Accenture celebrates 10-year anniversary of its IPO
July 19, 2011

Joe Forehand, Retired Chairman. I’m pleased to be here to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Accenture’s IPO. It’s truly hard to believe that it has been 10 years since I had the honor of ringing both the opening and the closing bells, which is a rare event for a newly listed company. I think the IPO is a significant milestone for Accenture. One of the things that strikes me, though, is that in spite of all the changes that you have made happen as you continue to make yourselves relevant to the marketplace, you’ve never lost sight of delivering truly superior client service. That’s been a hallmark of Accenture since I can remember. So I want to, with that, congratulate everyone at Accenture for this great 10th anniversary milestone.

Bill Green, Chairman: Ten years ago to this day, I had a chance to stand with Joe Forehand and some of our colleagues up on the podium here at the New York Stock Exchange. And I’m back here today to celebrate the 10th anniversary of our IPO. This spot right here…and these guys behind me…this is where the action happens. This is where our stock gets traded. We have our leaders here—many people who have worked very closely with me over the last 10 years in making all this happen. And most importantly, I want to recognize the men and women of Accenture. Because over that time, we have added tremendous talent to our company. We have people that have been here for generations who keep the place moving. And we are, and have always been, focused on high performance. And that’s what we’ve delivered as a company. But maybe the most important thing is our best days are ahead. We are incredibly well positioned to head off into the next development and iteration of one of the world’s great companies. So I look forward to the next 10 years. All the best. Thanks very much.

Pam Craig, Chief Financial Officer: I’m standing here on the Members Gallery, which overlooks the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange. We have accomplished so much together during the last 10 years. We’ve doubled our annual revenues. Compounded, our shares have appreciated 15% annually compared to just 1% for the S&P 500. We’ve created close to $30 billion of market value in 10 years. We’ve also increased public ownership from about 10% when we completed our IPO 10 years ago, to 88%—almost 90% today. So we, in effect, flipped the ownership from 10% to 90%. And since 2002, Accenture has generated $18 billion of free cash flow and returned 91% of that to shareholders, through share repurchases and payment of our dividends. And, of course, we were added to the S&P 500 Index just two weeks ago. This was a prestigious recognition of the quality and the integrity of our business. These achievements are a testimony to the dedication and hard work of our Accenture people around the world. And I look forward to what we’ll accomplish as a company in the next 10 years and beyond.

Pierre Nanterme, Chief Executive Officer: This is a very special day for Accenture. This is huge. This is important because in these last 10 years, we have built a fabulous company. And we should be extraordinarily proud of what has been achieved so far. We have built a company with 223,000 people. We’ve built a brand. We’ve built a reputation. We’ve built the best company in the world in professional services. But this is, as well, a very special day for me. I know this huge tradition of ringing the bell every five or 10 years on the New York Stock Exchange means a lot. I feel proud of it. I feel even more honored. I was surrounded here with fabulous leaders, and I can feel all their passion, all their commitment about the company. And you can be assured that I would commit myself as much as I could to continue in the next decade to making this company as good as it should be. It was a great day for Accenture. It’s a great day for me, and it’s a great day for all our people around the world. All the best.