

tests that can be performed by physicians in their offices, (2) esoteric tests that can be performed by hospitals in their own laboratories or (3) home testing that can be carried out without requiring the services of clinical laboratories.

- (o) Issuance of patents or other property rights to our competitors or others that could prevent, limit or interfere with our ability to develop, perform or sell our tests or operate our business.
- (p) Development of tests by our competitors or others which we may not be able to license, or usage of our technology or similar technologies or our trade secrets by competitors, any of which could negatively affect our competitive position.
- (q) Regulatory delay or inability to commercialize newly licensed tests or technologies or to obtain appropriate reimbursements for such tests.
- (r) Inability to obtain or maintain adequate patent and other proprietary rights protections of our products and services or to successfully enforce our proprietary rights.
- (s) Impact of any national healthcare information network and the adoption of standards for health information technology interoperability that are incompatible with existing software and hardware infrastructure requiring widespread replacement of systems and/or software.
- (t) Inability to promptly or properly bill for our services or to obtain appropriate payments for services that we do bill.
- (u) Changes in interest rates and changes in our credit ratings from Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Services causing an unfavorable impact on our cost of and access to capital.
- (v) Inability to hire and retain qualified personnel or the loss of the services of one or more of our key senior management personnel.
- (w) Terrorist and other criminal activities, hurricanes, earthquakes or other natural disasters, which could affect our customers, transportation or systems, or our facilities, and for which insurance may not adequately reimburse us.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

There are no unresolved SEC comments that require disclosure.