Merriman Curhan Ford Group, Inc. Form 10-Q November 10, 2008

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

x QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2008

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.

For the Transition Period from _____ to _____.

Commission file number: 1-15831

MERRIMAN CURHAN FORD GROUP, INC. (Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

600 California Street, 9th Floor San Francisco, CA (Address of Principal Executive Offices) 11-2936371 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

> 94108 (Zip Code)

(415) 248-5600

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes x No

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

Large accelerated filer " Non-accelerated filer " Accelerated filer x Smaller reporting company "

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes "No x

The number of shares of Registrant's common stock outstanding as of October 31, 2008 was 12,891,862.

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PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements (unaudited)

MERRIMAN CURHAN FORD GROUP, INC. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS (unaudited)

Revenue:Commissions\$ 7,992,614\$ 7,923,963\$ 24,353,696\$ 22,807,243Principal transactions $(5,384,303)$ $2,478,297$ $(5,280,550)$ $10,804,073$ Investment banking $1,600,260$ $5,616,491$ $9,423,666$ $15,480,518$ Primary research $1,431,154$ $1,165,428$ $4,471,092$ $2,116,490$ Advisory and other fees $341,810$ $476,015$ $581,410$ $1,147,363$ Total revenue $5,981,535$ $17,660,194$ $33,549,314$ $52,355,687$ Operating expenses: C C C C Compensation and benefits $8,743,732$ $12,096,131$ $34,016,942$ $35,673,505$ Brokerage and clearing fees $558,344$ $627,223$ $2,042,828$ $1,921,920$ Cost of primary research services $548,943$ $555,185$ $1,743,236$ $950,403$ Professional services $3,987,874$ $518,045$ $7,290,374$ $1,603,163$ Occupancy and equipment $650,678$ $499,459$ $1,877,288$ $1,395,048$ Communications and technology $702,654$ $921,853$ $2,653,501$ $2,618,799$ Depreciation and amortization $308,220$ $193,284$ $614,390$ $556,332$ Amortization of intangible assets $116,536$ $264,771$ $349,607$ $485,414$ Travel and entertainment $674,161$ $635,353$ $2,645,964$ $1,789,971$ Other $1,388,335$ $1,277,519$ $3,505,583$ $2,993,878$
Principal transactions(5,384,303)2,478,297(5,280,550)10,804,073Investment banking1,600,2605,616,4919,423,66615,480,518Primary research1,431,1541,165,4284,471,0922,116,490Advisory and other fees341,810476,015581,4101,147,363Total revenue5,981,53517,660,19433,549,31452,355,687Operating expenses:Compensation and benefits8,743,73212,096,13134,016,94235,673,505Brokerage and clearing fees558,344627,2232,042,8281,921,920Cost of primary research services548,943555,1851,743,236950,403Professional services3,987,874518,0457,290,3741,603,163Occupancy and equipment650,678499,4591,877,2881,395,048Communications and technology702,654921,8532,653,5012,618,799Depreciation and amortization308,220193,284614,390556,332Amortization of intangible assets116,536264,771349,607485,414Travel and entertainment674,161635,3532,645,9641,789,971
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Other 1 388 335 1 277 510 3 505 583 2 002 878
Outer 1,300,333 1,277,317 3,303,303 2,993,070
Impairment of goodwill and
intangible assets 2,601,516
Total operating expenses17,679,47717,588,82359,341,22949,988,433
Operating (loss) income (11,697,942) 71,371 (25,791,915) 2,367,254
Interest income 195,283 132,965 325,703 362,919
Interest expense (22,665) (15,876) (61,673) (97,087)
(Loss)/income before taxes (11,525,324) 188,460 (25,527,885) 2,633,089
Income tax (expense) benefit (198,014) 1,640,730 (55,000)
Net (loss) income \$ (11,723,338) \$ 188,460 \$ (23,887,155) \$ 2,578,089
Basic net (loss) income per share:
Net (loss) income \$ (0.93) \$ 0.02 \$ (1.91) \$ 0.23

Diluted net (loss) income per share: