

JMP Group Inc.
Form DEF 14A
April 28, 2010
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14a-101)

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No. __)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material pursuant to Section 240.14a-12

JMP Group Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

.. Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

.. Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

Table of Contents

600 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100

San Francisco, CA 94111

May 3, 2010

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Annual Meeting) of JMP Group Inc. (the Company), which will be held on Monday, June 7, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. Pacific time. The meeting will take place at our corporate headquarters at 600 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100, San Francisco, CA 94111. At the meeting, we will:

1. Elect nine (9) directors to serve until our subsequent annual meeting.
2. Ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as JMP Group Inc. s independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2010.

3. Conduct any other business that properly comes before the meeting and any postponements or adjournments of the meeting. All holders of record of common stock of JMP Group Inc. as of Tuesday, April 20, 2010 will be entitled to vote at our Annual Meeting.

Your vote is very important to us and your shares should be represented and voted, whether or not you plan to personally attend the Annual Meeting. To ensure that your vote is counted at the meeting, please mark, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card in the envelope provided or vote via the Internet as promptly as possible. Stockholders attending the meeting may vote in person even if they have previously returned proxy cards or voted via the Internet. Please note that if your shares are held of record by a broker, bank or other nominee and you wish to vote at the Annual Meeting, you must obtain a legal proxy from such broker, bank or other nominee.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Jolson

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT.

PLEASE PROMPTLY SUBMIT YOUR PROXY BY INTERNET OR MAIL.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholder Meeting to be held on Monday, June 7, 2010: The Proxy Statement, the Form of Proxy Card, and the 2009 Annual Report to Stockholders are available at <http://investor.jmpg.com/annual-proxy.cfm>.

Table of Contents

JMP Group Inc.

600 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100

San Francisco, CA 94111

NOTICE OF THE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

| | |
|---|--|
| Time & Date: | 11:00 a.m. Pacific time on Monday, June 7, 2010 |
| Location: | 600 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100 San Francisco, CA 94111 |
| Items of Business: | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Elect nine (9) directors to serve until our subsequent annual meeting.2. Ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as JMP Group Inc.'s independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2010.3. Conduct any other business that properly comes before the meeting and any postponements or adjournments of the meeting. |
| Who Can Vote: | Stockholders at the close of business on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, the date which has been fixed by the Board of Directors of the Company as the record date. |
| How You Can Vote: | You may vote in one of three ways: (1) You may vote by ballot in person at the Annual Meeting. (2) You may vote your proxy by marking, signing and dating the enclosed proxy card and returning it as soon as possible using the enclosed envelope. (3) You may vote via the Internet by visiting www.proxyvote.com and following the instructions for voting. |
| Who May Attend: | Only persons with evidence of stock ownership or who are guests of the Company may attend the Annual Meeting. Photo identification will be required (a driver's license or passport is preferred). If your shares are registered in the name of a broker, trust, bank or other nominee, you will need to bring a proxy or a letter from that broker, trust, bank or other nominee or your most recent brokerage account statement confirming that you were the beneficial owner of those shares on April 20, 2010. If you do not have proof that you own shares, you will not be admitted to the Annual Meeting. |
| Inspection of List of Stockholders of Record: | A list of the stockholders of record as of April 20, 2010 will be available for inspection during ordinary business hours at the office of our Chief Legal Officer and Secretary, 600 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100, San Francisco, California 94111, from May 27, 2010 to June 6, 2010, as well as at the Annual Meeting. |

Edgar Filing: JMP Group Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Additional Information:

Additional information regarding the matters to be acted on at the Annual Meeting is included in the accompanying Proxy Statement.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Janet L. Tarkoff

Chief Legal Officer and Secretary

May 3, 2010

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| <u>INTRODUCTION</u> | 1 |
| <u>QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS</u> | 1 |
| <u>PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u> | 5 |
| <u>Composition of the Board</u> | 5 |
| <u>Leadership Structure of the Board</u> | 5 |
| <u>Independence of Non-Employee Directors</u> | 5 |
| <u>Selection of Directors</u> | 7 |
| <u>Nominees for Election as Directors</u> | 8 |
| <u>Directors' Recommendation</u> | 11 |
| <u>The Board of Directors and Its Committees</u> | 11 |
| <u>The Role of the Board of Directors in the Oversight of Risk</u> | 13 |
| <u>Executive Officers</u> | 13 |
| <u>Executive Compensation</u> | 13 |
| <u>Compensation Discussion and Analysis</u> | 13 |
| <u>2009 Compensation Program</u> | 17 |
| <u>Equity Awards</u> | 18 |
| <u>2009 Summary Compensation Table</u> | 20 |
| <u>2009 Grants of Plan-Based Awards</u> | 21 |
| <u>Outstanding Equity Awards as of December 31, 2009</u> | 22 |
| <u>Option Exercises and Stock Vested in 2009</u> | 22 |
| <u>Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation</u> | 23 |
| <u>Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control</u> | 23 |
| <u>Compensation of Directors</u> | 23 |
| <u>Compensation Committee Report</u> | 25 |
| <u>Audit Committee Report</u> | 26 |
| <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management</u> | 27 |
| <u>Equity Compensation Plan Information</u> | 28 |
| <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions</u> | 29 |
| <u>Tax Indemnification Agreement and Related Matters</u> | 32 |
| <u>Relationships with Our Directors and Executive Officers</u> | 32 |
| <u>Review and Approval of Transactions with Related Persons</u> | 33 |
| <u>PROPOSAL 2 RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT</u> | |
| <u>Audit and Non-Audit Fees</u> | 34 |
| <u>Audit Committee Pre-Approval of Audit and Non-Audit Services</u> | 34 |
| <u>Directors' Recommendation</u> | 34 |
| <u>OTHER MATTERS</u> | 35 |
| <u>Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance</u> | 35 |
| <u>Incorporation by Reference</u> | 35 |
| <u>Stockholder Proposals for 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders</u> | 35 |
| <u>Code of Business Conduct and Ethics</u> | 35 |
| <u>Reporting Concerns Regarding Accounting and Other Matters</u> | 36 |
| <u>Householding</u> | 36 |
| <u>Communicating with the Board of Directors, the Presiding Director or the Non-Management Members as a Group</u> | 36 |
| <u>Other Matters</u> | 37 |

Table of Contents

JMP Group Inc.

600 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100

San Francisco, CA 94111

PROXY STATEMENT

2010 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2010

INTRODUCTION

This proxy statement (this Proxy Statement) is furnished in connection with a solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of JMP Group Inc., a Delaware corporation (which we refer to as JMP, the Company, we, our or us and which includes, as applicable, our predecessor limited liability company), to be used at our 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Annual Meeting) to be held on Monday, June 7, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. Pacific time, and at any adjournments or postponements thereof.

The approximate date on which a copy of our 2009 Annual Report, this Proxy Statement and the accompanying proxy card are first being mailed to stockholders is May 3, 2010.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the purpose of the Annual Meeting?

You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting to consider and vote on the following proposals:

1. Elect nine (9) directors to serve until our subsequent annual meeting.
2. Ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as JMP Group Inc.'s independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2010.
3. Conduct any other business that properly comes before the meeting and any postponements or adjournments of the meeting.

Who is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting?

The close of business on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 has been fixed by the Board of Directors of the Company (the Board of Directors) as the record date for determining the holders of shares of our common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on that date are entitled to attend and vote at the Annual Meeting. The only class of stock that is currently outstanding and that can be voted at the Annual Meeting is our common stock. Each outstanding share of common stock is entitled to one vote on each matter that comes before the Annual Meeting, and the presence, in person or by proxy, of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote will constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting. We do not have cumulative voting, and there are no appraisal or dissenters' rights associated with any of the matters we have scheduled for a vote at the Annual Meeting. Withheld votes, abstentions and broker non-votes are treated as present for quorum purposes.

At the close of business on the record date, there were 22,069,741 shares of our common stock outstanding held by 159 stockholders of record. Those shares represented by the proxies received, properly marked, dated, executed and not revoked will be considered present at the Annual Meeting.

How do I vote?

Edgar Filing: JMP Group Inc. - Form DEF 14A

You may vote by ballot in person at the Annual Meeting. If you are a street name stockholder, in order to vote at the meeting, you will need to obtain a signed proxy from the broker or nominee that holds your shares of record, because the broker or nominee is the legal, registered owner of the shares. If you have the

Table of Contents

broker's proxy, you may vote by ballot or you may complete and deliver another proxy card in person at the meeting. Alternatively, you may vote by using any of the following methods:

By the Internet You may vote by proxy via the Internet by visiting www.proxyvote.com and following the instructions on the Webpage. You may use the Internet to vote at any time until 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time, on June 6, 2010.

By Mail You may vote by completing, signing and dating the proxy card and returning it in the provided postage-paid envelope. If you are a stockholder of record, and the postage-paid envelope is missing, please mail your completed proxy card to JMP Group Inc. c/o Broadridge, 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY 11717.

How does the Board of Directors recommend I vote on the proposals?

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote:

FOR Proposal 1 the election of each of the nine (9) director nominees.

FOR Proposal 2 the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as JMP Group Inc.'s independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2010.

What if I do not specify how my shares are to be voted?

For shares directly registered in the name of the stockholder, if a properly executed proxy is provided, but no instruction is given with respect to any or all proposals to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting, your proxy will be voted **FOR** the election of all of the nominees named in this Proxy Statement and **FOR** Proposal 2, as applicable.

At present we do not expect any other matter to be considered at the Annual Meeting other than the proposals set forth in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting, but if any other matters are properly brought before the Annual Meeting for action, it is intended that the shares of our common stock represented by proxies will be voted by the persons named as proxies on the proxy card in accordance with their discretion on such matters.

For shares registered in the name of a broker, bank, or other nominee, with respect to shares registered in the name of organizations that are not governed by New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) Rule 452, those shares will not be voted at the meeting because such organizations do not have discretionary voting power. With respect to shares registered in the name of brokerage firms that are governed by NYSE Rule 452, if you do not furnish voting instructions to such brokerage firms, one of two things can happen depending upon whether or not a proposal is routine. Under NYSE Rule 452, brokerage firms have discretion to cast votes on routine matters, such as the ratification of the appointment of independent registered public accounting firms, without receiving voting instructions from their clients. Brokerage firms are not permitted, however, to cast votes on non-routine matters, such as the election of directors, without such voting instructions.

How can I attend the Annual Meeting in person?

All stockholders must bring an acceptable form of identification, such as a driver's license or a passport, in order to attend our Annual Meeting in person.

If your shares are held beneficially in street name and you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, you will need to obtain and present a copy of your brokerage account statement (which you can obtain from your broker) reflecting your ownership of our common stock as of April 20, 2010 to be admitted to the Annual Meeting.

Please note: No cameras, recording equipment or other electronic devices will be permitted at the Annual Meeting.

Table of Contents

What is the difference between holding shares as a stockholder of record and as a beneficial owner?

If your shares are registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, the American Stock Transfer & Trust Co., you are considered, with respect to those shares, the stockholder of record. The Notice of Annual Meeting, this Proxy Statement and our 2009 Annual Report have been sent directly to you.

If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account or by a bank or other holder of record, you are considered the beneficial owner of shares held in street name. The Notice of Annual Meeting, this Proxy Statement and our 2009 Annual Report have been forwarded (or otherwise made available) to you by your broker, bank or other holder of record who is considered, with respect to those shares, the stockholder of record. As the beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker, bank or other holder of record on how to vote your shares by using the voting instruction card included in the mailing or by following their instructions for voting.

Can I change my vote after I submit my proxy card?

Yes. You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted at the Annual Meeting by:

signing and returning another proxy card with a later date; or

giving written notice of revocation to our Secretary prior to or at the Annual Meeting; or

attending and voting at the Annual Meeting.

Your attendance at the Annual Meeting will not have the effect of revoking your properly executed proxy unless you follow one of the revocation procedures referenced above. Any written notice revoking a proxy should be sent to our Secretary at 600 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100, San Francisco, CA 94111 and must be received before voting is closed at the Annual Meeting.

What are broker non-votes ?

Broker non-votes occur when a broker or nominee holding shares for a beneficial owner in street name does not vote on a particular matter because it does not have discretionary authority to vote and it has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner. Under the rules of the NYSE, brokers that have not received voting instructions from their customers may vote their customers' shares in the brokers' discretion on the proposal regarding the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm because this is a routine matter under NYSE Rule 452. Brokers that have not received voting instructions from their customers may not vote their customers' shares in the brokers' discretion on the proposal regarding the election of directors, because this is a non-routine matter under NYSE Rule 452.

How many votes are required to approve the proposals?

The required votes to approve each proposal are as follows:

Proposal 1 a plurality of the votes cast is required for the election of directors. This means that the nine director nominees receiving the greatest number of FOR votes will be elected to the Board of Directors. You may vote FOR or WITHHOLD with respect to the election of directors. Only votes FOR are counted in determining whether a plurality has been cast in favor of a director. Broker non-votes and withheld votes are not counted for purposes of the election of directors and therefore will have no effect on this proposal.

Proposal 2 the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting is required for the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2010. You may vote FOR, AGAINST, or ABSTAIN with respect to the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public

Edgar Filing: JMP Group Inc. - Form DEF 14A

accounting firm. Abstentions, while included for purposes of attaining a quorum, will not be voted on Proposal 2 and therefore will have the same effect as a vote against proposal 2. Broker non-votes, if any, will be disregarded and have no effect on the outcome of such vote.

Table of Contents

Who will count the votes?

We have retained Broadridge Financial Solutions to receive and tabulate the votes in connection with our Annual Meeting. Our Chief Legal Officer will utilize such tabulations and serve as our election inspector who will certify the election results and perform any other acts required by the Delaware General Corporation Law.

What is a quorum, and how is it determined?

For business to be properly conducted and the vote of stockholders to be valid at the Annual Meeting, a quorum must be present. The presence, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of shares of our common stock issued and outstanding as of the record date is necessary to constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting. Shares represented at the Annual Meeting in person or by proxy but not voted will nevertheless be counted for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. Accordingly, abstentions and broker non-votes will be treated as shares that are present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum.

Who pays for the cost of this proxy solicitation?

This proxy solicitation by our Board of Directors will be conducted by mail, and we will bear all attendant costs. These costs will include the expense of preparing and mailing proxy solicitation materials for the Annual Meeting and reimbursements paid to brokerage firms and others for their expenses incurred in forwarding such materials to beneficial owners of our common stock. We may conduct further solicitation personally, telephonically, by facsimile or by electronic or other means of communication through our officers, directors and employees, none of whom will receive additional compensation for assisting with the solicitation.

Where can I find more information?

A copy of our 2009 Annual Report is enclosed with this Proxy Statement and is available on the Internet at <http://investor.jmpg.com/annual-proxy.cfm>. In addition, we are required to file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information required by the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). You may read and copy any document we file with the SEC at the SEC's public reference room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, U.S.A. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

In addition, we maintain a public website at <http://www.jmpg.com> and make available free of charge through our website our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, Proxy Statements and Forms 3, 4 and 5 filed on behalf of directors and executive officers and any amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to the Exchange Act as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. Also posted on our website are charters for our Board of Directors Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, as well as our Corporate Governance Guidelines, our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics governing our directors, officers and employees and other related materials. The information on our website is not part of this Proxy Statement.

If you have any further questions about voting your shares or attending the Annual Meeting, please contact Andrew Palmer, Director of Investor Relations at 415-835-8978 and apalmer@jmpg.com.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Composition of the Board

Our Board of Directors presently consists of nine members: Joseph A. Jolson, our Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of our Board of Directors, Craig R. Johnson, Mark L. Lehmann, Carter D. Mack, Edward J. Sebastian, Glenn H. Tongue, Kenneth M. Karmin, Harris S. Barton and H. Mark Lunenburg. All of our directors are elected annually for a term expiring at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in the following year. Each director will hold office until his or her successor has been elected and qualified or until the director's earlier death, resignation or removal. If any director listed in this proxy does not stand for re-election, his successor or replacement will stand for re-election at our next annual meeting of stockholders in 2011.

Leadership Structure of the Board

Mr. Jolson has served in the combined roles of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer since 2004. Our outside director, Mr. Sebastian, has been appointed as Lead Director with responsibilities as set forth in the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines. These duties include, as appropriate, chairing executive sessions of the Board, serving as the principal liaison between the Chairman and the independent directors, approving information sent to the Board, approving meeting agendas and schedules for the Board, and ensuring that he or she is available for consultation and direct communication with stockholders, if requested. The Lead Director also has the authority to call meetings of the independent directors.

We believe that Mr. Jolson's dual roles as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer are in the best interest of the Company and its shareholders as such structure creates unified leadership and cohesive strategic vision for the Company. As a founder, and with his long history in the industries in which we operate and deep involvement in the operations of the Company, we believe Mr. Jolson is uniquely positioned to identify and recommend to the Board strategic initiatives in light of company culture and opportunities. We believe the oversight provided by the Company's outside directors, the Board committees and the coordinated efforts between management and the independent directors help balance growth and risk management and the development of the Company's strategic plans and operations.

Independence of Non-Employee Directors

Our Board of Directors and Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee has analyzed the independence of each nominee for the Board of Directors and has determined that each of Messrs. Sebastian, Tongue, Karmin, Barton, and Lunenburg is independent, as defined in Section 303A of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual and within the meaning of our director independence standards (detailed below). In addition, our Board of Directors and its Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee has determined that each member of the Audit Committee is independent under the SEC's audit committee independence standards and that each member of our Compensation Committee is an outside director within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

To be considered independent, a director must be determined by resolution of our Board of Directors as a whole, after due deliberation, to have no material relationship with the Company other than as a director. In each case, our Board of Directors shall broadly consider all relevant facts and circumstances and shall apply the following standards:

1. a director who is an employee, or whose immediate family member is an executive officer, of the Company or any of its subsidiaries is not independent until three years after the end of such employment relationship;
2. a director who receives, or whose immediate family member receives, more than \$120,000 per year in direct compensation from the Company or any of its subsidiaries, other than director and committee fees and pension or other forms of deferred compensation for prior service (provided such

Table of Contents

compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service), is not independent until three years after he or she ceases to receive more than \$120,000 per year in such compensation;

3. a director who is affiliated with or employed by, or whose immediate family member is affiliated with or employed in a professional capacity by, a present or former internal or external auditor of the Company or any of its subsidiaries is not independent until three years after the end of the affiliation or the employment or auditing relationship;
4. a director who is employed, or whose immediate family member is employed, as an executive officer of another company where any of the Company's or any of its subsidiaries' present executives serve on that company's compensation committee is not independent until three years after the end of such service or the employment relationship;
5. a director who is an executive officer or an employee, or whose immediate family member is an executive officer, of a company (which does not include charitable entities) that makes payments to, or receives payments from, the Company or any of its subsidiaries for property or services in an amount which, in any single fiscal year, exceeds the greater of \$1.0 million or 2% of such other company's consolidated gross revenues, is not independent until three years after falling below such threshold; and
6. any director that has a material relationship with the Company shall not be independent. Any relationship not required to be disclosed pursuant to Item 404 of Regulation S-K of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), shall be presumptively not material. For relationships not covered by the preceding sentence, the determination of whether the relationship is material or not, and therefore whether the director would be independent or not, shall be made by the Board of Directors. We would disclose in the next proxy statement the basis for any board determination that a relationship is immaterial despite the fact that it does not meet the categorical standards of immateriality set forth above.

In addition to the categorical standards discussed above, our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors considered certain applicable relationships between each independent director and us, and in particular the following types of relationships:

(i) brokerage, investment banking and investment management relationships between us and any independent director, their family members and entities any of them are affiliated with or in which they are significantly invested, (ii) relationships between us and any third-party vendor that is affiliated with any independent director or any of their family members or in which any of them are significantly invested and (iii) relationships with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm.

In making its independence determination regarding Messrs. Sebastian and Karmin, the Board of Directors considered certain transactions, relationships and arrangements, including Messrs. Sebastian and Karmin's investment in certain investment funds managed by an affiliate of the Company. The transactions, relationships and arrangements were considered to be within the applicable categorical independence standards discussed above.

In making its independence determination regarding Messrs. Barton, Sebastian, Tongue and Lunenburg, the Board of Directors considered certain transactions, relationships and arrangements, including, among other things, the existence of a brokerage relationship with Messrs. Barton and Sebastian and entities affiliated with Messrs. Tongue and Lunenburg, respectively. The transactions, relationships and arrangements were considered to be within the applicable categorical independence standards discussed above.

Table of Contents

Selection of Directors

Stockholder Recommendations and Nominations for Membership on our Board of Directors

The policy of our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee is to consider properly submitted stockholder recommendations for candidates for membership on the Board of Directors as described below under Identifying and Evaluating Nominees for Directors. In evaluating such recommendations, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will address the membership criteria set forth under Director Qualifications. Any stockholder recommendations proposed for consideration by the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee should include the nominee's name and qualifications for membership on the Board of Directors and should be addressed to:

JMP Group Inc.

600 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100

San Francisco, CA 94111

Attn: Janet L. Tarkoff, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary

In addition to stockholder recommendations of candidates for membership on the Board of Directors, a stockholder may nominate an individual for election to our Board of Directors in the manner set forth in, and in accordance with the provisions of, our Amended and Restated Bylaws (Bylaws). Under Section 2.10 of our Bylaws, as a general matter in order for a nomination to be properly brought before the annual meeting of our stockholders to be held in 2011, notice of a nomination must be delivered to our corporate Secretary not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days prior to (i) the first anniversary of the date on which we first mail our proxy materials for the 2010 Annual Meeting, or, (ii) if the date of the 2011 Annual Meeting is changed more than 30 days from the first anniversary date of the 2010 Annual Meeting, the date on which we first mail our proxy materials for 2011. Accordingly, assuming that the 2011 Annual Meeting occurs within 30 days before or after the first anniversary date of the 2010 Annual Meeting, any such notice of a nomination given by or on behalf of a stockholder pursuant to Section 2.10 of our Bylaws must be received no earlier than January 3, 2011 and no later than February 2, 2011.

In any notice of nomination, the nominating stockholder must include a statement in writing setting forth the following:

(i) as to each person whom the stockholder proposes to nominate for election or re-election as a director:

the name, age, business address and residence address of the person or persons to be nominated;

the principal occupation or employment of such person or persons;

the class and number of all shares of each class of our capital stock owned beneficially and of record by the nominee;

the nominee's signed consent to serve as a director if elected; and

any other information relating to the person that is required to be disclosed in solicitations for proxies for election of directors pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and

(ii) as to the stockholder giving the notice, the name and record address of the stockholder, the class and number of all shares of each class of our capital stock owned beneficially and of record by the stockholder, and, if the nominating stockholder's shares are held beneficially in a stock brokerage account or in the name of a bank or other holder of record, evidence establishing such stockholder's indirect ownership of stock and entitlement to vote such stock for the election of directors at the annual meeting.

Edgar Filing: JMP Group Inc. - Form DEF 14A

We may require any proposed nominee to furnish such other information as may reasonably be required by us to determine the eligibility of such proposed nominee to serve as a director. A copy of our Bylaws is included as an exhibit to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, filed with the SEC on June 21, 2007. See [Where can I find more information?](#) above.

Table of Contents

Director Qualifications

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines contain membership criteria that apply to nominees for a position on our Board of Directors. Under these criteria, members of our Board of Directors should possess certain core competencies, some of which may include broad experience in business, finance or administration, familiarity with national and international business matters, and familiarity with our industry. In addition to having one or more of these core competencies, members of our Board of Directors are identified and considered on the basis of knowledge, experience, integrity, diversity, leadership, reputation, and ability to understand our business.

Further, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee considers other factors it deems appropriate based on the current needs and desires of the Board, including specific business and financial expertise, experience as a director of a public company, and diversity. The Board considers a number of factors in its evaluation of diversity, including geography, age, and ethnicity. As indicated above, diversity is one factor among many that the Board considers when evaluating director candidates. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee monitors its assessment of diversity as part of its annual self-evaluation process. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will reassess the qualifications of a director, including the director's attendance, involvement at Board and committee meetings and contribution to Board diversity, prior to recommending a director for reelection. Nominees will be screened to ensure each candidate has qualifications which complement the overall core competencies of the Board. The screening process for new nominees includes conducting a background evaluation and an independence determination.

Identifying and Evaluating Nominees for Directors

Our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee utilizes a variety of methods for identifying and evaluating nominees for directors. Our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee has the duty of regularly assessing the composition of our Board of Directors, including, but not limited to, the size of our Board of Directors and the diversity, age, skills and experience of individual members in the context of the needs of our Board of Directors. In addition, our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee also has the duty of identifying individuals qualified to become members of the Board of Directors. Candidates may come to the attention of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee through current members of our Board of Directors, professional search firms, stockholders or other persons. These candidates will be evaluated by our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and may be considered at any point during the year. As described above, our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will consider properly submitted stockholder recommendations of candidates for our Board of Directors. Following verification of the stockholder status of persons recommending candidates, recommendations will be aggregated and considered by our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. If any materials are provided by a stockholder in connection with the recommendation of a director candidate, such materials will be forwarded to our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. Stockholder recommendations that comply with our procedures will receive the same consideration that our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee nominees receive.

Our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee may review materials provided by professional search firms or other parties to identify, evaluate and recruit potential director nominees who are not proposed by a stockholder. In addition, a professional search firm may be used to make initial contact with potential candidates to assess, among other things, their availability, fit and major strengths.

Nominees for Election as Directors

At the Annual Meeting, our stockholders will be asked to elect our nine director nominees set forth below.

All of the nominees currently are members of the Board of Directors, and all of the nominees have been recommended for re-election to the Board of Directors by our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and approved and nominated for re-election by the Board of Directors. Set forth below is information as of March 31, 2010 regarding the nominees, which has been confirmed by each of them for inclusion in this Proxy Statement.

Table of Contents

You may vote FOR or WITHHOLD with respect to any or all director nominees. The election of directors requires a plurality of the votes cast FOR the election of directors; accordingly, the nine nominees receiving the highest number of votes FOR will be elected. Withheld votes will be excluded entirely from the vote and will have no effect on the outcome of the vote.

Joseph A. Jolson, age 51, co-founded JPM Group in 1999, and is our Chief Executive Officer, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, and a member of our Executive Committee. Mr. Jolson has served as our CEO since September 1999 and as Chairman of our Board of Directors since August 2004. Mr. Jolson is also the Chief Executive Officer of Harvest Capital Strategies (formerly, JPM Asset Management) and JPM Capital and is a Portfolio Manager of Harvest Opportunity Partners II, L.P. and its related funds, one of our family of hedge funds. Previously, Mr. Jolson was a Senior Managing Director and Senior Research Analyst at Montgomery Securities, now Banc of America Securities, for 15 years. Prior to that, he was a Consulting Research Analyst at Fidelity Management and Research in Boston in 1983 and 1984 and at Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette in New York from 1980 through 1982. Mr. Jolson was named to Institutional Investor magazine's All-America Research Team for 10 consecutive years, between 1986 and 1995, for his coverage of the savings and loan industry and was also selected as an All-Star Analyst by the Wall Street Journal in the financial services category in 1996 and 1997. Additionally, he was ranked as a top-five thrift analyst every year from 1985 through 1994 by Greenwich Associates. Mr. Jolson received an MBA degree with distinction from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a BA degree from Yale University. The Board believes that Mr. Jolson should serve as a director due to, among other factors, his status as a founder of the Company, his experience in the industries in which we operate and his successful management of the operations and the strategic directives of the Company since inception.

Craig R. Johnson, age 55, joined us in January 2002 and is President of JPM Group, and a member of our Executive Committee. Mr. Johnson has served as our President since August 2004 and as a member of our Board of Directors since August 2004. He previously served as President of JPM Securities, from January 2002 until January 2007. Mr. Johnson was a founding member of Saw Island Asset Advisors, LLC, an alternative investment firm specializing in hedge fund investments, which was acquired by JPM Asset Management in January 2003. Prior to founding Saw Island Asset Advisors, Mr. Johnson spent 20 years, from 1980 through 2000, at Montgomery Securities, now Banc of America Securities, most recently as director of global institutional sales and a member of the firm's Executive Committee. Mr. Johnson serves on the Board of Directors of Corticon Technology, a rules-based enterprise software platform for decision management. Mr. Johnson received a BA degree from Stanford University. The Board believes Mr. Johnson should serve as a director due to his experience in the institutional brokerage and investment banking industries and with funds of funds.

Mark L. Lehmann, age 45, joined us in October 2003, is Director of Equities and Co-President of JPM Securities, and a member of our Executive Committee. Mr. Lehmann has served as Director of Equities and Co-President of JPM Securities since February 2007 and as a member of our Board of Directors since August 2004. Previously, Mr. Lehmann was a Managing Director at U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray, where he initiated and managed the firm's middle-market sales effort. He previously served as both the Global Director of Institutional Sales and the Global Director of Equity Research at Banc of America Securities after serving as an institutional salesperson at the firm and its predecessor, Montgomery Securities, for 10 years. Mr. Lehmann was also a founding partner of Baypoint Trading, a provider of trading execution services to investment managers. Mr. Lehmann received a JD degree from the New York University School of Law and a BA degree from the University of Illinois. He is a certified public accountant. The Board believes Mr. Lehmann should serve as a director due to his experience in the institutional brokerage and research industries.

Carter D. Mack, age 47, co-founded JPM Group in 1999, is Director of Investment Banking and Co-President of JPM Securities, and a member of our Executive Committee. Mr. Mack has served as Director of Investment Banking and Co-President of JPM Securities since February 2007 and as a member of our Board of Directors since August 2004. Prior to co-founding JPM Group, Mr. Mack was a Managing Director in the

Table of Contents

financial services group at Montgomery Securities, now Banc of America Securities, for three years, where he focused on corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions for finance companies, depository institutions and other financial intermediaries. Mr. Mack also spent five years working with financial institutions in the investment banking group at Merrill Lynch, two years in corporate finance at Security Pacific Corp. and three years in strategic planning at Union Bank of California. Mr. Mack received an MBA degree from the UCLA Anderson School of Management and a BA degree from the University of California, Berkeley. The Board believes Mr. Mack should serve as a director due to his status as a founder of the Company and his experience in investment banking, particularly in financial services.

Edward J. Sebastian, age 63, has served as a member of our Board of Directors since August 2004. Mr. Sebastian is the founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of SMR Group LLC, a private equity investment firm located in Newport Beach, California. Mr. Sebastian is the former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Resource Bancshares Mortgage Group, a residential mortgage company headquartered in Columbia, South Carolina, founded by Mr. Sebastian as a division of Republic National Bank in May 1989. Resource Bancshares Mortgage Group went public in 1993 and merged with NetBank, Inc., of Atlanta, Georgia, in March 2002. Prior to that, Mr. Sebastian was Vice Chairman of Bankers Trust of South Carolina and Corporate Executive Vice President of NCNB Corporation, which are both now part of Bank of America. Mr. Sebastian was a member of the Board of Directors of The South Financial Group, a financial institution headquartered in Greenville, South Carolina, and is currently active on the boards of advisors of various venture capital funds, including Baker Communication Fund of New York, New York, and Vaxa Capital of Greenville, South Carolina. Mr. Sebastian received a BS degree from Pennsylvania State University. The Board believes Mr. Sebastian should serve as a director due to his experience in financial services firms, public company management and corporate governance practices.

Glenn H. Tongue, age 50, has served as a member of our Board of Directors since August 2007. Mr. Tongue has been a General Partner and Co-Manager of T2 Partners Management since April 2004 and is the co-manager of three private investment partnerships: the Tilson Growth Fund, the Tilson Offshore Fund and the T2 Qualified Fund. Prior to joining T2 Partners, Mr. Tongue spent 17 years working on Wall Street, most recently as an investment banker at UBS, where he was a Managing Director. Previously, Mr. Tongue served as President of DLJdirect, a publicly traded online brokerage firm that was spun out of investment bank Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette in 1999. Mr. Tongue oversaw both DLJdirect's initial public offering and its eventual sale. Additionally, Mr. Tongue was a Managing Director for 10 years in the investment banking group at Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette. Mr. Tongue received an MBA degree with distinction from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and received a BS degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from Princeton University. The Board believes Mr. Tongue should serve as a director due to his experience in investment banking and investment management.

Kenneth M. Karmin, age 49, has served on the Board of Directors since May 2008. Mr. Karmin is a principal of High Street Holdings, a diversified investment company, and is Chief Executive Officer of Ortho Mattress Inc. From 1993 to 1998, Mr. Karmin served as a managing director at Credit Agricole Futures, SNC in London. Mr. Karmin was also Managing Director of the financial futures and options department in the London offices of Rodman & Renshaw, Inc. prior to the acquisition of the firm's U.K. branch by Credit Agricole. Mr. Karmin previously worked at Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. in its institutional financial futures division. Mr. Karmin received an AB degree in Economics from Washington University in St. Louis. The Board believes Mr. Karmin should serve as a director due to his experience in domestic and international investment banking and diversified investment strategies.

Harris S. Barton, age 45, has served on the Board of Directors since May 2008. Mr. Barton is a Managing Director of Capital Dynamics, a manager of private equity and hedge funds of funds. Previously, Mr. Barton co-founded and served as Managing Partner of HRJ Capital from 1999 to 2009 after concluding a 10-year professional football career with the San Francisco 49ers of the National Football League. Capital Dynamics develops and markets investment strategies centered on buyouts, venture capital, hedge investments, real estate

Table of Contents

and special situations. Mr. Barton received a BA degree in Finance from University of North Carolina. The Board believes Mr. Barton should serve as a director due to his experience in investment management and private equity.

H. Mark Lunenburg, age 50, has served on the Board of Directors since March 2009. Mr. Lunenburg is President and Managing Member of Talon Capital, LLC. Talon Capital, LLC is an institutional money management firm founded in 2002 focusing on absolute return strategies. Mr. Lunenburg began his investment career at Kemper Corp. in 1982 as a Financial Analyst in the office of the President. Mr. Lunenburg joined Kemper Financial Services in 1984, holding various investment research positions. There, he was recognized in *Institutional Investor's* Best of the Buy Side analyst listing. Mr. Lunenburg joined the Bass Brothers investment operations in 1987, concentrating in stock research and high-yield credit analysis. From 1990 through April of 2001, Mr. Lunenburg managed funds for Ballentine Capital Management, Inc. in Avon, Connecticut. He is currently Vice Chairman of the Board of Connecticut Children's Medical Center and is an honorary Governor of the Hill-Stead Museum. Mr. Lunenburg graduated from San Diego State University in 1981 with a BS degree in Business Administration and is a Chartered Financial Analyst. The Board believes Mr. Lunenburg should serve as a director due to his experience in investment management and hedge funds.

There are no family relationships between any director or executive officer of the Company and any other director or executive officer of the Company.

Directors Recommendation

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote **FOR** the election of each of Messrs. Jolson, Johnson, Lehmann, Mack, Sebastian, Tongue, Karmin, Barton, and Lunenburg to the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors and Its Committees

Our Board of Directors held five meetings during 2009. Each of our directors attended at least 75% of the meetings of the Board of Directors and the committees of the Board of Directors on which he served during 2009. We encourage our directors to attend our Annual Meeting of Stockholders and in 2009, four of our directors so attended. Information about how to communicate with our Board of Directors or any member or committee of the Board of Directors is set forth herein under Communicating with the Board of Directors, the Presiding Director or with the Non-Management Members as a Group.

Our Board of Directors has the authority to appoint committees to perform certain management and administrative functions. Our Board of Directors has separately designated a standing Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, and Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, and from time to time may establish other committees to facilitate the management of our business. Our Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for each of these committees, which are available in the Investor Relations Corporate Governance section of our website at www.jmpg.com. Our Board of Directors has also established an Executive Committee to which it has delegated broad responsibility over day-to-day management and operations of the Company and its operating subsidiaries.

Audit Committee. Our Audit Committee was comprised of three independent directors, Messrs. Sebastian, Tongue and Karmin. Mr. Sebastian is the Chairman of the Audit Committee. The functions of our Audit Committee include reviewing and supervising our financial controls, appointing our independent registered public accounting firm, reviewing our books and accounts, meeting with our officers regarding our financial controls, acting upon recommendations of our auditors and taking such further actions as our Audit Committee deems necessary to complete an audit of our books and accounts. Each of the members of our Audit Committee at the time of the Annual Meeting will be independent, as defined in Section 303A of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual and Rule 10A-3(b)(1) of the Exchange Act. Our Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Sebastian is an audit committee financial expert as that term is defined in Item 407(d)(5) of Regulation S-K of the Exchange Act. Our Audit Committee is a separately-designated standing audit committee established in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Exchange Act.

Table of Contents

During 2009, our Audit Committee met eight times.

Compensation Committee. Our Compensation Committee was comprised of three independent directors, Messrs. Sebastian, Tongue and Lunenburg. Mr. Sebastian is the Chairman of our Compensation Committee. In addition, our Board of Directors has determined that each independent member of our Compensation Committee is an outside director within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our Compensation Committee is responsible for reviewing and, as it deems appropriate, recommending to our Board of Directors policies, practices and procedures relating to the compensation of our executive officers and, the establishment and administration of employee benefit plans. A further description of the process for the consideration and determination of the compensation of our executive officers, including the role of executives and compensation consultants in that process, is included in our Compensation Discussion and Analysis. Our Compensation Committee also advises and consults with our executive officers as may be requested regarding managerial personnel policies.

The Compensation Committee has engaged Presidio Pay Advisors, LLC, a compensation consulting firm specializing in the financial services industry, from time to time, upon request by Mr. Sebastian to advise on matters relating to the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers and to consult on executive and director compensation practices.

During 2009, our Compensation Committee met five times and acted by written consent two times.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation. No member of our Compensation Committee during 2009 was or had previously been an officer or employee of JMP Group Inc. or had any relationship requiring disclosure pursuant to Item 404 of Regulation S-K of the Exchange Act. None of our executive officers serves as a member of the Board of Directors or compensation committee (or body performing equivalent functions) of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving as a member of our Board of Directors or Compensation Committee.

Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. Our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee was comprised of three independent directors, Messrs. Sebastian, Tongue and Barton in compliance with the applicable rules of the NYSE. Mr. Sebastian is the Chairman of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee's functions include assisting the Board of Directors in identifying qualified individuals to become members of the Board of Directors, determining the composition and compensation of the Board of Directors and its committees, conducting annual reviews of each director's independence and making recommendations to the Board of Directors based on its findings, recommending to the Board of Directors the director nominees for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders, establishing and monitoring a process of assessing the Board of Directors' effectiveness, and overseeing compliance with our Corporate Governance Guidelines. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines are available in the Investor Relations Corporate Governance section of our website.

During 2009, our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee met two times.

Executive Sessions. The independent directors met four times during 2009 in Executive Sessions, without the Chairman and CEO or any other member of management present, at which Mr. Sebastian, who has been appointed Lead Director, presided over the sessions.

Executive Committee. Our Executive Committee is comprised of Messrs. Jolson, Johnson, Lehmann and Mack. The Executive Committee exercises the authority of our Board of Directors between meetings of the full Board of Directors (other than such authority as is reserved to the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, or the full Board of Directors, respectively). The Board of Directors has delegated to the Executive Committee broad authority over the day-to-day management and operations of the Company and its affiliates.

Table of Contents**The Role of the Board of Directors in the Oversight of Risk**

The Company's management is responsible for defining the various risks facing the Company, formulating risk management policies and procedures, and managing the company's risk exposures on a day-to-day basis. The Board's responsibility is to monitor the Company's risk management processes by staying informed as to the Company's material risks and evaluating whether management has reasonable controls in place to address the material risks; the Board is not responsible, however, for defining or managing the Company's various risks.

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors is primarily responsible for monitoring management's responsibility in the area of risk oversight relating to financial controls, and risk management is a factor the Board and the Nominating and Governance Committee consider when determining which directors should serve on the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee and the full Board focus on the material risks facing the company, including operational, market, credit, liquidity, legal and regulatory risks, to assess whether management has reasonable controls in place to address these risks. In addition, the Compensation Committee is charged with reviewing and discussing with management whether the company's compensation arrangements are consistent with effective controls and sound risk management. The Board believes this division of responsibilities provides an effective and efficient approach for addressing risk management.

Executive Officers

The following sets forth certain information regarding our executive officers during fiscal year 2009. Information pertaining to Messrs. Jolson, Johnson, Lehmann and Mack, each of whom is both a director and an executive officer of the Company or one of its subsidiaries, may be found in the section above entitled "Nominees for Election as Directors."

| Name | Age | Title(s) |
|---------------------------|------------|---|
| Executive Officers | | |
| Joseph A. Jolson | 51 | Chairman and Chief Executive Officer; Chief Executive Officer of Harvest Capital Strategies |
| Craig R. Johnson | 55 | Director and President |
| Thomas B. Kilian | 44 | Chief Financial Officer |
| Mark L. Lehmann | 45 | Director; Co-President of JMP Securities; Director of Equities of JMP Securities |
| Carter D. Mack | 47 | Director; Co-President of JMP Securities; Director of Investment Banking of JMP Securities |

Thomas B. Kilian joined us at inception in April 1999 and is a Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer of JMP Group Inc. From 1998 to 1999, Mr. Kilian was in the investment banking group at Montgomery Securities, now Banc of America Securities, focusing on corporate finance matters for financial services clients. From 1992 until 1996, Mr. Kilian served as an Assistant Vice President in Deutsche Bank's corporate development group in Frankfurt, Germany, focusing on strategic planning and business development. Mr. Kilian holds an MBA degree from Stanford University and a master's degree in industrial engineering from Karlsruhe University in Germany. Mr. Kilian stepped down from his position as CFO of the Company as of March 15, 2010, but continues in his role as a senior investment banker.

Executive Compensation**Compensation Discussion and Analysis***Overview*

Our executive compensation program is designed to provide incentives to our executive officers to effectively lead and manage our business to achieve our growth strategy. Because the compensation of our executive officers plays an integral role in our success, our compensation programs are designed to attract, retain, and motivate top quality, effective executives and professionals.

Table of Contents

The Compensation Committee of the Board has responsibility for overseeing the Company's compensation philosophy. The Compensation Committee has the primary authority to determine and recommend compensation of named executive officers. Throughout this Proxy Statement, the individuals included in the Summary Compensation Table are referred to as the named executive officers. The named executive officers are:

Joseph A. Jolson Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of JMP Group Inc.

Craig R. Johnson President of JMP Group Inc.

Thomas B. Kilian Chief Financial Officer of JMP Group Inc.

Mark L. Lehmann Co-President of JMP Securities LLC

Carter D. Mack Co-President of JMP Securities LLC

Compensation Philosophy and Objectives

A substantial portion of each named executive officer's total compensation is variable and delivered on a pay-for-performance basis. We believe this model provides the greatest incentive to motivate management to achieve our business objectives. The executive compensation program provides compensation opportunities contingent upon performance that we believe are competitive with practices of other similar investment banking firms. We are committed to utilizing the executive compensation program to maintain our ownership culture and to broaden executive ownership over time. We strongly believe that the components of our compensation programs align the interests of our named executive officers with our stockholders and will promote long-term stockholder value creation.

Determining Compensation

In addition to general senior management responsibilities, each of our named executive officers also has management responsibilities within a specific business unit of the Company. In determining compensation for our named executive officers, the primary emphasis, in addition to our performance, is on each individual's contribution, business unit performance and recommendations of the Executive Committee. Our Executive Committee determines all other employee compensation and makes recommendations to the Compensation Committee with respect to our named executive officers' compensation and equity-based awards described further under *Equity Awards* below.

The Compensation Committee and Chief Executive Officer reviewed and discussed these recommendations, as well as compensation of employees generally, industry practices and the individual contributions of the named executive officers during 2009. The Compensation Committee also reviewed salary, bonus, equity awards and other compensation previously paid or awarded to our named executive officers. In addition, the Compensation Committee reviewed data for selected peer companies obtained from publicly available sources, as well as data provided to the Compensation Committee by Presidio Pay Advisors LLC as a market check on its compensation decisions. The Compensation Committee used subjective judgment in determining named executive officer compensation and did not mechanically apply benchmarks or other data-based formulas. The peer companies reviewed in 2009 were: Cowen Group, Inc., FBR Capital Markets Corporation and Arlington Asset Investment Corp., Jefferies Group, Inc., KBW, Inc., Piper Jaffray Companies and Thomas Weisel Partners Group, Inc.

Compensation Components

The key components of our named executive officers compensation program are (i) base salary, (ii) cash bonus and (iii) equity-based awards.

With respect to overall compensation available to all Company employees, we target certain ratios of compensation to revenues depending on the division, business unit and type of revenue produced. These ratios serve as a general guideline for overall compensation, but are not definitive and may be changed or altered at any time.

Table of Contents

Individual compensation levels for named executive officers, other than salaries, are generally determined on a discretionary basis and are based on individual performance and may be affected by the residual amount in the overall compensation pool remaining after compensation for all other employees has been determined.

Base Salary

Consistent with industry practice, the base salaries for our named executive officers are intended to account for a relatively small portion of their overall compensation, with the potential for substantial bonus compensation as the most important compensation component. The base salaries for our named executive officers are the same as most other non-commissioned managing directors at the Company. We believe that this compensation model promotes our business objectives by maintaining low fixed costs and creating the incentives for superior performance through the potential for substantial performance-based compensation to productive employees.

Salaries for most non-commissioned managing directors, including our named executive officers, remained at \$200,000 per annum in 2009 and are anticipated to remain at such level in 2010. The factors that were used to arrive at this amount were cost of living in the metropolitan areas in which we have a substantial number of employees (i.e., generally San Francisco, California and New York, New York) as well as using a general comparison, or market check, of base salaries at other firms in our industry. In determining base salaries, we did not utilize a benchmarking analysis, but rather the decision reflects our judgment as to an appropriate amount of base salary in light of the Company's model of maintaining low fixed costs and the potential for substantial performance-based compensation.

Named executive officers' base salaries and subsequent adjustments, if any, are expected to be recommended to the Compensation Committee by the Executive Committee from time to time, based on a review of relevant market data and each executive's performance, as well as each executive's experience, expertise and position. Based on its review of the Executive Committee's recommendations, the Compensation Committee may approve adjustments to annual salaries at its discretion.

Cash Bonus

Cash bonus compensation is a key component of our executive compensation program. We may award cash bonus compensation under three arrangements: (i) our 2007 Senior Executive Bonus Plan; (ii) bonuses at the discretion of the Compensation Committee; and (iii) profit or other interests in JMP Group LLC or its subsidiaries or affiliates.

2007 JMP Group Inc. Senior Executive Bonus Plan

We have established the 2007 JMP Group Inc. Senior Executive Bonus Plan, which was approved by stockholders in April 2007, that provides for the payment of non-equity incentive awards to our named executive officers. Such non-equity incentive awards may be awarded with reference to performance benchmarks in a manner similar to that which would be required under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code), as deductible compensation expenses for a public company. However, we intend to rely on an exemption from Section 162(m) of the Code for a plan adopted prior to the time a company becomes a public company. This pre-initial public offering exemption will no longer be available to us after the date of our 2011 annual meeting. Subsequent to the expiration of this pre-initial public offering plan exemption, we intend to pay cash bonuses under this plan in a manner that qualifies for a performance-based compensation exemption under Section 162(m).

On March 3, 2009, the Compensation Committee approved the performance goals and the maximum target awards with respect to performance in the 2009 fiscal year for each named executive officer under the 2007 Senior Executive Bonus Plan. The performance goals included: (i) a Company-based goal related to the performance of the Company as a whole, and (ii) an individual performance goal for each named executive officer related to the performance of a specific activity or the specific business units for which each named executive officer is responsible. Each of the 2009 performance goals operated independently of the other, so that

Table of Contents

a named executive officer could earn a non-equity incentive award upon the achievement of either the Company-based performance goal, the individual performance goal, or both.

The 2009 performance goals and corresponding maximum target non-equity incentive awards were as follows:

1. Company-based Performance Goal

| Company Performance Goal | Maximum Target Award |
|--|-----------------------------|
| The achievement by the Company of an operating margin of at least five percent (5%) (excluding unusual and nonrecurring charges) for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009. | \$3 million |

2. Individual Performance Goals

| Named Executive Officer | Individual Performance Goals | Maximum Target Award |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Joseph A. Jolson | A positive residual interest in the compensation pool for each funds accounting small business unit in which Mr. Jolson is included. | The aggregate amount of such residual interests. |
| Craig R. Johnson | A positive residual interest in the compensation pool for the JPM Masters funds of funds. | The aggregate amount of such residual interests. |
| Thomas B. Kilian | Revenue from corporate finance transactions for which he is responsible as determined by normal attribution processes. | 10% of the net revenues from such transactions. |
| Mark L. Lehmann | Net commission revenue from institutional house accounts as determined by normal attribution processes. | 20% of trading commission revenues and 15% percent of syndicate commission revenues with respect to certain institutional investor accounts, subject to a potential 30% holdback and net of trading losses. |
| Carter D. Mack | Revenue from corporate finance transactions for which he is responsible as determined by normal attribution processes. | 10% of the net revenues from such transactions. |

Despite these maximum target award levels, the Compensation Committee retained the ability to apply negative discretion to reduce the amount of the actual bonus payment, based on a number of variables that are linked to Company and individual performance. The Company performance goal for 2009 was satisfied, and each of the individual 2009 performance goals were also satisfied. Accordingly, the Compensation Committee determined that a non-equity incentive award could be payable under the 2007 Senior Executive Bonus Plan to each named executive officer for the 2009 performance period. The Compensation Committee also considered general senior management responsibilities in determining the actual awards as described below.

Target Awards and Bonus

The Compensation Committee awarded bonuses to the named executive officers pursuant to the 2007 Senior Executive Bonus Plan. In determining the actual bonus amount for the 2009 performance period, the Compensation Committee utilized its discretion to make awards up to the aggregate target awards for each named executive officer after considering qualitative and quantitative performance criteria related to:

(i) general senior management responsibilities of each of our named executive officers, and (ii) revenue-generating activity that is attributable to each named executive officer's management responsibilities for a specific business unit of the Company, as described in the performance goals and target awards set forth above.

Table of Contents

Once the potential bonus amount for revenue-generating activity was determined, the Compensation Committee further refined the actual bonus amounts for 2009 by using its discretion to determine an actual bonus amount for revenue-generating activity as well as an actual bonus amount for senior management activity. When making this determination of the actual bonus amount, the Compensation Committee evaluated the following performance factors: (i) quantitative measures such as the profitability, revenues and growth of each business unit; (ii) qualitative measures with regard to each business unit, such as the performance and effectiveness of non-revenue generating functions; (iii) quantitative performance measures for the Company as a whole, such as revenues, profitability and growth; and (iv) qualitative factors such as implementation of strategic initiatives, and overall senior management skill and effectiveness.

In addition, the Compensation Committee reviewed compensation recommendations from the Executive Committee, a third party compensation consultant report from Presidio Pay Advisers that provided summary data about executive officer compensation at our peer companies, previous compensation paid, and amounts payable to non-named executive officer employees in our business units. Ultimately, the Compensation Committee applied its discretion in determining the final bonus amount for 2009 that it deemed appropriate, based on its judgment and experience. The Compensation Committee did not apply benchmarks or other data-based formulas in determining a bonus amount.

Profit Interest Plan

We may in the future make discretionary cash payments to our named executive officers and others pursuant to potential future grants of profit interests in JMP Group LLC or its operating or other subsidiaries under a profit interest or other plan. Any distributions under such profit interests to managing directors under the plan will be included in the calculation of the ratio of aggregate compensation to revenues. We retain the right to create and/or change the terms and conditions of grants of profit or other interests at any time.

2009 Compensation Program

Our 2009 Compensation Program provides that an employee may elect to receive a portion of total compensation (*i.e.*, salary and bonus) above and between certain breakpoints, or incremental amounts of total compensation, in either restricted stock, cash or investment in certain of our funds. These amounts serve as security for liquidated damages subject to forfeiture upon the breach of certain employment covenants, including non-competition covenants, made by employees in connection with their receipt of such compensation. The amounts that are subject to the program are released 50% at the end of each of the 2010 and the 2011 calendar years.

The following schedule sets forth the amount of total 2009 compensation that is subject to this program:

| Breakpoints: | Incremental level of total compensation: | Incremental percentages subject to the 2009 Compensation Program: |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Breakpoint 1 | \$0 \$600,000 | 0% |
| Breakpoint 2 | \$600,000 \$1,000,000 | 30% |
| Breakpoint 3 | \$1,000,000 \$2,500,000 | 40% |
| Breakpoint 4 | \$2,500,000+ | 50% |

For example, a total 2009 compensation amount of \$900,000 would result in \$90,000 being subject to the program $((\$600,000 * 0\%) + (\$300,000 * 30\%)) = \$90,000$.

Table of Contents

Each of our named executive officers were eligible for participation in the 2009 Compensation Program. Mr. Jolson and Mr. Mack chose a fund option, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Kilian chose the restricted stock option and Mr. Lehmann chose the money market fund option. The summary of the amounts payable and, as applicable, shares issued is as follows:

| Name | Compensation | | Grant Date Fair Value of Stock Awards ⁽¹⁾ | Number of Shares of Stock or Units ⁽²⁾ |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------|--|---|
| | Payable Under the Program | Grant Date | | |
| Joseph A. Jolson | \$ 1,334,795 | NA | NA | NA |
| Carter Mack | \$ 412,000 | NA | NA | NA |
| Mark Lehmann | \$ 416,362 | NA | NA | NA |
| Thomas B. Kilian | \$ 87,707 | 2/16/2010 | \$ 8.21 | 10,683 |
| Craig Johnson | \$ 181,449 | 2/16/2010 | \$ 8.21 | 22,101 |

(1) Closing price of our common stock reported by the New York Stock Exchange on February 16, 2010.

(2) Shares of restricted stock vested immediately and are subject to lock-up as described under 2009 Compensation Program. Even though the restricted stock awards to Mr. Kilian and Mr. Johnson were awarded in 2010, we have reported the award in the 2009 Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table as an equity incentive award.

Equity Awards*Acceleration of Vesting of Certain Four-Year Cliff Vest Grants*

In light of the recommendation of the Executive Committee, and after reviewing information provided by Presidio Pay Advisors, in order to align the compensation expense attributable to equity awards with the revenues to which they relate, the Compensation Committee approved the acceleration of the vesting of certain four-year cliff vest restricted stock unit awards as of November 2, 2009.

In particular, the Compensation Committee approved the immediate acceleration of the vesting of 1,295,000 four-year cliff restricted stock units as of November 2, 2009. These vested restricted stock units remain subject to the terms and conditions of the applicable restricted stock unit agreement for the original duration of their vesting period (a form of which is filed as an exhibit to the Company's Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2008), and are also subject to lock-up provisions and potential forfeiture if the holder breaches certain covenants, including non-competition covenants.

Because the Company's named executive officers were issued such restricted stock units under the 2007 Equity Incentive Plan as compensation in February 2009, the acceleration in vesting resulted in the following amounts payable to the named executive officers as follows as of November 2, 2009:

- (i) 95,000 restricted stock units previously granted to Joseph A. Jolson in February 2009, vested immediately as of November 2, 2009 and had a current market value of \$775,200 at such date;
- (ii) 80,000 restricted stock units previously granted to Craig R. Johnson in February 2009, vested immediately as of November 2, 2009 and had a current market value of \$652,800 at such date;
- (iii) 95,000 restricted stock units previously granted to Carter D. Mack in February 2009, vested immediately as of November 2, 2009 and had a current market value of \$775,200;

Edgar Filing: JMP Group Inc. - Form DEF 14A

(iv) 95,000 restricted stock units previously granted to Mark L. Lehmann in February 2009, vested immediately as of November 2, 2009 and had a current market value of \$775,200;

(v) 35,000 restricted stock units previously granted to Thomas B. Kilian in February 2009, vested immediately as of November 2, 2009 and had a current market value of \$285,600.

The market value of the accelerated restricted stock units was calculated using the closing price of \$8.16 reported by the New York Stock Exchange on November 2, 2009.

Table of Contents*Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Awards*

On February 4, 2010, the Compensation Committee considered and approved the grant of restricted stock units to each named executive officer, which restricted stock units vest if and to the extent a company performance goal is met during any of the next three years. Specifically, the restricted stock units will vest if and to the extent that the Company achieves an earnings per share goal of \$0.55 per share after including the compensation expense attributable to vesting and on other terms and conditions. The Compensation Committee believed it important to provide long-term incentives to management, and believes that the grant of the restricted stock unit awards as set forth below reflect appropriate levels of compensation for the senior management services and align the interests of management and stockholders. The Compensation Committee applied its discretion in determining an amount of restricted stock unit awards that it deemed appropriate, based on its judgment and experience. The Compensation Committee did not apply benchmarks or other data-based formulas in determining the amount of restricted stock unit awards.

| Name | Grant Date | Number of Shares of Stock or Units ⁽¹⁾ | Grant Date Fair Value of Stock Awards ⁽¹⁾ | Total Fair Value of Stock Awards at Grant Date ⁽²⁾ |
|------------------|------------|---|--|---|
| Joseph A. Jolson | 2/4/2010 | 94,339 | \$ 7.95 | \$ 749,995 |
| Craig R. Johnson | 2/4/2010 | 62,893 | \$ 7.95 | \$ 499,999 |
| Mark L. Lehmann | 2/4/2010 | 94,339 | \$ 7.95 | \$ 749,995 |
| Carter D. Mack | 2/4/2010 | 94,339 | \$ 7.95 | \$ 749,995 |
| Thomas B. Kilian | 2/4/2010 | 25,157 | \$ 7.95 | \$ 199,998 |

(1) These amounts and fair values reflect restricted stock units granted under the 2007 Equity Incentive Plan to each of our named executive officers. The grant date fair value was based on the closing price of \$7.95 reported by the New York Stock Exchange on February 4, 2010.

(2) Reflects the aggregate grant date fair value calculated in accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board's Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718 (ASC Topic 718).

Even though these restricted stock unit awards were related to the named executive officers' services rendered in 2009, the grants are not reflected in the 2009 Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table because the grant date was February 4, 2010. These grants will be included in the 2010 Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table in next year's proxy statement.

Other Compensation

All of our named executive officers are eligible to participate in our employee benefit plans, including medical, dental, life insurance and 401(k) plans. These plans are available to all salaried employees and do not discriminate in favor of executive officers. It is generally our policy to not extend significant perquisites to our executives that are not available to our employees generally. We have no current plans to make changes to levels of such benefits and perquisites provided to executives.

Chief Executive Officer Compensation

The Compensation Committee will at least annually review and establish our goals and objectives relevant to CEO compensation, evaluate the CEO's performance in light of such goals and objectives, and determine and approve the CEO's compensation. In determining the bonus and long-term incentive component of the CEO's compensation for 2009, the Compensation Committee considered our performance and relative stockholder return, the value of similar incentive awards to CEOs at comparable companies, and the compensation of our CEO in past years. After consideration of such factors, as well as the bonus pool relative to the applicable compensation ratio with respect to the revenue mix, the Compensation Committee approved the grant of a bonus on the basis of such factors, as well as the performance of the funds and other business units to which Mr. Jolson contributes.

Table of Contents*Risk Considerations in Compensation Programs*

The Compensation Committee considered the Company's compensation policies and practices and determined that such compensation policies and practices do not create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

2009 Summary Compensation Table

The information below describes the components of the total compensation of the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and our three other most highly compensated executive officers, based on total compensation for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007.

| Name and Principal Position | Year | Salary (\$) | Bonus (\$) | Stock Awards ⁽¹⁾ (\$) | Non-Equity | All Other Compensation ⁽²⁾ (\$) | Total ⁽³⁾ (\$) |
|--|------|----------------|---------------|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| | | | | | Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) | | |
| Joseph A. Jolson Chairman and Chief Executive Officer | 2009 | \$ 200,000 | \$ 0 | \$ 401,850 | \$ 3,529,587 | \$ 16,126 | \$ 4,147,563 |
| | 2008 | \$ 178,125 | \$ 395,000 | \$ 873,712 | \$ 0 | \$ 12,899 | \$ 1,459,736 |
| | 2007 | \$ 121,667 | \$ 0 | \$ 443,275 | \$ 0 | \$ 837,058 | \$ 1,402,000 |
| Thomas B. Kilian Chief Financial Officer | 2009 | \$ 200,000 | \$ 0 | \$ 235,757 | \$ 604,663 | \$ 10,515 | \$ 1,050,935 |
| | 2008 | \$ 178,125 | \$ 494,063 | \$ 419,251 | \$ 0 | \$ 8,753 | \$ 1,100,192 |
| | 2007 | \$ 125,000 | \$ 685,000 | \$ 521,500 | \$ 0 | \$ 90,101 | \$ 1,421,601 |
| Craig R. Johnson President | 2009 | \$ 200,000 | \$ 0 | \$ 519,849 | \$ 772,183 | \$ 16,047 | \$ 1,508,079 |
| | 2008 | \$ 178,125 | \$ 241,000 | \$ 477,097 | \$ 0 | \$ 12,883 | \$ 909,105 |
| | 2007 | \$ 120,833 | \$ 0 | \$ 443,275 | \$ 0 | \$ 342,166 | \$ 906,274 |
| Mark L. Lehmann Director of Equities and Co-President of JMP Securities | 2009 | \$ 200,000 | \$ 0 | \$ 401,850 | \$ 1,540,905 | \$ 16,205 | \$ 2,158,960 |
| | 2008 | \$ 178,125 | \$ 467,375 | \$ 279,074 | \$ 0 | \$ 12,953 | \$ 937,527 |
| | 2007 | \$ 120,833 | \$ 618,467 | \$ 521,500 | \$ 0 | \$ 266,380 | \$ 1,527,180 |
| Carter D. Mack Director of Investment Banking and Co-President of JMP Securities | 2009 | \$ 200,000 | \$ 0 | \$ 401,850 | \$ 1,530,000 | \$ 16,214 | \$ 2,148,064 |
| | 2008 | \$ 178,125 | \$ 346,875 | \$ 259,574 | \$ 0 | \$ 12,971 | \$ 797,545 |
| | 2007 | \$ 120,833 | \$ 614,300 | \$ 521,500 | \$ 0 | \$ 425,132 | \$ 1,685,932 |

(1) Reflects the aggregate grant date fair value amount as of the grant date of each stock award, in accordance with ASC Topic 718. The method and assumptions used to calculate this amount are discussed in note 13 to our financial statements included in our annual report on Form 10-K filed on March 9, 2010.

(2) Includes medical, dental and vision plan premiums; term life insurance premium; tax preparation expense reimbursement; interest paid on member's capital; and income allocation of the operating profits of JMP Group LLC of:

Edgar Filing: JMP Group Inc. - Form DEF 14A

- (i) Mr. Jolson in (a) 2009: \$15,294, \$832, \$0, \$0, and \$0 (b) 2008: \$11,957, \$942, \$0, \$0 and \$0; and (c) 2007: \$14,644, \$1,205, \$1,500, \$37,078, and \$782,631;
- (ii) Mr. Kilian in (a) 2009: \$9,710, \$805, \$0, \$0, and \$0; (b) 2008: \$7,865, \$888, \$0, \$0 and \$0; and (c) 2007: \$11,807, \$1,137, \$1,500, \$10,741, and \$64,916;
- (iii) Mr. Johnson in (a) 2009: \$15,229, \$818, \$0, \$0, and \$0; (b) 2008: \$11,891, \$992, \$0, \$0 and \$0; and (c) 2007: \$14,644, \$1,390, \$1,500, \$23,662, and \$300,970;
- (iv) Mr. Lehmann in (a) 2009: \$15,396, \$809, \$0, \$0, and \$0; (b) 2008: \$12,058, \$895, \$0, \$0 and \$0; and (c) 2007: \$14,644, \$1,042, \$1,500, \$46,223, and \$202,971;
- (v) Mr. Mack in (a) 2009: \$15,396, \$818, \$0, \$0, and \$0; (b) 2008: \$12,058, \$913, \$0, \$0 and \$0; and (c) 2007: \$14,644, \$1,281, \$1,500, \$20,720, and \$386,987.

Table of Contents

- (3) Under our 2009 Compensation Program, a portion of Messrs. Jolson's, Lehmann's and Mack's salary and non-equity incentive plan compensation was deferred and invested in certain funds. In addition, under the 2009 Compensation Program, Messrs. Kilian and Johnson elected to receive restricted stock awards, which, pursuant to SEC guidance, are reported in the Stock Awards column in the 2009 Summary Compensation Table, even though such awards were granted on February 4, 2010. For more information, including the amounts deferred or awarded as restricted stock, please refer to the section entitled "2009 Compensation Program" above. In addition, the 2008 Stock Awards column for Messrs. Kilian and Lehmann includes \$30,935 and \$19,500, respectively, related to the restricted stock awards that were elected under our 2008 Compensation Program and awarded on February 5, 2009.

2009 Grants of Plan-Based Awards

The following table sets forth information regarding grants of plan-based awards in 2009 to our named executive officers. These grants were a part of the restricted stock awards made to certain of our employees in connection with our 2009 Compensation Program. As discussed above, the vesting of the restricted stock units was accelerated as of November 2, 2009. Each vested restricted stock unit was settled in exchange for one share of our common stock, net of applicable tax withholding except in the case of Mr. Jolson, our CEO, who satisfied the tax liability without surrendering shares.

| Name | Grant Date | Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards | | | All other Stock Awards Number of Shares of Stock or Units (#) | Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards ⁽²⁾ |
|------------------|------------|---|-------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| | | Threshold (\$) | Target (\$) | Maximum ⁽¹⁾ (\$) | | |
| Joseph A. Jolson | 2/5/2009 | | | \$ 3,000,000 | 95,000 | \$ 401,850 |
| Craig R. Johnson | 2/5/2009 | | | \$ 3,000,000 | 80,000 | \$ 338,400 |
| | 2/16/2010 | | | | 22,101 | \$ 81,449 |
| Thomas B. Kilian | 2/5/2009 | | | \$ 3,000,000 | 35,000 | \$ 148,050 |
| | 2/16/2010 | | | | 10,683 | \$ 87,707 |
| Mark L. Lehmann | 2/5/2009 | | | \$ 3,000,000 | 95,000 | \$ 401,850 |
| Carter D. Mack | 2/5/2009 | | | \$ 3,000,000 | 95,000 | \$ 401,850 |

- (1) The amount in this column represents the maximum target award payable under the Company-based performance criterion. In addition, the Company established a maximum target award payable under individual performance criteria for each named executive officer, such as a percentage of revenue or a residual interest in a fund compensation pool. Due to the variable nature of the maximum target award payable under individual performance criteria, no maximum amount is shown in the 2009 Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table.
- (2) These amounts and fair values reflect restricted stock units granted on February 5, 2009 and restricted stock awards granted on February 16, 2010 under the 2007 Equity Incentive Plan to each of our named executive officers in accordance with ASC Topic 718. The method and assumptions used to calculate this amount are discussed in note 13 to our financial statements included in our annual report on Form 10-K filed on March 9, 2010. On February 5, 2009, the market price at grant date was \$5.00 per share and the resulting fair value was calculated by discounting for expected dividends which are not payable on unvested restricted stock units. No other equity based awards were granted to our named executive officers during 2009. On February 16, 2010, the market price at grant date was \$8.21 per share. The terms of these restricted stock units and restricted stock awards are described above.

Table of Contents**Outstanding Equity Awards as of December 31, 2009**

The following table provides information regarding each unexercised stock option and unvested restricted stock units held by each of our named executive officers as of December 31, 2009.

| Name | Award Year | Option Awards | | | | Stock Awards | |
|------------------|------------|---|---|----------------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| | | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable | Option Exercise Price (\$) | Option Expiration Date | Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested ⁽¹⁾ | Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ |
| | | Joseph A. Jolson | 2009 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | 2008 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | 2007 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 31,875 | \$309,825 |
| | 2005 | 148,000 | 0 | \$10.00 | 12/20/2015 | NA | NA |
| Craig R. Johnson | 2009 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | 2008 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | 2007 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 31,875 | \$309,825 |
| | 2005 | 94,720 | 0 | \$10.00 | 12/20/2015 | NA | NA |
| Thomas B. Kilian | 2009 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | 2008 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | 2007 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 37,500 | \$364,500 |
| | 2005 | 14,800 | 0 | \$10.00 | 12/20/2015 | NA | NA |
| Mark L. Lehmann | 2009 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | 2008 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | 2007 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 37,500 | \$364,500 |
| | 2005 | 59,200 | 0 | \$10.00 | 12/20/2015 | NA | NA |
| Carter D. Mack | 2009 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | 2008 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | 2007 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 37,500 | \$364,500 |
| | 2005 | 118,480 | 0 | \$10.00 | 12/20/2015 | NA | NA |

(1) The restricted stock units were granted in connection with the initial public offering on May 10, 2007 and vest 25% on May 10, 2009; 35% on May 10, 2010; and 40% on May 10, 2011.

(2) Based upon the closing price of our common stock of \$9.72 as reported by the New York Stock Exchange on December 31, 2009.

Option Exercises and Stock Vested in 2009

The following table provides information regarding the vesting of restricted stock unit awards during fiscal 2009 for the named executive officers. See also *Acceleration of Vesting of Certain Four Year Cliff Vest Grants* for more information. During 2009, none of our named executive officers exercised stock options.

| Name | Stock Awards | |
|------|------------------|-------------------|
| | Number of Shares | Value Realized on |

Edgar Filing: JMP Group Inc. - Form DEF 14A

| | Acquired on Vesting (#)⁽¹⁾ | Vesting (\$) ⁽²⁾ |
|------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Joseph A. Jolson | 95,000 | \$ 775,200 |
| Craig R. Johnson | 42,400 | \$ 345,984 |
| Thomas B. Kilian | 18,550 | \$ 151,368 |
| Mark L. Lehmann | 50,350 | \$ 410,856 |
| Carter D. Mack | 50,350 | \$ 410,856 |

- (1) Each vested restricted stock unit was settled in exchange for one share of our common stock net of applicable tax withholding except in the case of Mr. Jolson, our CEO, who satisfied the tax liability without surrendering shares.

Table of Contents

- (2) The value realized on vesting represents the number of shares of stock that vested multiplied by the closing price of our common stock of \$8.16 on the vesting date, November 2, 2009.

Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation

The following table provides information regarding the deferral of compensation by three of our named executive officers pursuant to our 2009 Compensation Program. Each of Mr. Jolson and Mr. Mack elected to receive a portion of their total compensation for services rendered in 2009 in investment in certain of our funds. Mr. Lehman elected to receive a portion of his total compensation for services rendered in 2009 in investment in a money market fund. See also *2009 Compensation Program* above for more information.

| Name | Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation | | | | |
|------------------|--|---|--|---|--|
| | Executive Contributions in Last Fiscal Year ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (S) | Registrant Contributions in Last Fiscal Year (S) | Aggregate Earnings in Last Fiscal Year (S) | Aggregate Withdrawals/ Distributions (S) | Aggregate Balance at Last FYE (S) ⁽²⁾ |
| Joseph A. Jolson | 711,712 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 711,712 |
| Carter D. Mack | 219,678 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 219,678 |
| Mark L. Lehmann | 222,004 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 222,004 |

- (1) Even though the amounts reflected in this column were invested in 2010, such amounts are reported in this table because the amounts were earned for services rendered in 2009 and deferred pursuant to our 2009 Compensation Program.

- (2) The amount reflects contributions made after the withholding for taxes.

Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control**Change in Control**

Upon a change in control of the Company, our named executive officers may be subject to certain excise taxes pursuant to Section 280G of the Code with respect to the acceleration of certain equity awards. Each of these individuals are entitled to a gross-up payment to make the executive whole for any federal excise tax imposed under Section 280G of the Code on change in control benefits received by the executive in connection with these equity awards. Vesting of the restricted stock and options held by each of our named executive officers accelerates in the event of a change in control of the Company. The amounts shown assume vesting of restricted stock as of December 31, 2009 at the year-end closing price of \$9.72. The amounts shown do not include any vested stock awards.

| Name | Restricted Stock | |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Units Acceleration | Option Acceleration ⁽¹⁾ |
| Joseph A. Jolson | \$ 309,825 | NA |
| Craig R. Johnson | \$ 309,825 | NA |
| Thomas B. Kilian | \$ 364,500 | NA |
| Mark L. Lehmann | \$ 364,500 | NA |
| Carter D. Mack | \$ 364,500 | NA |

- (1) As of December 31, 2009 our stock price was \$9.72 per share and the strike price of options subject to acceleration was \$10 per share. Accordingly, no value is attributed to such options upon a change in control.

Compensation of Directors

The compensation program for non-management directors is designed to provide compensation levels that attract and retain qualified directors, are appropriate for the time and effort required to effectively fulfill their responsibilities, and are competitive with other firms in our industry.

The annual independent board member

Table of Contents

compensation is 6,000 restricted stock units per year of service and an additional 1,800 restricted stock units per year of service for the Chairman of the Audit Committee. The independent directors all received three-year grants when they joined the Board of Directors, which vested one-third on the effective date of grant, one-third on the first anniversary of the grant date and one-third on the second anniversary of the grant date provided they remain directors at such anniversaries.

Messrs. Sebastian, Tongue, Karmin, Barton and Lunenburg served as non-employee directors during the year ended December 31, 2009 (with Mr. Lunenburg taking the place of Mr. Paul after Mr. Paul's resignation in March 2009). The following table provides information regarding the compensation of our current non-employee directors for the year ended December 31, 2009.

| Director | Fees Earned or Paid in | | Stock | Total ⁽²⁾ (\$) |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Cash (\$) | | Awards ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (\$) | |
| H. Mark Lunenburg | \$ | 0 | \$ 82,620 | \$ 82,620 |
| Edward J. Sebastian | \$ | 0 | \$ 31,968 | \$ 31,968 |
| Glenn H. Tongue | \$ | 0 | \$ 26,580 | \$ 26,580 |
| Kenneth M. Karmin | \$ | 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Harris S. Barton | \$ | 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |

- (1) Reflects the aggregate grant date fair value amount for the year ended December 31, 2009, in accordance with ASC Topic 718. The method of and assumptions used to calculate this amount is discussed in note 13 to our financial statements included in our annual report on Form 10-K filed on March 9, 2010.
- (2) The aggregate number of stock option awards outstanding as of December 31, 2009 for Mr. Sebastian was 0, for Mr. Tongue was 0, for Mr. Karmin was 0, for Mr. Barton was 0, and for Mr. Lunenburg was 0. The aggregate number of option awards outstanding as of December 31, 2009 for Mr. Sebastian was 0, for Mr. Tongue was 0, for Mr. Karmin was 0, for Mr. Barton was 0, and for Mr. Lunenburg was 0. The aggregate number of unvested restricted stock unit awards outstanding as of December 31, 2009 for each of Messrs. Sebastian, Tongue, Karmin, Barton and Lunenburg was 7,200, 6,000, 6,000, 6,000, and 12,000, respectively.

Table of Contents

Compensation Committee Report

The members of the Compensation Committee have reviewed and have had the opportunity to discuss with management the Compensation Discussion and Analysis set forth above. Based on its review and discussions, the Compensation Committee unanimously recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement.

Edward J. Sebastian, *Chairman*

Glenn H. Tongue

H. Mark Lunenburg

Independent Director Members, Compensation

Committee

Table of Contents

Audit Committee Report

To the Board of Directors:

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of JMP Group Inc. (the Company) is comprised of three directors and acts under a written charter adopted and approved by the Board of Directors. Each member of the Audit Committee has been determined by the Company's Board of Directors to be an independent director in conformity with the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Management has the primary responsibility for the Company's financial statements and reporting process. The Company's independent registered public accounting firm (the independent accountants) is responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of the Company's audited financial statements to generally accepted accounting principles. The Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing the conduct of these activities by the Company's management and the independent accountants.

The Audit Committee has reviewed the Company's audited financial statements and has discussed them with management and the independent accountants. The Audit Committee has also discussed with the independent accountants the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended (AICPA, Professional Standards, Vol. 1. AU section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T, has received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent accountants required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountants' communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed with the independent accountants their independence from the Company and its management. The Audit Committee has further considered whether the independent accountants' provision of non-audit services to the Company is compatible with the auditors' independence.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions described above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009.

Edward J. Sebastian, *Chairman*

Glenn H. Tongue

Kenneth M. Karmin

Independent Director Members, Audit Committee

Table of Contents**Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management**

The following table sets forth as of March 31, 2010 (unless otherwise indicated) certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of our common stock. In accordance with the rules of the SEC, beneficial ownership includes voting or investment power with respect to equity securities. In computing the number of shares of common stock beneficially owned by a person and the percentage ownership of that person, we deemed as outstanding shares of common stock subject to options or restricted stock units held by that person that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2010. We did not deem these shares outstanding, however, for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person. Unless otherwise indicated, the address for each person listed below is: c/o JMP Group Inc., 600 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100, San Francisco, California 94111. To our knowledge, except as indicated in the footnotes to this table and pursuant to applicable community property laws, the persons named in the table have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of common stock beneficially owned by them.

| Name | Number of Shares | |
|---|---|------------------|
| | Owned and Nature of Beneficial Ownership ^(a) | Percent of Class |
| Directors and Executive Officers | | |
| Joseph A. Jolson | 3,415,514 ^(b) | 15.76% |
| Craig R. Johnson | 1,046,035 ^(c) | 4.83% |
| Thomas B. Kilian | 224,689 ^(d) | 1.04% |
| Mark L. Lehmann | 592,756 ^(e) | 2.72% |
| Carter D. Mack | 1,204,409 ^(f) | 5.56% |
| Edward J. Sebastian | 231,205 ^(g) | 1.07% |
| Glenn H. Tongue | 18,000 | * |
| Kenneth M. Karmin | 24,666 | * |
| Harris S. Barton | 47,000 | * |
| H. Mark Lunenburg | 71,706 | * |
| All directors and executive officers as a group (10 persons) | 6,875,980 | 31.72% |
| 5% Stockholders | | |
| T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. | 1,618,500 ^(h) | 7.50% |
| Wellington Management Company, LLP | 1,372,152 ⁽ⁱ⁾ | 6.37% |

* Indicates less than 1% of class.

- (a) For purposes of this table, beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, pursuant to which a person or group of persons is deemed to have beneficial ownership of any shares of common stock that such person has the right to acquire within 60 days of the date of determination.
- (b) Includes (i) 2,233,597 shares of common stock owned by the Joseph A. Jolson 1996 Trust dtd 3/7/96, of which Mr. Jolson is a trustee, (ii) 639,128 shares of common stock owned by Joseph A. Jolson 1991 Trust, of which Mr. Jolson is the trustee, (iii) 269,177 shares of common stock owned by Mr. Jolson directly, and (iv) 148,000 shares of common stock underlying vested options. Also included in the number reported are (i) 75,000 shares of common stock owned by The Jolson Family Foundation, (ii) 20,245 shares of common stock owned by the Jolson 2004 Trust FBO Samantha Rohan Jolson for the benefit of Mr. Jolson's daughter, and (iii) 30,367 shares of common stock owned by the Jolson 2005 Trust FBO Jolson Children for the benefit of Mr. Jolson's children, although Mr. Jolson disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares.
- (c) Includes (i) 826,782 shares of common stock held by the Johnson Revocable Trust, UAD 7/2/97, (ii) 124,533 shares of common stock owned by Mr. Johnson directly, and (iii) 94,720 shares of common stock underlying vested options.

Edgar Filing: JMP Group Inc. - Form DEF 14A

- (d) Includes (i) 130,803 shares of common stock owned by the Kilian Family Revocable Trust dated 2/23/07 (ii) 79,086 held by Mr. Kilian directly and (iii) 14,800 shares of common stock underlying vested options.

Table of Contents

- (e) Includes (i) 445,301 shares of common stock owned by the Mark L and Kerri C. Lehmann Trust U/A dated 3/4/2009 (ii) 88,255 shares of common stock owned by Mr. Lehmann directly and (iii) 59,200 shares of common stock underlying vested options.

- (f) Includes (i) 999,710 shares of common stock owned by the Mack Trust dated February 14, 2002; (ii) 86,299 shares of common stock owned by Mr. Mack directly; and (iii) 118,400 shares of common stock underlying vested options.

- (g) Includes 231,205 shares of common stock owned by Mr. Sebastian directly.

- (h) The address of T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. (T. Rowe Price) is 100 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. Information as to beneficial ownership by T. Rowe Price and its affiliates and its address as of December 31, 2009 is based solely on a filing relating to our common stock made by T. Rowe Price and its affiliates with the SEC under Section 13(d) and Section 13(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. According to these filings, these securities are owned by various individual and institutional investors for which T. Rowe Price serves as investment advisor with power to direct investments and/or sole power to vote the securities. For purposes of the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, T. Rowe Price is deemed to be the beneficial owner of such securities; however, T. Rowe Price expressly disclaims that it is, in fact, the beneficial owner of such securities.

- (i) The address of Wellington Management Company, LLP (Wellington) is 75 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109. Information as to beneficial ownership by Wellington and its affiliates and its address as of December 31, 2009 is based solely on a filing relating to our common stock made by Wellington with the SEC under Section 13(d) and Section 13(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Such filing did not identify any natural persons with voting or investment power over the shares beneficially owned by Wellington.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

In April 2007, the stockholders of the Company approved and adopted the 2007 JPM Group Inc. Equity Incentive Plan. Subject to adjustment, the plan authorizes the issuance of up to 4,000,000 shares of common stock pursuant to the grant or exercise of stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, stock units and other equity-based awards. The number of shares authorized for issuance under this plan will be increased by the number of shares underlying awards under this plan or our predecessor's 2004 JPM Group LLC Equity Incentive Plan to the extent that such shares or awards are forfeited, settled in consideration other than shares, surrendered to the Company, or otherwise revert to the Company in connection with an award, as well as increased by the number of shares repurchased by the Company in open market or privately negotiated repurchases; provided, however, that such maximum aggregate number of shares shall be reduced by the number of units subject to awards made pursuant to the 2004 LLC Plan to the extent such awards exceed an aggregate of 2,960,000.

Table of Contents

The following table provides information, as of December 31, 2009, with respect to compensation plans (including individual compensation arrangements) under which equity securities of the registrant are authorized for issuance.

| Plan Category | | (a) | (b) | (c) |
|--|------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | Number of Shares to be Issued Upon Exercise of Options, Warrants and Rights | Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights | Number of Shares Remaining Available for Future Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans (excluding shares reflected in column(a)) ⁽¹⁾ |
| Equity compensation plans approved by stockholders | Options | 1,938,315 | \$11.28 | 4,302,324 |
| | Restricted Stock Units | 1,392,551 | NA | |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by stockholders | | NA | NA | NA |
| Total | | 3,330,866 | NA | 4,302,324 |

- (1) Subject to the 2007 Equity Incentive Plan the maximum aggregate number of shares which may be issued pursuant to all awards is 4,000,000 shares, plus (i) any shares the Company purchases on the open market or through any share repurchase or share exchange program initiated by the Company unless the Administrator determines otherwise, and (ii) any units that would otherwise return to the JPM Group LLC 2004 Equity Incentive Plan (the 2004 LLC Plan) as a result of forfeiture, termination, surrender or expiration or other return to the Company of awards previously granted under the 2004 LLC Plan; provided, however, that such maximum aggregate number of shares shall be reduced by the number of units subject to awards made pursuant to the 2004 LLC Plan to the extent such awards exceed an aggregate of 2,960,000 units.

Certain Relationships and Related Transactions**Partners Exchange Agreement***Persons and Shares Covered*

In connection with our initial public offering, we entered into a partners exchange agreement with all of our managing directors (including each of our named executive officers). The shares covered by the partners exchange agreement include all shares of our common stock received by a managing director in exchange for his or her member interests (other than those purchased in our 2004 private offering) as of the completion of the initial public offering and shares received in exchange for or in respect of his or her shares through stock dividends, stock splits, reverse stock splits, spin-offs, split-ups, recapitalizations, combinations or exchanges of those shares. The shares of our common stock covered by the partners exchange agreement are referred to as covered shares.

Transfer Restrictions

Each managing director has agreed, among other things, to:

except as described below, not transfer, and to maintain sole beneficial ownership of, his or her covered shares for a period of four years after the completion of the initial public offering; provided, however, that each managing director who, in the reasonable judgment of our Executive Committee, continues to be actively engaged in our business, or who has resigned his or her employment

Edgar Filing: JMP Group Inc. - Form DEF 14A

and remains in compliance with the partners' exchange agreement, may transfer up to 25%, 35% and 40%, respectively, of his or her covered shares following each of the second, third and fourth anniversaries of the completion of the initial public offering (which amounts shall include any shares sold in underwritten public offerings during the relevant period);

Table of Contents

comply with the transfer restrictions relating to the covered shares imposed by the lock-up provisions of the underwriting agreement with respect to the initial public offering;

not transfer for two years following completion of the initial public offering, the common stock obtained by such managing director through the exercise of options granted by JMP Group LLC in 2005 and 2006; and

comply with other transfer restrictions relating to our shares of common stock when requested to do so by us and comply with our insider trading policies.

Transfers include, among other things, any disposition of the economic risks of ownership of covered shares, including short sales, option transactions and use of derivative financial instruments or other hedging arrangements with respect to our securities.

Sales Through Underwritten Public Offerings

Our Executive Committee may approve one or more underwritten public offerings to sell covered shares during the four-year transfer restrictions period, subject to the restrictions described below. Each managing director who, in the reasonable judgment of our Executive Committee, continues to be actively engaged in our business or has suffered a termination of employment resulting from a disability, or the heir or estate of any managing director who has died, may be allowed to participate in such an underwritten public offering on a pro rata basis with the covered shares of all other managing directors so participating, or on a lesser basis at his or her request or at the reasonable discretion of the underwriters. These underwritten public offerings will be subject to any other registration rights that we have granted or may in the future grant. Covered shares will also be subject to any underwriters' lock-up then in effect.

In addition, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, our managing directors may be allowed to participate in underwritten offerings effected by the Company for other purposes, subject to the limitations described above and certain other limitations.

The Executive Committee may approve requests by a managing director to transfer covered shares to certain permitted transferees such as family members or family trusts, provided that these transferees will be subject to the same transfer restrictions applicable to the managing directors under the partners' exchange agreement.

Sales in Compliance With Rule 144 Under the Securities Act

Consistent with the transfer restrictions described above, and other than in compliance with the exceptions described above, managing directors generally will not be permitted to transfer covered shares during the four-year restriction period following the completion of the initial public offering through sales effected in compliance with Rule 144 or otherwise. However, upon a termination of a managing director's employment due to his or her death, his or her heirs or estate will be permitted to sell covered shares in compliance with Rule 144.

Compliance with Securities Laws

In addition to the restrictions above, managing directors must comply with applicable securities laws in connection with any transfer of our common stock and may need to deliver an opinion of counsel in connection with any transfer. All transfer restrictions applicable to a managing director under the partners' exchange agreement terminate upon the death of such managing director or upon a change of control involving us.

Dividends

To the extent dividends are paid on covered shares while the managing director remains subject to the transfer restrictions of the partners' exchange agreement, the managing director will be entitled to such dividends.

Table of Contents

Voting

Each managing director will be entitled to full voting rights with respect to his or her covered shares.

Confidentiality

Each managing director is required to protect and use confidential information in accordance with the restrictions placed by us on its use and disclosure.

Noncompetition

Each managing director will agree that during the period ending 12 months after the date the managing director ceases to be employed by us (other than as a result of a termination of the managing director's employment by us other than for cause), he or she may not:

form, or acquire a 5% or greater ownership, voting or profit participation interest in, any competitive enterprise; or

associate with any competitive enterprise and, in connection with such association, engage in, or directly or indirectly manage or supervise personnel engaged in, any activity (i) which is similar or substantially related to any activity in which that managing director was engaged, in whole or in part, at our firm, or (ii) for which that managing director had direct or indirect managerial or supervisory responsibility at our firm.

A competitive enterprise is any business enterprise that engages in, or owns a significant interest in any entity that engages in, any activity that competes directly or indirectly with the firm, including, without limitation, investment banking, underwriting, placement agent activities, public or private finance, financial advisory services, investment advice, merchant banking, asset or hedge fund management, private equity or other public or private investment funds, real estate investments, services or vehicles, securities research, brokerage, sales, lending, custody, clearance, settlement or trading, or any similar activities, services or products.

Nonsolicitation

During the period ending 12 months after the date a managing director ceases to be employed by us, that managing director may not, directly or indirectly, in any manner:

solicit any client with whom that managing director worked, or whose identity became known to him or her in connection with his or her employment with our firm, to transact business with a competitive enterprise or reduce or refrain from doing any business with our firm;

interfere with or damage any relationship between our firm and any client or prospective client; or

solicit any of our employees to apply for, or accept employment with, any competitive enterprise.

Transfer of Client Relationships

Each managing director is required, upon termination of his or her employment, to take all actions and do all things reasonably requested by us during a 90-day cooperation period to maintain for us the business, goodwill and business relationships with our clients with which he or she worked. To ensure the full focus and attention by such managing director during the 90-day period, the Executive Committee may determine to continue to pay such managing director his or her salary and require that they not accept any other employment or consulting engagement during such time.

Liquidated Damages

Edgar Filing: JMP Group Inc. - Form DEF 14A

In the case of any breach of the confidentiality, noncompetition, nonsolicitation, transfer of client relationships, bankruptcy of a managing director or termination of the managing director's employment by us for

Table of Contents

cause (which includes willful dereliction of duties, bad faith, profession negligence, breach of law, policy or applicable regulation, and commission of certain crimes), the managing director will be liable for liquidated damages. The liquidated damages obligation of each managing director is secured by the covered shares owned by that managing director (including through indirect ownership and ownership through affiliated entities) at the time of the completion of the initial public offering.

Term and Amendment

The partners' exchange agreement is in effect for ten years from the date of the completion of the initial public offering or until it is earlier terminated by us. A managing director seeking a waiver from, or amendment to, the partners' exchange agreement generally must obtain our Executive Committee's consent.

Pledge Agreements

Each of our managing directors entered into a pledge agreement securing the liquidated damages provisions in the partners' exchange agreement by a pledge of the covered shares (including through indirect ownership and ownership through affiliated entities) at the time of the completion of the initial public offering. These pledges of our common stock will terminate on the earliest to occur of:

the death of the relevant managing director; or

proportionately with the lock-up expiration of 25%, 35% and 40%, respectively, on the second, third and fourth anniversaries of the date of the completion of the initial public offering.

The liquidated damages provisions in the partners' exchange agreement are in addition to the forfeiture of any existing or future equity-based awards that may occur as a result of the breach of any provisions contained in those awards. The liquidated damages and pledge arrangements do not preclude us from seeking any injunctive relief to which we may be entitled for a breach of the relevant provisions.

Tax Indemnification Agreement and Related Matters

Since our predecessor operating entity, JMP Group LLC, operated in limited liability company form prior to the initial public offering, its members, rather than us, generally will be liable for adjustments to taxes (including U.S. federal and state income taxes) attributable to its operations prior to the initial public offering. In connection with the initial public offering, we entered into a tax indemnification agreement to indemnify the members of JMP Group LLC against certain increases in taxes that relate to activities of JMP Group LLC and its affiliates prior to the initial public offering. We did not agree to indemnify any member for any tax matters identified by us which would require the recording of a loss contingency upon the completion of the initial public offering. The tax indemnification agreement includes provisions that permit us to control any tax proceeding or contest which might result in our being required to make a payment under the tax indemnification agreement.

Relationships with Our Directors and Executive Officers

Through Harvest Capital Strategies LLC, our asset management subsidiary, we manage a number of hedge funds and other investment vehicles. Certain of our officers, directors, employees and related persons have invested in these funds. Such investors may, and often do, invest on terms and conditions more favorable than the other investors in these funds.

The portfolio managers of our funds do not pay the management fees and incentive fees attributable to any of their personal investments in the funds that they manage that ordinarily would have been charged to an outside investor. In addition, employees, including our named executive officers, typically pay one-half of the fees payable by an outside investor in such funds. Because Mr. Jolson, our Chief Executive Officer, was the portfolio manager of one of our funds during the year ended December 31, 2009, he did not pay \$1,795,943 in fees which

Table of Contents

he otherwise would have been charged had he been an outside investor in the fund during that period. Similarly, Mr. Johnson, our President, during the year ended December 31, 2009 did not pay \$12,935 in fees which he otherwise would have been charged had he been an outside investor in the fund during that period.

Other Transactions. Certain of our directors and officers and entities affiliated with our directors maintain brokerage accounts with us and maintain investments in investment funds that we manage and for which we are paid fees. In addition, companies that our directors are investors in, or are directors or officers of, from time to time may engage in transactions with us, including, for example, retaining us with respect to the provision of investment banking services.

Review and Approval of Transactions with Related Persons

We analyze all transactions in which the Company (or our subsidiaries) participates and in which a related person may have a direct or indirect material interest, both due to the potential for a conflict of interest and to determine whether disclosure of the transaction is required under applicable SEC rules and regulations. Related persons include any of our directors or executive officers, certain of our stockholders, and their respective immediate family members. As it relates to our employees, officers and directors, pursuant to our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, which is available on our website at www.jmpg.com, a conflict of interest arises when personal interests interfere with the ability to act in the best interests of the Company. Pursuant to our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, our employees are to disclose any potential conflicts of interest to the Chief Compliance Officer or such officer's designees, who will advise the employee as to whether or not the Company believes a conflict of interest exists. Employees are also required to disclose potential conflicts of interest involving their respective spouses, siblings, parents, in-laws, children, and household members. Non-employee directors are also to discuss any concerns with our Legal Department.

Policies and Procedures for Related Party Transactions

We have adopted a standard for approving any related party transactions, entitled Related Party Transaction Policies and Procedures. Pursuant to this policy, our executive officers and directors, including their immediate family members and affiliates, will not be permitted to enter into a related party transaction with us without the prior consent of our Audit Committee, or other independent committee of our Board of Directors in the case where it is inappropriate for our Audit Committee to review such transaction due to a conflict of interest. Any request for us to enter into a transaction with an executive officer or director, or any of such person's immediate family members or affiliates, in which the amount involved exceeds \$120,000, must first be presented to our Audit Committee or other independent committee for approval.

We believe that these policies and procedures collectively ensure that all related person transactions requiring disclosure under SEC rules are appropriately reviewed and approved or ratified.

Table of Contents**PROPOSAL 2****RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF****INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2010. We are submitting this appointment of independent registered public accounting firm for stockholder ratification at the Annual Meeting.

Neither applicable law nor our organizational documents require that our stockholders ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm, however, the Audit Committee believes that it is consistent with good corporate practice to allow stockholders an opportunity to express their views on this appointment. If the stockholders do not ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2010, the Audit Committee will reconsider whether to continue the engagement of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Even if the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is ratified, the Audit Committee, in its discretion, may discontinue the engagement of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and engage different independent registered public accounting firms at any time during the year if it determines that such a change is necessary or appropriate at such time. We expect a representative of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP will be present at the Annual Meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement and be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Audit and Non-Audit Fees

The following table sets forth the aggregate fees billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for the audits and other services provided to the Company for fiscal years 2009 and 2008.

| Type of Fees | 2009 | 2008 |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Audit Fees ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 994,049 | \$ 804,904 |
| Audit-Related Fees | | |
| Tax Fees ⁽²⁾ | 235,500 | 212,125 |
| All Other Fees | | |
| Total | \$ 1,229,549 | \$ 1,017,029 |

(1) Year end audit and quarterly review fees for the Company and its subsidiaries.

(2) Consists primarily of tax compliance and planning.

Audit Committee Pre-Approval of Audit and Non-Audit Services

Our Audit Committee pre-approves all audit and permissible non-audit services provided by our independent registered public accounting firm. These services may include audit services, audit-related services, tax services and other services. The Audit Committee has adopted a policy for the pre-approval of services provided by our independent registered public accounting firm. Under the policy, pre-approval is generally provided for up to one year and any pre-approval is detailed as to the particular service or category of services and is subject to a specific budget. In addition, the Audit Committee may also pre-approve particular services on a case-by-case basis. The Audit Committee has delegated its pre-approval authority to the Chairman of the Audit Committee. The Chairman is required to report any decisions to the Audit Committee at the next scheduled committee meeting. The Audit Committee pre-approved all of the audit services, audit-related services, tax services and other services provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP during fiscal years 2009 and 2008.

Directors Recommendation

Edgar Filing: JMP Group Inc. - Form DEF 14A

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote **FOR** ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2010. Unless a contrary choice is specified, proxies solicited by the Board of Directors will be voted **FOR** ratification of the appointment.

Table of Contents

OTHER MATTERS

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, amended, requires our directors and executive officers, and persons who own more than 10% of our common stock (see *Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management* for identification of those persons who are beneficial owners of more than 10% of our common stock), to file reports of ownership of, and transactions in, our common stock with the SEC within certain time periods following events giving rise to such filing requirements. Based solely on its review of the copies of such forms received by it, or written representations from certain reporting persons that no such filings were required for such persons, the Company believes that all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to such officers, directors and 10% stockholders were met during 2009.

Incorporation by Reference

To the extent that this Proxy Statement is incorporated by reference into any other filing by us under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the sections of this Proxy Statement entitled *Compensation Committee Report* and *Audit Committee Report* (to the extent permitted by the rules of the SEC) will not be deemed incorporated, unless specifically provided otherwise in such filing.

Stockholder Proposals for 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Stockholders who, in accordance with Rule 14a-8 under the Exchange Act, wish to present proposals for inclusion in the proxy materials to be distributed by us in connection with our 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders must submit their proposals to our Secretary on or before January 3, 2011, 120 days before the first anniversary of the date of release of this Proxy Statement. As the SEC rules make clear, simply submitting a proposal does not guarantee its inclusion.

In accordance with Section 2.9 of our Bylaws, for a matter not included in our proxy materials to be properly brought before the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, a stockholder's notice of the matter the stockholder wishes to present must be delivered to our Secretary at JMP Group Inc., 600 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100, San Francisco, California 94111 as follows:

1. If the 2011 Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place within 30 days before or after the first anniversary date of the 2010 Annual Meeting, such notice shall be delivered not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days prior to the first anniversary of the date on which we first mail our proxy materials for the 2010 Annual Meeting; or
2. If the date of the 2011 Annual Meeting is changed more than 30 days from the first anniversary date of the 2010 Annual Meeting, such notice shall be delivered not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days prior to the date on which we first mail our proxy materials for 2011.

Assuming that the 2011 Annual Meeting occurs within 30 days before or after the first anniversary date of the 2010 Annual Meeting, any such notice given by or on behalf of a stockholder pursuant to Section 2.9 of our Bylaws (and not pursuant to SEC Rule 14a-8) must be received no earlier than January 3, 2011 and no later than February 2, 2011. For director nominations, see *Stockholder Recommendations and Nominations for Membership on our Board of Directors* above.

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics applicable to all of our directors and employees, including our principal executive officer, principal financial officer and other employees performing similar functions. A copy of this Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is available in the *Investor Relations Corporate Governance* section of our website at www.jmpg.com.

Table of Contents

Reporting of Concerns Regarding Accounting and Other Matters

We have adopted procedures for employees, shareholders and other interested parties to communicate concerns regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters to the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors, and other matters to our independent directors. Such procedures are described in the Investor Relations Corporate Governance section of our website at www.jmpg.com. An independent provider will initially receive and process communications, which will be forwarded to Company management, who will evaluate and forward to the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors or to our independent directors as appropriate, depending on the facts and circumstances outlined in the communication.

Householding

The SEC has adopted rules that permit companies and intermediaries (such as banks and brokers) to satisfy the delivery requirements for proxy statements and annual reports with respect to two or more stockholders sharing the same address by delivering a single copy of such materials addressed to those stockholders. This practice, known as householding, is designed to reduce the volume of duplicate information and reduce printing and postage costs.

If you and others who share your mailing address own our common stock in street name, meaning through bank or brokerage accounts, you may have received a notice that your household will receive only one annual report and proxy statement from each company whose stock is held in such accounts. Unless you responded that you did not want to participate in householding, you were deemed to have consented to it and a single copy of our Proxy Statement and Annual Report has been sent to your address.

We will promptly deliver separate copies of our Proxy Statement and Annual Report upon the oral or written request of any stockholder who is in a household that participates in the householding of our proxy materials. You may send your request by mail to our Secretary, Janet L. Tarkoff, at JMP Group Inc., 600 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100, San Francisco, CA 94111 or by telephone at (415) 835-8900. Stockholders who share an address and receive multiple copies of our Proxy Statement and Annual Report may also request to receive a single copy following the instructions above.

Communicating with the Board of Directors, the Presiding Director or with the Non-Management Members as a Group

Stockholders or other interested parties may communicate with the Board of Directors, any committee or individual member of the Board of Directors, the Presiding Director or the non-management members of the Board of Directors, by writing to: Board of Directors, JMP Group Inc., 600 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100, San Francisco, CA 94111, Attn: Chief Legal Officer and Secretary. All such communications are reviewed by our Chief Legal Officer and then presented to our Board of Directors, a committee or an individual member of the Board of Directors, the Presiding Director or the non-management members of the Board of Directors, as applicable, at the subsequent regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors.

Table of Contents

Other Matters

At the date hereof, there are no other matters that the Board of Directors intends to present at the Annual Meeting. If other matters come before the Annual Meeting, the persons named in the accompanying form of proxy will vote in accordance with their best judgment with respect to such matters.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Janet L. Tarkoff

Chief Legal Officer and Secretary

San Francisco, California

May 3, 2010

Table of Contents

JMP GROUP INC.

VOTE BY INTERNET www.proxyvote.com

You may use the Internet to transmit your voting instructions and for electronic delivery of information up until 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time the day before the cut-off date or meeting date. Have your proxy card in hand when you access the web site and follow the instructions to obtain your records and to create an electronic voting instruction form.

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF FUTURE STOCKHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

If you would like to reduce the costs incurred by JMP Group Inc. in mailing proxy materials, you can consent to receiving all future proxy statements, proxy cards and annual reports electronically via e-mail or the Internet. To sign up for electronic delivery, please follow the instructions above to vote using the Internet and, when prompted, indicate that you agree to receive or access stockholder communications electronically in future years.

VOTE BY MAIL

Mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the postage-paid envelope we have provided or return it to JMP Group Inc., c/o Broadridge, 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY 11717.

TO VOTE, MARK BLOCKS BELOW IN BLUE OR BLACK INK AS FOLLOWS:

KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS

DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION ONLY

THIS PROXY CARD IS VALID ONLY WHEN SIGNED AND DATED.

JMP GROUP INC.

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends

a vote FOR proposal numbers 1 and 2.

Proposal 1: Election of Directors Election of nine (9) members of the Board of Directors:

FOR ALL **WITHHOLD ALL** **FOR ALL EXCEPT** To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee(s), mark For All Except and write the number(s) of the nominee(s) on the line below.

- (01) Joseph A. Jolson
- (02) Craig R. Johnson
- (03) Mark L. Lehmann
- (04) Carter D. Mack
- (05) Edward J. Sebastian

- (06) Glenn H. Tongue
- (07) Kenneth M. Karmin
- (08) Harris S. Barton
- (09) H. Mark Lunenburg

Edgar Filing: JMP Group Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Proposal 2: Ratification of Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

FOR **AGAINST** **ABSTAIN**

To ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010.

The shares represented by this proxy when properly executed will be voted in the manner directed herein by the undersigned Stockholder(s). **If no direction is made, this proxy will be voted FOR items 1 and 2.** If any other matters properly come before the meeting, the persons appointed proxies will vote in their discretion.

IMPORTANT: Please sign exactly as your name appears hereon and mail it promptly even though you may plan to attend the meeting. When shares are held by joint tenants, both should sign. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If a corporation, please sign in full corporate name by President or other authorized officer. If a partnership, please sign in partnership name by a duly authorized person. **PLEASE FILL OUT THE PRINTED NAME BOX TO ENSURE YOUR VOTE IS RECORDED PROPERLY.**

Signature [PLEASE SIGN WITHIN BOX]

Date

Signature (Joint Owners)

Date

Table of Contents

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholder Meeting to be held on June 7, 2010: The Proxy Statement, the Form of Proxy Card, and the 2009 Annual Report to Stockholders are available at <http://investor.jmpg.com/annual-proxy.cfm>.

PROXY FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF

JMP GROUP INC.

600 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100

San Francisco, California 94111

This Proxy is Solicited on Behalf of the Board of Directors of the Company

The undersigned stockholder hereby appoints Joseph A. Jolson, Raymond S. Jackson and Janet L. Tarkoff, and each of them individually, as proxies for the undersigned, each with full power of substitution for and in the name of the undersigned, to act for the undersigned and to vote, as designated on the reverse, all of the shares of common stock of JMP Group Inc. (the "Company"), which the undersigned is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company, or any adjournment or postponement of the meeting, to be held on June 7, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time, at 600 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100, San Francisco, California 94111, to consider and act upon the matters as designated on the reverse side.

Unless otherwise specified in the boxes and space provided, the proxies shall vote in the election of directors for the nominees listed on the reverse side, for the other proposals listed on the reverse side and shall have discretionary power to vote upon such other matters as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. The Board of Directors has established the close of business on April 20, 2010 as the record date for the determination of the stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at this Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND MAIL YOUR PROXY CARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

(continued and to be signed on the reverse side)