

Cheniere Energy Partners, L.P.
Form 10-Q
November 05, 2010

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

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2010

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File No. 001-33366

Cheniere Energy Partners, L.P.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

20-5913059
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

700 Milam Street, Suite 800
Houston, Texas
(Address of principal executive offices)

77002
(Zip Code)

(713) 375-5000
(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 No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if

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any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes " No "

Indicate by check mark 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. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer " Accelerated filer S
Non-accelerated filer " Smaller reporting company "
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

The issuer had 26,416,357 common units and 135,383,831 subordinated units outstanding as of November 1, 2010.

CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

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PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Consolidated Financial Statements

CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(in thousands, except unit data)

| | September 30, 2010 (unaudited) | December 31, 2009 |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$57,028 | \$117,542 |
| Restricted cash and cash equivalents | 54,929 | 13,732 |
| Accounts and interest receivable | 722 | 5,037 |
| Accounts receivable—affiliate | — | 3,586 |
| Advances to affiliate | 2,458 | 5,358 |
| Advances to affiliate—LNG inventory | — | 1,319 |
| LNG inventory | 901 | 1,521 |
| Prepaid expenses and other | 5,911 | 4,836 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | 121,949 | 152,931 |
| NON-CURRENT RESTRICTED CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | 82,394 | 82,394 |
| PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, NET | 1,559,573 | 1,588,557 |
| DEBT ISSUANCE COSTS, NET | 23,108 | 26,953 |
| ADVANCES UNDER LONG-TERM CONTRACTS | — | 1,021 |
| OTHER | 9,972 | 7,617 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$1,796,996 | \$1,859,473 |
| LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' DEFICIT | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable | \$959 | \$39 |
| Accounts payable—affiliate | 23 | 306 |
| Accrued liabilities | 58,793 | 22,181 |
| Accrued liabilities—affiliate | 4,907 | 3,095 |
| Deferred revenue | 26,340 | 26,456 |
| Deferred revenue—affiliate | 674 | 63,507 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | 91,696 | 115,584 |
| LONG-TERM DEBT, NET OF DISCOUNT | 2,111,921 | 2,110,101 |
| LONG-TERM DEBT—RELATED PARTY, NET OF DISCOUNT | 74,629 | 72,928 |
| DEFERRED REVENUE | 30,500 | 33,500 |
| DEFERRED REVENUE—AFFILIATE | 9,813 | 7,360 |
| OTHER NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | 338 | 327 |
| COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES | — | — |
| PARTNERS' DEFICIT | | |

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| | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Common unitholders (26,416,357 units issued and outstanding at September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009) | (57,540) | (41,494) |
| Subordinated unitholders (135,383,831 units issued and outstanding at September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009) | (451,723) | (427,026) |
| General partner interest (2% interest with 3,302,045 units issued and outstanding at September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009) | (12,638) | (11,807) |
| TOTAL PARTNERS' DEFICIT | (521,901) | (480,327) |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' DEFICIT | \$1,796,996 | \$1,859,473 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(in thousands, except per unit data)

(unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 |
| REVENUES | | | | |
| Revenues | \$65,945 | \$65,035 | \$198,776 | \$97,112 |
| Revenues—affiliate | 672 | 63,498 | 128,382 | 189,665 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 66,617 | 128,533 | 327,158 | 286,777 |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| Operating and maintenance expense | 5,865 | 4,752 | 20,107 | 14,445 |
| Operating and maintenance expense—affiliate | 3,017 | 2,810 | 9,167 | 8,393 |
| Depreciation expense | 10,538 | 8,905 | 31,661 | 22,711 |
| Development expense | 4,012 | — | 4,625 | — |
| Development expense—affiliate | 615 | — | 1,100 | — |
| General and administrative expense | 1,245 | 797 | 5,044 | 2,295 |
| General and administrative expense—affiliate | 4,951 | 4,902 | 15,366 | 14,887 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 30,243 | 22,166 | 87,070 | 62,731 |
| INCOME FROM OPERATIONS | 36,374 | 106,367 | 240,088 | 224,046 |
| OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE) | | | | |
| Interest income | 100 | 65 | 245 | 883 |
| Interest expense, net | (43,451) | (38,089) | (130,576) | (104,370) |
| Interest expense, net—affiliate | — | — | — | (13) |
| Derivative gain, net | — | 1,158 | 461 | 4,482 |
| Other | — | — | 1 | 12 |
| TOTAL OTHER EXPENSE | (43,351) | (36,866) | (129,869) | (99,006) |
| NET INCOME (LOSS) | \$(6,977) | \$69,501 | \$110,219 | \$125,040 |
| Allocation of net income (loss): | | | | |
| Limited partners' interest | \$(6,837) | \$68,111 | \$108,015 | \$122,539 |
| General partner's interest | (140) | 1,390 | 2,204 | 2,501 |
| Net income (loss) for partners | \$(6,977) | \$69,501 | \$110,219 | \$125,040 |
| Basic and diluted net income (loss) per limited partner unit | \$(0.04) | \$0.43 | \$0.67 | \$0.77 |
| Weighted average number of limited partner units outstanding used for basic and diluted net income (loss) per unit calculation: | | | | |
| Common units | 26,416 | 26,416 | 26,416 | 26,416 |
| Subordinated units | 135,384 | 135,384 | 135,384 | 135,384 |
| Total limited partners' units | 161,800 | 161,800 | 161,800 | 161,800 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PARTNERS' CAPITAL (DEFICIT)

(in thousands)

(unaudited)

| | Common Units | Subordinated Units | General Partner Units | Total |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Balance at December 31, 2009 | \$(41,494) | \$ (427,026) | \$(11,807) | \$(480,327) |
| Net income | 17,634 | 90,380 | 2,205 | 110,219 |
| Distributions | (33,680) | (115,077) | (3,036) | (151,793) |
| Balance at September 30, 2010 | \$(57,540) | \$ (451,723) | \$(12,638) | \$(521,901) |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(in thousands)

(unaudited)

Nine Months Ended
September 30,
2010 2009

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

| | | |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| Net income | \$110,219 | \$125,040 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation | 31,661 | 22,711 |
| Non-cash derivative loss | 124 | 1,639 |
| Amortization of debt issuance costs | 3,759 | 2,863 |
| Amortization of debt discount | 3,521 | 3,521 |
| Investment in restricted cash and cash equivalents | (41,197) | (41,197) |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | |
| Accounts and interest receivable | 369 | 1,866 |
| Accounts receivable—affiliate | 3,586 | 59 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 43,663 | 33,221 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities—affiliate | 1,548 | 1,844 |
| Advances to affiliate | 2,900 | (4,458) |
| Deferred revenue | (3,116) | 21,170 |
| Deferred revenue—affiliate | (62,833) | — |
| Other | 751 | 72 |
| NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES | 94,955 | 168,351 |

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

| | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
| Use of restricted cash and cash equivalents | — | 189,665 |
| LNG receiving terminal construction-in-process, net | (3,636) | (97,253) |
| Advances under long-term contracts | (36) | (404) |
| NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES | (3,672) | 92,008 |

CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Distributions to unitholders | (151,793) | (210,506) |
| Affiliate payable | (4) | — |
| Borrowings from long-term debt—affiliate | — | 114 |
| Repayment of long-term debt—affiliate | — | (2,467) |
| Debt issuance costs | — | (23) |
| Special rights adjustment | — | (34,879) |
| Use of restricted cash and cash equivalents | — | 109,008 |
| NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES | (151,797) | (138,753) |

| | | |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | (60,514) | 121,606 |
|---|------------------|----------------|

| | | |
|---|---------|---|
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS—beginning of period | 117,542 | 7 |
|---|---------|---|

| | | |
|---|----------|-----------|
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS—end of period | \$57,028 | \$121,613 |
|---|----------|-----------|

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(unaudited)

NOTE 1—Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements of Cheniere Energy Partners, L.P. have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (“GAAP”) for interim financial information and Rule 10-01 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by GAAP for complete financial statements. In our opinion, all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments necessary for a fair presentation, have been included. As used in these Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, the terms “Cheniere Partners”, “we”, “us” and “our” refer to Cheniere Energy Partners L.P. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, unless otherwise stated or indicated by context.

Results of operations for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010 are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations that will be realized for the year ended December 31, 2010.

We are not subject to either federal or state income tax, as the partners are taxed individually on their proportionate share of our earnings.

Certain reclassifications have been made to prior period information to conform to the current presentation. The reclassifications had no effect on our overall consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

For further information, refer to the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes included in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009.

NOTE 2—LNG Inventory and Advances to Affiliate—LNG Inventory

Liquefied natural gas (“LNG”) inventory and advances to affiliate—LNG inventory are recorded at cost and are subject to lower of cost or market (“LCM”) adjustments at the end of each period. Inventory cost is determined using the average cost method. Recoveries of losses resulting from interim period LCM adjustments are made due to market price recoveries on the same inventory in the same fiscal year and are recognized as gains in later interim periods with such gains not exceeding previously recognized losses. At September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, we had \$0.9 million and \$1.5 million, respectively, of LNG inventory on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. At September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, we had zero and \$1.3 million, respectively, of advances to affiliate—LNG inventory on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

NOTE 3—Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents

Restricted cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and cash equivalents that are contractually restricted as to usage or withdrawal, as follows:

Sabine Pass LNG, L.P. (“Sabine Pas LNG”) has consummated private offerings of an aggregate principal amount of \$2,215.5 million of Senior Notes (See Note 6—“Long-Term Debt (including related party)”). Under the indenture governing the Senior Notes (the “Sabine Pass Indenture”), except for permitted tax distributions, Sabine Pass LNG may not make distributions until certain conditions are satisfied: there must be on deposit in an interest payment account an amount equal to one-sixth of the semi-annual interest payment multiplied by the number of elapsed months since the last semi-annual interest payment, and there must be on deposit in a permanent debt service reserve fund an amount equal to one semi-annual interest payment of \$82.4 million. Distributions are permitted only after satisfying the

foregoing funding requirements, a fixed charge coverage ratio test of 2:1 and other conditions specified in the Sabine Pass Indenture.

CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—CONTINUED
(unaudited)

As of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, we classified \$54.9 million and \$13.7 million, respectively, as current restricted cash and cash equivalents for the payment of interest due within twelve months. As of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, we classified the permanent debt service reserve fund of \$82.4 million as non-current restricted cash and cash equivalents. These cash accounts are controlled by a collateral trustee, and, therefore, are shown as restricted cash and cash equivalents on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

NOTE 4—Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment consist of LNG receiving terminal costs, LNG site and related costs and fixed assets, as follows (in thousands):

| | September 30, 2010 | December 31, 2009 |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| LNG RECEIVING TERMINAL COSTS | | |
| LNG receiving terminal | \$1,628,296 | \$1,627,564 |
| LNG receiving terminal construction-in-process | 1,837 | — |
| LNG site and related costs, net | 171 | 176 |
| Accumulated depreciation | (71,243) | (39,975) |
| Total LNG receiving terminal costs, net | 1,559,061 | 1,587,765 |
| FIXED ASSETS | | |
| Computers and office equipment | 227 | 259 |
| Vehicles | 383 | 421 |
| Machinery and equipment | 955 | 931 |
| Other | 482 | 419 |
| Accumulated depreciation | (1,535) | (1,238) |
| Total fixed assets, net | 512 | 792 |
| PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, NET | \$1,559,573 | \$1,588,557 |

We began depreciating equipment and facilities associated with the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal when costs were ready for use. Depreciation expense related to the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal totaled \$10.5 million and \$8.8 million for the three-month periods ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively, and totaled \$31.3 million and \$22.3 million for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

NOTE 5—Accrued Liabilities

As of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, accrued liabilities consisted of the following (in thousands):

| | September 30, 2010 | December 31, 2009 |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Interest expense and related debt fees | \$54,929 | \$14,152 |

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| | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| LNG receiving terminal construction and operating costs | 2,035 | 7,850 |
| Affiliate | 4,907 | 3,095 |
| Other | 1,829 | 179 |
| Total accrued liabilities | \$63,700 | \$25,276 |

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CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—CONTINUED
(unaudited)

NOTE 6—Long-Term Debt (including related party)

As of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, our long-term debt consisted of the following (in thousands):

| | September 30, 2010 | December 31, 2009 |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Senior Notes, net of discount | \$2,111,921 | \$2,110,101 |
| Senior Notes, net of discount—related party | 74,629 | 72,928 |
| Total long-term debt, net of discount | \$2,186,550 | \$2,183,029 |

In November 2006, Sabine Pass LNG issued an aggregate principal amount of \$2,032.0 million of Senior Notes, consisting of \$550.0 million of 7¼% Senior Secured Notes due 2013 (the “2013 Notes”) and \$1,482.0 million of 7½% Senior Secured Notes due 2016 (the “2016 Notes” and collectively with the 2013 Notes, the “Senior Notes”). In September 2008, Sabine Pass LNG issued an additional \$183.5 million, before discount, of 2016 Notes whose terms were identical to the previously outstanding 2016 Notes. The net proceeds received from the additional issuance of 2016 Notes were \$145.0 million. The additional issuance and the previously outstanding 2016 Notes are treated as a single series of notes under the Sabine Pass Indenture.

Interest on the Senior Notes is payable semi-annually in arrears on May 30 and November 30 of each year. The Senior Notes are secured on a first-priority basis by a security interest in all of Sabine Pass LNG’s equity interests and substantially all of its operating assets. Under the Sabine Pass Indenture, except for permitted tax distributions, Sabine Pass LNG may not make distributions until certain conditions are satisfied: there must be on deposit in an interest payment account an amount equal to one-sixth of the semi-annual interest payment multiplied by the number of elapsed months since the last semi-annual interest payment, and there must be on deposit in a permanent debt service reserve fund an amount equal to one semi-annual interest payment of \$82.4 million. Distributions are permitted only after satisfying the foregoing funding requirements, a fixed charge coverage ratio test of 2:1 and other conditions specified in the Sabine Pass Indenture. During the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010, Sabine Pass LNG made distributions of \$86.8 million and \$298.6 million, respectively, to us after satisfying all of the applicable conditions in the Sabine Pass Indenture. During the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2009, Sabine Pass LNG made distributions of \$73.2 million and \$222.5 million, respectively, to us after satisfying all of the applicable conditions in the Sabine Pass Indenture.

NOTE 7—Description of Equity Interests

The common units and subordinated units represent limited partner interests in us. The holders of the units are entitled to participate in partnership distributions and exercise the rights and privileges available to limited partners under our partnership agreement. On May 31, 2007, Cheniere LNG Holdings, LLC contributed all of its 135,383,831 subordinated units to Cheniere Subsidiary Holdings, LLC.

The common units and general partner units have the right to receive minimum quarterly distributions of \$0.425 and \$0.069 per unit, respectively, plus any arrearages thereon, before any distribution is made to the holders of the subordinated units. Subordinated units will convert into common units on a one-for-one basis when the subordination period ends. The subordination period will end when we meet financial tests specified in the partnership agreement.

The general partner interest is entitled to at least 2% of all distributions made by us. In addition, the general partner holds incentive distribution rights, which allow the general partner to receive a higher percentage of quarterly distributions of available cash from operating surplus after the minimum distributions have been achieved and as additional target levels are met. The higher percentages range from 15% up to 50%.

NOTE 8—Financial Instruments

Derivative Instruments

Cheniere Marketing, LLC (“Cheniere Marketing”) has entered into financial derivatives on behalf of Sabine Pass LNG to hedge the exposure to variability in expected future cash flows attributable to the future sale of LNG inventory. Changes in the fair value of our derivatives are reported in earnings because they do not meet the criteria to be designated as a hedging instrument that is required to qualify for cash flow hedge accounting. The estimated fair value of financial instruments is the

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CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—CONTINUED
(unaudited)

amount at which the instrument could be exchanged currently between willing parties. We had no open financial derivative instruments at September 30, 2010.

Other Financial Instruments

The estimated fair value of financial instruments, including those financial instruments for which the fair value option was not elected, are set forth in the table below. The carrying amounts reported on our Consolidated Balance Sheets for cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, interest receivable and accounts payable approximate fair value due to their short-term nature.

Financial Instruments (in thousands):

| | September 30, 2010 | | December 31, 2009 | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| | Carrying Amount | Estimated Fair Value | Carrying Amount | Estimated Fair Value |
| 2013 Notes (1) | \$ 550,000 | \$ 530,750 | \$ 550,000 | \$ 503,250 |
| 2016 Notes, net of discount (1) | 1,636,550 | 1,493,352 | 1,633,029 | 1,371,744 |

(1) The fair value of the Senior Notes, net of discount, was based on quotations obtained from broker-dealers who made markets in these and similar instruments as of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, as applicable.

NOTE 9—Related Party Transactions

As of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, we had \$2.5 million and \$5.4 million of advances to affiliates, respectively. In addition, we have entered into the following related party transactions:

LNG Receiving Terminal Capacity Agreements

Terminal Use Agreement

In November 2006, Cheniere Marketing reserved approximately 2.0 billion cubic feet per day (“Bcf/d”) of regasification capacity under a firm commitment terminal use agreement (“TUA”) with Sabine Pass LNG and was required to make capacity reservation fee payments aggregating approximately \$250 million per year for the period from January 1, 2009, through at least September 30, 2028. Cheniere Energy, Inc. (“Cheniere”) guaranteed Cheniere Marketing’s obligations under its TUA.

In June 2010, Cheniere Marketing assigned its existing TUA with Sabine Pass LNG to Cheniere Energy Investments, LLC (“Investments”), our wholly owned subsidiary, including all of its rights, titles, interests, obligations and liabilities in and under the TUA. In connection with the assignment, Cheniere’s guarantee of Cheniere Marketing’s obligations under the TUA was terminated. Investments is required to make capacity payments under the TUA aggregating approximately \$250 million per year through at least September 30, 2028; however, the revenue earned from Investments’ capacity payments is eliminated upon consolidation of our financial statements. We have guaranteed Investments’ obligations under its TUA.

Variable Capacity Rights Agreement

Concurrent with the TUA assignment, Investments entered into a Variable Capacity Rights Agreement (“VCRA”) with Cheniere Marketing in order for Investments to monetize its capacity at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal. The VCRA will continue until the earliest of (a) the termination of Investments’ TUA, (b) expiration of the initial term of the TUA, (c) the termination of the VCRA by either party after two years, and (d) the termination of the VCRA as a result of default. Under the terms of the VCRA, Cheniere Marketing will continue to be responsible for monetizing the capacity at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal and will have the right to utilize all of the services and other rights at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal available under the TUA assigned to Investments. In consideration of these rights, Cheniere Marketing is obligated to pay Investments 80% of the expected gross margin of each cargo of LNG delivered to the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal. To the extent payments from Cheniere Marketing to Investments under the VCRA increase our available cash in excess of the common unit and general partner distributions and certain reserves, the cash would be distributed to Cheniere Subsidiary Holdings, LLC in the form of distributions on its subordinated units. During the term of the VCRA, Cheniere Marketing is responsible for the payment of taxes and new regulatory costs under the TUA. Cheniere

CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—CONTINUED
(unaudited)

has guaranteed all of Cheniere Marketing's payment obligations under the VCRA.

LNG Lease Agreement

In September 2008, Sabine Pass LNG entered into an agreement in the form of a lease with Cheniere Marketing that enabled Sabine Pass LNG to hedge the exposure to variability in expected future cash flows of its commissioning cargoes. The agreement permitted Cheniere Marketing to deliver LNG to the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal and to receive regasified LNG for redelivery as natural gas in exchange for the use of the properties of the LNG to cool down the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal. Under the terms of the agreement, Sabine Pass LNG paid Cheniere Marketing a fixed fee based on the delivered quantity of LNG in each LNG cargo. Sabine Pass LNG assumed full price risk of the purchase and sale of the LNG and also financed all activities relating to the LNG. Cheniere Marketing held title to the LNG at all times and sold all redelivered LNG and remitted the net proceeds from such sales back to Sabine Pass LNG.

Advances to affiliate—LNG inventory is recorded at cost and is subject to LCM adjustments at the end of each period. Inventory cost is determined using the average cost method. Recoveries of losses resulting from interim period LCM adjustments are made due to market price recoveries on the same inventory in the same fiscal year and are recognized as gains in later interim periods with such gains not exceeding previously recognized losses. At September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, we had zero and \$1.3 million, respectively, advances to affiliate—LNG inventory on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. During the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, Sabine Pass LNG incurred fixed fees from Cheniere Marketing of zero and \$0.3 million, respectively.

Service Agreements

During the three-month periods ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, we paid an aggregate of \$2.0 million and \$4.6 million, respectively, under the following service agreements from restricted cash and cash equivalents. During the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, we paid an aggregate of \$11.3 million and \$13.9 million, respectively, under the following service agreements from restricted cash and cash equivalents.

Sabine Pass LNG Operation and Maintenance Agreement

In February 2005, Sabine Pass LNG entered into a 20-year operation and maintenance agreement with a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cheniere pursuant to which we receive all necessary services required to construct, operate and maintain the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal. Sabine Pass LNG is required to pay a fixed monthly fee of \$130,000 (indexed for inflation) under the agreement, and the counterparty is entitled to a bonus equal to 50% of the salary component of labor costs in certain circumstances to be agreed upon between Sabine Pass LNG and the counterparty at the beginning of each operating year. In addition, Sabine Pass LNG is required to reimburse the counterparty for its operating expenses, which consist primarily of labor expenses.

Sabine Pass LNG Management Services Agreement

In February 2005, Sabine Pass LNG entered into a 20-year management services agreement with its general partner, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of us, pursuant to which its general partner was appointed to manage the

construction and operation of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal, excluding those matters provided for under the operation and maintenance agreement described in the paragraph above. In August 2008, the general partner of Sabine Pass LNG assigned all of its rights and obligations under the management services agreement to Cheniere LNG Terminals, Inc. (“Cheniere Terminals”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cheniere. Sabine Pass LNG is required to pay Cheniere Terminals a monthly fixed fee of \$520,000 (indexed for inflation).

Cheniere Partners Services Agreement

In March 2007, we entered into a services agreement with Cheniere Terminals pursuant to which we would pay Cheniere Terminals an annual administrative fee of \$10.0 million (adjusted for inflation) for the provision of various general and administrative services for our benefit following the closing of our initial public offering. Payments under this services agreement commenced January 1, 2009. In addition, we reimbursed Cheniere Terminals for its services in an amount equal to the sum of all out-of-pocket costs and expenses incurred by Cheniere Terminals directly related to our business or activities.

CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—CONTINUED
(unaudited)

In June 2010, Cheniere Terminals and we amended, effective as of July 1, 2010, the fee structure for the various general and administrative services provided by Cheniere Terminals for our benefit and changed it from a fixed fee to a variable fee not to exceed \$2.5 million per quarter (indexed for inflation). The amended and restated services agreement provides that fees will be paid quarterly from our unrestricted cash and cash equivalents remaining after making distributions to our common unitholders and the general partner in respect of each quarter and after retaining certain reserves. Our ability to pay management fees is dependent on Cheniere Terminals' ability to, among other things, manage our and Sabine Pass LNG's operating and administrative expenses, monetize the 2.0 Bcf/d regasification capacity held by Investments and develop new projects through either internal development or acquisition to increase cash flow.

Agreement to Fund Sabine Pass LNG's Cooperative Endeavor Agreements

In July 2007, Sabine Pass LNG executed Cooperative Endeavor Agreements ("CEAs") with various Cameron Parish, Louisiana taxing authorities that allow them to collect certain annual property tax payments from Sabine Pass LNG in 2007 through 2016. This ten-year initiative represents an aggregate \$25.0 million commitment and will make resources available to the Cameron Parish taxing authorities on an accelerated basis in order to aid in their reconstruction efforts following Hurricane Rita. In exchange for Sabine Pass LNG's payments of annual ad valorem taxes, Cameron Parish will grant Sabine Pass LNG a dollar for dollar credit against future ad valorem taxes to be levied against the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal starting in 2019. In September 2007, Sabine Pass LNG modified its TUA with Cheniere Marketing, pursuant to which Cheniere Marketing will pay Sabine Pass LNG additional TUA revenues equal to any and all amounts payable under the CEAs in exchange for a similar amount of credits against future TUA payments it would owe Sabine Pass LNG under its TUA starting in 2019. In June 2010, Cheniere Marketing assigned its existing TUA to Investments and concurrently entered into a VCRA, allowing Cheniere Marketing to continue to monetize Investments' capacity under the TUA after the assignment. The VCRA provides that Cheniere Marketing will continue to fund the CEAs during the term of the VCRA and in exchange Cheniere Marketing will receive any future credits.

On a consolidated basis, these TUA payments were recorded to other assets, and payments from Cheniere Marketing that Sabine Pass LNG utilized to make the ad valorem tax payments were recorded as deferred revenue. As of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, we had \$9.8 million and \$7.4 million of other assets and deferred revenue resulting from Sabine Pass LNG's ad valorem tax payments and the advance TUA payments received from Cheniere Marketing, respectively.

Contracts for Sale and Purchase of Natural Gas

During the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010, Sabine Pass LNG sold or purchased natural gas for fuel under an agreement with Cheniere Marketing. Under this agreement, Sabine Pass LNG purchases natural gas from Cheniere Marketing to use as fuel at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal at a sales price equal to the actual purchase cost paid by Cheniere Marketing to suppliers of the natural gas plus any third-party costs incurred by Cheniere Marketing in respect of the receipt, purchase, and delivery of the natural gas to the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal and plus an administrative fee paid to Cheniere Marketing. Sabine Pass LNG purchased \$1.2 million and \$1.8 million of natural gas from Cheniere Marketing under this contract for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010, respectively. Sabine Pass LNG did not purchase any natural gas from Cheniere Marketing under this contract for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2009.

LNG Terminal Export Agreement

In January 2010, Sabine Pass LNG and Cheniere Marketing entered into an LNG Terminal Export Agreement that provides Cheniere Marketing the ability to export LNG from the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal. Sabine Pass LNG received zero and \$0.9 million under this contract for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010, respectively.

CHENIERE ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—CONTINUED
(unaudited)

NOTE 10—Supplemental Cash Flow Information and Disclosures of Non-Cash Transactions

The following table provides supplemental disclosure of cash flow information (in thousands):

| | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2010 | 2009 |
| Cash paid for interest, net of amounts capitalized | \$ 82,340 | \$ 56,767 |
| Construction-in-process and debt issuance additions funded with accrued liabilities | — | 7,916 |

Item 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

INFORMATION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This quarterly report contains certain statements that are, or may be deemed to be, "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). All statements, other than statements of historical fact, included herein or incorporated herein by reference are "forward-looking statements." Included among "forward-looking statements" are, among other things:

- statements regarding our ability to pay distributions to our unitholders;
- our expected receipt of cash distributions from Sabine Pass LNG, L.P. ("Sabine Pass LNG");
- statements regarding future levels of domestic natural gas production, supply or consumption; future levels of liquefied natural gas ("LNG") imports into North America; sales of natural gas in North America; exports of natural gas from North America; and the transportation, other infrastructure or prices related to natural gas, LNG or other energy sources;
- statements regarding any financing transactions or arrangements, or ability to enter into such transactions or arrangements;
- statements regarding any terminal use agreement ("TUA") or other agreements to be entered into or performed substantially in the future, including any cash distributions and revenues anticipated to be received and the anticipated timing thereof, and statements regarding the amounts of total LNG regasification, liquefaction or storage capacity that are, or may become, subject to TUAs or other contracts;
 - statements regarding counterparties to our TUAs, construction contracts and other contracts;
- statements relating to the construction or operation of our proposed liquefaction facilities, including statements concerning the completion or expansion thereof by certain dates or at all, the costs related thereto and certain characteristics thereof;
- statements regarding any business strategy, any business plans or any other plans, forecasts, projections or objectives, any or all of which are subject to change;
- statements regarding legislative, governmental, regulatory, administrative or other public body actions, requirements, permits, investigations, proceedings or decisions; and
 - any other statements that relate to non-historical or future information.

These forward-looking statements are often identified by the use of terms such as "achieve," "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "expect," "forecast," "intend," "plan," "potential," "project," "propose," "strategy" and similar terms. Although the expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable, they involve assumptions, risks and uncertainties, and these expectations may prove to be incorrect. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this quarterly report.

As used herein, the terms “Cheniere Partners,” “we,” “our” and “us” refer to Cheniere Energy Partners, L.P. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries effective March 26, 2007 upon the closing of its initial public offering, and to certain entities under common control prior to March 26, 2007, unless otherwise stated or indicated by context.

Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of a variety of factors, including those discussed under “Risk Factors” in our current report on Form 8-K dated August 6, 2010. All forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by these risk factors. Other than as required under the securities laws, we assume no obligation to update or revise these forward-looking statements or provide reasons why actual results may differ.

Introduction

The following discussion and analysis presents management's view of our business, financial condition and overall performance and should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes in Item 1. "Consolidated Financial Statements". This information is intended to provide investors with an understanding of our past performance, current financial condition and outlook for the future. Our discussion and analysis includes the following subjects:

- Overview of Business
- Overview of Significant 2010 Events
 - Liquidity and Capital Resources
 - Results of Operations
 - Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements
- Summary of Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates
- Recent Accounting Standards

Overview of Business

We are a Delaware limited partnership formed by Cheniere Energy, Inc. ("Cheniere"). Through our wholly-owned subsidiary, Sabine Pass LNG, we own and operate the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal located in western Cameron Parish, Louisiana on the Sabine Pass Channel.

Following the achievement of commercial operability of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal in September 2008, Sabine Pass LNG began receiving capacity reservation fee payments from Cheniere Marketing, LLC ("Cheniere Marketing"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cheniere, under its TUA. In December 2008, Cheniere Marketing began paying Sabine Pass LNG its monthly capacity reservation fee payment on a quarterly basis. Sabine Pass LNG also began receiving monthly capacity reservation fee payments from Total Gas and Power North America, Inc. (formerly known as Total LNG USA, Inc.) ("Total") and Chevron U.S.A., Inc. ("Chevron") under their TUAs in March 2009 and June 2009, respectively.

In June 2010, Cheniere Marketing assigned its TUA with Sabine Pass LNG to Cheniere Energy Investments, LLC ("Investments"), our wholly owned subsidiary, and concurrently Investments entered into a Variable Capacity Rights Agreement ("VCRA"), described below, with Cheniere Marketing in order for Investments to monetize its capacity at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal.

LNG Receiving Terminal Business

The Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal has regasification capacity of approximately 4.0 billion cubic feet per day ("Bcf/d") and five LNG storage tanks with an aggregate LNG storage capacity of approximately 16.9 Bcf along with two unloading docks capable of handling the largest LNG carriers currently being operated or built. Construction of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal commenced in March 2005. We achieved full operability with total sendout capacity of approximately 4.0 Bcf/d and storage capacity of approximately 16.9 Bcf during the third quarter of 2009.

Overview of Significant 2010 Events

In the first nine months of 2010, and through the date of this Form 10-Q, we continue to execute our strategy to operate the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal and generate steady and reliable revenues under Sabine Pass LNG's long-term TUAs. The major events that have occurred in the first nine months of 2010 and through the date of this Form 10-Q include the following:

- In June 2010, we initiated a project to add liquefaction services at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal that would transform the terminal into a bi-directional facility capable of liquefying natural gas and exporting LNG in addition to importing and regasifying foreign-sourced LNG.

- In June 2010, Cheniere Marketing assigned its TUA with Sabine Pass LNG to Investments and concurrently entered into a VCRA with Investments. Under the terms of the new VCRA, which became effective July 1, 2010, Cheniere Marketing will continue to be responsible for monetizing the capacity at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal and will have the right to utilize all of the services and other rights at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal available under the TUA assigned to Investments.
- In September 2010, Sabine Pass Liquefaction, LLC, a subsidiary, received approval from the U.S. Department of Energy to export 16.0 million tonnes per annum ("mtpa") of LNG, equivalent to approximately 2 billion cubic feet per day ("Bcf/d"), produced from domestic natural gas over a thirty year period starting not later than September 2020. This license authorizes Sabine Pass Liquefaction, LLC to export LNG to purchasers in countries which have a free trade agreement with the United States. A second application to expand the authorization granted in the first license to all World Trade Organization member countries, and to any other country with which the U.S. may conduct trade, has been filed and is in a 60-day public comment period which ends on December 13, 2010.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Cash and Cash Equivalents

As of September 30, 2010, we had \$57.0 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$137.3 million of restricted cash and cash equivalents, which is restricted to pay interest on the Senior Notes described below.

The foregoing funds are anticipated to be sufficient to fund operating expenditures and interest requirements. Regardless of whether Sabine Pass LNG receives revenues from Investments (or us, as guarantor), Sabine Pass LNG expects to have sufficient cash flow from payments made under its Total and Chevron TUAs to allow it to meet its future operating expenditures and interest payment requirements until maturity of the 2013 Notes. In order for us to fund our operations and make distributions to our unitholders, we are dependent on the ability of Sabine Pass LNG to make distributions to us. Sabine Pass LNG must satisfy certain restrictions under the indenture governing the Sabine Pass Notes (the "Sabine Pass Indenture") before being able to make distributions to us, which will require that Investments make a substantial portion of its TUA payments to Sabine Pass LNG. If Sabine Pass LNG is unable to make distributions to us, then we will likely be unable to make our anticipated future quarterly cash distributions on our units.

TUA Revenues

The entire approximately 4.0 Bcf/d of regasification capacity at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal has been fully reserved under three 20-year, firm commitment TUAs. 2.0 Bcf/d is contracted with unaffiliated third parties and 2.0 Bcf/d is contracted with Investments. Each of the three customers at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal must make the full contracted amount of capacity reservation fee payments under its TUA whether or not it uses any of its reserved capacity. Capacity reservation fee TUA payments are made by Sabine Pass LNG's third-party customers as follows:

- Total has reserved approximately 1.0 Bcf/d of regasification capacity and has agreed to make monthly capacity payments to Sabine Pass LNG aggregating approximately \$125 million per year for 20 years that commenced on April 1, 2009. Total, S.A. has guaranteed Total's obligations under its TUA up to \$2.5 billion, subject to certain exceptions; and
 - Chevron has reserved approximately 1.0 Bcf/d of regasification capacity and has agreed to make monthly capacity payments to Sabine Pass LNG aggregating approximately \$125 million per year for 20 years that

commenced on July 1, 2009. Chevron Corporation has guaranteed Chevron's obligations under its TUA up to 80% of the fees payable by Chevron.

In June 2010, Sabine Pass LNG entered into amendments of the TUAs with Total and Chevron for the purpose of clarifying various operational rights and obligations of the parties. In connection with these amendments, Total and Chevron have agreed to minimum pro rata inventory obligations as necessary to ensure cryogenic readiness of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal and to mitigate the effects of inventory weathering. In addition, Total and Chevron have each agreed to daily boil-off gas re-delivery obligations, service fees related to the compression services associated with minimization of their respective daily boil-off gas re-delivery obligations and pro-rata obligations for the incremental fuel associated with these compression services. Additional items clarified in these amendments include the recognition of inventory transfers

between parties and procedural obligations related to daily and monthly informational postings, gas re-delivery and vessel nominations and delivery point flexibility.

Each of Total and Chevron previously paid Sabine Pass LNG \$20.0 million in nonrefundable advance capacity reservation fees, which are being amortized over a 10-year period as a reduction of each customer's regasification capacity reservation fees payable under its respective TUA.

In November 2006, Cheniere Marketing reserved approximately 2.0 Bcf/d of regasification capacity under a TUA and was required to make capacity payments aggregating approximately \$250 million per year for the period from January 1, 2009, through at least September 30, 2028. In June 2010, Cheniere Marketing assigned its TUA with Sabine Pass LNG to Investments, including all of its rights, titles, interests, obligations and liabilities in and under the TUA. In connection with the assignment, Cheniere's guarantee of Cheniere Marketing's obligations under the TUA was terminated. Investments is required to make capacity payments aggregating approximately \$250 million per year through at least September 30, 2028; however, the revenue earned by Sabine Pass LNG and from Investments' capacity payments under the TUA is eliminated upon consolidation of our financial statements. We have guaranteed Investments' obligations under its TUA.

Concurrent with the TUA assignment, Investments entered into a VCRA with Cheniere Marketing in order for Investments to monetize its capacity at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal. The VCRA will continue until the earliest of (a) the termination of Investments' TUA, (b) expiration of the initial term of the TUA, (c) the termination of the VCRA by either party after two years, and (d) the termination of the VCRA as a result of default. Under the terms of the VCRA, Cheniere Marketing will continue to be responsible for monetizing the capacity at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal and will have the right to utilize all of the services and other rights at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal available under the TUA assigned to Investments. In consideration of these rights, Cheniere Marketing is obligated to pay Investments 80% of the expected gross margin of each cargo of LNG delivered to the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal. To the extent payments from Cheniere Marketing to Investments under the VCRA increase our available cash in excess of the common unit and general partner distributions and certain reserves, the cash would be distributed to Cheniere in the form of distributions on its subordinated units. During the term of the VCRA, Cheniere Marketing is responsible for the payment of taxes and new regulatory costs under the TUA. Cheniere has guaranteed all of Cheniere Marketing's payment obligations under the VCRA. Cheniere Marketing continues to develop its business, has a limited operating history, limited capital and lacks a credit rating. Cheniere, which has guaranteed the obligations of Cheniere Marketing under the VCRA, has a non-investment grade corporate rating.

Under each of these TUAs, Sabine Pass LNG is also entitled to retain 2% of the LNG delivered for the customer's account, which Sabine Pass LNG will use primarily as fuel for revaporization and self-generated power at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal.

Liquefaction Project

As mentioned above, in June 2010, we initiated a project to add liquefaction services at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal that would transform the terminal into a bi-directional facility capable of liquefying natural gas and exporting LNG in addition to importing and regasifying foreign-sourced LNG. As currently contemplated, the liquefaction project would be designed and permitted for up to four modular LNG trains, each with a peak processing capacity of up to approximately 0.7 Bcf/d of natural gas and an average liquefaction capacity of approximately 3.5 mtpa. The initial project phase is anticipated to include two modular trains and the capacity to process on average approximately 1.2 Bcf/d of pipeline quality natural gas. We intend to enter into contracts for at least 0.5 Bcf/d of natural gas liquefaction capacity per train in support of reaching final investment decision regarding the development of the project. We believe that the time and cost required to develop our proposed liquefaction project would be

materially lessened by Sabine Pass LNG's existing large acreage and infrastructure (docks, LNG storage tanks, power generation assets and pipeline connections). Development costs incurred during the assessment of this project will be funded by us using our existing funds. We will contemplate making a final investment decision to commence construction of the liquefaction facilities upon, among other things, achieving regulatory approval and entering into acceptable commercial and financing arrangements. We anticipate LNG export could commence as early as 2015.

Sources and Uses of Cash

The following table summarizes the sources and uses of our cash and cash equivalents for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 (in thousands). The table presents capital expenditures on a cash basis; therefore, these amounts differ from the amounts of capital expenditures, including accruals, that are referred to elsewhere in this report. Additional discussion of these items follows the table:

| | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 |
| SOURCES OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | | |
| Operating cash flow | \$94,955 | \$168,351 |
| Use of restricted cash and cash equivalents | — | 298,673 |
| Borrowings under long-term note—affiliate | — | 114 |
| Total sources of cash and cash equivalents | 94,955 | 467,138 |
| USES OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | | |
| Distributions to unitholders | (151,793) | (210,506) |
| Special rights adjustment | — | (34,879) |
| LNG receiving terminal construction-in-process, net | (3,636) | (97,253) |
| Repayment of long-term debt—affiliate | — | (2,467) |
| Other | (40) | (427) |
| Total uses of cash and cash equivalents | (155,469) | (345,532) |
| NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | (60,514) | 121,606 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS—beginning of period | 117,542 | 7 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS—end of period | \$57,028 | \$121,613 |

Operating cash flow

Operating cash flow decreased \$73.4 million for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2010 compared to the same period in 2009. The decrease in operating cash flow primarily resulted from the June 2010 TUA assignment from Cheniere Marketing to Investments that resulted in the TUA payments being made by Investments, our wholly owned subsidiary, instead of being received from Cheniere Marketing effective July 1, 2010. As a result, instead of receiving \$187.5 million from Cheniere Marketing TUA payments in the nine-month period ended September 2009, we received only \$62.8 million from Cheniere Marketing TUA payments in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2010, resulting in a cash flow decrease of \$124.7 million. This operating cash flow decrease was partially offset by obtaining full TUA reservation fee payments from Total and Chevron in the first nine months of 2010 compared to receiving seven payments from Total and four payments from Chevron in the first nine months of 2009, which resulted in \$74.3 million of increased operating cash flow. The remaining \$23.0 million decrease in operating cash flow resulted primarily from timing in operating and maintenance payments and increased development costs associated with the proposed liquefaction project.

Use of restricted cash and cash equivalents

During the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009, \$298.7 million of restricted cash and cash equivalents was used to pay construction activities at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal and to fund distributions to unitholders. The decreased use of restricted cash and cash equivalents during the nine-month period ended September 30, 2010 primarily resulted from substantially completing construction of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal

during the third quarter of 2009.

Distributions to owners

During each of the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, we made \$151.8 million and \$210.5 million, respectively, of distributions to our common and subordinated unitholders and to our general partner. The decreased distributions to owners during the nine-month period ended September 30, 2010 resulted from decreased available cash in excess of the common unit and general partner distributions to be distributed as a result of the TUA assignment from Cheniere Marketing to Investments.

LNG receiving terminal construction-in-process, net

LNG receiving terminal construction-in-process, net (“CIP”) decreased \$93.6 million for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2010 compared to the same period in 2009. The decrease in CIP resulted from substantial completion of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal’s construction activities during the third quarter of 2009.

Cash Distributions to Unitholders

Our partnership agreement requires that, within 45 days after the end of each quarter, we distribute all of our available cash (as defined in our partnership agreement). Our available cash is our cash on hand at the end of a quarter less the amount of any reserves established. All distributions paid to date have been made from operating surplus. The following provides a summary of distributions paid by us during the nine-month period ended September 30, 2010:

| Date Paid | Period Covered by Distribution | Distribution Per Unit | Total Distribution (in thousands) | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | Common and General Partner Units | Subordinated Units |
| February 12, 2010 | October 1 – December 31, 2009 | \$ 0.425 | \$ 12,630 | \$ 57,538 |
| May 14, 2010 | January 1 – March 31, 2010 | \$ 0.425 | \$ 12,630 | \$ 57,538 |
| August 13, 2010 | April 1 – June 30, 2010 | \$ 0.425 | \$ 11,456 | \$ — |

Pursuant to our partnership agreement, all of the subordinated units will convert into common units on a one-for-one basis on the first business day following the distribution of available cash to partners in respect of any quarter ending on or after June 30, 2010, when certain conditions that are defined in our partnership agreement are met.

Prior to the TUA assignment from Cheniere Marketing to Investments, we had been using cash paid under the Cheniere Marketing TUA to make distributions to Cheniere on our subordinated units held by Cheniere. Subsequent to the assignment of the TUA, the subordinated units will receive distributions only to the extent we have available cash above the minimum quarterly distributions requirement for our common unitholders and general partner along with certain reserves. Such available cash could be generated through new business development or fees received from Cheniere Marketing under the VCRA. As a result of the TUA assignment, the ending of the subordination period and conversion of the subordinated units into common units will depend upon future business development and is no longer expected to occur as early as previously estimated. In October 2010, we declared a quarterly cash distribution to be paid in November that had no subordinated unit distributions due to the decreased available cash in excess of the common unit and general partner distributions to be distributed as a result of the TUA assignment from Cheniere Marketing to Investments.

Debt Agreements

Senior Notes

Sabine Pass LNG has issued an aggregate principal amount of \$2,215.5 million of Senior Notes consisting of \$550.0 million of 7¼% Senior Secured Notes due 2013 and \$1,665.5 million of 7½% Senior Secured Notes due 2016. Interest on the Senior Notes is payable semi-annually in arrears on May 30 and November 30 of each year. The Senior Notes are secured on a first-priority basis by a security interest in all of Sabine Pass LNG’s equity interests and substantially all of its operating assets. Under the Sabine Pass Indenture governing the Senior Notes, except for permitted tax distributions, Sabine Pass LNG may not make distributions until certain conditions are satisfied: there must be on

deposit in an interest payment account an amount equal to one-sixth of the semi-annual interest payment multiplied by the number of elapsed months since the last semi-annual interest payment, and there must be on deposit in a permanent debt service reserve fund an amount equal to one semi-annual interest payment of \$82.4 million. Distributions are permitted only after satisfying the foregoing funding requirements, a fixed charge coverage ratio test of 2:1 and other conditions specified in the Sabine Pass Indenture. During the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010, Sabine Pass LNG made distributions of \$86.8 million and \$298.6 million, respectively, to us after satisfying all the applicable conditions in the Sabine Pass Indenture. During the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2009, Sabine Pass LNG made distributions of \$73.2 million and \$222.5 million, respectively, to us after satisfying all of the applicable conditions in the Sabine Pass Indenture.

Services Agreements

During the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2010, we paid an aggregate of \$2.0 million and \$11.3 million, respectively, under the following service agreements from restricted cash and cash equivalents. During the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2009, we paid an aggregate of \$4.6 million and \$13.9 million, respectively, under the following service agreements from restricted cash and cash equivalents.

Sabine Pass LNG O&M Agreement

In February 2005, Sabine Pass LNG entered into a 20-year operation and maintenance agreement with a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cheniere pursuant to which we receive all necessary services required to construct, operate and maintain the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal. Sabine Pass LNG is required to pay a fixed monthly fee of \$130,000 (indexed for inflation) under the agreement, and the counterparty is entitled to a bonus equal to 50% of the salary component of labor costs in certain circumstances to be agreed upon between Sabine Pass LNG and the counterparty at the beginning of each operating year. In addition, Sabine Pass LNG is required to reimburse the counterparty for its operating expenses, which consist primarily of labor expenses.

Sabine Pass LNG Management Services Agreement

In February 2005, Sabine Pass LNG entered into a 20-year management services agreement with its general partner, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of us, pursuant to which its general partner was appointed to manage the construction and operation of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal, excluding those matters provided for under the operation and maintenance agreement described in the paragraph above. In August 2008, the general partner of Sabine Pass LNG assigned all of its rights and obligations under the management services agreement to Cheniere LNG Terminals, Inc. ("Cheniere Terminals"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cheniere. Sabine Pass LNG is required to pay Cheniere Terminals a monthly fixed fee of \$520,000 (indexed for inflation).

Cheniere Partners Services Agreement

In March 2007, we entered into a services agreement with Cheniere Terminals pursuant to which we would pay Cheniere Terminals an annual administrative fee of \$10.0 million (adjusted for inflation) for the provision of various general and administrative services for our benefit following the closing of our initial public offering. Payments under this services agreement commenced January 1, 2009. In addition, we reimbursed Cheniere Terminals for its services in an amount equal to the sum of all out-of-pocket costs and expenses incurred by Cheniere Terminals directly related to our business or activities.

In June 2010, Cheniere Terminals and we amended, effective as of July 1, 2010, the fee structure for the various general and administrative services provided by Cheniere Terminals for our benefit and changed it from a fixed fee to a variable fee not to exceed \$2.5 million per quarter (indexed for inflation). The amended and restated services agreement provides that fees will be paid quarterly from our unrestricted cash and cash equivalents remaining after making distributions to the common unitholders and the general partner in respect of each quarter and retaining certain reserves. Our ability to pay management fees is dependent on Cheniere Terminals' ability to, among other things, manage our and Sabine Pass LNG's operating and administrative expenses, monetize the 2.0 Bcf/d regasification capacity held by Investments and develop new projects through either internal development or acquisition to increase cash flow.

State Tax Sharing Agreement

In November 2006, Sabine Pass LNG entered into a state tax sharing agreement with Cheniere effective for tax returns first due on or after January 1, 2008. Under this agreement, Cheniere has agreed to prepare and file all Texas franchise tax returns which it and Sabine Pass LNG are required to file on a combined basis and to timely pay the combined tax liability. If Cheniere, in its sole discretion, demands payment, Sabine Pass LNG will pay to Cheniere an amount equal to the Texas franchise tax that Sabine Pass LNG would be required to pay if its Texas franchise tax liability were computed on a separate company basis. This agreement contains similar provisions for other state and local taxes that Cheniere and Sabine Pass LNG are required to file on a combined, consolidated or unitary basis.

Results of Operations

Three-Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 vs. Three-Month Period Ended September 30, 2009

Overall Operations

Our consolidated net income decreased \$76.5 million, from net income of \$69.5 million in the three-month period ended September 30, 2009 to a net loss of \$7.0 million in the three-month period ended September 30, 2010. This decrease in net income primarily resulted from the June 2010 TUA assignment from Cheniere Marketing to Investments. Beginning July 1, 2010, our revenues—affiliate reflects only tug service revenue and the amount of income earned under the VCRA from Cheniere Marketing because the affiliate revenue earned by Sabine Pass LNG from Investments' capacity payments under the TUA are eliminated upon consolidation of our financial statements. In addition, the decrease in net income was a result of increases in interest expense, development expense related to our proposed liquefaction project, operating expense, and depreciation expense.

Revenues

Revenues decreased \$61.9 million, from \$128.5 million in the three-month period ended September 30, 2009 to \$66.6 million in the three-month period ended September 30, 2010. This decrease in revenues primarily resulted from the TUA assignment from Cheniere Marketing to Investments. Beginning July 1, 2010, our revenues—affiliate reflects only the tug service revenue and the amount of income earned under the VCRA from Cheniere Marketing because the affiliate revenue earned by Sabine Pass LNG from Investments' capacity payments under the TUA are eliminated upon consolidation of our financial statements.

Interest Expense, net

Interest expense, net of amounts capitalized, increased \$5.4 million, from \$38.1 million in the three-month period ended September 30, 2009 to \$43.5 million in the three-month period ended September 30, 2010. This increase resulted from the achievement of full operability of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal in the third quarter of 2009, which reduced the amount of interest expense that was capitalized.

Development Expense (including Affiliate Expense)

Development expense (including affiliate expense) increased \$4.6 million, from zero in the three-month period ended September 30, 2009 to \$4.6 million in the three-month period ended September 30, 2010. This increase resulted from the costs incurred to develop liquefaction services at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal.

Operating and Maintenance Expense (including Affiliate Expense)

Operating and maintenance expense (including affiliate expense) increased \$1.3 million, from \$7.6 million in the three-month period ended September 30, 2009 to \$8.9 million in the three-month period ended September 30, 2010. This increase primarily resulted from increased fuel costs resulting from achieving full operability of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal with approximately 4.0 Bcf/d of total sendout capacity and five LNG storage tanks with approximately 16.9 Bcf of aggregate storage capacity in the third quarter of 2009.

Depreciation Expense

Depreciation expense increased \$1.6 million, from \$8.9 million in the three-month period ended September 30, 2009 to \$10.5 million in the three-month period ended September 30, 2010. This increase resulted from beginning to

depreciate the costs associated with the achievement of full operability of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal in the third quarter of 2009.

Nine-Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 vs. Nine-Month Period Ended September 30, 2009

Overall Operations

Our consolidated net income decreased \$14.8 million, from \$125.0 million in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009 to \$110.2 million in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2010. This decrease in net income primarily

resulted from the June 2010 TUA assignment from Cheniere Marketing to Investments. Beginning July 1, 2010, our revenues—affiliate reflects only tug service revenue and the amount of income earned under the VCRA from Cheniere Marketing because the affiliate revenue earned by Sabine Pass LNG from Investments' capacity payments under the TUA are eliminated upon consolidation of our financial statements. In addition, the decrease in net income was a result of increases in interest expense, depreciation expense, operating expense, and development expense related to our proposed liquefaction project.

Revenues

Revenues increased \$40.4 million, from \$286.8 million in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009 to \$327.2 million in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2010. This increase primarily resulted from the commencement of services under our Total TUA beginning on April 1, 2009 and our Chevron TUA beginning on July 1, 2009, partially offset by a decrease in affiliate revenue resulting from the TUA assignment from Cheniere Marketing to Investments as discussed above.

Interest Expense, net

Interest expense, net of amounts capitalized, increased \$26.2 million, from \$104.4 million in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009 to \$130.6 million in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2010. This increase resulted from the achievement of full operability of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal in the third quarter of 2009, which reduced the amount of interest expense that was capitalized.

Depreciation Expense

Depreciation expense increased \$9.0 million, from \$22.7 million in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009 to \$31.7 million in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2010. This increase resulted from beginning to depreciate the costs associated with the achievement of full operability of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal in the third quarter of 2009.

Operating and Maintenance Expense (including Affiliate Expense)

Operating and maintenance expense (including affiliate expense) increased \$6.5 million, from \$22.8 million in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009 to \$29.3 million in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2010. This increase primarily resulted from increased tug service costs and increased fuel costs associated with the full operability of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal during the entire nine-month period ended September 30, 2010, as compared to only a portion of the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009.

Development Expense (including Affiliate Expense)

Development expense (including affiliate expense) increased \$5.7 million, from zero in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009 to \$5.7 million in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2010. This increase resulted from costs incurred to develop liquefaction services at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of September 30, 2010, we had no "off-balance sheet arrangements" that may have a current or future material affect on our consolidated financial position or results of operations.

Summary of Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

The selection and application of accounting policies is an important process that has developed as our business activities have evolved and as the accounting rules have developed. Accounting rules generally do not involve a selection among alternatives but involve an implementation and interpretation of existing rules, and the use of judgment, to apply the accounting rules to the specific set of circumstances existing in our business. In preparing our consolidated combined financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”), we endeavor to comply properly with all applicable rules on or before their adoption, and we believe that the proper implementation and consistent application of the accounting rules are critical. However, not all situations are specifically addressed in the accounting

literature. In these cases, we must use our best judgment to adopt a policy for accounting for these situations. We accomplish this by analogizing to similar situations and the accounting guidance governing them.

Accounting for LNG Activities

Generally, expenditures for direct construction activities, major renewals and betterments are capitalized, while expenditures for maintenance and repairs and general and administrative activities are charged to expense as incurred.

We capitalized interest and other related debt costs during the construction period of the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal. Upon commencement of operations, capitalized interest, as a component of the total cost, has been amortized over the estimated useful life of the asset.

Revenue Recognition

LNG regasification capacity reservation fees are recognized as revenue over the term of the respective TUAs. Advance capacity reservation fees are initially deferred and amortized over a 10-year period as a reduction of a customer's regasification capacity reservation fees payable under its TUA. The retained 2% of LNG delivered for each customer's account at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal is recognized as revenues as Sabine Pass LNG performs the services set forth in each customer's TUA.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make certain estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from our estimates and assumptions used.

Items subject to estimates and assumptions include, but are not limited to, the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment. Actual results could differ significantly from our estimates.

Recent Accounting Standards

In January 2010, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued authoritative guidance which requires additional disclosures and clarifies certain existing disclosure requirements regarding fair value measurements. This guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2009. We adopted this guidance effective January 1, 2010. However, none of the specific additional disclosure requirements were applicable to us at the time of filing this report. (See Note 8—"Financial Instruments" of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for our fair value measurement disclosures.)

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Cash Investments

We have cash investments that we manage based on internal investment guidelines that emphasize liquidity and preservation of capital. Such cash investments are stated at historical cost, which approximates fair market value on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Marketing and Trading Commodity Price Risk

Cheniere Marketing has entered into exchange-cleared NYMEX natural gas swaps on behalf of Sabine Pass LNG to hedge the exposure to variability in expected future cash flows related to the future sale of LNG inventory. We use value at risk (“VaR”) and other methodologies for market risk measurement and control purposes. The VaR is calculated using the Monte Carlo simulation method. At September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, the one-day VaR with a 95% confidence interval on our derivative positions was zero and less than \$0.1 million, respectively.

As of September 30, 2010, Cheniere Marketing had entered into no financial derivative instruments on behalf of Sabine Pass LNG.

Item 4. Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We maintain a set of disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports filed by us under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. As of the end of the period covered by this report, we evaluated, under the supervision and with the participation of our general partner's management, including our general partner's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Rule 13a-15 of the Exchange Act. Based on that evaluation, our general partner's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

During the most recent fiscal quarter, there have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

In the future, we or any of our subsidiaries may be involved as a party to various legal proceedings, which are incidental to the ordinary course of business. We regularly analyze current information and, as necessary, provide accruals for probable liabilities on the eventual disposition of these matters. In the opinion of management of our general partner, as of September 30, 2010, there were no known threatened or pending legal matters that could reasonably be expected to have a material adverse impact on our consolidated results of operations, financial position or cash flows.

Item 6. Exhibits

31.1* Certification by Chief Executive Officer required by Rule 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) under the Exchange Act

31.2* Certification by Chief Financial Officer required by Rule 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) under the Exchange Act

32.1** Certification by Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

32.2** Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

* Filed herewith.

** Furnished herewith.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

CHENIERE ENERGY
PARTNERS, L.P.

By: Cheniere Energy Partners
GP, LLC,
its general partner

By: /s/ Jerry D. Smith
Jerry D. Smith
Chief Accounting Officer (on
behalf of the registrant and as
principal accounting officer)

Date: November 4, 2010
