

INSWEB CORP
Form 10-Q
August 11, 2005

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

FORM 10-Q

ý

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

For the quarterly period ended June 30, 2005

Or

o

**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 0-26083

INSWEB CORPORATION

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

94-3220749
(IRS Employer
Identification Number)

11290 Pyrites Way, Suite 200 Gold River, California 95670

(Address of principal executive offices)

(916) 853-3300

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Edgar Filing: INSWEB CORP - Form 10-Q

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Sections 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 is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.) Yes No

The number of outstanding shares of the Registrant's Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share, on July 22, 2005 were 4,044,061 shares.

FORM 10-Q

INSWEB CORPORATION

INDEX

PART I **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

ITEM 1: Financial Statements (unaudited)

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of June 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005 and 2004

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the six months ended June 30, 2005 and 2004

Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

ITEM 2: Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

ITEM 3: Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

ITEM 4: Controls and Procedures

PART II **OTHER INFORMATION**

ITEM 6: Exhibits

Signature

PART I: FINANCIAL INFORMATION**ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****INSWEB CORPORATION****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS***(in thousands)**(unaudited)*

	June 30, 2005	December 31, 2004
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,685	\$ 9,334
Short-term investments	4,726	8,145
Accounts receivable, net	2,651	1,025
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	438	707
Total current assets	16,500	19,211
Property and equipment, net	646	814
Other assets	407	450
Total assets	\$ 17,553	\$ 20,475
Liabilities and stockholders' equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,480	\$ 1,248
Accrued expenses	3,489	3,456
Deferred revenue	73	56
Total current liabilities	6,042	4,760
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock	7	7
Paid-in capital	202,985	202,961
Treasury stock	(6,334)	(4,596)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(2)	(8)
Accumulated deficit	(185,145)	(182,649)
Total stockholders' equity	11,511	15,715
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 17,553	\$ 20,475

See accompanying notes.

INSWEB CORPORATION

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

*(in thousands, except per share amounts)**(unaudited)*

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Revenues:				
Transaction fees	\$ 6,522	\$ 3,188	\$ 12,128	\$ 7,018
Development and maintenance fees	82	178	170	403
Total revenues	6,604	3,366	12,298	7,421
Operating expenses:				
Technology	1,417	1,450	2,789	2,920
Sales and marketing	5,288	3,334	9,990	6,668
General and administrative	1,071	1,157	2,203	2,439
Total operating expenses	7,776	5,941	14,982	12,027
Loss from operations	(1,172)	(2,575)	(2,684)	(4,606)
Interest income	96	74	188	145
Other expense		(30)		(30)
Net loss	\$ (1,076)	\$ (2,531)	\$ (2,496)	\$ (4,491)
Net loss per share-basic and diluted	\$ (0.27)	\$ (0.54)	\$ (0.57)	\$ (0.96)
Weighted-average shares used in computing per share amounts-basic and diluted	4,044	4,690	4,412	4,677

See accompanying notes.

INSWEB CORPORATION

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

*(in thousands)**(unaudited)*

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2005	2004
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net loss	\$ (2,496)	\$ (4,491)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	288	463
Other		30
Net changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(1,626)	55
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	269	310
Other assets	(15)	2
Accounts payable	1,232	735
Accrued expenses	73	(824)
Deferred revenue	17	(124)
Net cash used in operating activities	(2,258)	(3,844)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Redemptions of short-term investments	8,417	(15,027)
Purchases of short-term investments	(4,992)	12,708
Purchases of property and equipment	(61)	(125)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	3,364	(2,444)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayments of debt	(41)	(74)
Proceeds from issuance of common stock through stock plans	24	172
Repurchase of common stock	(1,738)	
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(1,755)	98
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(649)	(6,190)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	9,334	15,223
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 8,685	\$ 9,033

See accompanying notes.

INSWEB CORPORATION

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited)

1. Business of InsWeb

InsWeb operates an online insurance marketplace that enables consumers to comparison shop online for a variety of insurance products, including automobile and term life. InsWeb's marketplace electronically matches consumers and insurance providers. InsWeb has combined extensive knowledge of the insurance industry, technological expertise and close relationships with a significant number of insurance companies to develop an integrated online marketplace. InsWeb's marketplace enables consumers to research insurance-related topics, search for, analyze and compare insurance products, apply for and receive insurance company-sponsored quotes and to purchase automobile and term life insurance coverage through InsWeb's insurance agencies.

InsWeb's principal source of revenues is transaction fees from participating insurance providers, either directly from an insurance company or from a local insurance agent. While quotes obtained through InsWeb's online insurance marketplace are provided to consumers free of charge, InsWeb earns revenues from participating insurance companies or agents based on the delivery of qualified leads. These fees are earned either from an insurance company based on a closed policy, from the delivery of a lead to a participating insurance provider or local agent, or from a commission or broker fee earned by InsWeb's insurance agencies, InsWeb Insurance Services, Inc. and Goldrush Insurance Services, Inc.

Certain consumers, depending on their responses to several preliminary screening questions, are provided the opportunity to link directly to an third party insurance provider's website. In these situations, the consumer will complete the third party company's online application, and InsWeb will be paid a fee for that consumer link or click-through.

In August 2004, InsWeb launched its term life agency business in an effort to increase revenue per consumer within the term life marketplace. The conversion from a lead-based revenue model to a commission-based revenue model resulted in lower revenues in the short-term, as it typically takes 90 to 120 days to complete the sales process for a term life policy. At the time the term life agency business was launched, the Company was uncertain whether the transaction data available was sufficient to reliably estimate cancellations for purposes of satisfying the criteria in Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 48, Revenue Recognition When Right of Return Exists, for service transactions subject to customer cancellation privileges. Accordingly, during the initial deployment period of the commission-based model, the Company recognized commission revenue on a ratable basis over the initial term of the related policy as the cancellation privileges expired. Based on term life agency activity and cancellation data accumulated since the launch, management has determined that it is now appropriate to use the historical cancellation rate to estimate a cancellation allowance for term life agency transactions. Beginning with the quarter ended June 30, 2005, the Company recognizes revenue from its term life agency business when commissions have been earned, net of an estimate for future cancellations based on its historical cancellation data. In connection with the change in estimate for cancellations, the Company recognized commission revenue of \$286,000 in the quarter ended June 30, 2005 relating to commissions earned on term life policies closed in prior quarters.

Edgar Filing: INSWEB CORP - Form 10-Q

In 2004, InsWeb launched its agent network program which provides online auto insurance consumers access to local insurance agents. Currently, the agent network program is conducted through an intermediary, NetQuote, Inc., who provides auto consumer leads to local insurance agents. During the three and six months ended June 30, 2005, this agent network program represented 33% and 30% of auto transaction fees, respectively. During the three and six months ended June 30, 2004, this agent network program represented 6% and 3% of auto transaction fees, respectively.

To lessen InsWeb's reliance on this intermediary, and to maximize its revenue potential, we are preparing to launch a proprietary agent network program (AgentInsider) that will provide leads directly to local insurance agents who have registered with InsWeb. We expect that this initiative will be launched during the third quarter of 2005, and may initially result in reduced revenues, depending on the rate of registration and degree of participation of local personal lines insurance agents throughout the country. Going forward, we expect that the agent network program, both through the intermediary and through our internally developed network, will continue to represent a significant percentage of auto transaction fees. However, the agent network is subject to a number of uncertainties, including the cost of developing and marketing the program, and the continued participation of our third party intermediary. If we are unable to create a positive offering, or if the transition of the agent network program from the intermediary to our internally developed program is delayed or otherwise unsuccessful, the Company's business may be harmed.

A less significant and declining source of revenues for InsWeb are development and maintenance fees that are paid by insurance companies that participate on the InsWeb insurance marketplace. Development fees are generated from the design and development of customized interfaces between an insurance company's information system and the InsWeb site. InsWeb charges maintenance fees for maintaining and servicing the programs of the individual insurance companies and for maintaining any hardware at InsWeb's facility that is dedicated to specific insurance companies.

InsWeb has focused its efforts on developing insurance company coverage for automobile insurance in order to be able to offer true comparative online shopping for this important segment of the insurance market. Automobile insurance accounted for approximately 77% of transaction revenues in 2004 and 78% in the first six months of 2005. We anticipate that automobile insurance will continue to account for a significant portion of InsWeb's revenues for the foreseeable future.

InsWeb is subject to all of the risks inherent in the electronic commerce industry and special risks related to the online insurance industry. These risks include, but are not limited to, uncertain economic conditions which could result in lower growth rates, the changing nature of the electronic commerce industry, variations in consumer traffic (consumers shopping for insurance on the Internet), unpredictability of future revenues, reliance on key customers' property and casualty insurance carriers who are themselves subject to volatility in their operating cycles, reliance on a third party intermediary who provides leads to local insurance agents on InsWeb's behalf. These risks and uncertainties, among others, could cause InsWeb's actual results to differ materially from historical results or those currently anticipated. In light of the evolving nature of InsWeb's business to better capitalize on its position as a leading insurance portal, including the current expansion of InsWeb's agent network program, InsWeb believes that period-to-period comparisons of its operating results are not necessarily meaningful and should not be relied upon as an indication of future performance. However, there is no assurance that InsWeb will be able to achieve or sustain profitability.

Since its inception, InsWeb has incurred significant losses, and as of June 30, 2005, InsWeb had an accumulated deficit of \$185.1 million. InsWeb's operations to date have consumed substantial amounts of cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments (\$8.7 million in 2004 and \$4.2 million in 2003) and will continue to require capital in the near future. These losses, and this accumulated deficit, have resulted from the significant costs incurred in the development of InsWeb's technology platform, the establishment of relationships with insurance companies, their integration with the InsWeb site, and InsWeb's marketing and sales activities. In order to remain competitive, the Company must continue to make investments essential to its ability to operate, and InsWeb intends to continue to invest in product development and maintenance, and sales and marketing. In addition, the Company will continue to incur the costs associated with continuing to function as a publicly listed company, including the costs of compliance with the provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which will require the Company to comply with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act in fiscal 2006. As a result, InsWeb believes that it will continue to incur operating losses through the remainder of fiscal year 2005. In the event that InsWeb is unable to generate revenues sufficient to offset its costs, or if its costs of marketing and operations are greater than it anticipates, the Company may be unable to grow its business at the rate desired or may be required to delay, reduce, or cease certain of its operations, any of which could materially harm its business and financial results. In addition, if InsWeb is unable to ultimately achieve profitability, the Company may need to seek additional financing to continue its business operations. The Company cannot be certain that additional financing will be available when required, on favorable terms or at all. If InsWeb is not successful in raising additional capital as required, it may delay, significantly reduce or cease certain of its operations, which could adversely affect its results of operations and financial position.

2. Basis of Presentation

The condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of InsWeb Corporation and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, InsWeb Insurance Services, Inc. and Goldrush Insurance Services, Inc. (InsWeb or the Company). All significant inter-company accounts and transactions have been eliminated in the consolidated financial statements.

The accompanying unaudited interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Rule 10-01 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not contain all of the information and footnotes required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, the accompanying unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments, which include only normal recurring adjustments, necessary to present fairly InsWeb's financial position as of June 30, 2005, its results of operations for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005 and 2004 and its cash flow flows for the six months ended June 30, 2005 and 2004. The financial data and other information disclosed in these notes to the condensed consolidated financial statements related to these periods are unaudited. The results for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the year ending December 31, 2005.

These condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in InsWeb's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004 and other information as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

3. Concentration of Risk Significant Customers

For the three months and six months ended June 30, 2005, one customer accounted for 30% and 29% of total revenues, respectively. This customer also represented 24% of accounts receivable at June 30, 2005. For the three months ended June 30, 2004, two other customers each accounted for 11% of total revenues. For the six months ended June 30, 2004, these two customers accounted for 12% and 11% of total revenues, respectively.

4. Per Share Information

Basic earnings per share is computed using the weighted-average number of shares of common stock outstanding. Diluted earnings per share would reflect the potential dilution that would occur if stock options had been exercised. For the three and six month period ended June 30, 2005 and 2004, common equivalent shares from stock options were excluded from the computation of net loss per share-diluted as their effect was antidilutive.

Edgar Filing: INSWEB CORP - Form 10-Q

InsWeb accounts for its stock-based compensation plans under the recognition and measurement principles of APB Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees, and related interpretations. The following table illustrates the effect on net loss and net loss per share if InsWeb had applied the fair value recognition provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board Statements No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation, to stock-based employee compensation (in thousands, except per share amounts):

	Three months ended June 30,		Six months ended June 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Net loss, as reported	\$ (1,076)	\$ (2,531)	\$ (2,496)	\$ (4,491)
Deduct: Stock-based employee compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards, net of related tax effects	(126)	(194)	(258)	(336)
Pro forma net loss	\$ (1,202)	\$ (2,725)	\$ (2,754)	\$ (4,827)
Net loss per share:				
Basic and diluted as reported	\$ (0.27)	\$ (0.54)	\$ (0.57)	\$ (0.96)
Basic and diluted pro forma	\$ (0.30)	\$ (0.58)	\$ (0.62)	\$ (1.03)

For purposes of pro forma disclosures, the estimated fair value of the options is amortized over the options vesting period. The above pro forma disclosures are not necessarily representative of the effects on reported income or loss for future periods, as additional grants are made each year and options vest over several years.

5. Accrued Expenses

Accrued expenses consist of the following (in thousands):

	June 30, 2005	December 31, 2004
Accrued lease obligations (see Note 7)	\$ 2,022	\$ 2,172
Accrued employee compensation	764	559
Deferred rent	525	522
Other	178	203
Total	\$ 3,489	\$ 3,456

6. Comprehensive Loss

Total comprehensive loss for the three months and six months ended June 30, 2005 and 2004 was as follows (in thousands):

Three months ended June 30,	Six months ended June 30,
--------------------------------	------------------------------

Edgar Filing: INSWEB CORP - Form 10-Q

	2005	2004	2005	2004
Net loss	\$ (1,076)	\$ (2,531)	\$ (2,496)	\$ (4,491)
Other comprehensive income (loss) - change in unrealized gain (loss) on investments	4	(9)	6	(8)
Comprehensive loss	\$ (1,072)	\$ (2,540)	\$ (2,490)	\$ (4,499)

7. Commitments and Contingencies

Leases

InsWeb is contractually obligated to make future lease payments on certain formerly occupied facilities through September 2008. As of June 30, 2005, total future obligations for these facilities amounted to \$7,971,000; these obligations are offset by total estimated future sublease income of approximately \$6,734,000. Substantially all future sublease income is due from a sublessee who is an early-stage company with a limited operating history and, therefore, there are inherent risks and uncertainties associated with its future operations and its ability to discharge its obligations through the term of the sublease. In the event that the sublessee defaults on its obligations under the sublease, InsWeb would be responsible for making the required lease payments to the landlord through the remaining term of the lease. In connection with this lease and other lease obligations for formerly occupied facilities, InsWeb must make assumptions regarding the estimated future sublease income relative to these facilities. Based on these assumptions, the Company has recorded an accrual of \$2,022,000 as of June 30, 2005 for lease commitments related to these formerly occupied facilities, as compared to an accrual of \$2,172,000 as of December 31, 2004. These estimates and assumptions are affected by area-specific conditions such as new commercial development, market occupancy rates and future market prices. If these estimates or their related assumptions change in the future, InsWeb may be required to record a charge to increase its accrual.

Securities Class Action Lawsuit

A securities class action lawsuit was filed on December 5, 2001 in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, (the Court) purportedly on behalf of all persons who purchased our common stock from July 22, 1999 through December 6, 2000. The complaint named as defendants InsWeb, certain current and former officers and directors, and three investment banking firms that served as underwriters for InsWeb's initial public offering in July 1999. The complaint, as subsequently amended, alleges violations of Sections 11 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 and Sections 10 and 20 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, on the grounds that the prospectuses incorporated in the registration statement for the offering failed to disclose, among other things, that (i) the underwriters had solicited and received excessive and undisclosed commissions from certain investors in exchange for which the underwriters allocated to those investors material portions of the shares of our stock sold in the offering and (ii) the underwriters had entered into agreements with customers whereby the underwriters agreed to allocate shares of the stock sold in the offering to those customers in exchange for which the customers agreed to purchase additional shares of InsWeb stock in the aftermarket at pre-determined prices. No specific damages are claimed. Similar allegations have been made in lawsuits relating to more than 300 other initial public offerings conducted in 1999 and 2000, all of which have been consolidated for pretrial purposes. In October 2002, all claims against the individual defendants were dismissed without prejudice. In February 2003, the Court dismissed the claims in the InsWeb action alleging violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 but allowed the plaintiffs to proceed with the remaining claims. In June 2003, the plaintiffs in all of the cases presented a settlement proposal to all of the issuer defendants. Under the proposed settlement, the plaintiffs will dismiss and release all claims against participating defendants in exchange for a contingent payment guaranty by the insurance companies collectively responsible for insuring the issuers in all the related cases, and the assignment or surrender to the plaintiffs of certain claims the issuer defendants may have against the underwriters. InsWeb and most of the other issuer defendants have accepted the settlement proposal. The settlement was given preliminary approval by the Court in February 2005, pending a modification to the settlement documents. If the Court does not approve the settlement in its final form, InsWeb would defend the lawsuit vigorously. However, the litigation is in the preliminary stage, and we cannot predict its outcome. The litigation process is inherently uncertain. An unfavorable outcome could have a material adverse effect on InsWeb's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

8. Stockholders' Equity

Negotiated common stock repurchases

In March 2005, the Board of Directors authorized management to repurchase 755,821 shares of InsWeb Corporation common stock, consisting of 531,947 shares held by Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and 223,874 shares held by Century Capital Partners, L.P. These shares represented 16% of InsWeb's total outstanding common stock and were purchased for \$1,738,000, or \$2.30 per share. Subsequent to the closing of these transactions on March 31, 2005, Nationwide Mutual and Century Capital hold no shares.

9. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

On December 16, 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement No. 123(R), Share-Based Payment, which is a revision of FASB Statement No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation. Statement 123(R) supersedes APB No. 25,

Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees, and amends FASB Statement No. 95, Statement of Cash Flows.

Generally, the approach in Statement 123 (R) is similar to the approach described in Statement 123. However, Statement 123 (R) requires all share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options, to be recognized in the income statement based on their fair values. Pro forma disclosure is no longer an alternative.

Statement 123(R) originally required adoption no later than July 1, 2005. In April 2005, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issued a release that amends the compliance dates for Statement 123(R). Under the SEC's new rule, the Company will be required to apply Statement 123(R) as of January 1, 2006. Statement 123(R) permits public companies to adopt its requirements using one of two methods: (i) a modified prospective method in which compensation cost is recognized beginning with the effective date based on the requirements of Statement 123(R) for all share-based payments granted after the effective date and based on the requirements of Statement 123 for all awards granted to employees prior to the effective date of Statement 123(R) that remain unvested on the effective date; or (ii) a modified retrospective method which includes the requirements of the modified prospective method described above, but also permits entities to restate, based on the amounts previously recognized under Statement 123, for purposes of pro forma disclosures. The Company plans to adopt Statement 123(R) using the modified prospective method.

As permitted by Statement 123, the Company currently accounts for share-based payments to employees using APB No. 25's intrinsic value method and, as such, generally recognizes no compensation cost for employee and director stock options. Accordingly, the adoption of Statement 123(R)'s fair value method could have a significant impact on InsWeb's results of operations, although it will have no impact on its overall financial position. The impact of adoption of Statement 123(R) cannot be predicted at this time because it will depend on levels of share-based payments granted in the future.

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

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, and in particular Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, contains forward-looking statements with respect to InsWeb's future financial performance. The words or phrases "expects," "anticipates," "intends," "plans," "believes," "seeks," "estimates," and similar expressions are generally intended to identify forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements are subject to various known and unknown risks and uncertainties, and InsWeb cautions you that any forward-looking information provided by, or on behalf of, InsWeb is not a guarantee of future performance. Actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in such forward-looking statements due to a number of factors, some of which are beyond InsWeb's control, including, but not limited to, uncertain economic conditions which could result in lower growth rates, decreasing revenue and reduced participation in InsWeb's marketplace, anticipated losses, the unpredictability of future revenues, reliance on key customers' property and casualty insurance carriers- who are themselves subject to volatility in their operating cycles, reliance on a third party intermediary who provides leads to local insurance agents on InsWeb's behalf, competition, risks associated with system development and operation risks, management of potential growth and risks of new business areas, business combinations, and strategic alliances. These risks and uncertainties, as well as other risks and uncertainties, which are described in greater detail in the section entitled "Factors That May Affect Future Performance" and other documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, could cause InsWeb's actual results to differ materially from historical results or those currently anticipated. All forward-looking statements are based on information available to InsWeb on the date hereof, and InsWeb assumes no obligation to update such statements.

Overview

InsWeb operates an online insurance marketplace that enables consumers to comparison shop online for a variety of insurance products, including automobile and term life. InsWeb's marketplace electronically matches consumers and insurance providers. InsWeb has combined extensive knowledge of the insurance industry, technological expertise and close relationships with a significant number of insurance companies to develop an integrated online marketplace. InsWeb's marketplace enables consumers to research insurance-related topics, search for, analyze and compare insurance products, apply for and receive insurance company-sponsored quotes and to purchase automobile and term life insurance coverage through InsWeb's insurance agencies.

InsWeb's principal source of revenues is transaction fees from participating insurance providers, either directly from an insurance company or from a local insurance agent. While quotes obtained through InsWeb's online insurance marketplace are provided to consumers free of charge, InsWeb earns revenues from participating insurance companies or agents based on the delivery of qualified leads. These fees are earned either from an insurance company based on a closed policy, from the delivery of a lead to a participating insurance provider or local agent, or from a commission or broker fee earned by InsWeb's insurance agencies, InsWeb Insurance Services, Inc. and Goldrush Insurance Services, Inc.

Certain consumers, depending on their responses to several preliminary screening questions, are provided the opportunity to link directly to a third party insurance provider's website. In these situations, the consumer will complete the third party company's online application, and InsWeb will be paid a fee for that consumer link or click-through.

In August 2004, InsWeb launched its term life agency business in an effort to increase revenue per consumer within the term life marketplace. The conversion from a lead-based revenue model to a commission-based revenue model resulted in lower revenues in the short-term, as it typically takes 90 to 120 days to complete the sales process for a term life policy. At the time the term life agency business was launched, the Company was uncertain whether the transaction data available was sufficient to reliably estimate cancellations for purposes of satisfying the criteria in Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 48, "Revenue Recognition When Right of Return Exists," for service transactions subject to customer cancellation privileges. Accordingly, during the initial deployment period of the commission-based model, the Company

Edgar Filing: INSWEB CORP - Form 10-Q

recognized commission revenue on a ratable basis over the initial term of the related policy as the cancellation privileges expired. Based on term life agency activity and cancellation data accumulated since the launch, management has determined that it is now appropriate to use the historical cancellation rate to estimate a cancellation allowance for term life agency transactions. Beginning with the quarter ended June 30, 2005, the Company recognizes revenue from its term life agency business when commissions have been earned, net of an estimate for future cancellations based on its historical cancellation data. In connection with the change in estimate for cancellations, the Company recognized commission revenue of \$286,000 in the quarter ended June 30, 2005 relating to commissions earned on term life policies closed in prior quarters.

Edgar Filing: INSWEB CORP - Form 10-Q

In 2004, InsWeb launched its agent network program which provides online auto insurance consumers access to local insurance agents. Currently, the agent network program is conducted through an intermediary, NetQuote, Inc., who provides auto consumer leads to local insurance agents. During the three and six months ended June 30, 2005, this agent network program represented 33% and 30% of auto transaction fees, respectively. During the three and six months ended June 30, 2004, this agent network program represented 6% and 3% of auto transaction fees, respectively.

To lessen InsWeb's reliance on this intermediary, and to maximize our revenue potential, we are preparing to launch a proprietary agent network program (AgentInsider) that will provide leads directly to local insurance agents who have registered with InsWeb. We expect that this initiative will be launched during the third quarter of 2005, and may initially result in reduced revenues, depending on the rate of registration and degree of participation of local personal lines insurance agents throughout the country. Going forward, we expect that the agent network program, both through the intermediary and through our internally developed network, will continue to represent a significant percentage of auto transaction fees. However, the agent network is subject to a number of uncertainties, including the cost of developing and marketing the program, and the continued participation of our third party intermediary. If we are unable to create a positive offering, or if the transition of the agent network program from the intermediary to our internally developed program is delayed or otherwise unsuccessful, the Company's business may be harmed.

A less significant and declining source of revenues for InsWeb are development and maintenance fees that are paid by insurance companies that participate on the InsWeb insurance marketplace. Development fees are generated from the design and development of customized interfaces between an insurance company's information system and the InsWeb site. InsWeb charges maintenance fees for maintaining and servicing the programs of the individual insurance companies and for maintaining any hardware at InsWeb's facility that is dedicated to specific insurance companies.

InsWeb has focused its efforts on developing insurance company coverage for automobile insurance in order to be able to offer true comparative online shopping for this important segment of the insurance market. Automobile insurance accounted for approximately 77% of transaction revenues in 2004 and 78% in the first six months of 2005. We anticipate that automobile insurance will continue to account for a significant portion of InsWeb's revenues for the foreseeable future.

InsWeb is subject to all of the risks inherent in the electronic commerce industry and special risks related to the online insurance industry. These risks include, but are not limited to, uncertain economic conditions which could result in lower growth rates, the changing nature of the electronic commerce industry, variations in consumer traffic (consumers shopping for insurance on the Internet), unpredictability of future revenues, reliance on key customers' property and casualty insurance carriers who are themselves subject to volatility in their operating cycles, reliance on a third party intermediary who provides leads to local insurance agents on InsWeb's behalf. These risks and uncertainties, among others, could cause InsWeb's actual results to differ materially from historical results or those currently anticipated. In light of the evolving nature of InsWeb's business to better capitalize on its position as a leading insurance portal, including the current expansion of InsWeb's agent network program, InsWeb believes that period-to-period comparisons of its operating results are not necessarily meaningful and should not be relied upon as an indication of future performance. However, there is no assurance that InsWeb will be able to achieve or sustain profitability.

Since its inception, InsWeb has incurred significant losses, and as of June 30, 2005, InsWeb had an accumulated deficit of \$185.1 million. InsWeb's operations to date have consumed substantial amounts of cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments (\$8.7 million in 2004 and \$4.2 million in 2003) and will continue to require capital in the near future. These losses, and this accumulated deficit, have resulted from the significant costs incurred in the development of InsWeb's technology platform, the establishment of relationships with insurance companies, their integration with the InsWeb site, and InsWeb's marketing and sales activities. In order to remain competitive, the Company must continue to make investments essential to its ability to operate, and InsWeb intends to continue to invest in product development and maintenance, and sales and marketing. In addition, the Company will continue to incur the costs associated with

continuing to function as a publicly listed company, including the costs of compliance with the provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which will require the Company to comply with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act in fiscal 2006. As a result, InsWeb believes that it will continue to incur operating losses through the remainder of fiscal year 2005. In the event that InsWeb is unable to generate revenues sufficient to offset its costs, or if its costs of marketing and operations are greater than it anticipates, the Company may be unable to grow its business at the rate desired or may be required to delay, reduce, or cease certain of its operations, any of which could materially harm its business and financial results. In addition, if InsWeb is unable to ultimately achieve profitability, the Company may need to seek additional financing to continue its business operations. The Company cannot be certain that additional financing will be available when required, on favorable terms or at all. If InsWeb is not successful in raising additional capital as required, it may delay, significantly reduce or cease certain of its operations, which could adversely affect its results of operations and financial position.

Results of Operations

The following tables set forth certain statement of operations highlights for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005 and 2004:

Revenues and operating expenses as a percentage of total revenues:

	Three months ended June 30,		Six months ended June 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Revenues:				
Transaction fees	99%	95%	99%	95%
Development and maintenance fees	1%	5%	1%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Operating expenses:				
Technology	22%	43%	23%	39%
Direct marketing	53%	61%	55%	53%
Sales and marketing	27%	38%	26%	37%
General and administrative	16%	35%	18%	33%
Total	118%	177%	122%	162%
Loss from operations	(18)%	(77)%	(22)%	(62)%

Revenues:

(In thousands)	Three months ended June 30,		Six months ended June 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Transaction fees:				
Auto insurance	\$ 4,888	\$ 2,406	\$ 9,586	\$ 5,142
Term life insurance	1,569	708	2,397	1,741
Other insurance	65	74	145	135
Total transaction fees	6,522	3,188	12,128	7,018
Development and maintenance fees	82	178	170	403
Total revenues	\$ 6,604	\$ 3,366	\$ 12,298	\$ 7,421

Direct Marketing (Consumer Acquisition) Metrics:

(In thousands, except per consumer amounts)	Three months ended June 30,		Six months ended June 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Direct marketing costs	\$ 3,505	\$ 2,057	\$ 6,661	\$ 3,911
Number of consumers	1,320	684	2,411	1,417
Direct marketing cost per consumer	\$ 2.66	\$ 3.01	\$ 2.76	\$ 2.76
Total transaction fees per consumer	\$ 4.94	\$ 4.66	\$ 5.03	\$ 4.95

Negotiated common stock repurchases

Auto Marketplace Metrics:

(In thousands, except per consumer amounts)	Three months ended June 30,		Six months ended June 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Auto insurance transaction fees	\$ 4,888	\$ 2,406	\$ 9,856	\$ 5,142
Number of consumers	1,203	580	2,171	1,165
Transaction fees per consumer	\$ 4.06	\$ 4.15	\$ 4.42	\$ 4.41

Term Life Marketplace Metrics:

(In thousands, except per consumer amounts)	Three months ended June 30,		Six months ended June 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Term life insurance transaction fees	\$ 1,569	\$ 708	\$ 2,397	\$ 1,741
Number of consumers	84	74	177	174
Transaction fees per consumer	\$ 18.68	\$ 9.57	\$ 13.54	\$ 10.01

Definitions:

Direct marketing costs	Represents expenses incurred by the company to drive consumer traffic to InsWeb's online insurance marketplace;
Number of consumers	Represents a consumer who has completed an InsWeb application, provided their contact information and has had an insurance lead submitted on their behalf;
Transaction fees per consumer	Represents transaction revenues earned per consumer.

Revenues

Transaction Fees. Transaction fees (consisting of lead fees, closed policy fees, commissions and sponsored link fees) relating to automobile insurance increased to \$4.9 million and \$9.6 million for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005, respectively, from \$2.4 million and \$5.1 million for the comparable periods in 2004. These increases were primarily attributable to 107% and 86% increases in consumer traffic (consumers who have started the InsWeb auto application) from the comparable periods in 2004, respectively. Revenue per auto consumer decreased slightly to \$4.06.

Transaction fees (primarily commissions earned on closed policies) relating to term life insurance increased to \$1.6 million and \$2.4 million for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005 from \$0.7 million and \$1.7 million for the comparable periods in 2004. These increases reflect the completed transition of our term life business to a commission-based revenue model.

Operating Expenses

Technology. Technology expenses consist primarily of payroll and related expenses, including employee benefits, facility and systems costs, for product and site development personnel involved with the planning, design and implementation of the agent network program discussed previously, as well as carrier integration and other enhancements to the InsWeb online insurance marketplace. Technology expenses remained level at \$1.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2005 and 2004. Technology expenses decreased to \$2.8 million for the six months ended June 30, 2005 from \$2.9 million for the comparable period in 2004. The decrease was primarily attributable to a reduction in headcount. Technology expenses for the remainder of 2005 are expected to remain at or near current levels.

Sales and Marketing. Sales and marketing expenses include direct marketing expenditures such as advertising, promotions and fees paid to online companies with which InsWeb has contractual relationships to drive consumer traffic to the InsWeb online marketplace. InsWeb's current consumer marketing program is focused on developing and retaining key online relationships and selective cost-effective marketing campaigns designed to maintain consumer awareness of InsWeb and its online insurance marketplace. Also included in sales and marketing expenses are payroll and related expenses, including employee benefits, facility costs, telecommunications and systems costs, for InsWeb's sales and marketing personnel, the developing agent network program (AgentInsider) and the personnel and related costs for InsWeb's Insurance Agency operations (Auto and Term Life), which includes selling agents, underwriters, supervisors and customer service and support groups. Overall sales and marketing expenses increased to \$5.3 million and \$10.0 million for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005, from \$3.3 million and \$6.7 million for the comparable periods in 2004. These increases were primarily a result of increases in direct marketing costs to \$3.5 million and \$6.7 million for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005, respectively, compared to \$2.0 million and \$3.9 million for the comparable periods in 2004. For the three months ended June 30, 2005, the number of consumers increased by 93% over the second quarter of 2004, while the average cost decreased 12% to \$2.66 per consumer. The decrease in cost per consumer was attributable to a decrease in our cost of online advertising. The Company expects that for the remainder of 2005, direct marketing costs per consumer acquired will remain at or near current levels. However, total direct marketing costs will fluctuate based on the amount of consumer traffic driven to the InsWeb marketplace, while all other sales and marketing expenditures are expected to increase for the remainder 2005, as the AgentInsider program and the term life agency are expanded.

General and Administrative. General and administrative expenses consist primarily of payroll and related expenses, including employee benefits, facility costs, telecommunications and systems costs, for InsWeb's general management, administrative and accounting personnel, as well as other general corporate expenses. General and administrative expenses decreased to \$1.1 million and \$2.2 million for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005, respectively, from \$1.2 million and \$2.4 million for the comparable periods in 2004. The decrease was primarily due to a reduction in headcount. General and administrative expenses are expected to remain at current levels for the remainder of 2005.

Interest Income. Interest income increased to \$96,000 and \$188,000 for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005, respectively, from \$74,000 and \$145,000 for the comparable periods in 2004. Interest income is income earned on InsWeb's short-term investments.

Critical Accounting Policies

InsWeb's discussion and analysis of its financial condition and results of operations are based on InsWeb's consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The preparation of these financial statements requires InsWeb to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. InsWeb bases its estimates and judgments on historical experience and on various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions. InsWeb believes the following critical accounting policies affect its more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of its consolidated financial statements.

Accrual for Lease Obligations. InsWeb is contractually obligated to make future lease payments on certain formerly occupied facilities through September 2008. As of June 30, 2005, total future obligations for these facilities amounted to \$8.0 million; these obligations are offset by total estimated future sublease income of approximately \$6.7 million. Substantially all future sublease income is due from a sublessee who is an early-stage company with a limited operating history and, therefore, there are inherent risks and uncertainties associated with its future operations and its ability to discharge its obligations through the term of the sublease. In the event that the sublessee defaults on its obligations under the sublease, InsWeb would be responsible for making the required lease payments to the landlord through the remaining term of the lease. In connection with this lease and other lease obligations for formerly occupied facilities, InsWeb must make assumptions regarding the estimated future sublease income relative to these facilities. Based on these assumptions, the Company has recorded an accrual of \$2.0 million as of June 30, 2005 for lease commitments related to these formerly occupied facilities, as compared to an accrual of \$2.2 million as of December 31, 2004. These estimates and assumptions are affected by area-specific conditions such as new commercial development, market occupancy rates and future market prices. If these estimates or their related assumptions change in the future, InsWeb may be required to record a charge to increase its accrual.

Contingencies. As discussed in Item 1 Note 7 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, a class action lawsuit has been filed that alleges InsWeb violated certain federal securities laws at the time of its initial public offering. Although some claims against InsWeb in this class action have been dismissed and a settlement of these proceedings has been proposed and conditionally accepted, InsWeb cannot accurately predict the ultimate outcome of this matter at this time and therefore, cannot estimate the range of probable loss, if any, due to the inherent uncertainties of litigation. InsWeb believes it has meritorious defenses; however InsWeb cannot assure that it will prevail in this action. An unfavorable outcome could have a material adverse effect on InsWeb's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Income Taxes. InsWeb accounts for income taxes in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 109 (SFAS 109), *Accounting for Income Taxes*. The deferred tax assets and/or liabilities are determined by multiplying the differences between the financial reporting and tax reporting bases for assets and liabilities by the enacted tax rates expected to be in effect when such differences are recovered or settled.

Edgar Filing: INSWEB CORP - Form 10-Q

The carrying value of InsWeb's deferred tax assets, which were \$70.4 million at December 31, 2004, are dependent upon our ability to generate sufficient future taxable income. The Company has established a full valuation allowance against its net deferred tax assets for continuing operations to reflect the uncertainty of realizing the deferred tax benefits, given historical losses. A valuation allowance is required when it is more likely than not that all or a portion of a deferred tax asset will not be realized. A review of all available positive and negative evidence needs to be considered, including InsWeb's past and future performance, the market environment in which it operates, the utilization of tax attributes in the past, and the length of carryforward periods and evaluation of potential tax planning strategies. InsWeb expects to continue to maintain a full valuation allowance until an appropriate level of profitability is sustained or it is able to develop tax strategies that would enable it to conclude that it is more likely than not that a portion of its deferred tax assets would be realizable.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

At June 30, 2005 InsWeb's principal source of liquidity and overall cash position was \$13.4 million, consisting of cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments, a decrease from \$17.5 million at December 31, 2004. The decrease resulted from the use of \$4.0 million of cash in operating and financing activities. The primary driver that impacts changes in the Company's overall cash position is its operating loss.

For the six months ended June 30, 2005, net cash used in operating activities was \$2.3 million. The primary components of the use of cash was the net loss of \$2.5 million and an increase in accounts receivable of \$1.6 million, partially offset by an increase in accounts payable of \$1.2 million. The increase in accounts receivable was a result of the revenue growth during the quarter, with days sales outstanding increasing to 34 days at June 30, 2005, compared to 26 days outstanding at December 31, 2004. The increase in accounts payable was a result of the significant increase in direct marketing activities during the quarter, increasing consumer traffic to the InsWeb marketplace and a corresponding increase in direct marketing costs.

For the six months ended June 30, 2005, net cash provided by investing activities was \$3.4 million, which primarily consisted of redemptions of short-term investments offset by the purchases of short-term investments. Investing activities will generally fluctuate in conjunction with cash required to meet working capital requirements.

For the six months ended June 30, 2005, net cash used in financing activities was \$1.8 million. Cash used by financing activities was attributable to the repurchase of common stock for \$1.7 million (see Note 8 to Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements).

InsWeb leases its current office facilities under non-cancelable operating leases, which expire at various dates through April 2011, including a 10-year lease agreement through 2011 for office space in the Sacramento area which houses its corporate headquarters and agency operations. InsWeb has options to extend the lease at the end of the lease term, and has the right of first refusal on other office space in the complex. In addition, InsWeb has entered into various sublease arrangements associated with previously exited facilities that have terms extending through September 2008.

Aggregate contractual cash obligations as of June 30, 2005 are summarized as follows (in thousands):

Years ending December 31,	Gross lease commitments	Sublease income	Net lease commitment
2005	\$ 1,637	\$ (989)	\$ 648
2006	3,391	(2,030)	1,361
2007	3,483	(2,100)	1,383
2008	2,936	(1,615)	1,321
2009	1,078		1,078
Thereafter	1,437		1,437
	\$ 13,962	\$ (6,734)	\$ 7,228

Our operations to date have consumed substantial amounts of cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments (\$8.6 million in 2004 and \$9.6 million in 2003) and will continue to require capital in the near future. In order to remain competitive, we must continue to make investments which are essential to our ability to operate, including investments in direct marketing, technology and general administration, including the

governance and compliance costs required of a public company. We anticipate that our cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments will be sufficient to meet our anticipated cash needs for working capital and capital expenditures for at least the next 12 months. Longer-term, if the enhancements to our auto marketplace, including the expansion of our agent network program, and the launch of our term life agency are unable to generate revenues sufficient to offset our costs, or if our costs of marketing and operations are greater than we anticipate, we may be unable to grow our business at the rate desired; or we may be required to delay, reduce, or cease certain of our operations, any of which could materially harm our business and financial results. Although we do not anticipate the need for additional financing, we nevertheless may require additional funds to meet operating needs. We cannot be certain that additional financing will be available when required, on favorable terms or at all. If we are not successful in raising additional capital as required, we may delay, significantly reduce or cease certain of our operations, which could adversely affect our results of operations and financial position.

Factors That May Affect Our Future Performance

Our future business, operating results and financial condition are subject to various risks and uncertainties, including those described below.

Our business is difficult to evaluate because our market is evolving rapidly and our business model is unpredictable

An evaluation of our future prospects is very difficult. An investor in our common stock must consider the uncertainties frequently encountered by early stage companies in new and rapidly evolving markets. These uncertainties include:

an evolving and unpredictable business model, which makes prediction of future results uncertain and an investment in our common stock highly speculative;

the development of comparable services by competitors, which may reduce our market share;

the uncertainty of the extent to which the consumer market will adopt the Internet as the preferred medium for comparison shopping for and purchase of insurance products, which may limit our ability to generate revenue from consumers that visit our online marketplace or our insurance agency;

our ability to retain key employees; and

our reliance on key customers and ability to retain customers.

Our business strategy may not be successful and we may not be able to successfully address these uncertainties. Moreover, our ability to take the foregoing steps may be hampered by our limited financial resources should we fail to rapidly increase revenues or should increased revenues be more than offset by increased operating expenses.

We have a history of losses, we expect future losses, and we may not achieve or maintain profitability

Given planned investment levels, our ability to achieve profitability will depend upon our ability to generate and sustain substantially increased revenues. As a result, we believe that we will incur operating losses through the remainder of 2005. We incurred operating losses of \$9.2 million

Edgar Filing: INSWEB CORP - Form 10-Q

for 2004, \$7.0 million for 2003, and \$15.5 million for 2002. As of June 30, 2005, our accumulated deficit was \$185.1 million. Our operating results for future periods are subject to numerous uncertainties, and we may not achieve sufficient revenues to become profitable. Even if we achieve profitability, we may not sustain or increase profitability on a quarterly or annual basis in the future. If we are unable to achieve profitability or if our profitability is delayed we may need to seek additional financing to continue our business operations. Such financing could be on terms that are dilutive to our existing stockholders or could involve the issuance of securities that have rights and preferences that are senior to those associated with our common stock. Moreover, if such financing were not available or were available only upon terms that were unacceptable to us, we could be required to delay, reduce, or cease certain of our operations, any of which could materially harm our business and financial results.

If we are unable to achieve cash flow breakeven or generate working capital that may be required in the future, our ability to operate could suffer or cease

Our operations to date have consumed substantial amounts of cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments (\$8.6 million in 2004 and \$9.6 in 2003) and will continue to require capital in the near future. In order to remain competitive, we must continue to make investments essential to our ability to operate, including investments in direct marketing, technology and general administration. In addition, we will continue to face the costs of being a public company. In the event that we are unable to generate revenues sufficient to offset our costs, or if our costs of marketing and operations are greater than we anticipate, we may be unable to grow our business at the rate desired or may be required to delay, reduce, or cease certain of our operations, any of which could materially harm our business and financial results.

We may incur unexpected costs or receive less revenue than we planned from recent initiatives that are part of our evolving business model and, as a result, our operations could be harmed

In 2004, InsWeb launched its agent network program which provides online auto insurance consumers access to local insurance agents. Currently, the agent network program is conducted through an intermediary, NetQuote, Inc., who provides auto consumer leads to local insurance agents. During the three and six months ended June 30, 2005, this agent network program represented 33% and 30% of auto transaction fees, respectively. During the three and six months ended June 30, 2004, this agent network program represented 6% and 3% of auto transaction fees, respectively.

To lessen InsWeb's reliance on this intermediary, and to maximize our revenue potential, we are preparing to launch a proprietary agent network program (AgentInsider) that will provide leads directly to local insurance agents who have registered with InsWeb. We expect that this initiative will be launched during the third quarter of 2005, and may initially result in reduced revenues, depending on the rate of registration and degree of participation of local personal lines insurance agents throughout the country. Going forward, we expect that the agent network program, both through the intermediary and through our internally developed network, will continue to represent a significant percentage of auto transaction fees. However, the agent network is subject to a number of uncertainties, including the cost of developing and marketing the program, and the continued participation of our third party intermediary. If we are unable to create a positive offering, or if the transition of the agent network program from the intermediary to our internally developed program is delayed or otherwise unsuccessful, the Company's business may be harmed.

In August 2004, InsWeb launched its term life agency business in an effort to achieve increased revenue per consumer within its term life marketplace, resulting in a shift from a lead payment to a commission-based revenue model, which the Company believes will offer greater long-term financial benefit. This initiative is subject to a number of uncertainties, including the cost of developing the agency operations, and the continued participation of insurance carriers. Moreover, there are many insurance agencies selling term life insurance online. If we are unable to create a positive offering with this initiative, we may lose business to competitors and/or our business may be harmed.

Our future revenues are unpredictable, our operating results are likely to fluctuate from quarter to quarter, and if we fail to meet the expectations of investors, our stock price could decline significantly

Due to the evolving nature of our business model and the high proportion of our revenues that are derived from consumer traffic to our website, our future revenues are inherently difficult to forecast. Particularly in light of recent changes in our business model, including the evolution of InsWeb's agent network program, InsWeb believes that period-to-period comparisons of its operating results are not necessarily meaningful and should not be relied upon as an indication of future performance. Moreover, our expense levels are based largely on our investment plans and estimates of future revenues. We may be unable to adjust our spending to compensate for an unexpected shortfall in revenues. Accordingly, any significant shortfall in revenues relative to our planned expenditures would harm our results of operations and could cause our stock price to fall sharply, particularly following quarters in which our operating results fail to meet the expectations of investors.

Factors that may cause fluctuations in our operating results include the following, many of which are outside our control:

We may experience consumer dissatisfaction with our online marketplace as we add or change features, or as the insurance coverage offered by participating insurance companies varies;

Consumer traffic on our online marketplace may decline as a result of the announcement or introduction of a competing online insurance marketplace or other new websites, products or services offered by our competitors;

Consumer traffic may also fluctuate as a result of changes in level of advertising by entities with which we have insurance marketing relationships;

Our revenues may be harmed if we lose one or more significant insurance company relationships or if any of our participating insurance companies merge with one another;

Our revenues may be harmed if our new agent network initiative is not developed and launched in a timely or complete manner, or if the transition to our internally developed agent network program from our current third party intermediary is unsuccessful;

Use of the Internet by consumers may fluctuate due to seasonal factors or other uncontrollable factors affecting consumer behavior and may be affected by slow Internet performance due to technical problems or traffic bottlenecks on the network;

Our ability to convert site visits into transaction fees and/or revenue from insurance agency activities may fluctuate due to changes in our user interface or other features on our site;

Our ability to generate transaction fees may be adversely affected by changes in the underwriting criteria used by our participating insurance companies to determine which consumers will be offered quotes; and

Our ability to generate transaction fees and/or revenue from insurance agency activities may also be harmed due to technical difficulties on our website that hamper a consumer's ability to start or complete a shopping session.

We are exposed to increased costs and risks associated with complying with the increasing regulation of corporate governance and disclosure standards

We are spending an increased amount of management time and external resources to comply with changing laws, regulations and standards relating to corporate governance and public disclosure, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, new SEC regulations and Nasdaq Stock Market rules. In particular, Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 requires management's annual review and evaluation of our internal control systems, and attestations of the effectiveness of these systems by our independent auditors. We have commenced documenting our internal control systems and procedures and will need to consider improvements that may be necessary in order for us to comply with the requirements of Section 404 by the end of 2006. This process may require us to hire additional personnel and outside advisory services and will result in significant additional accounting and legal expenses. We may encounter problems or delays in completing the review and evaluation, the implementation of improvements and we may be unsuccessful in obtaining an unqualified report on our assessment of, and/or the effectiveness of, our internal controls over financial reporting from our independent auditors. While we believe that we currently have adequate internal controls over financial reporting, in the event that our chief executive officer or chief financial officer determine that our controls over financial reporting are not effective as defined under Section 404, investor perceptions of our company may be adversely affected and could cause a decline in the market price of our stock.

Seasonality affecting insurance shopping and Internet usage may cause fluctuations in our operating results

Edgar Filing: INSWEB CORP - Form 10-Q

We have experienced seasonality in our business associated with general slowness in the insurance industry during the year-end holiday period. We expect to continue to experience seasonality as our business matures. Because of this seasonality, investors may not be able to predict our annual operating results based on a quarter-to-quarter comparison of our operating results. We believe seasonality will have an ongoing impact on our business.

Because a significant portion of our revenue is attributable to automobile insurance shopping on our online marketplace, we are especially vulnerable to risks related to the online market for automobile insurance or the automobile insurance industry generally

Automobile insurance accounted for approximately 77% of our transaction revenues in 2004, approximately 79% in 2003 and approximately 83% in 2002. For the six months ended June 30, 2005, auto insurance accounted for approximately 79% of our transaction revenues. We anticipate that automobile insurance will continue to account for a substantial portion of our revenues for the foreseeable future. As a result, if we fail to attract a broad base of consumers to shop for automobile insurance on our site, our ability to generate revenue will be reduced and our business will be harmed. In addition, property and casualty insurance, including automobile insurance, is subject to operating cycles. During a cycle in which loss ratios rise, insurance companies may choose to restrict the amount of business they write while they await approval of rate increases from the various state insurance departments. Our business could be harmed if our participating insurance companies reduce their participation in our online marketplace.

If we are unable to promote our brand and expand our brand recognition, our ability to draw consumers to our website will be limited

A growing number of websites offer services that are similar to and competitive with the services offered on our online insurance marketplace. Therefore, a positive recognition of our brand is critical to attracting additional consumers to our website, strengthening our relationships with participating insurance companies and attracting new insurance companies. In order to attract and retain consumers and insurance companies and to promote and maintain our brand, we are continuing our financial commitment to create and maintain brand awareness. Our current marketing program consists of the maintenance of certain network online relationships and other selective cost effective marketing campaigns, designed to maintain consumer awareness of InsWeb and our online insurance marketplace. If our marketing efforts do not generate a corresponding increase in revenues or we otherwise fail to successfully promote our brand, or if these efforts require excessive expenditures, our business will be harmed. Moreover, if visitors to our website do not perceive our existing services or the products and services of our participating insurance companies to be of high quality, or if we alter or modify our brand image, introduce new services or enter into new business ventures that are not favorably received, the value of our brand could be harmed.

Our ability to maintain a positive recognition of our brand also depends in part on the quality of the products and services consumers receive from our participating insurance companies or our insurance agency, including timely response to requests for quotes or coverage. If we are unable to provide consumers with high-quality products and services, the value of our brand may be harmed and the number of consumers using our services may decline.

Competition in the market for online distribution of insurance is intense, and if we are unable to compete effectively with current competitors or new competitors that enter the market, the fees paid to us by participating insurance companies may fall, the fees charged by online companies with which we have strategic relationships may rise, and our market share may suffer

The online insurance distribution market is a relatively new industry and, like the broader electronic commerce market, is both rapidly evolving and highly competitive. Increased competition, particularly by companies offering online insurance distribution, could reduce the fees we are able to charge our participating insurance companies or increase the fees we are required to pay to online companies with which we have strategic relationships, resulting in reduced margins or loss of market share, any of which could harm our business. In addition, our current and future competitors may be able to:

undertake more extensive marketing campaigns for their brands and services;

devote more resources to website and systems development;

adopt more aggressive pricing policies; and

make more attractive offers to potential employees, online companies and third-party service providers.

Accordingly, we may not be able to maintain or grow consumer traffic to our website and our base of participating insurance companies, our competitors may grow faster than we do, or companies with whom we have strategic relationships may discontinue their relationships with us, any of which would harm our business.

We may have difficulty integrating new insurance companies into our online marketplace or agency operations, which could harm our ability to offer improved comparison-shopping opportunities and thus limit the attractiveness of our service to consumers

Integration of an insurance company into our online marketplace requires a significant commitment of time and resources on our part and on the part of the insurance company, and is a technologically difficult process. This integration process typically takes from three to six months to complete and typically requires us to expend between 160 and 2,000 man-hours. To develop company-sponsored quotes for consumers, the integration requires either the development of a customized interface with the insurance company's own rating system, accessing a third-party rating engine of the insurance company's choice, or adding the insurance company's rating information into InsWeb's proprietary rating engines. Though integration into our agency operations may require fewer resources to implement than integration of an insurance company into our online marketplace, potential participating insurance companies may not be willing to invest the time and resources necessary to achieve this integration, or we may not be able to overcome the technological difficulties associated with, or devote the time and resources necessary to, successfully integrate the insurance company into our online marketplace or our agency operations.

We do not have exclusive relationships or long-term contracts with insurance companies, which may limit our ability to retain these insurance companies as participants in our marketplace and maintain the attractiveness of our services to consumers

We do not have an exclusive relationship with any of the insurance companies whose insurance products are offered on our online marketplace, and thus, consumers may obtain quotes and coverage from these insurance companies without using our website. Our participating insurance companies offer their products directly to consumers through insurance agents, mass marketing campaigns or through other traditional methods of insurance distribution. These insurance companies can also offer their products and services over the Internet, either directly to consumers or through one or more of our online competitors, or both. In addition, most of our agreements with our participating insurance companies are cancelable at the option of either party upon 90 days' notice or less. We have experienced, and expect to continue to experience, reductions in the level of participation in our marketplace or complete termination by participating insurance companies. These reductions in participation, terminations, or an inability to attract additional insurance companies to our marketplace could materially affect our revenues and harm our business.

The outcome and impact of the securities class action lawsuit involving InsWeb is uncertain

A securities class action lawsuit was filed on December 5, 2001 in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, (the Court) purportedly on behalf of all persons who purchased our common stock from July 22, 1999 through December 6, 2000. The complaint named as defendants InsWeb, certain current and former officers and directors, and three investment banking firms that served as underwriters for InsWeb's initial public offering in July 1999. The complaint, as subsequently amended, alleges violations of Sections 11 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 and Sections 10 and 20 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, on the grounds that the prospectuses incorporated in the registration statements for the offering failed to disclose, among other things, that (i) the underwriters had solicited and received excessive and undisclosed commissions from certain investors in exchange for which the underwriters allocated to those investors material portions of the shares of our stock sold in the offerings and (ii) the underwriters had entered into agreements with customers whereby the underwriters agreed to allocated shares of the stock sold in the offering to those customers in exchange for which the customers agreed to purchase additional shares of InsWeb stock in the aftermarket at pre-determined prices. No specific damages are claimed. Similar allegations have been made in lawsuits relating to more than 300 other initial public offerings conducted in 1999 and 2000, all of which have been consolidated for pretrial purposes. In October 2002, all claims against the individual defendants were dismissed without prejudice. In February 2003, the Court dismissed the claims in the InsWeb action alleging violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 but allowed the plaintiffs to proceed with the remaining claims. In June 2003, the plaintiffs in all of the cases presented a settlement proposal to all of the issuer defendants. Under the proposed settlement, the plaintiffs will dismiss and release all claims against participating defendants in exchange for a contingent payment guaranty by the insurance companies collectively responsible for insuring the issuers in all the related cases, and the assignment or surrender to the plaintiffs of certain claims the issuer defendants may have against the underwriters. InsWeb and most of the other issuer defendants have accepted the settlement proposal. The settlement was given preliminary approval by the Court in February 2005, pending a modification to the settlement documents. If the Court does not approve the settlement in its final form, InsWeb would defend the lawsuit vigorously. However, the litigation is in the preliminary stage, and we cannot predict its outcome. The litigation process is inherently uncertain. An unfavorable outcome could have a material adverse effect on InsWeb's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Laws and regulations that govern the insurance industry could expose us, or our participating insurance companies, our officers, or agents with whom we contract, to legal penalties if we fail to comply, and could require changes to our business

We perform functions for licensed insurance companies and are, therefore, required to comply with a complex set of rules and regulations that often vary from state to state. If we fail to comply with these rules and regulations, we, an insurance company doing business with us, our officers, or agents with whom we contract, could be subject to various sanctions, including censure, fines, a cease-and-desist order or other penalties. This risk, as well as changes in the regulatory climate or the enforcement or interpretation of existing law, could expose us to additional costs, including indemnification of participating insurance companies for their costs, and could require changes to our business or otherwise harm our business. Furthermore, because the application of online commerce to the consumer insurance market is relatively new, the

impact of current or future regulations on InsWeb's business is difficult to anticipate.

If we are unable to safeguard the security and privacy of consumers and participating insurance companies confidential data, consumers and insurance companies may not use our services and our business may be harmed

A significant barrier to electronic commerce and communications is the secure transmission of personally identifiable information of Internet users as well as other confidential information over public networks. If any compromise or breach of security were to occur, it could harm our reputation and expose us to possible liability. A party who is able to circumvent our security measures could misappropriate proprietary information or cause interruptions in our operations. We may be required to make significant expenditures to protect against security breaches or to alleviate problems caused by any breaches. To date, we have experienced no breaches in our network security. We rely on encryption and authentication technology licensed from third parties to provide the security and authentication necessary to effect secure transmission of confidential information, such as names, addresses, Social Security and credit card numbers, user names and passwords and insurance company rate information. Advances in computer capabilities, new discoveries in the field of cryptography, or other events or developments could result in a compromise or breach of the algorithms we use to protect consumers and insurance companies confidential information.

System failures could reduce or limit traffic on our website or interrupt our communications with individual insurance companies and harm our ability to generate revenue

Since launching our online marketplace, we have experienced occasional minor system failures or outages that have resulted in the online marketplace being out of service for a period ranging from several minutes to three hours while our technicians brought backup systems online. We may experience further system failures or outages in the future that could disrupt the operation of our website and could harm our business. Our revenues depend in large part on the volume of traffic on our website and, more particularly, on the number of insurance quotes generated by our website in response to consumer inquiries. Accordingly, the performance, reliability and availability of our website, quote-generating systems and network infrastructure are critical to our reputation and our ability to attract a high volume of traffic to our website and to attract and retain participating insurance companies. Moreover, we believe that consumers who have a negative experience with an electronic commerce website may be reluctant to return to that site. Thus, a significant failure or outage affecting our systems could result in severe long-term damage to our business.

Additionally, several of our participating insurance companies have chosen a technical solution that requires that our website servers communicate with these insurance companies computer systems in order to perform the underwriting and risk analysis and rating functions required to generate quotes. Thus, the availability of quotes from a given insurance company may depend in large part upon the reliability of that insurance company s own computer systems, over which we have no control.

Our facilities and systems are vulnerable to natural disasters and other unexpected losses, and we may not have adequate insurance to cover such losses

Our computer hardware operations are located in leased facilities in Gold River, California. A third-party service provider located in the Sacramento, California area maintains a backup of our critical systems. If both of these locations experienced a system failure, the performance of our website would be harmed. These systems are also vulnerable to damage from fire, power loss, telecommunications failures, break-ins, natural disasters and similar events. If we seek to replicate our systems at other locations, we will face a number of technical challenges, particularly with respect to database replications, which we may not be able to address successfully. Although we carry property and business interruption insurance, our coverage may not be adequate to compensate us for all losses that may occur. Our servers may also be vulnerable to computer viruses, physical or electronic break-ins and similar disruptions.

We rely on the services of our executive officers and other key personnel, whose knowledge of our business and the insurance industry and technical expertise would be extremely difficult to replace

Our future success is substantially dependent on the continued services and continuing contributions of our senior management and other key personnel, particularly Hussein A. Enan, Chairman of our Board and Chief Executive Officer, and the loss of the services of any of our executive officers or other key employees could harm our business. InsWeb has granted stock options as incentives to executive officers, new employees and certain other key personnel. As the value of these incentives is highly dependent on an increase in the market price of our common stock, we may be unable to retain such key employees, nor retain or recruit other officers and key employees in the future.

Regulation of the Internet is unsettled, and future regulations could inhibit the growth of the Internet and otherwise harm our business

The growth and development of the market for electronic commerce may prompt the enactment of more stringent consumer protection laws that may impose additional burdens on companies conducting business online. For example, the enactment of federal legislation restricting the sending of unsolicited commercial email, or "spam", may impede the implementation of national email-based marketing campaigns. New laws also may inhibit the growth of the Internet as a medium for commerce and comparison insurance shopping, which could, in turn, decrease demand for our services, increase our cost of doing business, or otherwise harm our business. In addition, applicability to the Internet of existing laws governing issues including property ownership, copyrights and other intellectual property issues, taxation, libel and personal privacy is uncertain. The vast majority of these laws was adopted prior to the advent of the Internet and related technologies and, as a result, do not contemplate or address the unique issues of the Internet and related technologies.

Any acquisitions that we undertake could be difficult to integrate, disrupt our business, dilute stockholder value and harm our operating results

We may acquire or make investments in complementary businesses, technologies, services or products if appropriate opportunities arise. The process of integrating any acquired business, technology, service or product into our business and operations may result in unforeseen operating difficulties and expenditures. Integration of an acquired company also may consume much of our management's time and attention that would otherwise be available for ongoing development of our business. Moreover, the anticipated benefits of any acquisition may not be realized. We may be unable to identify, negotiate or finance future acquisitions successfully, or to integrate successfully any acquisitions with our current business. Future acquisitions could result in potentially dilutive issuances of equity securities or the incurrence of debt, contingent liabilities or amortization expenses related to goodwill and other intangible assets, any of which could harm our business.

We may be subject to claims for infringement of intellectual property, with or without merit, which could be costly to defend or settle

We may from time to time be subject to claims of infringement of other parties' proprietary rights or claims that our own trademarks, patents or other intellectual property rights are invalid. We have been subject to infringement claims in the ordinary course of business, including claims of alleged infringement of the patent and trademark rights of third parties by companies and us with which we have business relationships. Any claims of this type, with or without merit, could be time-consuming to defend, result in costly litigation, divert management attention and resources or require us to enter into royalty or license agreements. License agreements may not be available on reasonable terms, if at all, and the assertion or prosecution of any infringement claims could significantly harm our business.

We incorporate third-party technologies and services into our online marketplace, and if the providers of these technologies and services fail in a timely manner to develop, license or support technology necessary to our services, market acceptance of our online marketplace could be harmed

We have incorporated technology developed by third parties into our online marketplace, and we will continue to incorporate third-party technology in our future products and services. We have limited control over whether or when these third-party technologies will be developed or enhanced. If a third-party fails to timely develop, license or support technology necessary to our services, market acceptance of our online marketplace could be harmed.

Our stock price has fluctuated widely, and Internet stocks in general have been extremely volatile

The trading price of our common stock has been highly volatile and may be significantly affected by factors including actual or anticipated fluctuations in our operating results, new products or new contracts by us or our competitors, loss of key customers, conditions and trends in the electronic commerce and insurance industries, changes in financial estimates by securities analysts, general market conditions and other factors. The trading prices of many Internet stocks have experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations. These fluctuations often have been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of these companies. These fluctuations may continue and could harm our stock price. Any negative change in the public's perception of the prospects of Internet or electronic commerce companies could also depress our stock price regardless of our results.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ABOUT MARKET RISK.

There have been no material changes to the Company's disclosures related to certain market risks as reported under Part II, Item 7A, Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk, in the Annual Report of InsWeb to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

(a) Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures, as such term is defined under Rule 13a-15(e) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Based upon that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report.

(b) There has been no change in our internal control over financial reporting during the three months ended June 30, 2005 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II: OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number	Description of Document
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a).
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a).
32	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350.

SIGNATURE

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

Dated: August 11, 2005

INSWEB CORPORATION
(Registrant)

/s/ WILLIAM D. GRIFFIN
William D. Griffin
Chief Financial Officer

27
