



# Q1 2017

## Management Discussion & Analysis

Critical Control Energy Services Corp.

March 31, 2017

The discussion and analysis of the financial condition and results of operations of the Corporation is prepared as at May 10, 2017 and should be read in conjunction with the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements of Critical Control Energy Services Corp., and the notes thereto, for the three months ended March 31, 2017, and with the audited consolidated financial statements of Critical Control Energy Services Corp., and the notes thereto, for the year ended December 31, 2016.

All financial information is presented in thousands of Canadian dollars, except share and per share data, and where otherwise indicated.

## **MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

The following management discussion and analysis (MD&A) of the financial condition and results of operations is intended to help the reader understand the current and prospective financial position and operating results of Critical Control Energy Services Corp. (“Critical Control” or the “Corporation”). The MD&A discusses the operating and financial results for the three months period ended March 31, 2017, is dated May 10, 2017, and takes into consideration information available up to that date.

The MD&A is based on the unaudited consolidated interim financial statements of Critical Control for the three months period ended March 31, 2017. The MD&A should be read in conjunction with the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements and related notes for the three months period ended March 31, 2017, and the annual consolidated financial statements and related notes for the year ended December 31, 2016, prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Additional information is available on Critical Control’s website ([www.criticalcontrolenergy.com](http://www.criticalcontrolenergy.com)) and all previous public filings, including the most recent filed Annual Information Form and Information Circular, are available through SEDAR ([www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com)). All amounts are denominated in Canadian dollars (CDN\$) unless otherwise identified. All amounts are stated in thousands unless otherwise identified.

## **FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

The MD&A contains certain forward-looking statements relating to the Corporation’s plans, strategies, objectives, expectations and intentions. The use of any of the words “expect”, “anticipate”, “continue”, “estimate”, “objective”, “ongoing”, “may”, “will”, “project”, “should”, “believe”, “plans”, “intends”, “confident”, “might” and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking information or statements. Various assumptions were used in drawing the conclusions or making the projections contained in the forward-looking statements throughout this MD&A. The forward-looking information and statements included in this MD&A are not guarantees of future performance and should not be unduly relied upon. Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations, estimates, and projections that involve a number of risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated and described in the forward-looking statements. Such information and statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause actual results or events to differ materially from those anticipated in such forward-looking information or statements.

In particular, but without limiting the foregoing, this MD&A may contain forward-looking information and statements pertaining to the fluctuations in the demand for the Corporation’s services; the ability for the Corporation to attract and retain qualified personnel; the existence of competitors; technological changes and developments; the existence of operating risks inherent in the oil and gas services industry; assumptions regarding foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates; the existence of regulatory and legislative uncertainties; the possibility of changes in tax laws and general economic conditions including the capital and credit markets; assumptions made about future performance and operations. The Corporation cautions that the foregoing list of assumptions, risks, and uncertainties is not exhaustive. The forward-looking information and statements contained in this MD&A speak only as of the date of this MD&A and the Corporation assumes no obligation to publicly update or revise them to reflect new events or circumstances, except as may be required pursuant to applicable securities laws.

## **NON-GAAP MEASURES AND ADDITIONAL GAAP MEASURES**

Throughout this document, reference is made to “gross margin”, “working capital”, and “adjusted EBITDA”, which are all non-IFRS measures. Management believes that gross margin, defined as revenue less operating expenses, is a useful supplemental measure of operations. Management believes that working capital, defined as current assets less current liabilities, is an indicator of the Corporation’s liquidity and its ability to meet its current obligations. Management believes that Adjusted EBITDA, which normalize earnings to exclude certain amounts, is a useful measure for comparing results from one period to another. Readers are cautioned that these non-IFRS measures may not be comparable to similar measures used by other companies. Readers are also cautioned not to view these non-IFRS financial measures as an alternative to financial measures calculated in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”).

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

All results are related to continuing operations unless otherwise identified. All reported numbers have been restated to reflect continuing operations. Please refer to the discontinued operations section for additional information.

<b>For the three months ended March 31,</b>		
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>6,263</b>	7,334
Non-recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>1,377</b>	1,687
Total revenue	<b>7,640</b>	9,021
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>3,523</b>	3,610
Gross margin - percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>46.1%</b>	39.6%
Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>762</b>	320
EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>610</b>	(711)
Net earnings (loss)	<b>(52)</b>	(1,381)

### Revenue <sup>(1)</sup>

- The decline in the price of oil and gas since the fourth quarter of 2014 impacted the industry causing reduced expenditure in exploration, development and operations. As a consequence, the Corporation's revenue declined to \$7.6 million in 2017 compared to \$9.0 million in 2016, a 15.6% overall decline.
- Strong recurring revenue in the Corporation's Software segment together with growth driven from the continued penetration of the Corporation's software in both Canada and the United States offset declines from shut in wells and the cost saving measures implemented by industry. As a result, Software revenue fell by only 8.5% to \$4.1 million in 2017 from \$4.5 million in 2016.
- Despite industry factors and the subsequent competitive environment, the Corporation's recurring revenue from its Services business remained relatively steady generating US\$2.9 million in revenue in 2017, a 12.4% decrease from the previous period. The Corporation's revenue from fabrication of measurement related equipment for new wells hit the Corporation's revenue the hardest causing non-recurring revenue in the Services business to fall by 75.9% to \$0.1 million.

### Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>

- Management's measures to reengineer the Corporation's business to exit the downturn in a more competitive position continues to increase gross margin from 39.6% to 46.1%.
- Gross margin in Software improved from 54.5% to 59.8% despite a strong competitive environment and pressures to provide price concessions during the downturn.
- Despite the reduction of gross margin in the Corporation's fabrication business from negative 27.9% in 2016 to negative 62.9% in 2017, the total gross margin in Services improved from 25.5% to 30.0%. This resulted from management's focus on streamlining the operations in the first half of 2016.

### Earnings and net earnings <sup>(1)</sup>

- The Corporation's loss before tax dropped to less than \$0.1 million from a loss of \$1.4 million in 2016. This change was a result of decreased general and administrative costs in 2017 compared to results from 2016 which included a \$0.3 million one-time reorganization expenses and a \$0.7 million foreign currency loss.

## OUTLOOK AND GUIDANCE

This Outlook and Guidance contains forward-looking statements that the Corporation does not intend, and does not assume any obligation, to update, except as required by law. The forward looking information and statements include:

- The current economic climate and its effect on the Corporation's client base business;
- The price of natural gas and its effect on capital spending and operating budgets of the Corporation's client base;
- The effect of the economy and the price of oil and gas on the Corporation's clients' expenditure plans;
- The demand for value added services that provide additional cost reduction or production optimization for the Corporation's Energy Services client base; and
- Management's assumptions regarding the sustainability of recurring revenue streams and the Corporation's expected profitability.
- Management's outlook and guidance contains forward looking statements of the Corporation's ability to penetrate the US client base with its software and continue its penetration in the Canadian market to offset reduced revenue resulting from the downturn in the industry. These forward looking statements are based on continued acceptance of the Corporation's products and the current price of oil and gas. A further decline in the price of commodities will increase the rate of decline of the Corporation's historic revenue – especially if the continued price or decline results in an acceleration in the shutting in of operating wells. Under such conditions, the Corporation would be at risk of declining revenue.

The decline in energy prices resulted in oil and gas producers shutting in production, reducing operating costs associated with the Corporation's services, demanding price reductions and in certain cases, filing for creditor protection. These factors combined with competitive pressures from other service companies negatively impacted the Corporation's revenue through 2016.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Corporation has further penetrated its client base with its software solutions and reengineered its operations to reduce costs to maintain, and in some cases grow, its margins.

The impact of the Corporation's internal business process reengineering and reorganization in 2016 are evident in the Corporation's results in the first quarter of 2017 with improved gross margins and reduced general and administrative expenses. Management is optimistic that these margins are sustainable through 2017 at today's commodity prices and will continue to improve in the event industry activity increases. Notwithstanding the foregoing, commodity prices or increased competitive pressures are unpredictable and a material change will affect profitability.

Simultaneous with cost saving measures, the Corporation has continued its investment in enhancing its existing software portfolio and adding new software products to reduce energy producer's cost and risk. Management intends on continuing this investment during 2017. The growth from these initiatives has enabled the Corporation to offset reduced revenue from its existing products during the downturn in 2016 and management expects this investment to differentiate the Corporation from its competitors and provide an avenue of growth regardless of industry conditions in 2017. This expectation is based upon the Corporation's ability to develop its software on a timely basis, bring it to market cost effectively and to successfully penetrate the Corporation's existing client base with new software capabilities to address existing costs and operational risks.

Cash available to the Corporation in cash and availability on its secured lines of credit has declined from \$1.1 million as at December 31, 2016 to \$0.5 million as at March 31, 2017. This decline is attributed primarily to investment by the Corporation in capitalized research and development and the payment of costs associated with charges expensed in 2016 related to the restructuring necessary to increase gross margin and reduce general and administrative costs, the beneficial results of which can be seen in the current quarter. Payment of these restructuring costs expensed in 2016 are expected to be materially complete by the end of the second quarter of 2017 and the Corporation's budget for capitalized research and development significantly declines during the course of 2017 and therefore Management expects that current cash flow from operations combined with cash available is sufficient to fund the operational obligations of the Corporation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the ability of the Corporation to invest in additional research and development or complete existing research and development in the event existing projects get delayed or extended will be curtailed due to the Corporation's access to capital. In such event, additional funds will be required to be raised by the Corporation through the issuance of debt, equity or a combination thereof, the success of which cannot be definitive.

## RESPONSIBILITY OF MANAGEMENT AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Management is responsible for the information disclosed in this MD&A and the accompanying consolidated financial statements, and has in place appropriate information systems, procedures, and controls to ensure that information used internally by management and disclosed externally is materially complete and reliable. In addition, Critical Control's Audit Committee, on behalf of the Board of Directors, provides an oversight role with respect to all public financial disclosures made by the Corporation and has reviewed and approved this MD&A and the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

## SCADAVIEW ACQUISITION

On February 10, 2016, the Corporation acquired, through its subsidiary, Critical Control Energy Services Inc., certain assets of ScadaView Data (Canada) Corp. of Calgary, Alberta related to field data capture. The purchase price was \$0.1 million, of which 20% was paid on the first closing with the remainder paid in November 2016. The net assets have been allocated to the Software operating segment.

## CORPORATE PROFILE

Critical Control provides solutions for the collection, control, and analysis of measurement and operational data related to the oil and gas wells across North America. The Corporation provides services to capture data, cloud-based software to visualize and manage it, and business intelligence to make quicker and more informed operational decisions. All of the Corporation's identifiable assets are located in Canada and the United States. Critical Control is a publicly traded company listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange ("TSX") under the symbol "CCZ".

The reportable segments are managed separately because of the unique characteristics and requirements of each business.

### Software

The Software business provides the following services to its upstream and midstream oil and gas clients:

- **Measurement Data Management:** Gas chart integration and reporting; web-based monitoring and control of electronic devices at the well site; and cost-efficient data validation.
- **Regulatory Compliance and Risk Management:** Integrated pipeline and asset profiles management; intelligent fluid analysis management; and streamlined, auditable meter calibration.
- **Production and Financial Accounting:** Production accounting; financial and joint interest accounting; capital projects management; land and contracts management; production asset management; and facility processing contract management.

Software operations has offices located in Calgary, Alberta, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Girard, Ohio, Stonewood, West Virginia, and Tyler, Texas.

### Services

The Services business provides the following services to its upstream and midstream oil and gas clients. The business comprises of two services lines in the United States.

#### US Services

- **Gas Measurement Field Services:** inclusive of natural gas meter installation, calibration, and monitoring.
- **Gas and Liquid Laboratory Services:** gas composition management services including gas sample analysis and data management tools;
- **Certification and Proving:** calibration and certification of measurement meters and gas measurement equipment.
- **Distribution of Measurement Equipment:** resale of gas measurement related equipment.

US Services operates in twelve locations across the United States.

### US Fabrication

- **Fabrication:** assembly and sale of gas measurement related equipment.

US Fabrication operates in Indiana, Pennsylvania.

### OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

<b>For the three months ended March 31,</b>		
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Software (CND\$)</b>		
Recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>3,831</b>	4,213
Non-recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>305</b>	308
Total revenue	<b>4,136</b>	4,521
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>2,473</b>	2,464
Gross margin - percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>59.8%</b>	54.5%
<b>Services (CND\$)</b>		
Recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>2,432</b>	3,121
Non-recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>1,072</b>	1,379
Total revenue	<b>3,504</b>	4,500
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>1,050</b>	1,146
Gross margin - percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>30.0%</b>	25.5%
<b>Services (US\$)</b>		
Recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>1,842</b>	2,244
Non-recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>812</b>	996
Total revenue	<b>2,654</b>	3,240
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>795</b>	827
Gross margin - percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>30.0%</b>	25.5%

### RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

#### Software

<b>For the three months ended March 31,</b>		
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>3,831</b>	4,213
Non-recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>305</b>	308
	<b>4,136</b>	4,521
Operating expense	<b>1,663</b>	2,057
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>2,473</b>	2,464
Gross margin - percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>59.8%</b>	54.5%

Software generated revenue for the three months period ended March 31, 2017 of \$4.1 million (2016:\$4.5 million). The decrease in revenue from 2016 due to increased well shut-ins.

Gross margin percentage has increased to 59.8% in the current period compared to the prior period. This is due to management's continued monitoring of product line revenues, costs, and the streamlining of operations that began in 2015.

### Services

<b>For the three months ended March 31,</b>		
<b>(CND\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>2,432</b>	3,121
Non-recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>1,072</b>	1,379
	<b>3,504</b>	4,500
Operating expense	<b>2,454</b>	3,354
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>1,050</b>	1,146
Gross margin - percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>30.0%</b>	25.5%

Services generated revenue for the three months period ended March 31, 2017 of \$3.5 million compared to \$4.5 million in 2016, a decrease of 22.1%.

Due to the impact of foreign exchange translation in relation to foreign currency fluctuations, financial results for US operations have been provided in both Canadian and US dollars.

<b>For the three months ended March 31,</b>		
<b>(US\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>1,842</b>	2,244
Non-recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>812</b>	996
	<b>2,654</b>	3,240
Operating expense	<b>1,859</b>	2,413
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>795</b>	827
Gross margin - percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>30.0%</b>	25.5%

The Services business unit is comprised of two distinctive groups of products. US Services which includes lab, field, certification and proving, with distribution of measurement equipment, and US Fabrication based in Indiana, Pennsylvania.

### US Services

<b>For the three months ended March 31,</b>		
<b>(US\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>1,842</b>	2,244
Non-recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>742</b>	706
	<b>2,584</b>	2,950
Operating expense	<b>1,745</b>	2,042
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>839</b>	908
Gross margin - percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>32.5%</b>	30.8%

US Services generated revenue in 2017 of US\$2.6 million (2016: US\$3.0 million). The decline in revenue compared to the prior period is representative of the decline in the industry throughout 2016.

The Corporation focused on the optimization of its operations in 2016. Throughout the year the Corporation implemented and utilized its software to create more efficient processes. The result of these initiatives was an improvement in gross margin percentage in 2017.

#### US Fabrication

<b>For the three months ended March 31,</b>		
<b>(US\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Non-recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>70</b>	290
	<b>70</b>	290
Operating expense	<b>114</b>	371
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>(44)</b>	(81)
Gross margin - percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>-62.9%</b>	-27.9%

US Fabrication has historically contributed significantly to the profitability of US operations until mid-2015 where the industry and lack of well site activity negatively impacted fabrication orders. The Corporation restructured operations to maximize efficiencies and decided to sustain the minimum operating expenses through the decline to ensure that the US Fabrication product line would be available to take advantage of the opportunities as drilling activity rebounds.

#### GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION

<b>For the three months ended March 31,</b>		
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
General and administrative less share-based payment	<b>2,412</b>	2,923
Share-based payment	<b>34</b>	48
General and administrative	<b>2,446</b>	2,971

For the three months period ended March 31, 2017, total general and administration expenses have decreased by \$0.5 million from \$2.9 million to \$2.4 million, and is the result of the restructuring done throughout 2016. The Corporation continues to focus on cost reduction and process efficiency to maintain lower administrative costs.

Share-based payment expense decreased by less than \$0.1 million period over period. The decrease is related to timing of vesting of Deferred Share Units.

#### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

<b>For the three months ended March 31,</b>		
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Research and development	<b>811</b>	582
Less:		
Capitalized research and development costs	<b>(462)</b>	(215)
Research and development	<b>349</b>	367

The Corporation continues its research and development initiatives to increase the functionality that Software clients derive from the Corporation's products. The Corporation's accounting policies for research and development require capitalization



of product development expenditures that meet specific criteria as set out in Note 27 of the Corporation's December 31, 2016 annual audited consolidated financial statements.

## DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION

<b>For the three months ended March 31,</b>		
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Depreciation	<b>260</b>	255
Amortization	<b>413</b>	316
Depreciation and amortization	<b>673</b>	571

For the three months period ended March 31, 2017, depreciation expense increased by less than \$0.1 million compared to the prior year. This is attributed to the timing of depreciation of acquired assets.

Amortization expense, which relates to the intangible assets has remained consistent within \$0.1 million compared to the prior years. This is attributed to the timing of the amortization of certain customer relationships and non-compete agreements.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE

<b>For the three months ended March 31,</b>		
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Foreign exchange - realized	<b>(17)</b>	14
Foreign exchange - unrealized	<b>125</b>	713
Foreign exchange	<b>108</b>	727

Foreign exchange gains and losses are the result of foreign currency fluctuations during the period and the timing of when items are settled.

Foreign exchange gains and losses fluctuate quarterly in relation to changes in the US/Canadian exchange rate. Intercompany advances of a current nature between the Corporation and its US subsidiaries, net of the Corporation's loans and borrowings denominated in US dollars, have the most significant impact on foreign exchange gains and losses.

## FINANCE COSTS

<b>For the three months ended March 31,</b>		
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Bank related charges	<b>123</b>	105
Interest on bank indebtedness	<b>30</b>	72
Interest on long-term debt	<b>111</b>	116
Deferred financing costs on long-term debt	-	7
Finance costs	<b>264</b>	300

Finance costs have decreased less than \$0.1 million in the current period compared to prior period. The Corporation borrowed from its credit facilities to finance the Measurement Services Acquisition and the corporate restructuring in 2015.

**OTHER EXPENSES**

<b>For the three months ended March 31,</b>		
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Acquisition related charges	-	11
Provision of onerous lease	-	61
Termination benefits	<b>10</b>	191
Other expenses	<b>10</b>	263

Other expenses contain expenses and recoveries that are infrequent and unusual in nature occurring outside of the normal operating activities of the Corporation and are unlikely to recur in the foreseeable future.

In the first quarter of 2016, the lease located in Fort Lupton, CO was added as an onerous lease as a change in estimate to the provision. In the second quarter of 2016, the lease located in Muncy, PA lease was settled and a recovery was deducted from onerous leases, as a change in estimate to the provision.

In the first quarter of 2016, management continued its plan to streamline operations resulting in \$0.2 million in termination benefits. The Corporation termination benefits in 2017 were less than \$0.1 million.

**NET EARNINGS, TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS), AND CASH FLOWS**

<b>For the three months ended March 31,</b>		
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>762</b>	320
EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>610</b>	(711)
Net loss	<b>(52)</b>	(1,482)
Total comprehensive income (loss)	<b>(55)</b>	(1,610)
Funds provided (used in) by continuing operations <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>549</b>	(194)
Cash flow provided (used in) by continuing operations	<b>401</b>	1,762

For the three months period ended March 31, 2017, the Corporation's net loss was \$0.1 million compared to \$1.5 million in 2016. The improvement is a result of reduced administration expenditures and charges associated with the Corporation's restructuring.

Adjusted EBITDA increased from \$0.3 million to \$0.8 million. The increase is attributed to reduced administrative expenditures and improvements in overall gross margin.

The Corporation's funds provided by continuing operations improved in 2017 compared to 2016 due to improved gross margins and reduced general and administrative expenses.

The decline in the Corporation's cash flow from continuing operations is due to primarily to the significant collection of account receivable in 2016 and reduction of non-cash working capital in that period.

**FINANCIAL AND OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS - QUARTERLY ANALYSIS**

(\$ thousands)	2017		2016		2015			
	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2
Recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>6,263</b>	5,969	6,302	6,403	7,334	7,288	7,900	7,842
Non-recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>1,377</b>	1,369	1,336	1,366	1,687	2,019	2,280	2,823
Total revenue	<b>7,640</b>	7,338	7,638	7,769	9,021	9,307	10,180	10,665
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>3,523</b>	2,939	3,160	3,106	3,509	3,494	3,191	3,927
Gross margin - percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>46.1%</b>	40.1%	41.4%	40.0%	38.9%	37.5%	31.3%	36.8%
Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>762</b>	547	594	504	219	32	(115)	439
EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>610</b>	844	631	134	(812)	(262)	(2,751)	(385)
Net earnings (loss)	<b>(52)</b>	(291)	390	(614)	(1,482)	(857)	(2,564)	(979)
<b>Software (CND\$)</b>								
Recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>3,831</b>	3,720	3,783	3,965	4,213	4,226	4,493	4,648
Non-recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>305</b>	316	308	306	308	310	259	306
Total revenue	<b>4,136</b>	4,036	4,091	4,271	4,521	4,536	4,752	4,954
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>2,473</b>	2,360	2,316	2,388	2,363	2,241	2,352	2,548
Gross margin - percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>59.8%</b>	58.5%	56.6%	55.9%	52.3%	49.4%	49.5%	51.4%
<b>Services (CND\$)</b>								
Recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>2,432</b>	2,249	2,519	2,438	3,121	3,062	3,407	3,194
Non-recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>1,072</b>	1,053	1,028	1,060	1,379	1,709	2,021	2,517
Total revenue	<b>3,504</b>	3,302	3,547	3,498	4,500	4,771	5,428	5,711
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>1,050</b>	579	844	718	1,146	1,253	839	1,379
Gross margin - percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>30.0%</b>	17.5%	23.8%	20.5%	25.5%	26.3%	15.5%	24.1%
<b>Services (US\$)</b>								
Recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>1,842</b>	1,696	1,940	1,877	2,244	2,294	2,603	2,598
Non-recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>812</b>	793	793	814	996	1,282	1,544	2,047
Total revenue	<b>2,654</b>	2,489	2,733	2,691	3,240	3,576	4,147	4,645
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>795</b>	437	650	552	827	944	328	1,061
Gross margin - percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>30.0%</b>	17.6%	23.8%	20.5%	25.5%	26.4%	7.9%	22.8%
<b>US Services (US\$)</b>								
Recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>1,842</b>	1,696	1,940	1,877	2,244	2,294	2,603	2,598
Non-recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>742</b>	723	786	670	706	715	844	980
Total revenue	<b>2,584</b>	2,419	2,726	2,547	2,950	3,009	3,447	3,578
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>839</b>	464	697	635	908	774	390	953
Gross margin - percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>32.5%</b>	19.2%	25.6%	24.9%	30.8%	25.7%	11.3%	26.6%
<b>US Fabrication (US\$)</b>								
Recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-recurring <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>70</b>	70	7	144	290	567	700	1,067
Total revenue	<b>70</b>	70	7	144	290	567	700	1,067
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>(44)</b>	(27)	(47)	(83)	(81)	170	(62)	108
Gross margin - percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>-62.9%</b>	-38.6%	-671.4%	-57.6%	-27.9%	30.0%	-8.9%	10.1%

<sup>(1)</sup> See Non-GAAP measures and additional GAAP measures

## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

### Working capital

As at (\$ thousands)	March 31, 2017	December 31, 2016	Increase (decrease) in working capital
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	370	552	(182)
Accounts receivable	7,116	7,402	(286)
Inventory	2,875	2,838	37
Prepaid expenses	267	316	(49)
	<b>10,628</b>	11,108	(480)
Current liabilities			
Bank indebtedness	6,630	6,100	(530)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	3,363	3,664	301
Deferred revenue	676	713	37
Current portion of provisions	110	191	81
Current portion of deferred lease inducements	17	21	4
	<b>10,796</b>	10,689	(107)
Working capital (excluding debt) <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>(168)</b>	419	(587)
Current portion of long-term debt	960	1,571	611
Working capital <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>(1,128)</b>	(1,152)	(24)

The key driver of the change in working capital (excluding debt) is the decrease of accounts receivable of \$0.3 million related to improved timeliness of the collections of outstanding receivables from the Corporation's customers, offset by the increase of \$0.5 million of bank indebtedness used to invest in product development.

### Credit facilities

On March 21, 2017, the Corporation executed an amendment to the credit facility agreement with its lender. Significant details of the facility are summarized below:

- A revolving demand operating credit up to \$8.5 million, as at March 31, 2017. The margining limit (see Note 10(a) of the 2016 consolidated financial statements) is estimated to be \$6.7 million (December 31, 2016: \$6.7 million), leaving \$0.1 million (December 31, 2016: \$0.6 million) of the operating credit available for future working capital needs. Access to this is limited by the impact of debt levels on financial covenants.
- A committed term loan of \$3.0 million to repay the demand term loan of US\$1.9 million to fund the Measurement Services Acquisition, and fund future growth in the US market.
- A committed term loan of US\$0.7 million to fund repayment of the Corporation's previous bank term loan and unsecured promissory note.

The credit facility is secured by the following:

- A general security agreement creating a first-priority security interest in all present and future undertaking and personal property of the Corporation;
- Upstream guarantees from all material subsidiaries of the Corporation, secured by general security agreements and UCC filings as considered appropriate; and
- A guarantee from Export Development Canada (EDC) with respect to the \$3.0 million committed term loan.

<sup>(1)</sup> See Non-GAAP measures and additional GAAP measures

## Liquidity

As at (\$ thousands)	March 31, 2017	December 31, 2016	Increase (decrease)
Bank indebtedness	6,630	6,100	530
Secured bank term loan - \$3.0 million	3,000	3,000	-
Secured bank term loan - US\$1.1 million	1,016	1,275	(259)
Secured finance contracts	33	66	(33)
Total debt	10,679	10,441	238
Less:			
Cash and cash equivalents	370	552	(182)
Net debt	10,309	9,889	420

At March 31, 2017, the Corporation had \$0.4 million (December 31, 2016: \$0.5 million) of cash on hand, and access to a further \$0.1 million (December 31, 2016: \$0.6 million) available on its secured banking facility to fund ongoing working capital requirements. Access to the amounts available is limited by the impact of debt levels on financial covenants. Management anticipates that its current level of cash flow from operations is sufficient to meet its existing operational obligations, but intends to regularly review its level of capital resources and actively manage its affairs given that the Corporation is at the upper limit of its secured banking facility. This review will consider factors such as the current economic environment, changes in demand for the Corporation's services, capital spending requirements, foreign exchange rates, working capital needs, and profitability of the Corporation's operations, any of which could materially affect the Corporation's ability to meet its obligations.

Available cash on hand combined with amounts available on the Corporation's secured banking facility fell from \$1.1 million as at December 31, 2016 to \$0.5 million as at March 31, 2017. This decline is attributed primarily to investment by the Corporation in capitalized research and development and the payment of costs associated with charges expensed in 2016 related to the restructuring necessary to increase gross margin and reduce general and administrative costs, the beneficial results of which can be seen in the current quarter.

Additional financing may be necessary in a variety of circumstances, including the requirement of working capital to ramp up operations required by strong growth, the occurrence of adverse circumstances, fluctuations in foreign currency translation, or the decision to expand geographically into new markets or by acquisition. It is anticipated that the financing may be raised by bank debt, other forms of debt, or the issue of equity. It is possible that such financing will not be available, or if available, will not be available on favorable terms.

The Corporation's credit facility with its bank requires meeting certain financial covenants. Management expects to meet these covenants in 2017 based on its current financial forecasts, which, in turn, are based on assumptions regarding industry conditions. In light of the prevailing volatility in oil and gas prices and the impact of such prices on the Corporation's customer base, there is a risk that the Corporation's financial results will be negatively affected putting the Corporation offside on its financial covenants, which, in turn, would make the Corporation's secured term loan due upon demand. In such event that a demand of the term loan or demand loan is made, management's plans include the further reduction of expenditures, the pursuit of alternative financing, or the pursuit of other strategic alternatives, the success of which cannot be assured.

The credit facility agreement requires adherence to certain financial covenants, including a Debt to Capitalization ratio not to exceed 0.38 to 1.00 and an Adjusted Debt Service ratio to exceed 1.10 to 1.00. As at March 31, 2017, the Corporation is in compliance with its financial covenants.

## SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

### Issued and Outstanding

Number of common shares	Issued
Balance as at December 31, 2015	58,055,503
Shares issued to senior member of management	125,000
Shares issued under Employee Share Purchase Plan	279,353
Balance as at December 31, 2016	<b>58,459,856</b>
Shares issued to senior member of management	<b>150,000</b>
Shares issued under Employee Share Purchase Plan	<b>30,857</b>
Balance as at March 31, 2017 and at May 10, 2017	<b>58,640,713</b>

### Deferred annual bonus and share purchase plan

The Corporation adopted a Deferred Annual Bonus and Share Purchase Plan ("DSP") in 2006. The DSP enables employees to elect to receive up to 10% of their annual base salary and up to 100% of any annual bonus to which they become entitled in the form of deferred common shares ("DCS"). Each DCS may be redeemed by the holder for one common share of the Corporation for no additional payment on death or termination of the holder's service to the Corporation. Further details on the DCS are disclosed in Note 13 (a) to the December 31, 2016 consolidated financial statements.

### Employee share purchase plan

On May 13, 2014, the Board approved a new Employee Share Purchase Plan ("ESPP"), which was approved by the shareholders of the Corporation on June 11, 2014 and the TSX on June 23, 2014. Further details on the ESPP are disclosed in Note 13 (b) to the December 31, 2016 consolidated financial statements.

## COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

### Commitments

The following table shows the Corporation's financial liabilities and commitments as of March 31, 2017, inclusive of operating leases:

(\$ thousands)	Less than 1 year	1 - 3 years	4 - 5 years	After 5 years
Operating leases	1,455	2,629	2,320	570
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	3,363	-	-	-
Provisions	110	-	-	-
Secured bank term loan (\$3.0 million)	220	1,407	1,373	-
Secured bank term loan (US\$0.7 million)	706	310	-	-
Secured finance contracts	33	-	-	-
	<b>5,887</b>	<b>4,346</b>	<b>3,693</b>	<b>570</b>

The Corporation carries \$3.0 million and US\$0.7 million secured bank term loans. The \$3.0 million secured bank term loan matures April 2019. The Corporation will make interest only payments until September 2017. Beginning in September 2017, the Corporation will start making monthly principal payments, based on a five year amortization period. The US\$0.7 million secured bank term loan matures April 2018 and has repayment terms over the remaining period.

## NON-GAAP MEASURES DEFINITIONS

This MD&A contains references to certain financial measures and associated per share data that do not have any standardized meaning prescribed by IFRS and may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other companies. These financial measures are computed on a consistent basis for each reporting period and include EBITDA, Adjusted EBITDA, Adjusted net earnings, and working capital.

These non-GAAP measures are identified and defined as follows:

“**EBITDA**” is a measure of the Corporation’s operating profitability. EBITDA provides an indication of the results generated by the Corporation’s principal business activities prior to how these activities are financed, assets are depreciated and amortized or how the results are taxed in various jurisdictions.

EBITDA is derived from the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss) and is calculated as follows:

<b>For the three months ended March 31,</b>		
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net loss	<b>(52)</b>	(1,381)
Plus:		
Finance costs	<b>264</b>	300
Income taxes (recovery)	<b>(275)</b>	(201)
Depreciation and amortization	<b>673</b>	571
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>610</b>	(711)

“**Adjusted EBITDA**” is used by management and investors to analyze EBITDA (as defined above) prior to the effect of foreign exchange, other expenses, and share-based payment expense. Adjusted EBITDA is not intended to represent net earnings as calculated in accordance with IFRS. Adjusted EBITDA provides an indication of the results generated by the Corporation’s principal business activities prior to how these activities are financed, assets are depreciated, amortized and impaired, the impact of foreign exchange, how the results are taxed in various jurisdictions, effects of share-based payment expenses, and normalized other expenses not recurring in nature.

Adjusted EBITDA is calculated as follows:

<b>For the three months ended March 31,</b>		
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
EBITDA	<b>610</b>	(711)
Plus:		
Share-based payment	<b>34</b>	48
Foreign exchange	<b>108</b>	727
Loss (gain) on sale of asset	-	(7)
Other expenses	<b>10</b>	263
<b>Adjusted EBITDA</b>	<b>762</b>	320

“**Working capital**” is used by management and the investment community to analyze the operating liquidity available to the Corporation. Working capital is calculated based on current assets less current liabilities.

“**Working capital (excluding debt)**” is used by management and the investment community to analyze the operating liquidity available to the Corporation. Working capital (excluding debt) is calculated based on current assets less current liabilities excluding the current portion of long-term debt.

Working capital (excluding debt) is derived from the consolidated statements of financial positions and is calculated as follows:

<b>As at</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	<b>370</b>	552
Accounts receivable	<b>7,116</b>	7,402
Inventory	<b>2,875</b>	2,838
Prepaid expenses	<b>267</b>	316
	<b>10,628</b>	11,108
Current liabilities		
Bank indebtedness	<b>6,630</b>	6,100
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	<b>3,363</b>	3,664
Deferred revenue	<b>676</b>	713
Current portion of provisions	<b>110</b>	191
Current portion of deferred lease inducements	<b>17</b>	21
	<b>10,796</b>	10,689
Working capital (excluding debt)	<b>(168)</b>	419
Current portion of long-term debt	<b>960</b>	1,571
Working capital	<b>(1,128)</b>	(1,152)

“**Debt to Capitalization ratio**” is calculated based on the total outstanding debt (bank indebtedness and long-term debt) divided by the sum of the total outstanding debt plus shareholders’ equity.

“**Adjusted Debt Service ratio**” is calculated based on the annualized repayment of debt plus interest payments divided by the annualized Adjusted EBITDA.

#### **ADDITIONAL GAAP MEASURES DEFINITIONS**

“**Funds provided by continuing operations**” is used by management and investors to analyze the funds generated by the Corporation’s principal business activities prior to consideration of working capital, which is primarily made up of highly liquid balances. This balance is reported in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows included in the cash provided by operating activities section.

“**Gross margin**” is used by management and investors to analyze overall and segmented operating performance. Gross margin is not intended to represent an alternative to net earnings or other measures of financial performance calculated in accordance with IFRS. Operating income is calculated from the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss) and from the segmented information contained in the notes to the consolidated financial statements. Gross margin is defined as revenue less operating expenses.

“**Gross margin percentage**” is used by management and investors to analyze overall and segmented operating performance. Gross margin percentage is calculated from the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss) and



from the segmented information in the notes to the consolidated financial statements. Gross margin percentage is defined as gross margin divided by revenue.

**“Recurring revenue”** refers to Software and Services that are provided to the client which is reasonably expected to be continually provided on a periodic basis. This would include subscription revenue and production related services.

**“Non-recurring revenue”** refers to Software and Services that are provided to the client which are viewed as one-time in nature. This would include implementation revenue, equipment sales, and fabrication projects.

## **BUSINESS RISKS**

The business of Critical Control Energy Services Corp. is subject to risk and uncertainties. Prior to making any investment decisions regarding Critical Control, investors should carefully consider, among other things, the risk described (including risk and uncertainties listed in the Forward-Looking Statements section in this MD&A) and risk factors set forth in the most recent Annual Information Form of the Corporation and the 2016 Management Discussion and Analysis, which are incorporated herein. The Annual Information Form of the Corporation and the 2016 Management Discussion and Analysis have been filed with SEDAR and can be accessed at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

## **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENT AND ESTIMATES**

The preparation of the condensed consolidated interim financial statements requires management to make judgements and estimates that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income, and expenses. Judgements and estimates are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and expectations of future events. While judgements and estimates used by Critical Control are believed to be reasonable under current circumstances, actual results could differ. The Corporation has applied significant judgements on a basis consistent with the prior year.

## **DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES AND INTERNAL CONTROLS OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

There have been no significant changes in the Corporation’s disclosure controls and procedures (DC&P) and internal controls over financial reporting (ICFR) for the three months period ended March 31, 2017. No additional material weaknesses or significant deficiencies have been identified in the design and operating effectiveness of these controls which could materially affect, or are reasonably likely to affect, Corporation’s internal controls over financial reporting.

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Gary Bentham, CPA,CA, ICD.D  
Audit Committee Chairman

Dennis Nerland, QC, BSc, MA, JD, ICD.D, TEP  
Compensation Committee Chairman

Alykhan Mamdani, BMath, LLB, LLM, CPA,CMA  
President & CEO, Director and Founder

Kevin Lo, B.Sc., MBA, P. Eng  
Independent director

Nizar Jaffer Somji, M.Eng, P.Eng  
Independent director

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Chairman of the Board

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Karim Punja, CFA  
Vice President, Operations