

Cowen Group, Inc.
Form PRER14A
September 30, 2009

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

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14A-10-101)

**Information Required in Proxy Statement
Schedule 14A Information
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

Cowen Group, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
LexingtonPark Parent Corp. Class A Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share
- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
17,240,929

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- (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

The proposed maximum transaction value was determined by multiplying \$7.63 (the average of the high and low prices of Cowen common stock on July 8, 2009) by 17,240,929 (the total number of shares to be registered). A rate of \$55.80 was applied per \$1 million of the total maximum aggregate offering price to determine the filing fee.

- (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

\$131,548,288

- (5) Total fee paid:

\$7,340.39

o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

ý Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid: \$7,340.39

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.: Registration No. 333-160525

(3) Filing Party: LexingtonPark Parent Corp.

(4) Date Filed: July 10, 2009

The information in this proxy statement/prospectus is not complete and may be changed. The securities offered by this proxy statement/prospectus may not be sold until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This proxy statement/prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities in any jurisdiction where an offer or solicitation is not permitted.

PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO COMPLETION DATED SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

**1221 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020**

BUSINESS COMBINATION PROPOSED YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT

Dear Stockholder:

The Board of Directors of Cowen Group, Inc. has unanimously approved a transaction agreement that provides for Cowen and Ramius LLC to combine into a new holding company. The new company will ultimately retain the Cowen Group, Inc. name, and its shares are expected to continue to trade on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the ticker symbol "COWN" when the transactions are completed. Cowen and Company, LLC will continue as the principal broker-dealer subsidiary of the new company.

When the transactions are completed, Cowen stockholders will receive one share of Class A common stock of the new company for each share of Cowen common stock held immediately prior to the completion of the transactions. Ramius will receive 37,536,826 shares of Class A common stock of the new company in exchange for transferring substantially all of the assets and liabilities of Ramius to the new company. In addition, HVB Alternative Advisors LLC, an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius, or its designee (which we refer to collectively with HVB Alternative Advisors as HVB) will receive 2,713,882 shares of Class A common stock of the new company, and approximately \$10.4 million in cash or in the form of a note, in exchange for transferring to a subsidiary of the new company the 50% of the interest in Ramius's fund of funds business not already owned by Ramius. At completion of the transactions, on a fully diluted basis, former Cowen stockholders will collectively hold approximately 28.76% (including shares to be issued in conjunction with the transactions), Ramius will hold approximately 66.44% and HVB will hold approximately 4.80% of the outstanding shares of Class A common stock of the new company, and the new company will be a majority-owned subsidiary of Ramius.

The market value of the shares provided to Ramius and to HVB will fluctuate with the market price of Cowen common stock. The following table shows the closing sale price of Cowen common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on June 3, 2009, the last trading day before public announcement of the transactions, and on September 29, 2009, the last practicable trading day before the distribution of this document. This table also shows the implied value of the shares proposed to be provided to Ramius and to HVB, which was calculated by multiplying the closing price of Cowen common stock on those dates by 40,250,708, the total number of shares to be provided to Ramius and HVB.

	Cowen Common Stock	Implied Value of Shares Provided to Ramius and HVB
At June 3, 2009	\$4.84	\$194,813,426.72
At September 29, 2009	\$7.50	\$301,880,310.00

Cowen will hold a special meeting of stockholders at 1221 Avenue of the Americas (2nd Floor Conference Room), New York, New York on October 30, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. local time, to consider and vote on this proposal and other related proposals. Approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and the transactions it contemplates requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Cowen common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting, please take the time to submit a proxy by following the instructions on your proxy card.

The Cowen Board of Directors unanimously recommends that Cowen stockholders vote "FOR" the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and the transactions it contemplates.

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Cowen Group, Inc. will hold a special meeting of stockholders at 1221 Avenue of the Americas (2nd Floor Conference Room), New York, New York at 10:00 a.m., local time, on October 30, 2009, to consider and vote on the following matters:

a proposal to approve and adopt the Transaction Agreement and Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of June 3, 2009 (which we refer to as the transaction agreement), by and among Cowen, LexingtonPark Parent Corp. (which we refer to as New Parent), Lexington Merger Corp., Park Exchange LLC and Ramius LLC, and approve the issuance of 37,536,826 shares of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius as contemplated by the transaction agreement;

a proposal to approve an amendment to the Cowen Group, Inc. 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan (which we refer to as the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan); and

a proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies, if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the foregoing proposals.

The Cowen Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on September 24, 2009 as the record date for the special meeting. Only Cowen stockholders of record at that time are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting. Approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and approval of the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Cowen common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting. Approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares of Cowen common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and voting affirmatively or negatively on the proposal. Approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan is not a condition to closing of the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement. In addition, if approved, the amendment will only become effective if and when the transactions are completed.

Regardless of whether you plan to attend the special meeting, please submit your proxy with voting instructions. Please vote as soon as possible by accessing the internet site listed on the Cowen proxy card, by calling the toll-free number listed on the Cowen proxy card or by submitting your proxy card by mail. If you hold your stock in "street name" through a bank or broker, you must direct your bank or broker to vote in accordance with the instruction form included with these materials and forwarded to you by your bank or broker. Voting by one of the foregoing methods will not prevent you from voting in person, but it will help to secure a quorum and avoid added solicitation costs. Any holder of Cowen common stock who is present at the special meeting may vote in person instead of by proxy, thereby canceling any previous proxy. In any event, a proxy may be revoked in writing at any time before the special meeting in the manner described in the accompanying document.

The Cowen Board of Directors, by unanimous vote at a meeting duly called, approved and adopted the transaction agreement and approved the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius and has approved the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan and unanimously recommends that Cowen stockholders vote "FOR" the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and to approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius, "FOR" the proposal to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan and "FOR" the proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies.

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Please do not send any stock certificates to Cowen.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

J. Kevin McCarthy
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

[], 2009

**YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. PLEASE VOTE YOUR SHARES PROMPTLY, REGARDLESS
OF WHETHER YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL MEETING.**

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REFERENCES TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This document incorporates by reference important business and financial information about Cowen from documents that are not included in or delivered with this document. You can obtain documents incorporated by reference in this document, other than specific exhibits to those documents, by requesting them in writing or by telephone at the following address:

Cowen Group, Inc.
1221 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020
Attention: J. Kevin McCarthy, General
Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Telephone: (646) 562-1000

You will not be charged for any of these documents that you request. Cowen stockholders requesting documents should do so by October 23, 2009 to receive them before the special meeting.

For more information, see the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference into this document. No one has been authorized to provide you with information that is different from that contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this document. This document is dated [], 2009, and you should assume that the information in this document is accurate only as of such date. You should assume that the information incorporated by reference into this document is accurate as of the date of such information. Neither the mailing of this document to Cowen stockholders nor the issuance by the new company of common shares in connection with the transactions will create any implication to the contrary.

Information on the websites of Cowen and Ramius or any of their respective subsidiaries is not part of this document. You should not rely on that information in deciding how to vote.

This document does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any securities, or the solicitation of a proxy in any jurisdiction to or from any person to whom it is unlawful to make any such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. Information contained in this document regarding Cowen has been provided by Cowen, and information contained in this document regarding Ramius and its affiliates has been provided by Ramius and its affiliates.

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APPENDICES

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<u>APPENDIX B</u>	<u>Asset Exchange Agreement, dated as of June 3, 2009, by and among Ramius LLC, HVB Alternative Advisors LLC, Bayerische Hypo- und Vereinsbank AG, Cowen Group, Inc., LexingtonPark Parent Corp. and Lexington Merger Corp., as amended by the First Amendment to Asset Exchange Agreement, dated as of July 9, 2009</u>	B-1
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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT VOTING PROCEDURES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING

The following are some questions that you, as a stockholder of Cowen Group, Inc., may have regarding the stockholders' meeting and the answers to those questions. Cowen urges you to read the remainder of this document carefully because the information in this section does not provide all the information that might be important to you in determining how to vote. Additional important information is also contained in the appendices to, and the documents incorporated by reference into, this document.

Q: Why am I receiving this document?

A: You are receiving this document because you were a stockholder of record of Cowen on the record date for the Cowen special meeting. The Cowen Board of Directors has unanimously approved a Transaction Agreement and Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of June 3, 2009 (which we refer to as the transaction agreement) for Cowen and Ramius LLC to combine into a new holding company (which we refer to as New Parent). The transaction agreement has been approved by Ramius's managing member and by members of Ramius who hold in the aggregate more than a majority of the percentage interests of Ramius and accordingly no other vote or further company action by Ramius is required to approve the transaction agreement or authorize the transactions. The terms of the transaction agreement are described in this document, and a copy of the transaction agreement is attached to this document as Appendix A. To complete the transactions, Cowen stockholders must vote to approve the following proposal:

to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of Class A common stock of New Parent to Ramius as contemplated by the transaction agreement.

Cowen stockholders will also consider and vote on a proposal to approve an amendment to the Cowen Group, Inc. 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan (which we refer to as the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan) and a proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies, if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the foregoing proposals. Approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan is not a condition to closing of the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement. In addition, if approved, the amendment will only become effective if and when the transactions are completed.

This document contains important information about the transactions and the Cowen special meeting of stockholders, and you should read it carefully. The enclosed proxy card and instructions allow you to vote your shares without attending the special meeting in person.

Your vote is important. You are encouraged to vote as soon as possible.

The Cowen Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius, to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan and to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies.

Q: What do I need to do now?

A: After carefully reading this document and deciding how you want to vote your shares, please vote your shares. If you are a stockholder of record of Cowen as of the record date for the Cowen special meeting, you may vote in person by attending the special meeting or, to ensure your shares are represented at the meeting, you may vote by:

accessing the internet site listed on the proxy card;

calling the toll-free number listed on the proxy card; or

signing and returning the enclosed proxy card by mail.

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If you hold your shares in street name, you can vote your shares in the manner prescribed by your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee. Your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee has enclosed or otherwise provided a voting instruction card for you to use in directing such broker, bank, trust company or other nominee how to vote your shares. Without instructions from you, your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee cannot vote your shares, which will have the effect described below.

If you would like to attend the special meeting, see "Can I attend the special meeting and vote my shares in person?" below.

Q: What is the difference between a stockholder of record and a "street name" holder?

A: If your shares are registered directly in your name, you are considered the stockholder of record with respect to those shares. If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account or by a bank, trust company or other nominee, then the broker, bank, trust company or other nominee is considered to be the stockholder of record with respect to those shares, while you are considered the beneficial owner of those shares. In the latter case, your shares are said to be held in "street name."

Q: Can I attend the special meeting and vote my shares in person?

A: Yes. If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote your shares in person at the meeting by completing a ballot at the meeting. Even if you currently plan to attend the meeting, it is recommended that you also submit your proxy as described above, so your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the meeting. If you submit your vote by proxy and later decide to vote in person at the meeting, the vote you submit at the meeting will override your proxy vote. If you are a street name holder, you may vote your shares in person at the meeting only if you obtain and bring to the meeting a signed letter or other form of proxy from your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee giving you the right to vote the shares at the meeting.

Q: How can I attend the meeting?

A: All of Cowen's stockholders are invited to attend the special meeting. You may be asked to present valid photo identification, such as a driver's license or passport, before being admitted to the meeting. If you hold your shares in street name, you also may be asked to present proof of ownership to be admitted to the meeting. A brokerage statement or letter from your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee proving ownership of the shares on September 24, 2009, the record date, are examples of proof of ownership.

To help Cowen plan for the meeting, please indicate whether you expect to attend by responding affirmatively when prompted during internet or telephone voting or by marking the attendance box on the proxy card.

Q: Which stockholders are entitled to vote at the meeting?

A: The Cowen Board of Directors has set September 24, 2009 as the record date for the special meeting. If you were a stockholder of record at the close of business on September 24, 2009, you are entitled to vote at the meeting. As of the record date, 15,043,922 shares of common stock, representing all of Cowen's voting stock, were issued and outstanding and, therefore, eligible to vote at the meeting.

Q: What are my voting rights?

A: Holders of Cowen common stock are entitled to one vote per share. Therefore, a total of 15,043,922 votes are entitled to be cast at the meeting.

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Q: How many shares must be present to hold the meeting?

A: In accordance with Cowen's by-laws, shares equal to a majority of Cowen's capital stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote as of the record date must be present at the special meeting to hold the meeting and conduct business. This is called a quorum. Shares are counted as present at the meeting if:

you are present and vote in person at the meeting; or

you have properly and timely submitted your proxy as described above under "What do I need to do now?"

Q: What does it mean if I receive more than one set of proxy materials?

A: If you receive more than one set of proxy materials or multiple control numbers for use in submitting your proxy, it means that you hold shares registered in more than one account. To ensure that all of your shares are voted, sign and return each proxy card or voting instruction card you receive or, if you submit your proxy by internet or telephone, vote once for each card or control number you receive.

Q: Why is my vote as a Cowen stockholder important? What happens if I don't vote or abstain from voting?

A. If you do not vote, it will be more difficult for Cowen to obtain the necessary quorum to hold the special meeting and it will have the same effect as if you had voted against the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius. The proposals which are being submitted to you for consideration at the special meeting require the following votes in order to be approved:

approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and approval of the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius requires the affirmative vote of the majority of the outstanding shares of Cowen common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting;

approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares of Cowen common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and voting affirmatively or negatively on the proposal; and

approval of any necessary adjournment of the special meeting requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares of Cowen common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and voting affirmatively or negatively on the proposal, even if less than a quorum.

You may vote "FOR," "AGAINST" or "ABSTAIN" on each of the proposals. If you choose to abstain from voting on any proposal, your abstention will be counted for purposes of determining a quorum. However, if you are the stockholder of record, and you fail to vote by proxy or by ballot at the special meeting, or if you hold your shares in street name and do not submit voting instructions to your broker, and your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee also does not vote your shares (we refer to this as a broker non-vote), your shares will not be counted as present at the special meeting for purposes of determining a quorum. Abstentions, failures to submit a proxy card or vote in person and broker non-votes will be treated in the following manner with respect to determining the votes received for each of the proposals:

an abstention, failure to submit a proxy card or vote in person or broker non-vote will be treated as a vote against the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and to approve the issuance the issuance of New Parent Class A

common stock to Ramius;

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an abstention, failure to submit a proxy card or vote in person or broker non-vote will not count as a vote for or against the proposal to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan; and

an abstention, failure to submit a proxy card or vote in person or broker non-vote will not count as a vote for or against the proposal to approve the any adjournment of the special meeting.

Q: What will happen if I return my proxy card without indicating how to vote?

A: If you are a stockholder of record and you submit your proxy by internet, telephone or mail but do not specify how you want to vote your shares on a particular proposal, Cowen will vote your shares:

FOR the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius as contemplated by the transaction agreement;

FOR the proposal to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan; and

FOR the proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies, if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the foregoing proposals.

If you are a street name holder and fail to instruct the broker, bank, trust company or other nominee that is the stockholder of record how you want to vote your shares on a particular proposal, those shares are considered to be "uninstructed." Under the rules applicable to broker-dealers, stockholders of record have the discretion to vote uninstructed shares on specified routine matters. However, stockholders of record do not have the authority to vote uninstructed shares on non-routine matters, such as those being considered at the special meeting, and therefore, if you do not provide instructions as to how you want your shares voted, these shares will be considered broker non-votes and will be treated as described in the section titled "Why is my vote as a Cowen stockholder important?" above.

Q: Can I change or revoke my vote?

A: Yes. If you are a stockholder of record, you may revoke your proxy and change your vote at any time before your proxy is voted at the special meeting, in any of the following ways:

by submitting a later-dated proxy by internet or telephone before the deadline stated on the enclosed proxy card;

by submitting a later-dated proxy card to the Corporate Secretary of Cowen, which must be received by Cowen before the time of the special meeting;

by sending a written notice of revocation to the Corporate Secretary of Cowen, which must be received by Cowen before the time of the special meeting; or

by voting in person at the special meeting.

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If you are a street name holder, please refer to the voting instructions provided to you by your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee.

Any Cowen common stockholder entitled to vote in person at the special meeting may vote in person regardless of whether a proxy has been previously given, but simply attending the special meeting will not constitute revocation of a previously given proxy.

Q:

Who pays for the cost of proxy preparation and solicitation?

A:

In accordance with the terms of the transaction agreement, Cowen will bear the entire cost of proxy solicitation for the Cowen special meeting, except that Cowen and Ramius will share equally all expenses incurred in connection with the filing of the registration statement of which this

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document forms a part with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the printing and mailing of this document. If necessary, Cowen may use several of its regular employees, who will not be specially compensated, to solicit proxies from Cowen stockholders either personally or by telephone, facsimile, letter or other electronic means. Cowen will also request that banks, brokers and other record holders forward proxies and proxy materials to the beneficial owners of Cowen common stock and secure their voting instructions and will provide customary reimbursement to such firms for the cost of forwarding these materials.

Q: Will Cowen be required to submit the transaction agreement to its stockholders even if the Cowen Board of Directors has withdrawn, modified or qualified its recommendation?

A: *Yes.* Cowen is required to submit the transaction agreement to its stockholders even if the Cowen Board of Directors has withdrawn, modified or qualified its recommendation, consistent with the terms of the transaction agreement.

Q: Do I have dissenters' appraisal rights?

A: *No.* Under Delaware law, holders of Cowen common stock are not entitled to dissenters' appraisal rights in connection with these transactions.

Q: Is the transaction expected to be taxable to holders of Cowen common stock?

A: *Generally, no.* The Cowen merger is intended to qualify as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and holders of Cowen common stock are not expected to recognize any gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes on the exchange of shares of Cowen common stock for shares of New Parent Class A common stock in the Cowen merger. You should read the section titled "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Cowen Merger" beginning on page 115 for a more complete discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the transaction. Tax matters can be complicated, and the tax consequences of the transaction to you will depend on your particular tax situation. **You should consult your tax advisor to determine the tax consequences of the transactions to you.**

Q: If I am a stockholder with shares represented by stock certificates, should I send in my stock certificates now?

A: *No.* You do not need to send in your Cowen common stock certificates at this time, or at any other time in connection with this business combination transaction. Cowen stockholders do not need to send in or exchange their Cowen common stock certificates for New Parent Class A common stock certificates, because if the transactions are approved, Cowen common stock will automatically convert into New Parent Class A common stock, and any Cowen common stock certificates you may hold will automatically be deemed to represent shares of New Parent Class A common stock. Please do not send in your stock certificates with your proxy card.

Q: When do you expect to complete the transactions?

A: The transactions are subject to Cowen stockholder approval, regulatory approvals that are described below in the section titled "Proposal 1: The Transactions Regulatory Approvals Required for the Transactions" beginning on page 86 and other customary closing conditions that are described below in the section titled "The Transaction Agreement Conditions to Complete the Transactions" beginning on page 103. Assuming these conditions are met, the transactions are expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2009. However, there can be no assurances as to when or if the transactions will close.

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Q: Whom should I call with questions?

A: Cowen stockholders who have questions about the transactions or the other matters to be voted on at the stockholder meeting or desire additional copies of this document or additional proxy cards should contact:

Innisfree M&A Incorporated
501 Madison Avenue, 20th Floor
New York, New York 10022
Stockholders may call toll-free: (888) 750-5835
Banks and brokers may call collect: (212) 750-5833

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SUMMARY

This summary highlights material information from this document. It may not contain all of the information that is important to you. You are urged to carefully read the entire document and the other documents to that are referred to in this document in order to fully understand the transaction agreement and the related transactions. See the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195. Each item in this summary refers to the page of this document on which that subject is discussed in more detail.

The Companies

Cowen Group, Inc. (See page 48)

Cowen is an established provider of investment banking, equity research, sales and trading and alternative asset management services to companies and institutional investor clients. The company is a sector expert in secular growth industries, including the healthcare, technology, consumer, telecommunications, alternative energy and aerospace and defense sectors. As of June 30, 2009, Cowen had total consolidated assets of approximately \$186 million and total Cowen Group, Inc. stockholders' equity of approximately \$138 million. The principal executive offices of Cowen are located at 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020, and its telephone number is (646) 562-1000.

Additional information about Cowen and its subsidiaries is included in documents incorporated by reference in this document. See the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195.

Ramius LLC (See page 48)

Ramius is an alternative investment management firm founded in 1994 with over \$7 billion of assets under management as of July 1, 2009. Ramius, through one of its subsidiaries, has been a registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act since 1997 and operates through its offices in New York, London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Munich and Luxembourg. Ramius's investment services and products include hedge funds, fund of funds, real estate and cash management. Its institutional investors include pension funds, insurance companies, banks, foundations and endowments, wealth management organizations and family offices. The principal executive offices of Ramius are located at 599 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022, and its telephone number is (212) 845-7900.

Ramius's hedge fund and fund of funds platforms have historically sought to deliver consistent, risk-adjusted returns throughout a market cycle. In these platforms, Ramius seeks positive performance with minimal correlation to directional market indices.

Ramius believes that the following attributes are central to its business model and position it to capitalize on the opportunities Ramius believes should arise from changing industry conditions:

Ramius is a well established alternative investment manager with experienced senior leadership. Once investors return to allocating capital to alternative investments, Ramius believes that they will likely gravitate toward more experienced managers with lengthy track records and a history of producing absolute returns.

Ramius has a diversified alternative investment platform. Ramius offers investment expertise across strategies and platforms that allows it to cross-sell products. In Ramius's experience, larger institutions often favor consolidation of their manager relationships, preferring to deal with providers that can offer more than one investment product. Moreover, Ramius can offer customized solutions to fund of funds clients due to Ramius's in-house trading expertise.

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Ramius has a strong institutional infrastructure. Ramius has the operational capability to address, in a client-specific way, increasing investor needs for transparency, liquidity and customization.

Ramius's own capital has given the firm stability. Ramius's own capital allows the firm to think and invest for the long term, and also enables Ramius to attract investment talent from within the industry due to its stability and culture.

As part of the transactions, all of Ramius's assets (including its subsidiaries) will be transferred to Park Exchange LLC, a subsidiary of the newly formed holding company, with the exception of (i) \$500,000 in cash which it is retaining in order to pay ongoing administrative expenses, such as audit fees, and (ii) any recovery in excess of \$7.0 million from a pending arbitration Ramius had initiated against a securities underwriter. At the closing of the transactions, Park Exchange LLC will change its name to "Ramius LLC," and Ramius LLC will change its name to "RCG LLC" or another name that does not contain the word "Ramius." Immediately following the closing of the transactions, Park Exchange LLC will transfer to New Parent a portion of the investments previously held by Ramius. The transaction agreement has been approved by Ramius's managing member and by members of Ramius who hold in the aggregate more than a majority of the percentage interests of Ramius and accordingly no other vote or further company action by Ramius is required to approve the transaction agreement or authorize the transactions.

New Parent (See page 50)

LexingtonPark Parent Corp. (which we refer to as New Parent), a Delaware corporation, was jointly formed on June 1, 2009 in connection with the transactions and is owned by Cowen and Ramius. When the transactions are completed, New Parent will become the holding company of both Cowen and Park Exchange LLC, which will hold substantially all of the assets of Ramius and will have assumed substantially all of Ramius's liabilities. At that time, New Parent will change its name to "Cowen Group, Inc." The principal executive offices of New Parent are currently located at Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801, and its telephone number is (646) 562-1000. After completion of the transactions, the principal executive offices of New Parent will be in New York, New York.

Cowen stockholders, Ramius and HVB Alternative Advisors LLC, an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius, or its designee (which we refer to collectively with HVB Alternative Advisors as HVB) will receive New Parent Class A common stock in connection with the transactions and will become New Parent stockholders. Their rights as stockholders will be governed by the post-closing certificate of incorporation and by-laws of New Parent and the laws of Delaware. The certificate of incorporation and by-laws that will govern New Parent after the transactions are completed will be substantially as set forth in Appendix D and Appendix E to this document, respectively. For information on how these documents differ from the current certificate of incorporation and by-laws governing Cowen, see the section titled "Comparison of Stockholders' Rights" beginning on page 136.

New Parent has not, to date, conducted any material activities other than those incidental to its formation and the matters contemplated by the transaction agreement, including the formation of each of Lexington Merger Corp. and Park Exchange LLC as wholly owned subsidiaries, and the preparation of this document and the registration statement of which it forms a part. New Parent does not intend to directly undertake any operating activities other than the management of its operating subsidiaries, which will be primarily engaged in financial services activities. After the closing of the transactions, the Ramius subsidiary is intended to undertake the primary alternative investment management activities of the combined company, and the Cowen subsidiary is intended to undertake the primary sales and trading and investment banking operations of the combined company. A common infrastructure is intended to support both subsidiaries. In connection with the management of its operating subsidiaries, New Parent will employ senior management personnel. Additionally, New Parent may hold its own

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investments and immediately following the consummation of the transactions will hold certain of the limited partnership interests of Ramius Enterprise LP previously held by Ramius.

Merger Sub (See page 51)

Lexington Merger Corp. (which we refer to as Merger Sub) is a Delaware corporation formed on June 1, 2009 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent. Merger Sub was formed solely for the purpose of completing the Cowen merger and the fund of funds asset exchange in connection with the transactions. At the completion of the transactions, Merger Sub will merge with and into Cowen and Merger Sub will not survive the merger. The principal executive offices of Merger Sub are located at Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.

Merger Sub has not, to date, conducted any material activities other than those incidental to its formation and the matters contemplated by the transaction agreement and the asset exchange agreement (described below), and the preparation of this document and the registration statement of which it forms a part.

Exchange Sub (See page 51)

Park Exchange LLC (which we refer to as Exchange Sub) is a Delaware limited liability company formed on June 1, 2009 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent. At completion of the transactions, Exchange Sub will hold substantially all of the assets of Ramius and will have assumed substantially all of Ramius's liabilities. After completion of the transactions, Exchange Sub will change its name to "Ramius LLC." The principal executive offices of Exchange Sub are located at Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.

Exchange Sub has not, to date, conducted any material activities other than those incidental to its formation and the matters contemplated by the transaction agreement, and the preparation of this document and the registration statement of which it forms a part.

Risk Factors

In addition to other information included and incorporated by reference into this document, you should carefully read and consider the risks related to completion of the transactions, to the combined company following the transactions and the risks associated with each of the businesses of Cowen and Ramius, before deciding whether to vote for the proposals presented in this document. Some of the most important risks are summarized below.

Risks Related to Completion of the Transactions (See page 23)

The transactions are subject to conditions, including certain conditions that may not be satisfied, and may not be completed on a timely basis, or at all. Failure to complete the transactions could have a material adverse effect on Cowen.

Some of Cowen's current directors and executive officers have interests in the transactions that may differ from the interests of other stockholders, and these persons may have conflicts of interest in supporting or recommending that you approve the proposals set forth in this document.

The opinion obtained by Cowen from its financial advisor will not reflect changes in circumstances between the signing of the transaction agreement and the completion of the transactions.

Because the date that the transactions will be completed will be later than the date of the stockholder meeting, at the time of the stockholder meeting you will not know the market value of the Cowen common stock that Ramius and HVB will receive when the transactions are completed.

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Risks Related to the Combined Company Following the Transactions (see page 25)

The combined company is expected to incur substantial expenses related to the integration of Cowen and Ramius.

Although Cowen and Ramius expect that Cowen's combination with Ramius will result in benefits to Cowen, Cowen and Ramius may not realize those benefits because of integration difficulties and other challenges.

Current Cowen stockholders will have a reduced ownership and voting interest after the transactions and will exercise less influence over management.

New Parent will be a "controlled company" within the meaning of the NASDAQ rules and, as a result, may qualify for, and rely on, exemptions from certain corporate governance standards, which may limit the presence of independent directors on the board of directors or board committees of New Parent.

The market price of New Parent's common stock after the transactions will be affected by factors different from those currently affecting the market price of Cowen's common stock.

The unaudited pro forma financial data and internal earnings estimates for both Cowen and Ramius included in this document are preliminary, and the combined company's actual financial position and operations after the transactions may differ materially from the unaudited pro forma financial data included in this document.

BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. and its designee on New Parent's board of directors and Ramius may have interests that conflict with your interests.

Risks Related to Ramius's Business (See page 31)

Difficult market conditions, market disruptions and volatility have adversely affected and may in the future continue to adversely affect Ramius's business, results of operations and financial condition.

Investors in the Ramius funds and investors with managed accounts can generally redeem investments with prior notice. The rate of redemptions has recently accelerated and could continue to further accelerate. Redemptions have, and may continue to, create difficulties in managing the liquidity of the Ramius funds and managed accounts, reduce assets under management and adversely affect Ramius's revenues.

Ramius may suffer losses in connection with the insolvency of prime brokers, custodians, administrators and other agents whose services Ramius uses and who may hold assets of Ramius funds.

Certain of the Ramius funds may invest in relatively high-risk, illiquid assets, and Ramius may fail to realize any profits from these activities for a considerable period of time or lose some or all of the principal amounts of these investments.

Risk management activities may materially adversely affect the return on the Ramius funds' investments if such activities do not effectively limit a fund's exposure to decreases in investment values or if such exposure is overestimated.

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Ramius and its funds may become subject to additional regulations which could increase the costs and burdens of compliance or impose additional restrictions which could have a material adverse effect on Ramius's business and the performance of the Ramius funds.

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Reasons for Transactions

Cowen's Reasons for the Transactions (See page 70)

In reaching its conclusion to approve the transactions and to recommend that Cowen stockholders approve the transaction agreement and issuance of shares of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius, the Cowen Board of Directors considered a number of positive, negative and other factors, including, among others:

its view that the transactions bring together businesses with complementary operations and capabilities and the expected diverse revenues streams of the combined company;

its view that the combined company will have increased financial scale through an increased capital base to provide greater financial stability and public market capitalization, which will increase stockholder value, enhance value to its customers and maximize cost efficiencies;

the expected cost synergies and savings opportunities resulting from the transactions;

the current and historical financial condition, results of operations, prospects, earnings generation ability and risks of each of Ramius, Cowen and the combined company;

the expertise and relationships of the Ramius management team; and

the transaction consideration and the fact that Cowen stockholders will own approximately 28.76% of the combined company on a fully diluted basis after completion of the transactions.

Ramius's Reasons for the Transaction (See page 84)

Ramius's managing member consulted with Ramius's legal and financial advisors and determined that the transactions are in the best interests of Ramius and its members. In reaching its conclusion to approve the transaction agreement, Ramius's managing member considered the following:

its view that Cowen is an established investment bank with a long history and strong culture and the transactions provide Ramius with an opportunity to build a financial services firm with asset management, investment banking, research and brokerage capabilities;

the fact that the transactions would provide the combined company with an expanded and permanent capital base;

the fact that the combined company is expected to have more diverse revenue streams;

its view that, as part of a public company, the combined company will be better able to attract and retain talent; and

the fact that following the completion of the transactions, members of Ramius should have improved liquidity as a result of the combined company being a public company.

The Transactions and the Transaction Agreement

A copy of the Transaction Agreement and Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of June 3, 2009 (which we refer to as the transaction agreement), by and among Cowen, New Parent, Merger Sub, Exchange Sub and Ramius is attached as Appendix A to this document. You are encouraged to read the entire transaction agreement carefully because it is the principal document governing the transactions.

Structure of the Transactions (See page 91)

Cowen and Ramius have jointly formed and own New Parent. New Parent, in turn, has organized two wholly owned subsidiaries, Merger Sub and Exchange Sub. Subject to the terms and conditions of the transaction agreement, at the completion of the transactions, Merger Sub will merge with and into Cowen (which we refer to as the Cowen merger), with Cowen surviving the merger. In addition,

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Exchange Sub will assume substantially all of Ramius's liabilities, with the exception of certain liabilities related to Ramius's Employee Ownership Program, liabilities relating to the portion of awards outstanding under the Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC Participation Program representing a right to receive percentage interests in Ramius and a \$500,000 secured revolving credit facility that may be made available to Ramius by HVB at closing, and Ramius will transfer to Exchange Sub all of Ramius's assets with the exception of (i) \$500,000 in cash which it is retaining in order to pay ongoing administrative expenses, such as audit fees, and (ii) any recovery in excess of \$7.0 million from a pending arbitration Ramius had initiated against a securities underwriter. Cowen will become a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent, and Exchange Sub will remain a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent. New Parent will then change its name to "Cowen Group, Inc.," and Exchange Sub will change its name to "Ramius LLC."

The diagram below shows the structure of New Parent following completion of the transactions (all percentages in this document relating to the ownership of New Parent following the consummation of the transactions are based on the number of shares of Cowen common stock outstanding on June 3, 2009, the date of the transaction agreement):

The common stock of former Cowen will be deregistered after completion of the transactions.

- (1) Including BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.
- (2) Approximately 8.5 million shares of New Parent common stock held by Ramius will be attributable to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.

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Consideration to Be Received in the Transactions (See page 91)

At the completion of the transactions, Exchange Sub will assume substantially all of the liabilities of Ramius and New Parent will issue 37,536,826 shares of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius in exchange for Ramius transferring substantially all of its assets to Exchange Sub. At the same time, each share of Cowen common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the completion of the transactions will automatically be converted into the right to receive one share of New Parent Class A common stock. As of the date of the transaction agreement, 15,134,637 shares of Cowen common stock were outstanding (including freely tradable shares, restricted shares and shares underlying restricted stock units), and thus, subject to changes in the number of shares of Cowen common stock outstanding, it is expected that approximately 15,134,637 shares of New Parent Class A common stock will be issued to current Cowen stockholders in connection with the transactions. Certificates representing outstanding Cowen common stock and any uncertificated shares held in book entry form will automatically be deemed to represent the equivalent number of shares of New Parent Class A common stock when the transactions are completed.

Pursuant to the Asset Exchange Agreement, dated as of June 3, 2009 (which we refer to as the asset exchange agreement), by and among Ramius, HVB, Bayerische Hypo- und Vereinsbank AG (an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. (a third party investor in Ramius), which we refer to as HVB AG), Cowen, New Parent and Merger Sub, as amended by the First Amendment to Asset Exchange Agreement, dated as of July 9, 2009, HVB will receive 2,713,882 shares of Class A common stock of New Parent, and approximately \$10.4 million in cash or in the form of a promissory note in exchange for transferring to Merger Sub the remaining 50% of the interest in Ramius's fund of funds business not already owned by Ramius. The asset exchange agreement is summarized below and more fully described in the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Asset Exchange Agreement" beginning on page 106.

Treatment of Cowen Equity-Based Awards (See page 92)

The transaction agreement specifies how equity compensation awards issued by Cowen prior to the completion of the transactions will be treated in the transactions. When the transactions are completed, except where an individual's employment agreement specifies a different treatment, outstanding equity compensation awards of Cowen will be treated as follows:

each outstanding option issued by Cowen to purchase Cowen common stock under a Cowen stock plan will vest in full and be automatically converted into an option to purchase the equivalent number of shares of New Parent Class A common stock, at an exercise price per share equal to the exercise price per share of the option immediately prior to the completion of the transactions;

each outstanding restricted share of Cowen common stock will vest in full and automatically be converted into the right to receive one share of New Parent Class A common stock; and

each outstanding restricted share unit of Cowen will vest in full and be automatically converted into a restricted share unit with respect to the number of shares of New Parent Class A common stock equal to shares of Cowen common stock subject to the Cowen restricted stock unit immediately prior to the closing of the transactions.

When the transactions are complete, New Parent will assume the rights and obligations of Cowen under the Cowen stock plans with respect to the assumed stock options and assumed restricted stock units.

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Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Cowen Merger (See page 115)

The Cowen merger is intended to qualify as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and holders of Cowen common stock are not expected to recognize any gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes on the exchange of shares of Cowen common stock for shares of New Parent Class A common stock in the Cowen merger. Tax matters can be complicated, and the tax consequences of the transaction to you will depend on your particular tax situation. **You should consult your tax advisor to determine the tax consequences of the transactions to you.**

Opinion of Cowen's Financial Advisor (See page 73)

Sandler O'Neill + Partners, L.P. delivered its opinion to the Cowen Board of Directors that, as of the date of the written fairness opinion, and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth therein, that the transaction consideration to be paid to Ramius and to HVB pursuant to the transactions was fair from a financial point of view to Cowen stockholders. The full text of the written opinion of Sandler O'Neill, dated June 4, 2009, which sets forth assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken in connection with the opinion, is attached as Appendix F to this document. Sandler O'Neill provided its opinion for the benefit and use of the Cowen Board of Directors in connection with its consideration of the transactions. The Sandler O'Neill opinion addresses only the fairness to Cowen stockholders of the payment of the transaction consideration to Ramius and to HVB and is not a recommendation as to how any holder of shares of Cowen common stock should vote with respect to the transactions or any other matter.

Interests of Certain Persons in the Transactions (See page 87)

Cowen's executive officers and directors have financial interests in the transactions that are different from, or in addition to, their interests as Cowen stockholders. The independent members of Cowen's Board of Directors were aware of and considered these interests, among other matters, in evaluating and negotiating the transaction agreement and the transactions, and in recommending to the stockholders that the transaction agreement be approved and adopted.

Cowen's executive officers, including each of its named executive officers, are either parties to employment agreements that provide severance and other benefits in the case of qualifying terminations of employment, or, following the transactions, may be eligible to receive severance benefits upon termination of employment no less favorable than the terms established in a severance schedule agreed to in connection with the transactions. In addition, stock-based awards (other than those held by Messrs. Malcolm and White, who have waived accelerated vesting of stock-based awards upon completion of the transactions in connection with their entry into new employment agreements with Cowen and New Parent) and deferred cash awards held by Cowen's executive officers will vest upon completion of the transactions. Executive officers and directors of Cowen also have rights to indemnification and directors' and officers' liability insurance that will survive completion of the transactions.

Governance Following Completion of the Transactions (See page 93)

Immediately after the completion of the transactions, the board of directors of New Parent will have ten directors. Four directors will have been appointed by Cowen, and six directors will have been appointed by Ramius. Pursuant to the asset exchange agreement, Ramius has given BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius and an affiliate of HVB, the right to appoint one of its six directors. Six of the ten directors will be independent under NASDAQ rules. Peter A. Cohen will serve as Chairman of the board of directors and Chief Executive Officer of New Parent, and John E. Toffolon, Jr. will serve as Lead Director of the board of directors.

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Efforts of Cowen to Obtain the Required Stockholder Vote (See page 98)

Cowen has agreed to use its reasonable best efforts to hold a meeting of its stockholders as soon as is reasonably practicable for the purpose of Cowen stockholders voting on the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and approval of the issuance of shares of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius and the approval of an amendment to the Cowen Group, Inc. 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan. Cowen will use its reasonable best efforts to obtain such stockholder approval. The transaction agreement requires Cowen to submit the transaction agreement to a stockholder vote even if its Board of Directors no longer recommends approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and the transactions it contemplates.

Regulatory Approvals Required for the Transactions (See page 86)

Cowen and Ramius have each agreed to use reasonable best efforts to obtain all regulatory approvals required to complete the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement. These approvals include approval from or notices to the Securities and Exchange Commission (or the SEC), the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (or FINRA), the Financial Services Administration in the United Kingdom, the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong, the Financial Services Agency of Japan, the Commission of the Surveillance of the Financial Sector in Luxembourg, the NASDAQ, the Commodities Future Trading Commission, the Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission and various other federal, state and foreign regulatory authorities and self-regulatory organizations.

Cowen and Ramius have completed, or will shortly complete, the filing of applications and notifications to obtain the required regulatory approvals. Although Cowen believes that the transactions do not raise substantial regulatory concerns and that Cowen and Ramius can obtain all requisite regulatory approvals on a timely basis, Cowen cannot be certain when or if these approvals will be obtained.

Conditions to Completion of the Transactions (See page 103)

It is expected that the transactions will close in the fourth quarter of 2009. However, as more fully described in this document and in the transaction agreement, whether or when the transactions will be completed depends on a number of conditions being satisfied or, where legally permissible, waived. These conditions include, among others:

the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement by Cowen stockholders;

the approval of the listing of the New Parent Class A common stock on NASDAQ, subject to official notice of issuance;

the termination or expiration of any waiting periods applicable to the transactions and the receipt of all other approvals required under any relevant antitrust or competition laws;

the registration statement with respect to the New Parent Class A common stock having become effective under the Securities Act of 1933 and no stop order or proceedings for that purpose having been initiated or threatened by the SEC;

the absence of any legal prohibition on the completion of the transactions; and

the satisfaction of all other conditions precedent to the completion of the transactions under the asset exchange agreement.

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Separately, Cowen's obligation to complete the transactions is subject to the satisfaction or waiver by Cowen of several conditions including:

the accuracy of the representations and warranties of Ramius in the transaction agreement, subject to the materiality standard set forth in the transaction agreement, and the material performance by Ramius of its obligations under the transaction agreement;

the receipt of a customary tax opinion as to certain U.S. federal income tax consequences of the Cowen merger; and

the receipt and effectiveness of all governmental and other approvals.

Ramius's obligation to complete the transactions is also separately subject to the satisfaction or waiver by Ramius of several conditions including:

the accuracy of the representations and warranties of Cowen in the transaction agreement, subject to the materiality standard set forth in the transaction agreement, and the material performance by Cowen of its obligations under the transaction agreement;

the receipt and effectiveness of all governmental and other approvals;

the execution by New Parent of the registration rights agreement (summarized below and more fully described in the section titled "Other Agreements Relating to the Transactions Registration Rights Agreement" beginning on page 109); and

the receipt of a copy of any certificates of officers of Cowen relied upon by counsel in rendering the tax opinion.

As of the date of this document, Cowen and Ramius have no reason to believe that any of these conditions will not be satisfied, but Cowen and Ramius cannot provide assurances as to when or if all of the conditions will be satisfied or waived.

Restrictions on Solicitation of Third Party Offers (See page 98)

Each of Cowen and Ramius has agreed not to, directly or indirectly, solicit any "Alternative Proposal," as defined in the transaction agreement, or discuss, negotiate or enter into any agreement regarding an "Alternative Transaction," as defined in the transaction agreement. However, prior to Cowen stockholders approving the transaction agreement, the Cowen Board of Directors is permitted to furnish information or participate in discussions with respect to an unsolicited Alternative Proposal if Cowen does the following:

complies with the terms of the non-solicitation covenant contained in the transaction agreement;

enters into a confidentiality agreement with the proponent of the Alternative Proposal that is no more favorable to the proponent than the confidentiality agreement between Cowen and Ramius; and

the Cowen Board of Directors concludes in good faith that the Alternative Proposal is likely to lead to a "Superior Proposal," as defined in the transaction agreement.

Each of Cowen and Ramius must notify the other party promptly if it receives an Alternative Proposal.

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The Cowen Board of Directors will not change its recommendation of the transaction agreement to Cowen's stockholders except under the circumstances described in the transaction agreement. See the section titled "The Transaction Agreement - Agreement Not to Solicit Other Offers" beginning on page 98 for a more complete discussion of the circumstances under which the Cowen Board of Directors may change its recommendation to Cowen's stockholders.

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Employee Matters (See page 100)

Current Cowen and Ramius employee benefit plans will stay in effect after completion of the transactions until new plans of New Parent are put into place. The new plans must treat similarly situated employees on a substantially equivalent basis and cannot discriminate between former Cowen and former Ramius employees. For the first year after the completion of the transactions, former Cowen employees are entitled to receive compensation and benefits substantially comparable in the aggregate to the compensation and benefits to which they were entitled immediately prior to the completion of the transactions. Any Cowen employees terminated without "cause" within one year after the completion of the transactions, and who are not party to an employment or severance agreement otherwise providing for severance payments or benefits, are entitled to severance benefits no less favorable than those agreed to in the transaction agreement, which are substantially identical to those applicable prior to the transactions.

With respect to any new benefit plans in which employees first become eligible to participate after completion of the transactions (and did not participate in prior to the completion of the transactions), New Parent must do the following:

waive all pre-existing conditions, exclusions and waiting periods;

provide credit for any co-payments or deductibles paid prior to the completion of the transactions under a Cowen or Ramius plan against any out-of-pocket requirements under any new plans; and

provide employees with a customary service credit.

Termination of the Transaction Agreement (See page 104)

The parties by mutual consent may agree to terminate the transaction agreement at any time prior to the completion of the transactions.

In addition, the transaction agreement may be terminated by either party in the following circumstances:

if any of the required regulatory approvals are denied or the transactions have been enjoined, prohibited or made illegal by a governmental entity (and the denial or prohibition is final and nonappealable);

if the transactions have not been completed by December 31, 2009, unless the failure to complete the transactions by that date is due to a breach of the transaction agreement by the party seeking to terminate the transaction agreement;

if there is a breach by the other party that would cause the failure of the closing conditions described above, unless the breach is capable of being, and is, cured within thirty days of notice of the breach; or

if the requisite Cowen stockholder approval is not obtained.

In addition, Ramius may terminate the transaction agreement if:

Cowen's Board of Directors fails to recommend the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement by the stockholders or changes its recommendation, or resolves to do either of these things;

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Cowen fails to call a stockholder meeting to vote on the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement; or

Cowen materially breaches its obligations with respect to soliciting, discussing or agreeing to Alternative Proposals.

Expenses and Termination Fees (See pages 102, 105)

Generally, all fees and expenses incurred in connection with the negotiation and completion of the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement will be paid by the party incurring those expenses, subject to the specific exceptions discussed in the transaction agreement. Upon termination of the transaction agreement under qualifying circumstances, Cowen will be required to pay Ramius a termination fee of \$3.5 million and expenses of Ramius up to \$750,000. See the section titled "The Transaction Agreement Termination Fee" beginning on page 105 for a more complete discussion of the circumstances under which Cowen may be required to pay the termination fee and Ramius expenses.

Accounting Treatment (See page 114)

The business combination will be accounted for as an "acquisition" by Ramius of Cowen, as that term is used under generally accepted accounting principles in the U.S., for accounting and financial reporting purposes. In identifying Ramius as the acquiring entity, Cowen and Ramius took into account the relative outstanding share ownership, the composition of the governing body of New Parent and the designation of certain senior management positions. As a result, the historical financial statements of Ramius will become the historical financial statements of New Parent. The assets (including identifiable intangible assets) and liabilities (including executory contracts and other commitments) of Cowen will be recorded at their respective fair values and added to those of Ramius. Any excess of purchase price over the net fair values of Cowen assets and liabilities is recorded as goodwill (excess purchase price). Excess of fair value of Cowen's net assets over the purchase price, if any, will be recorded as a gain to earnings on the date the transactions are completed. The financial statements of New Parent issued after the transactions will reflect such fair values and will not be restated retroactively to reflect the historical financial position or results of operations of Cowen. The results of operations of Cowen will be included in the results of operations of New Parent following the completion of the transactions.

No Dissenters' Appraisal Rights (See page 85)

Appraisal rights are statutory rights that enable stockholders to dissent from an extraordinary transaction, such as a significant business combination, and to demand that the corporation pay the fair value for their shares as determined by a court in a judicial proceeding instead of receiving the consideration offered to stockholders in connection with the extraordinary transaction. Under Delaware law, holders of Cowen common stock are not entitled to dissenters' appraisal rights in connection with the transactions.

Transfer Restrictions on Shares of New Parent Common Stock Held by Ramius (See page 112)

Following the consummation of the transactions, the capital of Ramius's members in Ramius will consist primarily of shares of New Parent Class A common stock. Under Ramius's operating agreement (as it will be amended and restated at the closing of the transactions), the members of Ramius generally will not be entitled to receive any distributions of New Parent Class A common stock or other capital from Ramius, and Ramius's managing member has agreed in Ramius's operating agreement not to make any distributions of New Parent Class A common stock or other capital to these members (except for, in certain circumstances, distributions of any dividends on the shares of New Parent Class A common stock held by Ramius and tax distributions) for specified periods of time, which

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restrictions may be waived by Ramius's managing member in accordance with the terms of Ramius's operating agreement.

It is anticipated that approximately 37,536,826 shares of New Parent Class A common stock, in the aggregate, will be subject to these restrictions to varying degrees, including 9,659,592 shares of New Parent Class A common stock attributable to principals of Ramius (some of whom are also members of Ramius's managing member and some of whom will be officers of New Parent following the closing of the transactions).

Asset Exchange Agreement (See page 106)

Concurrently with the execution of the transaction agreement, Ramius, Cowen, New Parent, Merger Sub, HVB and HVB AG entered into the asset exchange agreement which is attached as Appendix B to this document. The asset exchange agreement provides that Merger Sub will purchase from HVB the 50% interest in the Ramius fund of funds business that HVB owns in exchange for (i) 2,713,882 shares of New Parent Class A common stock, subject to certain adjustments, and (ii) approximately \$10.4 million of additional consideration. We refer to this transaction as the fund of funds asset exchange. The additional consideration will take the form of promissory note or, if New Parent enters into a \$25 million secured revolving credit facility with HVB AG at or immediately prior to the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange, payment of \$10.4 million in cash that New Parent borrows under this secured revolving credit facility. The remaining 50% interest in the Ramius fund of funds business currently owned by Ramius will be transferred to Exchange Sub under the transaction agreement.

Each party's obligation to complete the fund of funds asset exchange is subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the completion of the transactions under the transaction agreement and the absence of any order, injunction, decree or other law preventing or making illegal the completion of the fund of funds asset exchange. HVB's obligation to complete the fund of funds asset exchange is further subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following conditions:

the representations and warranties of Ramius are accurate, subject to the materiality standard in the asset exchange agreement;

each of Ramius, New Parent, Merger Sub and Cowen must have performed and complied with, in all material respects, all of their respective covenants and obligations under the asset exchange agreement;

the New Parent Class A common stock shares issued to HVB must have been authorized for listing on NASDAQ, subject to official notice of issuance; and

if the \$25 million secured revolving credit facility has not been entered into by HVB AG and New Parent, the \$10.4 million promissory note and the related security agreement must have been executed by New Parent and its subsidiaries, as applicable.

The obligations of Ramius, New Parent and Merger Sub to complete the fund of funds asset exchange is further subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following conditions:

the representations and warranties of HVB are accurate, subject to the materiality standard in the asset exchange agreement;

HVB and HVB AG must have performed and complied with, in all material respects, all of their respective covenants and obligations under the asset exchange agreement; and

certain agreements (including the \$10.4 million promissory note and related security agreement, if applicable) between HVB and certain of its affiliates, on the one hand, and Ramius and New

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Parent and certain of their respective affiliates, on the other hand, must be in full force and effect.

So long as HVB and its affiliates beneficially own at least 4.9% of the common stock of New Parent (including shares held by Ramius that are attributable to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.), BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius and affiliate of HVB, will have the right to nominate one director to the board of directors of New Parent and New Parent will include such designee on the slate of nominees proposed by New Parent in connection with any vote to elect the board of directors of New Parent. For so long as a designee of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. serves as a director of New Parent, HVB and its affiliates will only transfer the shares it receives in accordance with New Parent's insider trading policy.

The shares received by HVB are subject to certain transfer restrictions, as described in greater detail in the asset exchange agreement. For a period of six months following the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange, HVB may not transfer its shares except in certain limited circumstances as described in the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Asset Exchange Agreement" beginning on page 106. Following the six-month anniversary of the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange, HVB will be allowed to freely transfer its shares to the extent that HVB, together with its affiliates and permitted transferees, continue to beneficially own 50% of the aggregate number of shares of New Parent common stock that HVB and its affiliates beneficially owned at the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange (including shares held by Ramius that are attributable to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.). The transfer restrictions will terminate following the second anniversary of the closing of the fund of funds asset exchange or after the following:

a material breach by Ramius of certain agreements, which breach is not cured by Ramius;

Ramius fails to vote all of its shares of New Parent Class A common stock in favor of electing the director candidate designated by BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. to the New Parent board of directors;

a change of control of Ramius; or

a change of control of New Parent.

Ramius has agreed to reimburse an affiliate of HVB for up to \$650,000 of its fees and expenses incurred in connection with the fund of funds asset exchange and its evaluation of the related transactions.

Registration Rights Agreement (See page 109)

In connection with the transactions, Ramius, BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., HVB, HVB AG and New Parent have agreed to enter into a registration rights agreement, which will set forth certain rights of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., HVB and HVB AG (whom we refer to collectively as the HVB Parties) and Ramius and its members with respect to their shares of the common stock of New Parent (including, with respect to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., the approximately 8.5 million shares of New Parent Class A common stock held by Ramius that are attributable to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.).

If New Parent is not eligible to use Form S-3 to register shares of its common stock, the HVB Parties can demand that New Parent prepare and file a registration statement on Form S-1 with respect to any shares of New Parent Class A common stock held or acquired by the HVB Parties, Ramius or the members of Ramius or any permitted transferee of an HVB Party and any stock of New Parent issued as a dividend or other distribution with respect to such shares of New Parent Class A common stock (which we refer to collectively as the registrable securities). If the HVB Parties make a demand, New Parent will use its reasonable best efforts to cause the registration statement to be declared effective, provided, that the registration statement will not be required to become effective prior to one

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day after the six-month anniversary of the closing of the transactions. New Parent will also use its reasonable best efforts to qualify and maintain its eligibility to use Form S-3 for secondary sales by the HVB Parties, Ramius and the members of Ramius (including BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.) as soon as practicable following the execution of the registration rights agreement. Once New Parent is eligible to use Form S-3, it will file an automatic registration statement on Form S-3 and use its reasonable best efforts to effect and maintain the registration of all shares of registrable securities on Form S-3 for so long as Ramius or an HVB Party holds registrable securities, subject to certain limitations.

New Parent will also cooperate with the HVB Parties in a distribution of registrable securities in an underwritten offering, subject to customary market cutback restrictions under which the HVB Parties will receive priority over other holders of registrable securities. New Parent will be required to pay all registration expenses incurred in connection with the registration rights agreement, subject to specified exceptions. The HVB Parties may demand a total of six underwritten offerings and may require New Parent to support three such offerings with marketing efforts and "road shows." If New Parent gives notice of a registered public offering of its Class A common stock involving an underwriting for its own account or for the account of the HVB Parties, the holders of registrable securities may participate in the offering, subject to the customary market cutback restrictions and any other applicable transfer restrictions.

Subject to certain limitations, New Parent will be allowed to postpone a filing of a registration statement, and sales of registrable securities will be suspended, if an event has occurred that would cause any registration statement or prospectus to contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit a material fact, or if any such filing would require the disclosure of material non-public information which New Parent has a bona fide business purpose for preserving as confidential and which New Parent would not otherwise be required to disclose.

New Parent must indemnify each holder of registrable securities against certain losses suffered in connection with registrations made pursuant to the registration rights agreement. Each holder whose registrable securities are included in a registration statement agrees to indemnify New Parent and each other holder of registrable securities to the extent that any losses result from information furnished in writing by that holder expressly for use in a registration statement.

Amendment to Investment Agreement with Ramius (See page 110)

In connection with the transactions, Ramius and Alpine Cayman Islands Limited, an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., amended the investment agreement with respect to Alpine Cayman Islands Limited's investment in certain Ramius funds. Alpine Cayman Islands Limited has agreed that until September 30, 2010, it will not withdraw a portion of its investment if as a consequence of such withdrawal, the value of its investment would be less than \$250 million, subject to specified exceptions. Beginning on September 30, 2010 and on each subsequent calendar quarter end date, there is no restriction on withdrawing a portion of the investment equal to at least \$40 million from the Ramius funds plus any additional amounts that are permitted to be withdrawn from such investment on such date as is specified in the amendment to the investment agreement.

Notwithstanding the limitations described above, Alpine Cayman Islands Limited may also reduce its investments if:

following the closing of the transactions, the value of its investment in the Ramius funds and the amount of assets under management in the Ramius funds attributable to third party investors other than Alpine Cayman Islands Limited and its affiliates, fall below certain levels;

a change in control of Ramius occurs;

a change in control of New Parent occurs;

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the Ramius funds are no longer managed by New Parent or one of its subsidiaries; or

certain individuals, or Ramius, directly or indirectly, on behalf of these individuals, dispose of shares of New Parent common stock other than as permitted by certain provisions of Ramius's organizational documents.

In addition, if the Ramius funds in which Alpine Cayman Islands Limited is invested suspend or otherwise restrict withdrawals from the funds, Alpine Cayman Islands Limited would be entitled to withdraw a portion of its investment in such funds on a pro rata basis with third party investors in these funds.

Amendment to Investment Agreement with Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC (See page 111)

In connection with the transactions, Ramius and HVB AG, an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., amended the investment agreement with respect to an investment in certain funds of Ramius Funds of Funds Group LLC. It has been agreed that until September 30, 2010, a portion of this investment may not be withdrawn if after such withdrawal, the value of the investment would be less than \$350 million, subject to specified exceptions. Beginning on September 30, 2010 and on each subsequent calendar quarter end date, there is no restriction on withdrawing a portion of the investment equal to at least \$60 million from the funds of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC plus any additional amounts that are permitted to be withdrawn from such investment on such date as is specified in the amendment to the investment agreement.

Notwithstanding the limitations described above, the investment in the Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC may be reduced if:

following the closing of the transactions, the value of the investment in the funds of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC falls below a certain level;

a change in control of Ramius occurs;

a change in control of New Parent occurs;

the funds of Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC are no longer managed by New Parent or one of its subsidiaries; or

certain individuals, or Ramius, directly or indirectly, on behalf of these individuals, dispose of shares of New Parent common stock other than as permitted by certain provisions of Ramius's organizational documents.

The Cowen Special Meeting (See page 44)

The Cowen special meeting will be held at 1221 Avenue of the Americas (2nd Floor Conference Room), New York, New York, on October 30, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., local time. At the Cowen special meeting, Cowen stockholders will be asked to:

consider and vote to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius as contemplated by the transaction agreement;

consider and vote to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan; and

consider and vote to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies, if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the foregoing proposals.

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The Cowen Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on September 24, 2009 as the record date for the Cowen special meeting. Only Cowen stockholders of record at that time are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Cowen special meeting, or any adjournment or postponement of the Cowen special meeting. As of the record date, 15,043,922 shares of Cowen common stock were

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outstanding and entitled to vote at the Cowen special meeting, held by approximately 1,946 holders of record.

Each share of Cowen common stock outstanding on the record date entitles the holder to one vote on each matter to be voted upon by the stockholders at the special meeting. Each of the proposals has the following vote requirement in order to be approved:

approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and approval of the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Cowen common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting;

approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares of Cowen common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and voting affirmatively or negatively on the proposal; and

approval of any necessary adjournment of the special meeting requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares of Cowen common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and voting affirmatively or negatively on the proposal, even if less than a quorum.

An abstention, failure to submit a proxy card or vote in person or broker non-vote will be treated as follows:

as a vote against the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius;

as neither a vote for or as a vote against the proposal to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan; and

as neither a vote for or as a vote against the proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting.

As of the Cowen record date, directors and executive officers of Cowen and their affiliates had the right to vote 464,653 shares of Cowen common stock, or approximately 3.09% of the outstanding Cowen common stock entitled to vote at the Cowen special meeting. It is expected that each of these individuals will vote their shares of Cowen common stock in favor of the proposals to be presented at the special meeting.

Ramius has entered into a voting agreement with seven employees of Cowen, whereby, subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement, each employee has agreed to vote all of the shares of Cowen common stock he holds in favor of the transaction agreement and the transactions contemplated in the transaction agreement and against any alternative transaction. As of the date of the voting agreement, these employees held in the aggregate 1,086,510 shares of Cowen common stock, or approximately 6.78% of the outstanding Cowen common stock entitled to vote at the Cowen special meeting.

The Cowen Board of Directors believes that the transactions are in the best interests of Cowen and its stockholders and has unanimously approved the transaction agreement and the transactions it contemplates. For the factors considered by the Cowen Board of Directors in reaching its decision to approve the transaction agreement and the transactions it contemplates, see the section titled "Proposal 1: The Transactions Cowen's Reasons for the Transactions; Recommendation of Cowen Board of Directors" beginning on page 70.

The Cowen Board of Directors unanimously recommends that the Cowen stockholders vote "FOR" the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius, "FOR" the proposal to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan and "FOR" the proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies.

Table of Contents**Selected Consolidated Historical Financial Data of Cowen**

The following table presents Cowen's financial data as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2009 and as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004. You should read this information in conjunction with Cowen's consolidated financial statements and related notes included in Cowen's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, as amended by Amendment No. 1 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, dated as of April 28, 2009, and in Cowen's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three and six months ended June 30, 2009, which are incorporated by reference in this document and from which this information is derived. See the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195.

	Six Months Ended		Year Ended December 31,			
	June 30, 2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
(in thousands, except per share data)						
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data:						
Revenues						
Investment banking	\$ 17,075	\$ 50,937	\$ 90,520	\$ 164,342	\$ 126,253	\$ 113,795
Brokerage	70,623	149,901	158,720	159,879	145,700	164,188
Interest and dividend income	291	3,362	8,284	17,766	16,990	9,504
Other	5,529	13,124	4,045	2,980	5,348	5,574
Total revenues	93,518	217,324	261,569	344,967	294,291	293,061
Expenses						
Employee compensation and benefits	60,533	133,891	177,948	215,707	172,128	170,546
Non-compensation expense (excluding goodwill impairment)(1)	44,243	98,257	103,226	112,644	109,848	63,533(2)
Goodwill impairment		50,000				
Total expenses	104,776	282,148	281,174	328,351	281,976	234,079
Operating (loss) income	(11,258)	(64,824)	(19,605)	16,616	12,315	58,982
Gain (loss) on exchange memberships		751	1,775	25,843	918	(1,993)
(Loss) income before income taxes	(11,258)	(64,073)	(17,830)	42,459	13,233	56,989
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	(410)	8,081	(6,509)	4,548	1,152	1,877
Net (loss) income	\$ (10,848)	\$ (72,154)	\$ (11,321)	\$ 37,911	\$ 12,081	\$ 55,112
Less: net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	104					
Net (loss) income attributable to Cowen Group, Inc.	(10,952)	(72,154)	(11,321)	\$ 37,911	\$ 12,081	\$ 55,112
Earnings (loss) per share:						
Weighted average common shares outstanding:						
Basic	11,531	11,254	12,805	12,903	12,900	12,900
Diluted	11,531	11,254	12,805	12,966	12,900	12,900
Earnings (loss) per share:						

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Basic	\$	(0.95)	\$ (6.41)	\$ (0.88)	\$ 2.94	\$ 0.94	\$ 4.27
Diluted	\$	(0.95)	\$ (6.41)	\$ (0.88)	\$ 2.92	\$ 0.94	\$ 4.27

(1)

Includes floor brokerage and trade execution, net service fees, communications, occupancy and equipment, marketing and business development, depreciation and amortization and other expenses.

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- (2) Includes a net benefit of \$46.9 million related to accruals for insurance recoveries and the net reversal of previously accrued reserves in 2004.

			Year Ended December 31,			
	June 30, 2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
	(in thousands)					
<i>Consolidated Statements of Financial</i>						
<i>Condition Data:</i>						
Total assets	\$ 186,107	\$ 207,498	\$ 349,038	\$ 684,438	\$ 785,339	\$ 820,350
Total liabilities and noncontrolling interest	47,715	65,383	140,383	466,310	411,388	466,872
Total stockholders' equity (2009-2006) and group equity (2005 and 2004)	\$ 138,392	\$ 142,115	\$ 208,655	\$ 218,128	\$ 373,951	\$ 353,478

Table of Contents**Selected Consolidated Historical Financial Data of Ramius**

The following table presents Ramius's selected historical consolidated financial data and should be read in conjunction with its consolidated financial statements, the notes thereto and the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis" beginning on page 150.

The following selected consolidated historical financial data of Ramius has been derived from the historical consolidated financial statements and related notes for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 and the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and related notes for the six months ended June 30, 2009.

	Six Months Ended		Year Ended December 31,			
	June 30, 2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
	(in thousands)					
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data:						
Revenues						
Management fees	\$ 22,434	\$ 70,818	\$ 73,950	\$ 65,635	65,592	\$ 48,006
Incentive income			60,491	81,319	24,771	37,847
Interest and dividends	178	1,993	16,356	17,189	9,217	8,921
Reimbursement from affiliates	5,490	16,330	7,086	4,070		
Other Revenues	1,688	6,853	5,086	8,038	8,201	4,879
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities revenues</i>	7,967	31,739	25,253	35,897	15,325	(158)
Total revenues	37,757	127,733	188,222	212,148	123,106	99,495
Expenses						
Employee compensation and benefits	28,786	84,769	123,511	112,433	76,971	69,866
Non-compensation expense (excluding goodwill impairment)	26,457	54,856	79,020	54,277	46,406	26,440
Goodwill impairment		10,200				
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities expenses</i>	6,520	34,268	21,014	39,300	24,449	710
Total expenses	61,763	184,093	223,545	206,010	147,826	97,016
Other income (loss)						
Net gain (loss) on securities, derivatives and other investments	(3,976)	(2,006)	94,078	54,765	67,000	47,419
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and certain real estate entities net gains (losses)</i>	5,912	(198,485)	84,846	78,656	61,019	1,961
Total other income (loss)	1,936	(200,491)	178,924	133,421	128,019	49,380
Income (loss) before income taxes	(22,070)	(256,851)	143,601	139,559	103,299	51,859
Income tax expense (benefit)	(49)	(1,301)	1,397	4,814	1,304	717
Net income (loss)	(22,021)	(255,550)	142,204	134,745	101,995	51,142
Net Income (loss) attributable to non-controlling interests in consolidated subsidiaries	(3,989)	(113,786)	66,343	74,189	53,439	900
Special allocation to the Redeemable Managing Member			26,551	21,195	15,961	18,523
Net income (loss) available to all Redeemable Members	\$ (26,010)	\$ (141,764)	\$ 49,310	\$ 39,361	\$ 32,595	\$ 31,719

Year Ended December 31,

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Six Months Ended
June 30, 2009

2008 2007 2006 2005 2004

(in thousands)

*Consolidated Statements of Financial
Condition Data:*

Total assets	\$ 703,797	\$ 797,831	\$ 2,113,532	\$ 2,468,195	\$ 1,833,789	\$ 1,702,809
Total liabilities	136,290	\$ 182,003	\$ 1,430,029	\$ 1,657,992	\$ 1,095,805	\$ 1,477,469
Redeemable non-controlling interests in consolidated subsidiaries	260,664	284,936	203,523	514,761	482,801	19,119
Total redeemable members' capital	\$ 306,843	\$ 330,892	\$ 479,980	\$ 295,442	\$ 255,183	\$ 206,221

Table of Contents**Unaudited Selected Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information**

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations for the six months ended June 30, 2009, and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, give effect to the transactions as if they were completed on January 1, 2008, and include all adjustments which give effect to the events that are directly attributable to the transactions, are expected to have a continuing impact and that are factually supportable. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of financial condition as of June 30, 2009 gives effect to the transactions as if they had been completed on June 30, 2009 and includes all adjustments which give effect to the events that are directly attributable to the transactions and that are factually supportable. The information below should be read in conjunction with the historical financial statements and related notes of Ramius, included in this document, and of Cowen, contained in the annual reports and other information that Cowen has filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference in this document and with the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements and related notes included in this document. See the sections titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195 and "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Statements" beginning on page 52.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information is presented for illustrative purposes only and does not indicate the financial results of the combined companies had the companies actually been combined at the beginning of each period presented, nor the impact of possible business model changes. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information also does not consider any potential impacts of current market conditions on revenues, cost savings and asset dispositions, among other factors. In addition, as explained in more detail in the accompanying notes to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information, the preliminary allocation of the pro forma purchase price reflected in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information is subject to adjustment and may vary significantly from the actual purchase price allocation that will be recorded upon completion of the transactions.

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2009	Year Ended December 31, 2008
	(in thousands, except per share data)	
<i>Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statements of Operations Data</i>		
Total revenues	\$ 131,275	\$ 345,057
Total expenses	\$ 171,979	\$ 426,148
Total other income (loss)	\$ 1,936	\$ (199,740)
Net loss attributable to stockholders	\$ (41,604)	\$ (182,780)
Net loss per share: basic and diluted	\$ (0.75)	\$ (3.31)
Weighted average common shares: basic and diluted	55,189	55,189

	As of June 30, 2009 (in thousands)
<i>Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statement of Financial Condition Data</i>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 40,912
Total assets	\$ 859,348
Line of credit	\$ 25,000
Total liabilities	\$ 187,339
Total stockholders' equity	\$ 423,554
Noncontrolling interests	\$ 248,455
Total liabilities, redeemable noncontrolling interests and equity	\$ 859,348

Table of Contents**Comparative Per Share Data**

The following table sets forth certain historical per share financial information for Cowen common stock, and certain pro forma per share data for New Parent Class A common stock. Ramius is a privately-held company; accordingly, per share historical data for Ramius are omitted.

The pro forma data was derived by combining the historical consolidated financial information of Cowen and Ramius using the acquisition method of accounting and applying the assumptions and adjustments described in the accompanying notes to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements. The Comparative Per Share Data for the six months ended June 30, 2009 and the year ended December 31, 2008 combine the historical consolidated financial information of Cowen and Ramius giving effect to the transactions as if the transactions had become effective on January 1, 2008. The information below should be read in conjunction with the historical financial statements and related notes contained in the annual reports and other information that Cowen has filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference in this document and with the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements and related notes included in this document. See the sections titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195 and "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Statements" beginning on page 52.

It is anticipated that the transactions will provide the combined company with financial benefits that include reduced operating expenses and revenue enhancement opportunities. The unaudited pro forma information, while helpful in illustrating the financial characteristics of the combined company under one set of assumptions, does not reflect the impact of possible business model changes as a result of current market conditions which may impact revenues, cost savings, asset dispositions and other factors. It also does not necessarily reflect what the historical results of the combined company would have been had our companies been combined during these periods, nor is it indicative of the results of operations in future periods or the future financial position of the combined company. The pro forma adjustments are based upon available information and certain assumptions that Cowen and Ramius management believe are reasonable. In addition, as explained in more detail in the accompanying notes to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information, the preliminary allocation of the pro forma purchase price reflected in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information is subject to adjustment and may vary significantly from the actual purchase price allocation that will be recorded upon completion of the transactions.

	Cowen Historical		New Parent Pro Forma	
	Six Months Ended	Year Ended	Six Months Ended	Year Ended
	June 30, 2009	December 31, 2008	June 30, 2009	December 31, 2008
	(in thousands, except per share data)			
<i>Basic and diluted net loss per common share</i>				
Numerator:				
Net loss attributable to stockholders	\$ (10,952)	\$ (72,154)	\$ (41,604)	\$ (182,780)
Denominator:				
Weighted average shares outstanding for Basic and Diluted EPS	11,531	11,254	55,189	55,189
Net loss per common share:				
Basic and Diluted	\$ (0.95)	\$ (6.41)	\$ (0.75)	\$ (3.31)
Book Value per common share at June 30, 2009	\$ 9.15		\$ 7.67	

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RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information included and incorporated by reference in this document, including the matters addressed under "Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements," you should carefully consider the following risk factors before deciding whether to vote for proposals presented in this document. In addition, you should read and consider the risks associated with each of the businesses of Cowen and Ramius because these risks will relate to the combined company. Descriptions of some of these risks can be found in Cowen's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, as amended by Amendment No. 1 to the Annual Report Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, dated as of April 28, 2009, and in Cowen's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2009, and in Cowen's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2009, which are filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference into this document. You should also consider the other information in this document and the other documents incorporated by reference into this document. See the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195.

Risks Related to the Completion of the Transactions

The transactions are subject to conditions, including certain conditions that may not be satisfied, and may not be completed on a timely basis, or at all. Failure to complete the transactions could have material and adverse effects on Cowen.

The completion of the transactions is subject to a number of conditions, including Cowen stockholder approval, which make the completion and timing of the completion of the transactions uncertain. See the section titled "The Transaction Agreement Conditions to Complete the Transactions" beginning on page 103 for a more detailed discussion. Also, either Cowen or Ramius may terminate the transaction agreement if the transactions have not been completed by December 31, 2009, unless the failure of the transactions to be completed has resulted from the failure of the party seeking to terminate the transaction agreement to perform its obligations.

If the transactions are not completed on a timely basis, or at all, Cowen's ongoing business may be adversely affected and, without realizing any of the benefits of having completed the transactions, Cowen will be subject to a number of risks, including the following:

Cowen will be required to pay a termination fee of \$3.5 million and, in some cases, expenses of Ramius up to \$750,000 if the transactions are terminated under qualifying circumstances, as described in the transaction agreement;

Cowen will be required to pay costs relating to the transactions, such as legal, accounting, financial advisor and printing fees, whether or not the transactions are completed;

time and resources committed by Cowen's management to matters relating to the transactions (including integration planning) could otherwise have been devoted to pursuing other beneficial opportunities;

the market price of Cowen common stock could decline to the extent that the current market price reflects a market assumption that the transactions will be completed; and

if the transaction agreement is terminated and Cowen's Board of Directors seeks another business combination, stockholders cannot be certain that Cowen will be able to find a party willing to enter into a transaction agreement on terms equivalent to or more attractive than the terms that Ramius has agreed to in the transactions.

Uncertainty regarding the completion of the transactions may cause clients to delay or defer decisions concerning Cowen and may adversely affect Cowen's ability to attract and retain key employees.

The transactions will happen only if stated conditions are met, including, among others, the approval of the transactions by Cowen stockholders, the receipt of all required regulatory approvals and

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the satisfaction of the conditions to completing the transactions contained in the asset exchange agreement. Many of the conditions are beyond the control of Cowen. In addition, both Cowen and Ramius have rights to terminate the transaction agreement under various circumstances. As a result, there may be uncertainty regarding the completion of the transactions. This uncertainty may cause clients to delay or defer decisions concerning Cowen, which could negatively impact revenues, earnings and cash flow of Cowen, regardless of whether the transactions are ultimately completed. Similarly, uncertainty regarding the completion of the transactions may foster uncertainty among employees about their future roles with the combined company. This may adversely affect the ability of Cowen to attract and retain key management, sales, marketing and technical personnel.

Some of Cowen's current directors and executive officers have interests in the transactions that may differ from the interests of other stockholders, and these persons may have conflicts of interest in supporting or recommending that you approve the proposals set forth in this document.

In considering whether to approve the proposals set forth in this document, you should recognize that some of the members of management and Cowen's Board of Directors may have interests in the transactions that differ from, or are in addition to, their interests as stockholders. These interests include:

the rights of some executive officers to receive payments or other benefits, including grants of equity awards and the modification of vesting schedules of existing equity awards, following the completion of the transactions;

the continuing service of several of Cowen's existing directors and executive officers in the combined company after the closing date of the transactions;

the amendment of employment arrangements with some of Cowen's executive officers to provide incentives for their continued service to the combined company after the closing date of the transactions; and

the continued indemnification of Cowen's existing directors after the completion of the transactions.

These interests are described in greater detail in the section titled "Proposal 1: The Transactions Interests of Certain Persons in the Transactions" beginning on page 87.

The transaction agreement contains provisions that could discourage a potential competing acquiror of Cowen or could result in any competing proposal being at a lower price than it might otherwise be.

The transaction agreement contains "no shop" provisions that, subject to limited exceptions, restrict Cowen's ability to solicit, encourage, facilitate or discuss competing third party proposals to acquire all or a significant part of the assets or equity interests of Cowen. Further, even if the Cowen Board of Directors withdraws or qualifies its recommendation of the transactions and the issuance of the New Parent Class A common stock in the transactions, it will still be required to submit the matter to a vote of the Cowen stockholders at the special meeting. In addition, Ramius generally has an opportunity to modify the terms of the proposed transactions in response to any competing acquisition proposals that may be made before the Cowen Board of Directors may withdraw or qualify its recommendation. Upon termination of the transaction agreement, Cowen would be required, under qualifying circumstances, to pay to Ramius a termination fee of \$3.5 million and expenses of Ramius of up to \$750,000.

These provisions could discourage a potential competing acquiror that might have an interest in acquiring all or a significant part of the assets or equity interests of Cowen from considering or proposing such acquisition, even if it were prepared to pay consideration with higher per share cash or market value than the value attributable to the transactions, or might result in a potential competing acquiror proposing to pay a lower price than it might have otherwise proposed to pay because of the added expense of the termination fee and expenses of Ramius that become payable.

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The opinion obtained by Cowen from its financial advisor will not reflect changes in circumstances between the signing of the transaction agreement and the completion of the transactions.

Cowen has not obtained an updated opinion as of the date of this document from its financial advisor. Changes in Cowen's and Ramius's operations, prospects, general market and economic conditions and other factors that may be beyond the control of Cowen and Ramius, and on which Cowen's financial advisor's opinion was based, may significantly alter the value of Cowen or Ramius or the price of shares of Cowen common stock by the time the transactions are completed. The opinion does not speak as of the time the transactions will be completed or as of any date other than the date of such opinion. Because Cowen does not currently anticipate asking its financial advisor to update its opinion, the opinion will not address the fairness of the transaction consideration to the holders of Cowen common stock, from a financial point of view, at the time the transactions are completed. For a description of the opinion that Cowen received from its financial advisor, see the section titled "Proposal 1: The Transactions Opinion of Cowen's Financial Advisor," beginning on page 73. For a description of the other factors considered by the Cowen Board of Directors in deciding to declare the transactions contemplated in the transaction agreement to be advisable, see the section titled "Proposal 1: The Transactions Cowen's Reasons for the Transactions; Recommendation of Cowen Board of Directors" beginning on page 70.

Because the date that the transactions will be completed will be later than the date of the stockholder meeting, at the time of the stockholder meeting you will not know the exact market value of the Cowen common stock that Ramius and HVB will receive when the transactions are completed.

If the price of Cowen common stock increases between the date the transaction agreement and the asset exchange agreement were signed or the date of the Cowen special meeting and the completion of the transactions, Ramius and HVB (an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius) will receive shares of Cowen common stock that have a market value that is greater than the market value of such shares when the transaction agreement and the asset exchange agreement were signed or the date of the Cowen special meeting, respectively. Therefore, while the number of shares is fixed (subject to some adjustments), Cowen stockholders cannot be sure of the market value of the consideration that will be paid to Ramius and HVB when the transactions are completed.

Risks Related to the Combined Company Following the Transactions

The combined company is expected to incur substantial expenses related to the integration of Cowen and Ramius.

The combined company is expected to incur substantial expenses in connection with the integration of the business, policies, procedures, operations, technologies and systems of Ramius with those of Cowen. There are a large number of functions that must be integrated, including but not limited to information technology, finance, human resources, audit, corporate communications, risk management and legal and compliance. While the parties have calculated an estimate of expenses that would be incurred, there are a number of factors beyond their control that could affect the total amount or the timing of all of the expected integration expenses. Moreover, many of the expenses that will be incurred, by their nature, are difficult to estimate accurately at the present time. These expenses could, particularly in the near term, exceed the savings that the parties expect to achieve from the elimination of duplicative expenses and the realization of economies of scale, cost savings and revenue synergies related to the integration of the businesses following the completion of the transactions.

Although Cowen and Ramius expect that Cowen's combination with Ramius will result in benefits to Cowen, Cowen and Ramius may not realize those benefits because of integration difficulties and other challenges.

The success of Cowen's combination with Ramius will depend in large part on the success of the management of the combined company in integrating the operations, strategies, technologies and personnel of the two companies following the completion of the transactions. The combined company

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may fail to realize some or all of the anticipated benefits of the transactions if the integration process takes longer than expected or is more costly than expected. The failure of the combined company to meet the challenges involved in successfully integrating the operations of Cowen and Ramius or to otherwise realize any of the anticipated benefits of the transactions, including additional revenue opportunities, could impair the operations of the combined company. In addition, Cowen and Ramius anticipate that the overall integration of the companies will be a complex, time-consuming and expensive process that, without proper planning and effective and timely implementation, could significantly disrupt Cowen's business and that of Ramius.

Potential difficulties the combined company may encounter in the integration process include the following:

the integration of each company's management teams, strategies, technologies and operations, products and services;

the disruption of each company's ongoing businesses and distraction of their respective management teams from ongoing business concerns;

the retention of the existing clients of both companies;

the creation of uniform standards, controls, procedures, policies and information systems;

the reduction of the costs associated with each company's operations;

the consolidation and rationalization of information technology platforms and administrative infrastructures;

the integration of corporate cultures and maintenance of employee morale;

the retention of key employees;

the occurrence of unanticipated expenses related to technology integration; and

potential unknown liabilities associated with the transactions.

The anticipated benefits and synergies include the combination of offices in various locations and the elimination of numerous technology systems, duplicative personnel and duplicative market and other data sources. However, these anticipated benefits and synergies assume a successful integration and are based on projections, which are inherently uncertain, and other assumptions. Even if integration is successful, anticipated benefits and synergies may not be achieved.

The transactions are subject to the receipt of consents and approvals from government entities that may impose conditions that could have an adverse effect on the combined company following the transactions.

Before the transactions may be completed, approvals or consents must be obtained from various domestic and foreign securities, antitrust and other authorities. In deciding whether to grant these approvals, the relevant governmental entity will make a determination of whether, among other things, the transactions are in the public interest. Regulatory entities may impose conditions on the completion of the transactions or require changes to the terms of the transactions. Although the parties do not currently expect that any such material conditions or changes would be imposed, there can be no assurance that they will not be, and such conditions or changes could have the effect of delaying completion of the transactions or imposing additional costs on or limiting the revenues of the combined company following the transactions, any of which

might have a material adverse effect on the combined company following the transactions. See the section titled "Proposal 1: The Transactions Regulatory Approvals Required for the Transactions" beginning on page 86.

Ramius is in a different business than Cowen and there are no guarantees that management of the combined company will be able to successfully integrate the business lines of Ramius and Cowen.

The transactions involve the combination of two companies that currently operate in different business segments. Ramius is an alternative investment management firm. Ramius's investment services

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and products include hedge funds, hedge fund of funds, real estate funds and cash management. Cowen has a financial services practice, including investment banking, equity research, sales and trading and alternative asset management services. Although the management of the combined company will include executives from both Cowen and Ramius, neither Cowen nor Ramius can guarantee that the combined company will integrate and operate the business lines of Cowen and Ramius to achieve the cost savings and other benefits anticipated to result from the transactions.

Current Cowen stockholders will have a reduced ownership and voting interest after the transactions and will exercise less influence over management.

Current Cowen stockholders currently have the right to vote in the election of the Board of Directors of Cowen and on other matters affecting Cowen. Immediately after the transactions are completed, it is expected that current Cowen stockholders will own approximately 28.76% (including shares to be issued in conjunction with the transactions).

As a result of the transactions, current Cowen stockholders will have less influence on the management and policies of New Parent than they now have on the management and policies of Cowen. New Parent will be a majority-owned subsidiary of Ramius and Ramius will have the ability to elect a majority of New Parent's board of directors and determine the outcome of matters submitted to the combined company's stockholders, such as the approval of significant transactions. As a result, actions that may be supported by a majority of the other stockholders could be blocked by Ramius.

Ramius's ownership of the combined company could affect the liquidity in the market for New Parent's Class A common stock.

The large ownership stake in New Parent and the board representation of Ramius on the New Parent board of directors may discourage a third party from proposing a change of control or other strategic transaction concerning the combined company. As a result, New Parent's Class A common stock could trade at prices that do not reflect a "control premium" to the same extent as do the stocks of similarly situated companies that do not have a stockholder with an ownership interest as large as Ramius's ownership interest.

New Parent will be a "controlled company" within the meaning of the NASDAQ rules and, as a result, will qualify for, and rely on, exemptions from certain corporate governance standards, which may limit the presence of independent directors on the board of directors or board committees of New Parent.

Following the consummation of the transactions, Ramius will beneficially own shares of New Parent capital stock which would represent approximately 65% of the outstanding voting power of New Parent's capital stock. Accordingly, New Parent will be a majority-owned subsidiary of Ramius and Ramius will have the ability to elect New Parent's board of directors and thereby control the management and affairs of New Parent. Therefore, New Parent will be deemed to be a "controlled company" for purposes of NASDAQ Rule 5615(c)(2). Under this rule, a company of which more than 50% of the voting power for the election of directors is held by an individual, a group or another company is a "controlled company" and is exempt from certain corporate governance requirements, including requirements that (1) a majority of the board of directors consist of independent directors, (2) compensation of officers be determined or recommended to the board of directors by a majority of its independent directors or by a compensation committee that is composed entirely of independent directors and (3) director nominees be selected or recommended for selection by a majority of the independent directors or by a nominating committee composed solely of independent directors. Accordingly, New Parent's stockholders may not have the same protections afforded to stockholders of other companies that are required to fully comply with the NASDAQ rules. Solely for the purpose of including the director designated by BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. as a member of each of the compensation committee and the nominating and governance committee, New Parent will elect to be treated as a "controlled company" for purposes of NASDAQ Rule 5615(c)(2). Even though New Parent

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will be treated as a "controlled company," New Parent currently intends that a majority of its board of directors will consist of independent directors and that each member of each of the compensation committee and the nominating and governance committee other than the director designated by BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. will be independent.

The ability of Ramius and, subject to limitations, HVB, Société Générale and some of the combined company's future employees to sell common stock of the combined company at any time following the completion of the transactions could cause the stock price to decrease.

Ramius and HVB may sell the 40,250,708 aggregate shares of New Parent Class A common stock that they will receive in the transactions. However, the asset exchange agreement restricts the sale of shares by HVB under specified circumstances, and Ramius' managing member has agreed in Ramius's operating agreement (as it will be amended and restated at the closing of the transactions) not to make any distributions of New Parent Class A common stock to the members of Ramius (including BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.) for a period of time following the closing of the transactions, which restrictions may be waived by Ramius's managing member in accordance with the terms of Ramius's operating agreement. Following the consummation of the transactions, approximately 1,934,661 shares of New Parent common stock will underlie the capital in Ramius of those members of Ramius who may withdraw one-third of their capital in Ramius as of the end of each calendar year beginning on December 31, 2009. In connection with a withdrawal of capital by these members of Ramius, Ramius will sell shares of New Parent common stock attributable to these members on or prior to the effectiveness of such withdrawal and will use the net proceeds of such sales to satisfy the withdrawal requests of these members in cash. The restrictions on HVB and its affiliates (including BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. with respect to the 8.5 million shares of New Parent common stock held by Ramius that are allocated to it) are subject to a number of exceptions and may be terminated upon the occurrence of certain events. New Parent will execute and deliver to Ramius a registration rights agreement, which includes customary registration rights for Ramius and HVB and its affiliates (including BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. with respect to the approximately 8.5 million shares of New Parent Common Stock held by Ramius that are allocated to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.). See the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Transfer Restrictions on Shares of New Parent Common Stock Held by Ramius" beginning on page 112.

In addition, Cowen filed a registration statement on behalf of Société Générale its former parent company, in 2007, whereby Société Générale may sell all or a portion of the 1,382,608 eligible shares of Cowen common stock that it held as of December 31, 2008. These selling rights will remain in effect after shares of Cowen common stock are exchanged for shares of New Parent Class A common stock pursuant to the transactions. Furthermore, New Parent's employees and other stockholders may sell significant numbers of shares of New Parent's Class A common stock subject to limitations on senior management. See the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Transfer Restrictions on Share of New Parent Common Stock Held by Ramius" beginning on page 112 for more information.

The sale of a substantial number of shares of common stock by Ramius, HVB, Société Générale, New Parent's employees or by other stockholders within a short period of time, or the possibility of such sales, may adversely affect the price of New Parent's Class A common stock and impede New Parent's ability to raise capital through the issuance of equity securities.

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Under the certificate of incorporation of New Parent, New Parent will be able to issue more shares of common stock than Cowen is currently authorized to issue. As a result, such future issuances of common stock could have a dilutive effect on the earnings per share and voting power of New Parent stockholders.

The certificate of incorporation of New Parent authorizes a greater number of shares of common stock than Cowen's current certificate of incorporation. If the transactions are completed, New Parent will be able to issue more shares of common stock than Cowen is currently authorized to issue. If the board of directors of New Parent elects to issue additional shares of common stock in the future, whether in public offerings, in connection with mergers and acquisitions or otherwise, such additional issuances could dilute the earnings per share and voting power of New Parent stockholders.

The market price of New Parent's common stock may decline in the future as a result of the transactions.

The market price of New Parent's common stock may decline in the future as a result of the transactions for a number of reasons, including:

the unsuccessful integration of Cowen and Ramius; or

the failure of the combined company to achieve the perceived benefits of the transactions, including financial results, as rapidly as or to the extent anticipated by financial or industry analysts.

These factors are, to some extent, beyond the control of Cowen and Ramius.

The market price of New Parent's common stock after the transactions will be affected by factors different from those currently affecting the market price of Cowen's common stock.

Ramius operates across a range of asset classes and services in which Cowen has not historically operated. Accordingly, the operations and the market price of New Parent Class A common stock and the market price of Cowen common stock until the completion of the transactions may be affected by factors different from those currently affecting the operations and the market price of Cowen common stock. For a discussion of Cowen's businesses and the businesses of Ramius, see the sections titled "Information About the Companies" beginning on page 48 and "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195.

The unaudited pro forma financial data and internal earnings estimates for both Cowen and Ramius included in this document are preliminary, and the combined company's actual financial position and operations after the transactions may differ materially from the unaudited pro forma financial data included in this document.

The unaudited pro forma financial data and internal earnings estimates for both Cowen and Ramius in this document are presented for illustrative purposes only and are not necessarily indicative of what New Parent's actual financial position or operations would have been had the transactions been completed on the dates indicated. For more information, see the section titled "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Statements" beginning on page 52.

The combined company's future results will suffer if the combined company does not effectively manage its expanded operations following the transactions.

Following the transactions, New Parent may continue to expand its operations through new product and service offerings and through additional strategic investments, acquisitions or joint ventures, some of which may involve complex technical and operational challenges. The combined company's future success depends, in part, upon its ability to manage its expansion opportunities, which pose numerous risks and uncertainties, including the need to integrate new operations into its existing business in an efficient and timely manner, to combine accounting and data processing systems and management controls and to integrate relationships with customers and business partners. In addition,

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future acquisitions or joint ventures after completion of the transactions may involve the issuance of additional shares of common stock of New Parent, which may dilute Cowen stockholders' ownership of the combined company.

Furthermore, any future acquisitions of businesses or facilities could entail a number of risks, including:

problems with the effective integration of operations;

inability to maintain key pre-acquisition business relationships;

increased operating costs;

exposure to unanticipated liabilities; and

difficulties in realizing projected efficiencies, synergies and cost savings.

Cowen cannot assure you that the combined company's future expansion or acquisition opportunities will be successful, or that the combined company will realize its expected operating efficiencies, cost savings, revenue enhancements, synergies or other benefits.

BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., its designee on New Parent's board of directors and Ramius may have interests that conflict with your interests.

BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., its designee on New Parent's board of directors and Ramius may have interests that conflict with, or are different from, New Parent's and your own. Conflicts of interest between BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. and/or Ramius and New Parent may arise, and such conflicts of interest may not be resolved in a manner favorable to New Parent, including potential competitive business activities (in the case of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.), corporate opportunities, indemnity arrangements, registration rights and sales or distributions by Ramius, BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. or their respective affiliates of New Parent common stock. New Parent's certificate of incorporation and by-laws do not contain any provisions designed to facilitate resolution of actual or potential conflicts of interest, or to ensure that potential business opportunities that may become available to BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. and New Parent will be reserved for or made available to New Parent. Pertinent provisions of law will govern any such matters if they arise. In addition, Ramius, as the holder of the majority of New Parent's issued and outstanding shares of Class A common stock, could delay or prevent an acquisition or merger even if such a transaction would benefit other stockholders.

Risks Affecting the Companies Related to the Financial Services Industry

Volatility in the value of Ramius's, and to a lesser extent, Cowen's, respective investment and securities portfolios or other assets and liabilities could adversely affect the financial condition or operations of the combined company.

Cowen and Ramius adopted the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 157 (which we refer to as SFAS 157) on January 1, 2008. SFAS 157 defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. SFAS 157 also establishes a framework for measuring fair value and a valuation hierarchy based upon the transparency of inputs used in the valuation of an asset or liability. Changes in fair value are reflected in the statement of operations at each measurement period. Therefore, continued volatility in the value of Ramius's, and to a lesser extent, Cowen's, respective investment and securities portfolios or other assets and liabilities, including funds, will result in volatility of the combined firm's results. As a result, the changes in value may have an adverse effect on financial condition or operations in the future.

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Risks Related to Ramius's Business

For purposes of the following risk factors, references made to Ramius's funds include hedge funds and funds in the Ramius fund of funds business and real estate funds.

Difficult market conditions, market disruptions and volatility have adversely affected and may in the future continue to adversely affect Ramius's business, results of operations and financial condition.

Ramius's business is materially affected by conditions in the global financial markets and by global economic conditions, such as interest rates, the availability of credit, inflation rates, economic uncertainty, changes in laws, commodity prices, asset prices (including real estate), currency exchange rates and controls and national and international political circumstances (including wars, terrorist acts or security operations). Recently, global credit and other financial markets have suffered and continue to suffer substantial stress, volatility, illiquidity and disruption. Market turbulence reached unprecedented levels during the third and fourth quarters of 2008, as loss of investor confidence in the financial system resulted in an historically unprecedented lack of liquidity, decline in asset values (including real estate assets), and the bankruptcy or acquisition of, or government assistance to, several major domestic and international financial institutions. These factors, combined with volatile commodity prices and foreign exchange rates, have contributed to recessionary economic conditions globally and a deterioration in consumer and corporate confidence and could further exacerbate the overall market disruptions and risks to market participants, including the Ramius funds and managed accounts. These market conditions may affect the level and volatility of securities prices and the liquidity and the value of investments in the Ramius funds and managed accounts, and Ramius may not be able to effectively manage its exposure to these market conditions.

Ramius's profitability may be adversely affected by decreases in revenue relating to changes in market and economic conditions.

The adverse market conditions of the second half of 2008 continued in the early part of 2009 and while conditions have recently improved slightly, global market conditions have been and remain inherently unpredictable and outside of Ramius's control. If these conditions continue, they may impact Ramius's ability to generate non-volatile investment performance and attract new assets under management, and may result in high levels of redemptions from the Ramius funds and managed accounts. These factors may reduce Ramius's revenue growth and income and may slow or reduce the growth of the Ramius business or may contract the Ramius business. In particular, negative fund performance reduces assets under management, which decreases the management fees and incentive income that Ramius earns. Negative performance of the Ramius Enterprise Master Fund Ltd (which we refer to as the Enterprise Fund) also decreases revenue derived from Ramius's returns on investments of its own capital. Incentive income, which has historically comprised a substantial portion of Ramius's annual revenues, is subject to "high-water marks" whereby incentive income is earned by Ramius only to the extent that the net asset value of a fund at the end of a measurement period exceeds the highest net asset value as of the end of a preceding measurement period for which Ramius earned incentive income. Ramius's incentive allocations are also subject, in some cases, to performance hurdles. As a result of negative investment performance in 2008, Ramius entered 2009 with high-water marks in many hedge funds, which require the Ramius funds to recover cumulative losses before Ramius can begin to earn incentive income in 2009 and beyond with respect to the investments of fund investors who suffered losses last year. In order for Ramius to begin earning incentive fees from investors who had incurred losses in 2008, the respective funds they are invested in need to outperform the losses they incurred in 2008. For example, the net asset value of Ramius Multi-Strategy Fund Ltd decreased by 26.76% net of management fees, in 2008. This assumes no further recovery from the 80% discount that Ramius has valued the net equity claim for assets held at Lehman Brothers International (Europe) (which we refer to as LBIE). In order for Ramius to earn an incentive fee with respect to an

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investor who had participated fully in this loss, the fund will have to increase net asset value by 36.5%, net of management fees. Such analysis applies to each fund which incurred 2008 losses.

Investors in the Ramius funds and investors with managed accounts can generally redeem investments with prior notice. The rate of redemptions has recently accelerated and could continue to further accelerate. Redemptions have, and may continue to, create difficulties in managing the liquidity of the Ramius funds and managed accounts, reduce assets under management and adversely affect Ramius's revenues.

Investors in the Ramius funds and investors with managed accounts may generally redeem their investments with prior notice, subject to certain initial holding periods. Investors may reduce the aggregate amount of their investments, or transfer their investments to other funds or asset managers with different fee rate arrangements, for any number of reasons, including investment performance, changes in prevailing interest rates and financial market performance. Investors have less confidence now and their allocation process more selective and deliberate. Increased volatility in global markets could accelerate the pace of fund and managed account redemptions. Redemptions of investments in the Ramius funds could also take place more quickly than assets may be sold by those funds to meet the price of such redemptions, which could result in the relevant funds and/or Ramius being in breach of applicable legal, regulatory and contractual requirements in relation to such redemptions, resulting in possible regulatory and investor actions against Ramius and/or the Ramius funds. If the Ramius funds or managed accounts underperform, existing investors may decide to reduce or redeem their investments or transfer asset management responsibility to other asset managers and Ramius may be unable to obtain new alternative investment management business. Any such action would potentially cause further redemptions and/or make it more difficult to attract new investors.

The redemption of investments in the Ramius funds or in managed accounts could also adversely affect Ramius's revenues, which are substantially dependent upon the assets under management in the Ramius funds. If redemptions of investments cause revenues to decline, they would likely have a material adverse effect on Ramius's business, results of operations or financial condition. As a result of recent market developments and the potential for increased and continuing disruptions and the resulting uncertainty during the second half of 2008 and early 2009, Ramius has recently experienced an increase in the level of redemptions from the Ramius funds and managed accounts. Furthermore, the Enterprise Fund's initial lock-up period ends on December 31, 2009. This will be the first opportunity for investors in the Enterprise Fund to redeem their investments. Accordingly, this fund may be subject to higher levels of redemption than Ramius had originally anticipated. Furthermore, redemption rates may stay elevated within the industry while market conditions remain unsettled. If the level of redemption activity persists at above historic levels, it could become more difficult to manage the liquidity requirements of the Ramius funds, making it more difficult or more costly for the Ramius funds to liquidate positions rapidly to meet redemption requests or otherwise. This in turn may negatively impact Ramius's returns on its own invested capital.

In addition to the impact on the market value of assets under management, the illiquidity and volatility of the global financial markets have negatively affected Ramius's ability to manage inflows and outflows from the Ramius funds. Ramius's ability to attract new capital to existing Ramius funds or to develop new investment platforms may be negatively impacted during this period. Several alternative investment managers, including Ramius, have recently exercised and may in the future exercise their rights to limit, and in some cases, suspend, redemptions from the funds they manage. Ramius has also and may in the future negotiate with investors in an attempt to limit redemptions or create a variety of other investor structures to bring fund assets and liquidity requirements into a more manageable balance. To the extent that Ramius has negotiated with investors to limit redemptions, it may be likely that such investors will continue to seek further redemptions in the future. Such actions may have an adverse effect on the ability of the Ramius funds to attract additional assets under management. The Ramius fund of funds platform may also be adversely impacted as the hedge funds in which it invests

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themselves face similar investor redemptions or if such hedge funds exercise their rights to limit or suspend Ramius's redemptions from such funds. Poor performance relative to other asset management firms may result in reduced investments in the Ramius funds and managed accounts and increased redemptions from the Ramius funds and managed accounts. As a result, investment underperformance would likely have a material adverse effect on Ramius's business, results of operations or financial condition.

Hedge fund investments are subject to other additional risks.

Investments by the Ramius funds are subject to certain factors, including the following:

Generally, there are few limitations on hedge funds' investment strategies, which are often subject to the sole discretion of the management company or the general partner of such funds.

Hedge funds may engage in short selling, which is subject to the theoretically unlimited risk of loss because there is no limit on how much the price of a security may appreciate before the short position is closed out. A fund may be subject to losses if a security lender demands return of the lent securities and an alternative lending source cannot be found or if the fund is otherwise unable to borrow securities that are necessary to hedge its positions. Furthermore, recent rulemaking by the SEC and other regulatory authorities outside the United States have imposed trading restrictions and reporting requirements on short selling, which in certain circumstances may impair hedge funds' ability to use short selling effectively.

The efficacy of investment and trading strategies depend largely on the ability to establish and maintain an overall market position in a combination of financial instruments. A hedge fund's trading orders may not be executed in a timely and efficient manner due to various circumstances, including systems failures or human error. In such event, the fund might only be able to acquire some but not all of the components of the position, or if the overall position were in need of adjustment, the fund might not be able to make such an adjustment. As a result, a hedge fund would not be able to achieve the market position selected by the management company or general partner of such fund, and might incur a loss in liquidating its position.

Credit risk may arise through a default by one of several large institutions that are dependent on one another to meet their respective liquidity or operational needs, so that a default by one institution causes a series of defaults by the other institutions. This "systemic risk" may adversely affect the financial intermediaries (such as clearing agencies, clearing houses, banks, securities firms and exchanges) with which the hedge funds interact on a daily basis.

Hedge funds are subject to risks due to the potential illiquidity of assets. Hedge funds may make investments or hold trading positions in markets that are volatile and which may become illiquid. The timely sale of trading positions can be impaired by decreased trading volume, increased price volatility, concentrated trading positions, limitations on the ability to transfer positions in highly specialized or structured transactions to which they may be a party, and changes in industry and government regulations. It may be impossible or highly costly for hedge funds to liquidate positions rapidly to meet margin calls, withdrawal requests or otherwise, particularly if there are other market participants seeking to dispose of similar assets at the same time, if the relevant market is otherwise moving against a position or in the event of trading halts or daily price movement limits on the market. In addition, increased levels of redemptions may result in increased illiquidity as more liquid assets are sold to fund redemptions. Moreover, these risks may be exacerbated for the Ramius fund of funds platform. For example, if the Ramius fund of funds platform invested in two or more hedge funds that each had illiquid positions in the same issuer, the illiquidity risk for the Ramius fund of funds portfolios would be compounded.

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Furthermore, certain of the investments of the Ramius fund of funds platform were in third party hedge funds that halted redemptions in the face of illiquidity and other issues.

Hedge fund investments are subject to risks relating to investments in commodities, futures, options and other derivatives, the prices of which are highly volatile and may be subject to the theoretically unlimited risk of loss in certain circumstances, including short selling. Price movements of commodities, futures and options contracts and payments pursuant to swap agreements are influenced by, among other things, interest rates, changing supply and demand relationships, trade, fiscal, monetary and exchange control programs and policies of governments and national and international political and economic events and policies. The value of futures, options and swap agreements also depends upon the price of the commodities underlying them. In addition, hedge funds' assets are subject to the risk of the failure of any of the exchanges on which their positions trade or of their clearinghouses or counterparties.

If Ramius's counterparty for any of its derivative or non-derivative contracts defaults on the performance of those contracts, Ramius may not be able to cover its exposure under the relevant contract.

The Ramius funds enter into numerous types of financing arrangements with a wide array of counterparties around the world, including loans, hedge contracts, swaps, repurchase agreements and other derivative and non-derivative contracts. The terms of these contracts are generally complex and often customized and often are not currently subject to regulatory oversight. Ramius is subject to the risk that the counterparty to one or more of these contracts may default, either voluntarily or involuntarily, on its performance under the contract. Any such default may occur at any time without notice. Additionally, Ramius may not be able to take action to cover its exposure if a counterparty defaults under such a contract, either because of a lack of the contractual ability or because market conditions make it difficult to take effective action. The impact of market stress or counterparty financial condition may not be accurately foreseen or evaluated and, as a result, Ramius may not take sufficient action to reduce its risks effectively.

Counterparty risk is accentuated where the fund has concentrated its transactions with a single or small group of counterparties. Generally, hedge funds are not restricted from concentrating any or all of their transactions with one counterparty. Moreover, the funds' internal review of the creditworthiness of their counterparties may prove inaccurate. The absence of a regulated market to facilitate settlement and the evaluation of creditworthiness may increase the potential for losses.

Ramius may suffer losses in connection with the insolvency of prime brokers, custodians, administrators and other agents whose services Ramius uses and who may hold assets of Ramius funds.

All of the Ramius funds use the services of prime brokers, custodians, administrators or other agents to carry out certain securities transactions and to conduct certain business of the Ramius funds. In the event of the insolvency of a prime broker and/or custodian, the Ramius funds might not be able to recover equivalent assets in full as they may rank among the prime broker's and custodian's unsecured creditors in relation to assets which the prime broker or custodian borrows, lends or otherwise uses. In addition, the Ramius funds' cash held with a prime broker or custodian (if any) may not be segregated from the prime broker's or custodian's own cash, and the funds will therefore rank as unsecured creditors in relation thereto. Specifically, certain Ramius funds used an affiliate of Lehman Brothers as one of their prime brokers and some of these funds also held assets through accounts at Lehman Brothers. Other affiliates of Lehman Brothers that are now in insolvency proceedings were also trading counterparties for some of the hedge funds managed by Ramius. The total net equity claim of the Ramius funds with respect to Lehman Brothers was approximately \$256.4 million. Ramius estimates the total recoverable claim of the Ramius funds against Lehman Brothers and its affiliates to be approximately \$70.3 million. See the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Assets Under Management and Fund Performance 2008 Fund Performance Lehman Brothers" beginning on page 159 for more information.

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Operational risks relating to the failure of data processing systems and other information systems and technology may disrupt Ramius's business, result in losses or limit Ramius's operations and growth.

Ramius and its funds rely heavily on financial, accounting, trading and other data processing systems to, among other things, execute, confirm, settle and record transactions across markets and geographic locations in a time-sensitive, efficient and accurate manner. If any of these systems do not operate properly or are disabled, Ramius could suffer financial loss, a disruption of its business, liability to the Ramius funds, regulatory intervention or reputational damage. In addition, Ramius is highly dependent on information systems and technology. The cost of maintaining such systems may increase from its current level. Such a failure to accommodate Ramius's operational needs, or an increase in costs related to such information systems, could have a material adverse effect on Ramius, both with respect to a decrease in operational performance and an increase in costs that may be necessary to improve such systems.

Ramius depends on its headquarters in New York, New York, where most of Ramius's personnel are located, for the continued operation of its business. Ramius has taken precautions to limit the impact that a disruption to its New York headquarters could cause (for example, by ensuring that offices in other geographic locations office can operate independently of other offices). Although these precautions have been taken, a disaster or a disruption in the infrastructure that supports Ramius's business, including a disruption involving electronic communications or other services used by Ramius or third parties with whom Ramius does conduct business (including the funds invested in by the Ramius fund of funds platform), or directly affecting the New York, New York, headquarters, could have a material adverse impact on Ramius's ability to continue to operate its business without interruption. Ramius's disaster recovery programs may not be sufficient to mitigate the harm that may result from such a disaster or disruption. In addition, insurance and other safeguards might only partially reimburse Ramius for its losses, if at all. Finally, Ramius relies on third party service providers for certain aspects of its business, including for certain information systems and technology and administration of the Ramius funds. Severe interruptions or deteriorations in the performance of these third parties or failures of their information systems and technology could impair the quality of Ramius's operations and could impact Ramius's reputation and materially adversely affect Ramius's business.

Certain of the Ramius funds may invest in relatively high-risk, illiquid assets, and Ramius may fail to realize any profits from these activities for a considerable period of time or lose some or all of the principal amounts of these investments.

Certain of the Ramius funds invest all or a portion of their assets in securities that are not publicly traded and funds invested in by the Ramius fund of funds platform may do the same. In many cases, such funds may be prohibited by contract or by applicable securities laws from selling such securities for a period of time or there may not be a public market for such securities. Even if the securities are publicly traded, large holdings of securities can often be disposed of only over a substantial length of time, exposing the investment returns to risks of downward movement in market prices during the required holding period. Accordingly, under certain conditions, the Ramius funds, or funds invested in by the Ramius fund of funds platform, may be forced to either sell securities at lower prices than they had expected to realize or defer, potentially for a considerable period of time, sales that they had planned to make. Contributing capital to these investments is risky, and the Ramius funds may lose some or all of the principal amount of such investments, including Ramius's own invested capital.

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Risk management activities may materially adversely affect the return on the Ramius funds' investments if such activities do not effectively limit a fund's exposure to decreases in investment values or if such exposure is overestimated.

When managing the Ramius funds' exposure to market risks, the relevant fund (or one of the funds invested in by the Ramius fund of funds platform) may use forward contracts, options, swaps, caps, collars and floors or pursue other strategies or use other forms of derivative financial instruments to limit its exposure to changes in the relative values of investments that may result from market developments, including changes in interest rates, currency exchange rates and asset prices. The success of such derivative transactions generally will depend on Ramius's (or the underlying fund manager's) ability to accurately predict market changes in a timely fashion, the degree of correlation between price movements of a derivative instrument, the position being hedged, and the creditworthiness of the counterparty and other factors. As a result, these transactions may result in poorer overall investment performance than if it had not been executed. Such transactions may also limit the opportunity for gain if the value of a hedged position increases. In addition, the degree of correlation between price movements of the instruments used in connection with hedging activities and price movements in a position being hedged may vary. For a variety of reasons, a perfect correlation between the instruments used in a hedging or other derivative transaction and the position being hedged may not be attained. An imperfect correlation could give rise to a loss. Also, it may not be possible to fully or perfectly limit exposure against all changes in the value of an investment because the value of an investment is likely to fluctuate as a result of a number of factors, some of which will be beyond Ramius's control or ability to hedge.

Fluctuations in currency exchange rates could materially affect Ramius's business, results of operations and financial condition.

Ramius uses U.S. dollars as its reporting currency. Investments in Ramius funds and managed accounts are made in different currencies, including Euros, Pounds Sterling and Yen. In addition, Ramius funds and managed accounts hold investments denominated in many foreign currencies. To the extent that Ramius's revenues are based on assets under management denominated in such foreign currencies, Ramius's reported revenues may be significantly affected by the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar against these currencies. Typically, an increase in the exchange rate between U.S. dollars and these currencies will reduce the impact of revenues denominated in these currencies in Ramius's financial results. For example, management fee revenues derived from each Euro of assets under management denominated in Euros will decline in U.S. dollar terms if the value of the U.S. dollar appreciates against the Euro. In addition, the calculation of the amount of Ramius's assets under management is affected by exchange rate movements as assets under management denominated in foreign currencies are converted to U.S. dollars. Ramius also incurs a portion of its expenditures in currencies other than U.S. dollars. As a result, Ramius's business is subject to the effects of exchange rate fluctuations with respect to any currency conversions and Ramius's ability to hedge these risks and the cost of such hedging or Ramius's decision not to hedge could impact the performance of the Ramius funds and Ramius's business, results of operations or financial condition.

The due diligence process that Ramius undertakes in connection with investments by the Ramius funds may not reveal all facts that may be relevant in connection with making an investment.

Before making investments, particularly investments in securities that are not publicly traded, Ramius endeavors to conduct a due diligence review of such investment that it deems reasonable and appropriate based on the facts and circumstances applicable to each investment. When conducting due diligence, Ramius is often required to evaluate critical and complex business, financial, tax, accounting, environmental and legal issues. Outside consultants, legal advisors, accountants, investment bankers and financial analysts may be involved in the due diligence process in varying degrees depending on the type of investment. Nevertheless, when conducting due diligence and making an assessment regarding

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an investment, Ramius is limited to the resources available, including information provided by the target of the investment and, in some circumstances, third party investigations. The due diligence investigation that Ramius will carry out with respect to any investment opportunity may not reveal or highlight all relevant facts that may be necessary or helpful in evaluating such investment opportunity. Moreover, such an investigation will not necessarily result in the investment being successful, which may adversely affect the performance of the Ramius funds and managed accounts and Ramius's ability to generate returns on its own invested capital from any such investment.

The Ramius real estate funds are subject to the risks inherent in the ownership and operation of real estate and the construction and development of real estate.

Investments in the Ramius real estate funds are subject to the risks inherent in the ownership and operation of real estate and real estate-related businesses and assets. These risks include those associated with general and local economic conditions, changes in supply of and demand for competing properties in an area, changes in environmental and other laws, various uninsured or uninsurable risks, natural disasters, changes in real property tax rates, changes in interest rates, the reduced availability of mortgage funds which may render the sale or refinancing of properties difficult or impracticable, environmental liabilities, contingent liabilities on disposition of assets, terrorist attacks, war and other factors that are beyond Ramius's control. During 2008 and continuing in 2009, commercial real estate markets in the United States and Japan generally experienced major disruptions due to the unprecedented lack of available capital, in the form of either debt or equity, and declines in value as a result of the overall economic decline. As a result, transaction volume has dropped precipitously, negatively impacting the valuation and performance of the Ramius real estate funds significantly. Additionally, if the Ramius real estate funds acquire direct or indirect interests in undeveloped land or underdeveloped real property, which may often be non-income producing, they will be subject to the risks normally associated with such assets and development activities, including risks relating to the availability and timely receipt of zoning and other regulatory or environmental approvals, the cost and timely completion of construction (including risks beyond the control of Ramius fund, such as weather or labor conditions or material shortages) and the availability of both construction and permanent financing on favorable terms.

Ramius is subject to intense competition which may adversely affect its ability to attract and retain investors and investment professionals.

The alternative investment management industry is extremely competitive. Competition includes numerous national, regional and local asset management firms and broker-dealers, commercial bank and thrift institutions, and other financial institutions. Many of these institutions offer products and services that are similar to, or compete with, those offered by us and have substantially more personnel and greater financial resources than Ramius does. The key areas for competition include historical investment performance, the ability to identify investment opportunities, the ability to attract and retain the best investment professionals and the quality of service provided to investors. Ramius's ability to compete may be adversely affected if it underperforms in comparison to relevant benchmarks, peer groups or competing asset managers. The competitive market environment may result in increased pressure on revenue margins, for example, by reduced management fee and incentive allocation percentages. Ramius's results of operations are dependent in part on its ability to maintain current fee levels for its products and services. In the current economic environment, many competing asset managers have experienced substantial declines in investment performance, increased redemptions, or counterparty exposures which impair their businesses. Some of these asset managers have reduced their fees in an attempt to avoid additional redemptions. Competition within the alternative investment management industry could lead to pressure on Ramius to reduce the fees that Ramius charges its clients for products and services. A failure to compete effectively in this environment may result in the loss of existing clients and business, and of opportunities to generate new business and grow assets under management, each of which could have a material adverse

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effect on Ramius's business, results of operations or financial condition. Furthermore, consolidation in the alternative investment management industry may accelerate, as many asset managers are unable to withstand the substantial declines in investment performance, increased redemptions, and other pressures impacting their businesses, including increased regulatory, compliance and control requirements. Some competitors may acquire or combine with other competitors. The combined business may have greater resources than Ramius does and may be able to compete more effectively against Ramius and acquire rapidly significant market share.

If Ramius or New Parent were deemed an "investment company" under the U.S. Investment Company Act, applicable restrictions could make it impractical for Ramius and New Parent to continue their respective businesses as contemplated and could have a material adverse effect on Ramius's and New Parent's businesses.

A person will generally be deemed to be an "investment company" for purposes of the U.S. Investment Company Act of 1940, if:

it is or holds itself out as being engaged primarily, or proposes to engage primarily, in the business of investing, reinvesting or trading in securities; or

absent an applicable exemption, it owns or proposes to acquire investment securities having a value exceeding 40% of the value of its total assets (exclusive of U.S. government securities and cash items) on an unconsolidated basis.

Ramius believes it is engaged primarily in the business of providing asset management and financial advisory services and not in the business of investing, reinvesting or trading in securities. Ramius also believes that the primary source of income from its business is properly characterized as income earned in exchange for the provision of services. Ramius is an alternative investment management company and does not propose to engage primarily in the business of investing, reinvesting or trading in securities. Accordingly, Ramius does not believe that it is an "orthodox" investment company as defined in Section 3(a)(1)(A) of the Investment Company Act and described in the first bullet point above, or that New Parent is now or would be so characterized upon the completion of the transactions. Ramius also believes that upon the consummation of the transactions neither Ramius nor New Parent will be an inadvertent investment company by virtue of the 40% test in Section 3(a)(1)(C) of the Investment Company Act as described in the second bullet point above.

The Investment Company Act and the rules thereunder contain detailed requirements for the organization and operation of investment companies. Among other things, the Investment Company Act and the rules thereunder limit prohibited transactions with affiliates, impose limitations on the issuance of debt and equity securities, generally prohibit the issuance of options and impose certain governance requirements. Ramius intends to conduct its operations so that neither New Parent nor Ramius will be deemed to be an investment company under the Investment Company Act. If anything were to happen which would cause Ramius or New Parent to be deemed to be an investment company under the Investment Company Act, requirements imposed by the Investment Company Act, including limitations on their respective capital structure, ability to transact business with affiliates (including subsidiaries) and ability to compensate key employees, could make it impractical for either Ramius or New Parent to continue their respective businesses as currently conducted, impair the agreements and arrangements between and among them, their subsidiaries and their senior personnel, or any combination thereof, and materially adversely affect their business, financial condition and results of operations. Accordingly, Ramius may be required to limit the amount of investments that it makes as a principal or otherwise conduct its business in a manner that does not subject Ramius or New Parent to the registration and other requirements of the Investment Company Act. Recently, legislation was proposed in the U.S. that would subject hedge funds and other private investment funds to increased SEC regulation and oversight by removing the exceptions from the definition of "investment company"

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typically relied upon by such funds to avoid any of the requirements of the Investment Company Act and instead replacing them with exemptions from certain of the requirements of the Investment Company Act. Should this or similar legislation be adopted, the Ramius funds may become subject to additional registration, reporting and other requirements. As a result, compliance costs and burdens upon the Ramius business may increase and the additional requirements may constrain Ramius's ability to conduct its business as currently conducted, which may adversely affect Ramius's and New Parent's business, results of operations or financial condition.

Ramius and its funds may become subject to additional regulations which could increase the costs and burdens of compliance or impose additional restrictions which could have a material adverse effect on Ramius's business and the performance of the Ramius funds.

Ramius may need to modify its strategies, businesses or operations, face increased constraints or incur additional costs in order to satisfy new regulatory requirements or to compete in a changed business environment. Ramius's business is subject to regulation by various regulatory authorities that are charged with protecting the interests of investors. The activities of certain Ramius entities are regulated primarily by the SEC, FINRA, and the National Futures Association, as well as various state agencies, within the United States and are also subject to regulation in the various other jurisdictions in which it operates, including the Financial Services Authority of the United Kingdom, the Financial Services Agency of Japan, the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong, the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority and the Commission of the Surveillance of the Financial Sector in Luxembourg. The activities of Ramius Securities LLC, Ramius Advisors LLC, Ramius Asia LLC, Ramius Fund of Funds Group LLC, Ramius Structured Credit Group LLC and RCG Starboard Advisors, LLC are all regulated by the SEC due to their registrations as U.S. investment advisors. In addition, Ramius funds and funds of funds business are subject to regulation in the jurisdictions in which they are organized. These and other regulators in these jurisdictions have broad regulatory powers dealing with all aspects of financial services including, among other things, the authority to make inquiries of companies regarding compliance with applicable regulations, to grant permits and to regulate marketing and sales practices and the maintenance of adequate financial resources. Ramius is also subject to applicable anti-money laundering regulations and net capital requirements in the jurisdictions in which it operates. Additionally, the regulatory environment in which Ramius operates frequently changes and has seen significant increased regulation in recent years and it is possible that this trend may continue. Ramius may be materially adversely affected as a result of new or revised legislation or regulations or by changes in the interpretation or enforcement of existing laws and regulations. Such additional regulation could, among other things, increase compliance costs or limit Ramius's ability to pursue investment opportunities and strategies.

The regulatory environment continues to be turbulent as regulators globally respond to the financial crisis. There is an extraordinary volume of regulatory discussion papers, draft directives and proposals being issued globally and these initiatives are not always coordinated. The European Commission has issued a draft Directive on Alternative Investment Fund Managers, recommendations on directors' pay and pay for the financial services sector and proposals on packaged retail investment products. In addition, the Financial Services Authority of the United Kingdom has issued a discussion paper entitled "A Regulatory Response to the Global Banking Crisis" as well as undertaken an exercise to collect data to assess the systemic risk that hedge funds may or may not pose. The Bank of England is also collecting data on the systemic risk of hedge funds. Recent rulemaking by the SEC and other regulatory authorities outside the United States have imposed trading restrictions and reporting requirements on short selling, which have impacted certain of the investment strategies of the Ramius funds and managed accounts, and continued restrictions on or further regulations of short sales could negatively impact the performance of the Ramius funds and managed accounts.

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Increased regulatory focus could result in regulation that may limit the manner in which Ramius and the Ramius funds invest and the types of investors that may invest in the Ramius funds, materially impacting Ramius's business.

Ramius may be adversely affected if other new or revised legislation or regulations are enacted, or by changes in the interpretation or enforcement of existing rules and regulations imposed by the SEC, other U.S. or foreign governmental regulatory authorities or self-regulatory organizations that supervise the financial markets and their participants. Such changes could place limitations on the type of investor that can invest in alternative investment funds or on the conditions under which such investors may invest. Further, such changes may limit the scope of investing activities that may be undertaken by alternative investment managers as well as their funds. It is impossible to determine the extent of the impact of any new laws, regulations or initiatives that may be proposed, or whether any of the proposals will become law. Compliance with any new laws or regulations could be difficult and expensive and affect the manner in which Ramius conducts business, which may adversely impact its results of operations and financial condition.

Additionally, as a result of recent highly publicized financial scandals, investors, regulators and the general public have exhibited concerns over the integrity of both the U.S. financial markets and the regulatory oversight of these markets. As a result, the business environment in which Ramius operates is subject to heightened regulation. With respect to alternative investment management funds, in recent years, there has been debate in both U.S. and foreign governments about new rules or regulations, including increased oversight or taxation, in addition to the recently proposed Private Fund Transparency Act. As calls for additional regulation have increased, there may be a related increase in regulatory investigations of the trading and other investment activities of alternative investment management funds, including Ramius funds. Such investigations may impose additional expenses on Ramius, may require the attention of senior management and may result in fines if any of the Ramius funds are deemed to have violated any regulations.

Ramius's business may suffer as a result of loss of business from key investors.

Ramius generates a significant proportion of its revenue from a small number of its largest clients. As of June 30, 2009, affiliates of HVB and BA Alpine Holdings, Inc. constituted Ramius's largest institutional investor representing approximately 10.6% of assets under management, with the five largest investors collectively contributing approximately 21.6% of assets under management. The loss of all or a substantial portion of the business provided by one or more of these investors would have a material impact on income derived from management fees and incentive allocations and consequently have a material adverse effect on Ramius's business, results of operations or financial condition.

Ramius depends on its founders and other key senior personnel and the loss of their services would have a material adverse effect on Ramius's business, results of operations and financial condition.

Ramius depends on the efforts, skill, reputations and business contacts of its principals, Peter A. Cohen, Jeffrey M. Solomon, Morgan B. Stark and Thomas W. Strauss and other key senior personnel, the information and investment activity these individuals generate during the normal course of their activities and the synergies among the diverse fields of expertise and knowledge held by Ramius's founders and other professionals. Accordingly, Ramius's continued success will depend on the continued service of these individuals. Key senior personnel may leave Ramius in the future, and Ramius cannot predict the impact that the departure of any key senior personnel will have on Ramius's ability to achieve its investment and business objectives. The loss of the services of any of them could have a material adverse effect on Ramius's revenues, net income and cash flows and could harm Ramius's ability to maintain or grow assets under management in existing funds or raise additional funds in the future. Ramius has historically relied in part on the interests of certain of these professionals in a special allocation to Ramius's managing member to discourage them from leaving

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Ramius's employ. However, in connection with the transactions, the special allocation will be terminated and will no longer act as incentive for them to continue to be employed at the combined company. Ramius's senior and other key personnel possess substantial experience and expertise and have strong business relationships with investors in its funds, clients and other members of the business community. As a result, the loss of these personnel could damage Ramius's relationships with investors in the Ramius funds and members of the business community and result in the reduction of assets under management or fewer investment opportunities.

Ramius is subject to third party litigation risk and regulatory risk which could result in significant liabilities and reputational harm which, in turn, could materially adversely affect its business, results of operations and financial condition.

In general, Ramius is exposed to risk of litigation by its investors if the management of any Ramius fund is alleged to constitute negligence or dishonesty. Investors could sue to recover amounts lost by Ramius funds due to any alleged misconduct, up to the entire amount of the loss. Ramius may also be exposed to litigation by investors in the Ramius fund of funds platform for losses resulting from similar conduct at an underlying fund. Furthermore, Ramius may be subject to litigation arising from investor dissatisfaction with the performance of the Ramius funds (funds invested in by the Ramius fund of funds platform). In addition, Ramius is exposed to risks of litigation or investigation relating to transactions which presented conflicts of interest that were not properly addressed. In the majority of such actions Ramius would be obligated to bear legal, settlement and other costs, which may be in excess of any available insurance coverage. In addition, although Ramius is indemnified by the Ramius funds and funds invested in by the Ramius fund of funds platform, Ramius's rights to indemnification may be challenged. If Ramius is required to incur all or a portion of the costs arising out of litigation or investigations as a result of inadequate insurance proceeds, if any, or fails to obtain indemnification from its funds, Ramius's business, results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected. In the Ramius funds, Ramius is exposed to the risk of litigation if the funds suffer catastrophic losses due to the failure of a particular investment strategy or due to the trading activity of an employee who has violated market rules or regulations. Any litigation arising in such circumstances is likely to be protracted, expensive and surrounded by circumstances which are materially damaging to Ramius's reputation and its business. In addition, Ramius faces the risk of litigation from investors in the Ramius funds if restrictions in such funds' organizational documents are violated.

Employee misconduct could harm Ramius by impairing its ability to attract and retain investors and subjecting Ramius to significant legal liability, reputational harm and the loss of revenue from Ramius's own invested capital.

There is a risk that Ramius's employees or partners, or the managers of funds invested in by the Ramius fund of funds platform, could engage in misconduct that materially adversely affects Ramius's business, including a decrease in Ramius's returns of its own invested capital. Ramius is subject to a number of obligations and standards arising from its alternative investment management business and its authority over the assets managed by Ramius. The violation of these obligations and standards by any of Ramius's employees could materially adversely affect Ramius and its investors. Specifically, FINRA has notified Ramius that it intends to recommend an enforcement action against Ramius's broker-dealer pertaining to finder's fees which were paid by another party in connection with certain transactions executed by Ramius's former securities lending business in 2003 and 2004, in violation of marketplace rules. This matter is ongoing and Ramius is unable to determine what impact it may have on Ramius's business, if any. In addition, Ramius's business requires that Ramius properly deal with confidential matters of great significance to companies in which it may invest. If Ramius's employees were improperly to use or disclose confidential information, Ramius could suffer serious harm to its reputation, financial position and current and future business relationships. It is not always possible to detect or deter misconduct, and the extensive precautions Ramius takes to detect and prevent this activity may not be effective in all cases. If one of Ramius employees were to engage in misconduct or were to be accused of such misconduct, the business and reputation of Ramius could be materially adversely affected.

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This document contains or incorporates by reference a number of forward-looking statements, including statements about the financial conditions, results of operations, earnings outlook and prospects of Cowen, Ramius and the potential combined company and may include statements for the period following the completion of the transactions. You can find many of these statements by looking for words such as "plan," "believe," "expect," "intend," "anticipate," "estimate," "project," "potential," "possible" or other similar expressions.

The forward-looking statements involve particular risks and uncertainties. The ability of either Cowen or Ramius to predict results or the actual effects of its plans and strategies, or those of the combined company, is subject to inherent uncertainty. Factors that may cause actual results or earnings to differ materially from such forward-looking statements include those set forth in the section titled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 23, as well as, among others, the following:

the failure to obtain approval of the transactions by Cowen's stockholders;

the effect of governmental regulations, including the possibility of unexpected delays in obtaining regulatory approvals;

the extent and duration of continued economic and market disruptions and governmental regulatory proposals to address these disruptions;

the risk that the transactions may fail to achieve beneficial synergies or may take longer than expected to do so;

the risk of reduction in revenue from the elimination of existing and potential customers due to consolidation in the banking, retail and financial services industries and the impact of such consolidation on the existing respective customer bases of Cowen and Ramius;

delays associated with integrating Cowen and Ramius, including employees and operations, after the transactions are to be completed;

actions that may be taken by competitors, customers and suppliers of either Cowen or Ramius that may cause the transactions to be delayed or not completed;

decisions to restructure, divest or eliminate business units or otherwise change the business mix of either Cowen or Ramius;
and

those factors discussed and identified in public filings with the SEC made by Cowen.

Because these forward-looking statements are subject to assumptions and uncertainties, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these statements, which speak only as of the date of this document or the date of any document incorporated by reference in this document.

All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements concerning the transactions or other matters addressed in this document and attributable to Cowen or Ramius or any person acting on their behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this document. Except to the extent required by applicable law or regulation, neither Cowen nor Ramius undertake any obligation to update these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this document or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

Prospective Financial Information

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The prospective financial information included in this document was not prepared with a view toward compliance with published guidelines of the SEC or the guidelines established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for preparation, presentation of prospective financial information. The prospective financial information included in this document has been prepared by,

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and is the responsibility of, Cowen's management. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP has neither examined, compiled nor performed any procedures with respect to the accompanying prospective financial information and, accordingly, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP does not express an opinion or any other form of assurance with respect thereto. The PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP report included in this document relates to Ramius's historical financial information. It does not extend to the prospective financial information and should not be read to do so.

Neither Ramius nor Cowen assumes any responsibility for the accuracy of the accompanying prospective financial information or expresses any assurance with respect thereto.

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THE COWEN SPECIAL MEETING

This section contains information about the special meeting of Cowen stockholders that has been called to consider and approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius, and to consider and approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan.

Together with this document you will be sent a notice of the special meeting and a form of proxy that is solicited by the Cowen Board of Directors. The special meeting will be held on October 30, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at 1221 Avenue of the Americas (2nd Floor Conference Room), New York, New York.

Matters to Be Considered

The purpose of the special meeting is to vote on:

a proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius as contemplated by the transaction agreement;

a proposal to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan; and

a proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies, if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the foregoing proposals.

Proxies

Each copy of this document mailed to holders of Cowen common stock is accompanied by a form of proxy with instructions for voting by mail, by telephone or through the internet. If you hold stock in your name as a stockholder of record and are voting by mail, you should complete and return the proxy card accompanying this document to ensure that your vote is counted at the special meeting, or at any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting, regardless of whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting. You may also vote your shares by telephone or through the internet. Information and applicable deadlines for voting by telephone or through the internet are set forth in the enclosed proxy card instructions.

If you hold your stock in street name through a bank, broker, trust company or other nominee, you must direct your bank, broker, trust company or other nominee to vote in accordance with the instructions you have received from your bank, broker, trust company or other nominee.

If you hold stock in your name as a stockholder of record, you may revoke any proxy at any time before it is voted at the special meeting by signing and returning a proxy card with a later date by internet or telephone before the deadline stated on the proxy card, by delivering a proxy card with a later date or a written notice of revocation to Cowen's corporate secretary, which must be received by us before the time of the special meeting, or by voting in person at the special meeting.

Any stockholder entitled to vote in person at the special meeting may vote in person regardless of whether or not a proxy has been previously given, but simply attending the special meeting will not constitute revocation of a previously given proxy.

Written notices of revocation and other communications about revoking your proxy should be addressed to:

Cowen Group, Inc.
1221 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020
Attention: J. Kevin McCarthy, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

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If your shares are held in street name by a bank or broker, you should follow the instructions of your bank or broker regarding the revocation of proxies.

All shares represented by valid proxies that are received through this solicitation, and that are not revoked, will be voted in accordance with your instructions on the proxy card or as instructed via the internet or telephone. **If you make no specification on your proxy card as to how you want your shares voted, your proxy will be voted "FOR" the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and approval of the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius, "FOR" the approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan and "FOR" the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies.** According to the Cowen amended and restated by-laws, only such business that is specified in Cowen's notice of the meeting may be conducted at a special meeting of stockholders.

Solicitation of Proxies

In accordance with the transaction agreement, Cowen will bear the entire cost of proxy solicitation for the Cowen special meeting, except that Cowen and Ramius will share equally all expenses incurred in connection with the filing of the registration statement of which this document forms a part with the SEC and the printing and mailing of this document. Cowen has made arrangements with Innisfree M&A Incorporated, a proxy solicitor, to assist Cowen in soliciting proxies, and will pay the proxy solicitor a customary fee for its services plus reasonable expenses for these services. If necessary, Cowen may use several of its regular employees, who will not be specially compensated, to solicit proxies from Cowen stockholders, either personally or by telephone, facsimile, letter or other electronic means. The Cowen employees may be associated persons of Cowen and Company, LLC, a FINRA member firm. Accordingly, FINRA may consider Cowen and Company, LLC to be participating in the proxy solicitation and thus to have a "conflict of interest" (as defined under FINRA Rule 2720) because Cowen and Company, LLC is under common control with New Parent. Cowen will also request that banks, brokers, and other record holders forward proxies and proxy material to the beneficial owners of Cowen common stock and secure their voting instructions and Cowen will provide customary reimbursement to such firms for the cost of forwarding these materials.

Record Date

The close of business on September 24, 2009 has been fixed as the record date for determining the Cowen stockholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the special meeting. At that time, 15,043,922 shares of Cowen common stock were outstanding, held by approximately 1,946 holders of record.

Quorum

To conduct voting at the special meeting, there must be a quorum. The proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius and the proposal to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan each have a quorum requirement, under the applicable NASDAQ rules and Cowen amended and restated by-laws, that the total votes cast represent a majority of outstanding votes entitled to be cast on such proposal. If you properly submit your proxy but abstain from voting on one or more of the proposals, your shares will be counted as present at the meeting for the purpose of determining a quorum. If you are a stockholder of record and you do not submit your proxy and also do not vote by ballot at the special meeting, your shares will not be counted as present at the meeting for the purpose of determining a quorum. If you hold your shares in street name and do not submit voting instructions to your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee and your broker, bank, trust company or other nominee also does not vote your shares, your shares will not be counted as present at the meeting for the purpose of determining a quorum.

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Vote Required

Each share of Cowen common stock outstanding on the record date entitles the holder to one vote on each matter to be voted upon by the stockholders at the special meeting. Each of the proposals has the following vote requirement in order to be approved:

approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and approval of the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Cowen common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting;

approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares of Cowen common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and voting affirmatively or negatively on the proposal; and

approval of any necessary adjournment of the special meeting requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares of Cowen common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and voting affirmatively or negatively on the proposal, even if less than a quorum.

An abstention, failure to submit a proxy card or vote in person or broker non-vote will be treated as follows:

as a vote against the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius;

as neither a vote for or as a vote against the proposal to approve the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan; and

as neither a vote for or as a vote against the proposal to approve the adjournment of the special meeting.

The Cowen Board of Directors urges Cowen stockholders to promptly vote by completing, dating and signing the accompanying proxy card and returning it promptly in the enclosed postage-paid envelope; calling the toll-free number listed in the proxy card instructions if voting by telephone; or accessing the internet site listed in the proxy card instructions if voting through the internet. If you hold your stock in street name through a bank or broker, please vote by following the voting instructions of your bank or broker.

Stockholders will vote at the meeting by ballot. Votes cast at the meeting, in person or by proxy, will be tallied by Computershare, Cowen's inspector of election.

As of the record date, directors and executive officers of Cowen, and its affiliates, had the right to vote 464,653 shares of Cowen common stock, or approximately 3.09% of the outstanding Cowen common shares entitled to vote at the special meeting. It is currently expected that each of these individuals will vote their shares of Cowen common stock in favor of the proposals to be presented at the special meeting, and several of the officers have agreed with Ramius to vote their shares in favor the proposal to approve and adopt the transaction agreement and approve the issuance of shares of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius. See the section titled "Other Agreements Related to the Transactions Voting Agreement" beginning on page 111 for a description of the terms of the voting agreement.

Recommendation of the Cowen Board of Directors

The Cowen Board of Directors has unanimously approved the transaction agreement and the transactions it contemplates. The Cowen Board of Directors determined that the transaction agreement and the transactions contemplated by it are advisable and in the best interests of Cowen and its stockholders and unanimously recommends that you vote "FOR" the approval and adoption of the transaction agreement and approval of the issuance of New Parent Class A common stock to Ramius.

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See the section titled "Proposal 1: The Transactions Cowen's Reasons for the Transactions; Recommendation of Cowen Board of Directors" beginning on page 70 for a more detailed discussion of the Cowen Board of Directors' recommendation.

The Cowen Board of Directors also has unanimously approved the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan. The Cowen Board of Directors determined that the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan is advisable and in the best interests of Cowen and its stockholders. The Cowen Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote "FOR" the approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan. Approval of the Amended 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan is not a condition to closing of the transactions contemplated by the transaction agreement. In addition, if approved, the amendment will only become effective if and when the transactions are completed.

Attending the Meeting

All holders of Cowen common stock, including stockholders of record and stockholders who hold their shares through banks, brokers or other nominee, are invited to attend the special meeting. Stockholders of record can vote in person at the special meeting. If you are not a stockholder of record, you must obtain a proxy executed in your favor from the record holder of your shares, such as a broker, bank or other nominee, to be able to vote in person at the special meeting. If you plan to attend the special meeting, you must hold your shares in your own name or have a letter from the record holder of your shares confirming your ownership and you must bring a form of personal photo identification with you to be admitted. Cowen reserves the right to refuse admittance to anyone without proper proof of share ownership and without proper photo identification.

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANIES

Cowen

Cowen is an established provider of investment banking, equity research, sales and trading and alternative asset management services to companies and institutional investor clients. The company is a sector expert in secular growth industries, including the healthcare, technology, consumer, telecommunications, alternative energy and aerospace and defense sectors. As of June 30, 2009, Cowen had total consolidated assets of approximately \$186 million and total Cowen Group, Inc. stockholders' equity of approximately \$138 million. The principal executive offices of Cowen are located at 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020, and its telephone number is (646) 562-1000.

Additional information about Cowen and its subsidiaries is included in documents incorporated by reference in this document. See the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195.

Ramius

Ramius is an alternative investment management firm founded in 1994 with over \$7 billion of assets under management as of July 1, 2009. Ramius, through one of its subsidiaries, has been a registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act since 1997 and operates through its offices in New York, London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Munich and Luxembourg. Ramius's investment services and products include hedge funds, fund of funds, real estate and cash management. Its institutional investors include pension funds, insurance companies, banks, foundations and endowments, wealth management organizations and family offices. The principal executive offices of Ramius are located at 599 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022, and its telephone number is (212) 845-7900.

Ramius's hedge fund and fund of funds platforms have historically sought to deliver consistent, risk-adjusted returns throughout a market cycle (which Ramius generally views as an approximate three- to five-year investment horizon). In these platforms, Ramius seeks positive performance with minimal correlation to directional market indices. Risk-adjusted returns refer to positive returns with lower volatility as compared to traditional asset classes such as equities.

Ramius believes that the following attributes are central to its business model and position it to capitalize on the opportunities Ramius believes should arise from changing industry conditions:

Ramius is a well established alternative investment manager with experienced senior leadership. Once investors return to allocating capital to alternative investments, Ramius believes that they will likely gravitate toward more experienced managers with lengthy track records and a history of producing absolute returns.

Ramius has a diversified alternative investment platform. Ramius offers investment expertise across strategies and platforms that allows it to cross-sell products. In Ramius's experience, larger institutions often favor consolidation of their manager relationships, preferring to deal with providers that can offer more than one investment product. Moreover, Ramius can offer customized solutions to fund of funds clients due to Ramius's in-house trading expertise.

Ramius has a strong institutional infrastructure. Ramius has the operational capability to address, in a client-specific way, increasing investor needs for transparency, liquidity and customization.

Ramius's own capital has given the firm stability. Ramius's own capital allows the firm to think and invest for the long term, and also enables Ramius to attract investment talent from within the industry due to its stability and culture.

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As part of the transactions, all of Ramius's assets (including its subsidiaries) will be transferred to Exchange Sub, a subsidiary of the newly formed holding company, with the exception of (i) \$500,000 in cash which it is retaining in order to pay ongoing administrative expenses, such as audit fees, and (ii) any recovery in excess of \$7.0 million from a pending arbitration Ramius had initiated against a securities underwriter. At the closing of the transactions, Exchange Sub will change its name to "Ramius LLC," and Ramius LLC will change its name to "RCG LLC" or another name that does not contain the word "Ramius." Immediately following the closing of the transactions, Exchange Sub will transfer to New Parent a portion of the investments previously held by Ramius.

Ramius's Investment Services and Products

Hedge Funds. Ramius's hedge funds are focused on addressing the needs of institutional investors and high net worth individuals to preserve and grow allocated capital through a risk-averse, research intensive process. Ramius offers multi-strategy hedge funds, each of which attempts to employ a series of strategies with a focus on investments that offer low correlation to each other and to the return patterns of traditional assets such as equities and fixed income. Examples of the strategies included within Ramius's multi-strategy funds include: macro-trading, merger arbitrage and activist investments, hedged equity, convertible arbitrage, private convertibles, real estate, special situations and structured credit investments. Ramius also currently offers two single-strategy hedge funds, one focused on activist investing and another focused on credit investing.

Fund of Funds. A fund of funds offers investors the opportunity to invest in a private investment vehicle whose purpose is to invest in a group of underlying hedge funds or other alternative asset investment vehicles selected by the fund of funds investment manager. Ramius offers fund of funds investment products which invest in a number of alternative asset investment vehicles which are selected by Ramius and are not affiliated with Ramius with the goal of achieving consistent and stable returns to investors. Ramius has created a number of programs including long/short equity, global activist investing, diversified absolute return, concentrated multi-strategy as well as individual solutions based on hedging overlays and hedge fund replication, varying regulatory structures and other client-driven portfolio constraints. The fund of funds program employs evaluation procedures to determine the opportunity set for each strategy, sources appropriate institutional quality sub-managers with a history of longevity and stability, conducts detailed investment, operational, legal, financial and risk due diligence on each sub-manager, and utilizes qualitative and quantitative techniques to construct portfolios of those sub-managers. The resulting portfolio allocations are continuously analyzed and adjusted according to the outlook for each strategy and sub-manager. The Ramius fund of funds program invests with approximately 54 hedge fund managers and was first established in 1998. HVB currently owns 50% of the fund of funds business. In connection with the transactions, Merger Sub will acquire HVB's interest in the fund of funds business as described below in the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Changes in Connection with the Transactions Fund of Funds Business."

Real Estate Funds. The Ramius real estate funds have focused on generating long-term returns through the structuring, ownership, management, financing and construction of all real estate property types since 1999. This approach attempts to focus on real estate fundamentals and potential market inefficiencies. As of June 30, 2009, Ramius's RCG Urban American Fund owned interests in and managed approximately 12,000 multi-family housing units in the New York metropolitan area. Ramius's RCG Longview Fund provides bridge senior/subordinated mortgages, mezzanine loans, and preferred equity through its debt fund series, makes equity investments through its equity fund and, as of June 30, 2009, the members of the general partners of these funds owned interests in and/or managed approximately 34,000 residential units and approximately 35 million square feet of commercial and retail space in 37 states. The general partners of Ramius's real estate funds are owned jointly by Ramius and third parties with Ramius's ownership interest in the general partners of the real estate

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funds ranging from 30% to 55%. Ramius does not possess unilateral control over any of these general partners.

Cash Management and Mortgage Advisory. Ramius's cash management business provides clients with investment guidelines for managing cash and establishes investment programs for managing their cash in separately managed accounts. Ramius's cash management products are focused on preserving principal, maintaining daily liquidity and maximizing returns for investors. Portfolios are separately managed according to each investor's investment guidelines and are held at a custodian. Investor cash and other short term fixed income assets are managed for corporate, municipal, not-for-profit and other institutional clients (including hedge funds). Ramius also provides mortgage advisory services where Ramius manages collateralized debt obligations (which we refer to as CDOs) held by investors and liquidates CDOs that were historically managed by others.

Assets Under Management. The following table sets forth Ramius's assets under management as of July 1, 2009 across Ramius's investment services and products:

Platform	Total Assets under Management (dollars in millions)	Primary Strategies
Hedge Funds	2,091(3)	Multi-Strategy Single Strategy
Fund of Funds(1)	2,105	Ramius Multi-Strategy
Real Estate(2)	1,628(4)	Ramius Vintage Multi-Strategy Ramius Customized Solutions Debt
Other	1,570	Equity Cash Management
Total	\$ 7,394	Mortgage Advisory

- (1) HVB currently owns 50% of the fund of funds business. In connection with the transactions, Merger Sub will acquire HVB's interest in the fund of funds business as described in the section titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis Changes in Connection with the Transactions Fund of Funds Business."
- (2) As discussed above, Ramius owns between 30% and 55% of the general partners in the real estate business. Ramius does not possess unilateral control over any of these general partners.
- (3) This amount includes Ramius's own invested capital.
- (4) This amount reflects committed capital.

New Parent

LexingtonPark Parent Corp., a Delaware corporation, was jointly formed on June 1, 2009 in connection with the transactions and is owned by Cowen and Ramius. When the transactions are completed, New Parent will become the holding company of both Cowen and Exchange Sub,

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which will hold substantially all of the assets of Ramius and will have assumed substantially all of Ramius's liabilities. At completion of the transactions, New Parent will also change its name to "Cowen Group, Inc." The principal executive offices of New Parent are currently located at Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801, and its telephone number is (646) 562-1000. After completion of the transactions, the principal executive offices of New Parent will be in New York, New York.

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Cowen stockholders, Ramius and HVB (an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius) will receive New Parent Class A common stock in connection with the transactions and will become New Parent stockholders. Their rights as stockholders will be governed by the post-closing certificate of incorporation and by-laws of New Parent and the laws of the state of Delaware. The certificate of incorporation and by-laws that will govern New Parent after the transactions are completed will be substantially as set forth in Appendix D and Appendix E to this document, respectively. For information on how these documents differ from the current certificate of incorporation and by-laws governing Cowen, see the section titled "Comparison of Stockholders' Rights" beginning on page 136.

New Parent has not, to date, conducted any material activities other than those incidental to its formation and the matters contemplated by the transaction agreement, including the formation of each of Merger Sub and Exchange Sub as wholly owned subsidiaries, and the preparation of this document and the registration statement of which it forms a part. New Parent does not intend to directly undertake any operating activities other than the management of its operating subsidiaries, which will be primarily engaged in financial services activities. After the closing of the transactions, the Ramius subsidiary is intended to undertake the primary alternative investment management activities of the combined company, and the Cowen subsidiary is intended to undertake the primary sales and trading and investment banking operations of the combined company. A common infrastructure is intended to support both subsidiaries. In connection with the management of its operating subsidiaries, New Parent will employ senior management personnel. Additionally, New Parent may hold its own investments and, immediately following the consummation of the transactions will hold certain of the limited partnership interests of Ramius Enterprise LP previously held by Ramius.

Merger Sub

Lexington Merger Corp. is a Delaware corporation formed on June 1, 2009 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent. Merger Sub was formed solely for the purpose of completing the Cowen merger and the fund of funds asset exchange in connection with the transactions. At completion of the transactions, Merger Sub will merge with and into Cowen and Merger Sub will not survive the merger. The principal executive offices of Merger Sub are located at Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.

Merger Sub has not, to date, conducted any material activities other than those incidental to its formation and the matters contemplated by the transaction agreement and the asset exchange agreement, and the preparation of this document and the registration statement of which it forms a part.

Exchange Sub

Park Exchange LLC is a Delaware limited liability company formed on June 1, 2009 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent. At completion of the transactions, Exchange Sub will hold substantially all of the assets of Ramius and will have assumed substantially all of Ramius's liabilities. After completion of the transactions, Exchange Sub will change its name to "Ramius LLC." The principal executive offices of Exchange Sub are located at Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.

Exchange Sub has not, to date, conducted any material activities other than those incidental to its formation and the matters contemplated by the transaction agreement, and the preparation of this document and the registration statement of which it forms a part.

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UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations for the six months ended June 30, 2009, and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, give effect to the transactions as if they were completed on January 1, 2008, and include all adjustments which give effect to the events that are directly attributable to the transactions, as long as the impact of such events are expected to continue and are factually supportable. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of financial condition as of June 30, 2009 gives effect to the transactions as if they had been completed on June 30, 2009 and includes all adjustments which give effect to the events that are directly attributable to the transactions and that are factually supportable. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial data shown under this heading and the accompanying notes should be read together with:

the accompanying notes to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements;

the separate unaudited historical financial statements of Ramius as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2009 included elsewhere in this document;

the separate audited historical financial statements of Ramius as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 included elsewhere in this document;

the separate unaudited historical financial statements of Cowen as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2009 contained in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2009, which are incorporated by reference into this document (see the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195); and

the separate audited historical financial statements of Cowen as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 contained in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, which are incorporated by reference into this document (see the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 195).

In the transactions, a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent will merge with and into Cowen, and Cowen common stockholders will have the right to receive one share of New Parent Class A common stock for each share of Cowen common stock that they own. In addition, a wholly owned subsidiary of New Parent will acquire substantially all of Ramius's assets and assume substantially all of Ramius's liabilities in exchange for the issuance to Ramius of 37,536,826 shares of New Parent Class A common stock.

The transactions will be treated under the acquisition method for accounting purposes. In this case, the transaction will be accounted for as an acquisition by Ramius of Cowen. As such, Cowen's assets acquired and liabilities assumed will be recorded at their fair value. The fair value of New Parent securities to be issued to Cowen stockholders is the purchase consideration in the transactions. The purchase consideration for Cowen under the acquisition method will be based on the stock price of Cowen on the closing date of the transactions multiplied by the number of shares issued by New Parent to the Cowen stockholders. The preliminary allocation of the purchase price assumes a Cowen stock price of \$6.95 per share (based on the closing stock price on August 10, 2009) and that 14,938,309 shares of Cowen stock are outstanding at the date of the completion of the transactions (currently based on the number of shares of Cowen common stock outstanding on June 30, 2009). Included in the 14,938,309 shares of Cowen stock are 11,880,468 freely tradable shares, 3,027,419 restricted shares and 30,422 shares underlying vested restricted stock units at the balance sheet date. The number of shares used to estimate the purchase price excludes 216,265 restricted shares at the balance sheet date that are not vesting as part of the transaction and are not effectively being purchased. Restricted shares, restricted share units and stock options of Cowen common stock at the effective time of the merger will be converted into restricted shares, restricted share units and stock options of New Parent stock on a one-for-one basis.

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In connection with the transactions, Merger Sub will also purchase from HVB (an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc., a third party investor in Ramius) the 50% interest in the Ramius fund of funds business not currently owned by Ramius, in exchange for 2,713,882 shares of New Parent Class A common stock and approximately \$10.4 million of additional consideration, which will be paid either with a promissory note or with cash. If paid in cash, the cash payment is expected to be made out of the proceeds of the new secured revolving credit agreement of New Parent from HVB AG (an affiliate of BA Alpine Holdings, Inc.). In accordance with SFAS No. 160, "Noncontrolling interests in Consolidated Financial Statements an amendment of ARB 51" (which we refer to as SFAS 160), the acquisition of the additional interest in the Ramius fund of funds business will be treated as a capital transaction and the difference between the fair value of the consideration paid and the carrying value of the non-controlling interest will be recognized in equity.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been presented for informational purposes only. The pro forma information is not necessarily indicative of what the combined company's financial position or results of operations actually would have been had the transactions been completed as of the dates indicated. In addition, the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information does not purport to project the future financial position or operating results of the combined company.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been prepared using the acquisition method of accounting under existing U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (which we refer to as GAAP) which are subject to change and interpretation. Ramius has been treated as the acquirer in the transactions for accounting purposes. The acquisition accounting is dependent on certain valuations and other studies that have yet to commence or progress to a stage where there is sufficient information for definitive measurement. Accordingly, the pro forma adjustments are preliminary and have been made solely for the purpose of providing unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information. Differences between these preliminary estimates, including the estimates of the purchase consideration and allocation of purchase price to Cowen's assets, including intangible assets, and the final acquisition accounting will occur and these differences could have a material impact on the accompanying unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements and the combined company's future results of operations and financial position.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information does not reflect any cost savings, operating synergies or revenue enhancements that New Parent may achieve as a result of the transactions, the costs to integrate the operations of Cowen and Ramius or the costs necessary to achieve these cost savings, operating synergies and revenue enhancements.

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At June 30, 2009

	Historical		Pro Forma	New
	Ramius	Cowen	Adjustments	Parent
	(in thousands)			
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,695	\$ 82,035	\$ (46,818)(a)	\$ 40,912
Cash collateral pledged	6,948			6,948
Restricted cash pursuant to escrow agreement		5,222		5,222
Securities owned, at fair value	14,005	17,221		31,226
Other investments	17,429	16,288		33,717
Receivable from brokers, dealers and clearing brokers	16,333	18,149		34,482
Fees receivable	13,138	9,972		23,110
Due from related parties	21,095	5,818		26,913
Fixed assets, net	26,535	9,327		35,862
Goodwill	20,028	2,551	(2,551)(b)	20,028
Intangible assets, net	390	223	16,777 (c)	17,390
Other assets	4,640	19,301	2,036 (d)	25,977
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds assets:</i>				
Cash and cash equivalents	4,063			4,063
Other investments, at fair value	552,753			552,753
Other assets	745			745
Total assets	703,797	186,107	(30,556)	859,348
Liabilities, Redeemable Equity and Equity				
Securities sold, not yet purchased		17,719		17,719
Payable to brokers, dealers and clearing brokers	3,817	276		4,093
Compensation payable	17,665	9,005	3,160 (e)	29,830
Lines of credit	49,948		(24,948)(f)	25,000
Fees payable	1,611			1,611
Due to related parties	13,257			13,257
Capital withdrawals payable				
Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other liabilities	21,341	18,649	26,762 (g)	66,752
Bank overdraft		426		426
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds liabilities:</i>				
Capital withdrawals payable	27,601			27,601
Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other liabilities	1,050			1,050
Total liabilities	136,290	46,075	4,974	187,339
Redeemable members' equity	306,843		(306,843)(h)	
Redeemable noncontrolling interests	260,664		(13,849)(i)	246,815
Total redeemable group equity	567,507		(320,692)	246,815
Equity				
Stockholders' equity		138,392	285,162 (j)	423,554

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Noncontrolling interests		1,640		1,640
Total equity		140,032	285,162	425,194
Total liabilities, redeemable group equity and equity	\$ 703,797	\$ 186,107	\$ (30,556)	\$ 859,348

See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements.

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Six Months Ended June 30, 2009

	Historical		Pro Forma	New
	Ramius	Cowen	Adjustments	Parent
	(in thousands, except per share data)			
Revenues				
Management fees	\$ 22,434	\$ 4,481	\$	\$ 26,915
Interest and dividends	178	291		469
Reimbursement from affiliates	5,490			5,490
Investment banking		17,075		17,075
Brokerage		70,623		70,623
Other	1,688	1,048		2,736
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and other</i>	7,967			7,967
Total revenues	37,757	93,518		131,275
Operating expenses				
Employee compensation and benefits	28,786	60,533	5,895 (k)	95,214
Interest and dividends	687	159	63 (l)	909
Professional, advisory and other fees	9,170	3,751		12,921
Communications	527	5,998		6,525
Occupancy and equipment	5,073	7,642	(1,939)(m)	10,776
Floor brokerage and trade execution		6,230		6,230
Service fees		8,943		8,943
Depreciation and amortization	2,434	1,505	1,321 (n)	5,260
Client services, marketing and business development	3,313	5,263		8,576
Other	5,253	4,752	100 (o)	10,105
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and other</i>	6,520			6,520
Total expenses	61,763	104,776	5,440	171,979
Other income (loss)				
Net loss on securities, derivatives and other investments	(3,976)			(3,976)
<i>Consolidated Ramius Funds and other net realized and unrealized losses</i>	5,912			5,912
Total other income	1,936			1,936
Loss before income taxes	(22,070)	(11,258)	(5,440)	(38,768)
Income tax benefit	(49)	(410)	(p)	(459)
Net loss	(22,021)	(10,848)	(5,440)	(38,309)
Less: Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	3,989	104	(798)(i)	3,295
Net loss attributable to stockholders and members	\$ (26,010)	\$ (10,952)	\$ (4,642)	\$ (41,604)

Pro forma Net Income (Loss) Per Share

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Basic	\$ (0.69)(q)	\$ (0.95)	NA	\$ (0.75)(s)
Diluted	\$ (0.69)(q)	\$ (0.95)	NA	\$ (0.75)(s)
Pro forma Weighted Average Common				
Shares				
Basic	37,537 (q)	11,531	6,121 (r)	55,189