues of the company. The loss of one or more customers, or a reduction in the amount of business Pason does with any of its customers, if not offset by obtaining new customers or increasing the amount of business it does with existing customers, could have a detrimental impact on Pason's revenue.

## **Key Personnel**

Pason's success depends to a significant extent on the contributions of a number of its officers and key employees. The company does not carry "key person" insurance on any of its key employees. As such, the loss of services of one or more of these key employees could have a material adverse effect on Pason's business, operating results, or financial condition.

## Dividends

The decision to pay dividends and the amount paid is at the discretion of Pason's board of directors, which regularly reviews the Company's financial position, operating results, and industry outlook. Pason's ability to pay dividends is dependent on the company's ability to generate cash flow in excess of its operating and investment needs and the company's financial position.

## Taxation

Pason and its subsidiaries are subject to income and other forms of taxation in the various jurisdictions in which they operate. Pason attempts to structure its operations in a tax efficient manner in light of prevailing tax regimes. Any adverse change to existing taxation measures, policies or regulations, or the introduction of new taxation measures, policies or regulations in any of the jurisdictions in which Pason operates could have a negative impact on Pason's business, operating results, or financial condition.

The management of Pason believes that the provision for income taxes is adequate and in accordance with both generally accepted accounting principles and appropriate regulations. However, the tax filing positions of the Company are subject to review and audit by tax authorities who may challenge and succeed in management's interpretation of the applicable tax legislation.

## **Information Security**

Pason's business operations use an extensive network of communications and computer hardware and software systems. In addition, Pason's equipment captures, transmits, and stores significant quantities of drilling data on behalf of its customers. The Company takes measures to protect the security and integrity of its information systems and data, however, there is a risk that these measures may not fully protect against a potential security breach, which could have a negative impact on the Company's ability to operate or its reputation with existing and potential customers.

# **Corporate Information**

### Directors

James D. Hill Chairman of the Board Pason Systems Inc. Calgary, Alberta

James B. Howe<sup>(1)(4)(6)(7)</sup> President Bragg Creek Financial Consultants Ltd. Calgary, Alberta

#### Marcel Kessler

President & CEO Pason Systems Inc. Calgary, Alberta

**T. Jay Collins**<sup>(2)(3)(6)</sup> Director Oceaneering International Inc. Houston, Texas

### Judi Hess<sup>(2)(4)(5)</sup>

CEO & Director Copperleaf Technologies Inc. Vancouver, British Columbia

(1) Audit Committee Chairman

- (2) Audit Committee Member
- (3) HR and Compensation Committee Chairman
- (4) HR and Compensation Committee Member
- (5) Corporate Governance and Nominations Committee Chairman

(6) Corporate Governance and Nomination Committee Member

(7) Lead Director

### **Officers & Key Personnel**

Marcel Kessler President & Chief Executive Officer

Jon Faber Chief Financial Officer

David Elliott Vice President, Finance

**Timur Kuru** Vice President, Operations – United States

Bryce McLean Vice President, Operations – Canada

Russell Smith Vice President, Operations – International & Offshore

#### Ryan Van Beurden Vice President, Rig-site Research & Development

Lars Olesen Vice President, Product Management

Kevin Boston Vice President, Business Development

Kevin Lo Vice President, New Ventures

Melinda Ando General Counsel & Corporate Secretary

### **Corporate Head Office**

Pason Systems Inc. 6130 Third Street SE Calgary, Alberta T2H 1K4 T: 403-301-3400 F: 403-301-3499 InvestorRelations@pason.com

#### Auditors

**Deloitte LLP** Calgary, Alberta

#### Banker

Royal Bank of Canada Calgary, Alberta

# Registrar and Transfer Agent

Computershare Trust Company of Canada Calgary, Alberta

### Stock Trading

Toronto Stock Exchange Trading Symbol: PSI.TO

### Eligible Dividend Designation

Pursuant to the Canadian Income Tax Act, dividends paid by the Company to Canadian residents are considered to be "eligible" dividends.