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DISCUSSION PAPER

Fair Value Measurements

Part 2: *SFAS 157 Fair Value Measurements*

Comments to be submitted by 2 April 2007



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CONTENTS

CONTENTS	<i>paragraphs</i>
PART 2	
Statement of Financial Accounting Standards	
No. 157 <i>Fair Value Measurements</i>	
SUMMARY	
OBJECTIVE	1
STANDARDS OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING	2–31
Scope	2–4
Measurement	5–31
Definition of Fair Value	5–15
<i>The Asset or Liability</i>	6
<i>The Price</i>	7
<i>The Principal (or Most Advantageous) Market</i>	8–9
<i>Market Participants</i>	10–11
<i>Application to Assets</i>	12–14
<i>Application to Liabilities</i>	15
Fair Value at Initial Recognition	16–17
Valuation Techniques	18–20
Inputs to Valuation Techniques	21
Fair Value Hierarchy	22–31
<i>Level 1 Inputs</i>	24–27
<i>Level 2 Inputs</i>	28–29
<i>Level 3 Inputs</i>	30
<i>Inputs Based on Bid and Ask Prices</i>	31
Disclosures	32–35
Effective Date and Transition	36–39
APPENDIX A: IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE	A1–A36
APPENDIX B: PRESENT VALUE TECHNIQUES	B1–B19
APPENDIX C: BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND BASIS FOR CONCLUSIONS	C1–C116
APPENDIX D: REFERENCES TO APB AND FASB PRONOUNCEMENTS	
APPENDIX E: AMENDMENTS TO APB AND FASB PRONOUNCEMENTS	
[APPENDICES D AND E ARE NOT REPRODUCED IN THIS DISCUSSION PAPER]	

Summary

This Statement defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. This Statement applies under other accounting pronouncements that require or permit fair value measurements, the Board having previously concluded in those accounting pronouncements that fair value is the relevant measurement attribute. Accordingly, this Statement does not require any new fair value measurements. However, for some entities, the application of this Statement will change current practice.

Reason for Issuing This Statement

Prior to this Statement, there were different definitions of fair value and limited guidance for applying those definitions in GAAP. Moreover, that guidance was dispersed among the many accounting pronouncements that require fair value measurements. Differences in that guidance created inconsistencies that added to the complexity in applying GAAP. In developing this Statement, the Board considered the need for increased consistency and comparability in fair value measurements and for expanded disclosures about fair value measurements.

Differences between This Statement and Current Practice

The changes to current practice resulting from the application of this Statement relate to the definition of fair value, the methods used to measure fair value, and the expanded disclosures about fair value measurements.

The definition of fair value retains the exchange price notion in earlier definitions of fair value. This Statement clarifies that the exchange price is the price in an orderly transaction between market participants to sell the asset or transfer the liability in the market in which the reporting entity would transact for the asset or liability, that is, the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability. The transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability is a hypothetical transaction at the measurement date, considered from the perspective of a market participant that holds the asset or owes the liability. Therefore, the definition focuses on the price that would be received to sell the asset or paid to transfer the liability (an exit price), not the price that would be paid to acquire the asset or received to assume the liability (an entry price).

This Statement emphasizes that fair value is a market-based measurement, not an entity-specific measurement. Therefore, a fair value measurement should be determined based on the assumptions that market participants would use in

SUMMARY OF SFAS No. 157

pricing the asset or liability. As a basis for considering market participant assumptions in fair value measurements, this Statement establishes a fair value hierarchy that distinguishes between (1) market participant assumptions developed based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity (observable inputs) and (2) the reporting entity's own assumptions about market participant assumptions developed based on the best information available in the circumstances (unobservable inputs). The notion of unobservable inputs is intended to allow for situations in which there is little, if any, market activity for the asset or liability at the measurement date. In those situations, the reporting entity need not undertake all possible efforts to obtain information about market participant assumptions. However, the reporting entity must not ignore information about market participant assumptions that is reasonably available without undue cost and effort.

This Statement clarifies that market participant assumptions include assumptions about risk, for example, the risk inherent in a particular valuation technique used to measure fair value (such as a pricing model) and/or the risk inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique. A fair value measurement should include an adjustment for risk if market participants would include one in pricing the related asset or liability, even if the adjustment is difficult to determine. Therefore, a measurement (for example, a "mark-to-model" measurement) that does not include an adjustment for risk would not represent a fair value measurement if market participants would include one in pricing the related asset or liability.

This Statement clarifies that market participant assumptions also include assumptions about the effect of a restriction on the sale or use of an asset. A fair value measurement for a restricted asset should consider the effect of the restriction if market participants would consider the effect of the restriction in pricing the asset. That guidance applies for stock with restrictions on sale that terminate within one year that is measured at fair value under FASB Statements No. 115, *Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities*, and No. 124, *Accounting for Certain Investments Held by Not-for-Profit Organizations*.

This Statement clarifies that a fair value measurement for a liability reflects its nonperformance risk (the risk that the obligation will not be fulfilled). Because nonperformance risk includes the reporting entity's credit risk, the reporting entity should consider the effect of its credit risk (credit standing) on the fair value of the liability in all periods in which the liability is measured at fair value under other accounting pronouncements, including FASB Statement No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*.

This Statement affirms the requirement of other FASB Statements that the fair value of a position in a financial instrument (including a block) that trades in an

active market should be measured as the product of the quoted price for the individual instrument times the quantity held (within Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy). The quoted price should not be adjusted because of the size of the position relative to trading volume (blockage factor). This Statement extends that requirement to broker-dealers and investment companies within the scope of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guides for those industries.

This Statement expands disclosures about the use of fair value to measure assets and liabilities in interim and annual periods subsequent to initial recognition. The disclosures focus on the inputs used to measure fair value and for recurring fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy), the effect of the measurements on earnings (or changes in net assets) for the period. This Statement encourages entities to combine the fair value information disclosed under this Statement with the fair value information disclosed under other accounting pronouncements, including FASB Statement No. 107, *Disclosures about Fair Value of Financial Instruments*, where practicable.

The guidance in this Statement applies for derivatives and other financial instruments measured at fair value under Statement 133 at initial recognition and in all subsequent periods. Therefore, this Statement nullifies the guidance in footnote 3 of EITF Issue No. 02-3, "Issues Involved in Accounting for Derivative Contracts Held for Trading Purposes and Contracts Involved in Energy Trading and Risk Management Activities." This Statement also amends Statement 133 to remove the similar guidance to that in Issue 02-3, which was added by FASB Statement No. 155, *Accounting for Certain Hybrid Financial Instruments*.

How the Conclusions in This Statement Relate to the FASB's Conceptual Framework

The framework for measuring fair value considers the concepts in FASB Concepts Statement No. 2, *Qualitative Characteristics of Accounting Information*. Concepts Statement 2 emphasizes that providing comparable information enables users of financial statements to identify similarities in and differences between two sets of economic events.

The definition of fair value considers the concepts relating to assets and liabilities in FASB Concepts Statement No. 6, *Elements of Financial Statements*, in the context of market participants. A fair value measurement reflects current market participant assumptions about the future inflows associated with an asset (future economic benefits) and the future outflows associated with a liability (future sacrifices of economic benefits).

SUMMARY OF SFAS No. 157

This Statement incorporates aspects of the guidance in FASB Concepts Statement No. 7, *Using Cash Flow Information and Present Value in Accounting Measurements*, as clarified and/or reconsidered in this Statement. This Statement does not revise Concepts Statement 7. The Board will consider the need to revise Concepts Statement 7 in its conceptual framework project.

The expanded disclosures about the use of fair value to measure assets and liabilities should provide users of financial statements (present and potential investors, creditors, and others) with information that is useful in making investment, credit, and similar decisions—the first objective of financial reporting in FASB Concepts Statement No. 1, *Objectives of Financial Reporting by Business Enterprises*.

How the Changes in This Statement Improve Financial Reporting

A single definition of fair value, together with a framework for measuring fair value, should result in increased consistency and comparability in fair value measurements.

The expanded disclosures about the use of fair value to measure assets and liabilities should provide users of financial statements with better information about the extent to which fair value is used to measure recognized assets and liabilities, the inputs used to develop the measurements, and the effect of certain of the measurements on earnings (or changes in net assets) for the period.

The amendments made by this Statement advance the Board's initiatives to simplify and codify the accounting literature, eliminating differences that have added to the complexity in GAAP.

Costs and Benefits of Applying This Statement

The framework for measuring fair value builds on current practice and requirements. However, some entities will need to make systems and other changes to comply with the requirements of this Statement. Some entities also might incur incremental costs in applying the requirements of this Statement. However, the benefits from increased consistency and comparability in fair value measurements and expanded disclosures about those measurements should be ongoing.

The Effective Date of This Statement

This Statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007, and interim periods within those fiscal years.

Earlier application is encouraged, provided that the reporting entity has not yet issued financial statements for that fiscal year, including financial statements for an interim period within that fiscal year.

The provisions of this Statement should be applied prospectively as of the beginning of the fiscal year in which this Statement is initially applied, except as follows. The provisions of this Statement should be applied retrospectively to the following financial instruments as of the beginning of the fiscal year in which this Statement is initially applied (a limited form of retrospective application):

- (a) A position in a financial instrument that trades in an active market held by a broker-dealer or investment company within the scope of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guides for those industries that was measured at fair value using a blockage factor prior to initial application of this Statement
- (b) A financial instrument that was measured at fair value at initial recognition under Statement 133 using the transaction price in accordance with the guidance in footnote 3 of Issue 02-3 prior to initial application of this Statement
- (c) A hybrid financial instrument that was measured at fair value at initial recognition under Statement 133 using the transaction price in accordance with the guidance in Statement 133 (added by Statement 155) prior to initial application of this Statement.

The transition adjustment, measured as the difference between the carrying amounts and the fair values of those financial instruments at the date this Statement is initially applied, should be recognized as a cumulative-effect adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings (or other appropriate components of equity or net assets in the statement of financial position) for the fiscal year in which this Statement is initially applied.

Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 157 Fair Value Measurements September 2006

Objective

1. This Statement defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. Where applicable, this Statement simplifies and codifies related guidance within generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

Standards of Financial Accounting and Reporting

Scope

2. This Statement applies under other accounting pronouncements¹ that require or permit fair value measurements, except as follows:
 - (a) This Statement does not apply under accounting pronouncements that address share-based payment transactions: FASB Statement No. 123 (revised 2004), *Share-Based Payment*, and its related interpretive accounting pronouncements that address share-based payment transactions.
 - (b) This Statement does not eliminate the practicability exceptions to fair value measurements in accounting pronouncements within the scope of this Statement.²

¹ This Statement uses the term *accounting pronouncements* consistent with its use in paragraph 2(b) of FASB Statement No. 154, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*.

² Accounting pronouncements that permit practicability exceptions to fair value measurements in specified circumstances include APB Opinion No. 29, *Accounting for Nonmonetary Transactions*, FASB Statements No. 87, *Employers' Accounting for Pensions*, No. 106, *Employers' Accounting for Postretirement Benefits Other Than Pensions*, No. 107, *Disclosures about Fair Value of Financial Instruments*, No. 116, *Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made*, No. 140, *Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities*, No. 141, *Business Combinations*, No. 143, *Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations*, No. 146, *Accounting for Costs Associated with Exit or Disposal Activities*, and No. 153, *Exchanges of Nonmonetary Assets*, and FASB Interpretations No. 45, *Guarantor's Accounting and Disclosure Requirements for Guarantees, Including Indirect Guarantees of Indebtedness of Others*, and No. 47, *Accounting for Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations*. Also included among those pronouncements are AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide, *Not-for-Profit Organizations*, and EITF Issues No. 85-40, "Comprehensive Review of Sales of Marketable Securities with Put Arrangements," and No. 99-17, "Accounting for Advertising Barter Transactions."

3. This Statement does not apply under accounting pronouncements that require or permit measurements that are similar to fair value but that are not intended to measure fair value, including the following:
 - (a) Accounting pronouncements that permit measurements that are based on, or otherwise use, vendor-specific objective evidence of fair value³
 - (b) ARB No. 43, Chapter 4, “Inventory Pricing.”
4. Appendix D lists pronouncements of the Accounting Principles Board (APB) and the FASB existing at the date of this Statement that are within the scope of this Statement. Appendix E lists those APB and FASB pronouncements that are amended by this Statement. [Appendices D and E are not reproduced in this Discussion Paper.]

Measurement

Definition of Fair Value

5. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

The Asset or Liability

6. A fair value measurement is for a particular asset or liability.⁴ Therefore, the measurement should consider attributes specific to the asset or liability, for example, the condition and/or location of the asset or liability and restrictions, if any, on the sale or use of the asset at the measurement date. The asset or liability might be a standalone asset or liability (for example, a financial instrument or an operating asset) or a group of assets and/or liabilities (for example, an asset group, a reporting

3 Accounting pronouncements that permit measurements that are based on, or otherwise use, vendor-specific objective evidence of fair value include AICPA Statement of Position 97-2, *Software Revenue Recognition*, as modified by AICPA Statement of Position 98-9, *Modification of SOP 97-2, Software Revenue Recognition, With Respect to Certain Transactions*. Also included among those pronouncements are EITF Issues No. 00-3, “Application of AICPA Statement of Position 97-2 to Arrangements That Include the Right to Use Software Stored on Another Entity’s Hardware,” and No. 00-21, “Revenue Arrangements with Multiple Deliverables.”

4 The definition of fair value focuses on assets and liabilities because they are a primary subject of accounting measurement. However, the definition of fair value also should be applied to instruments measured at fair value that are classified in stockholders’ equity.

unit, or a business). Whether the asset or liability is a standalone asset or liability or a group of assets and/or liabilities depends on its unit of account. The unit of account determines what is being measured by reference to the level at which the asset or liability is aggregated (or disaggregated) for purposes of applying other accounting pronouncements. The unit of account for the asset or liability should be determined in accordance with the provisions of other accounting pronouncements, except as provided in paragraph 27.

The Price

7. A fair value measurement assumes that the asset or liability is exchanged in an orderly transaction between market participants to sell the asset or transfer the liability at the measurement date. An orderly transaction is a transaction that assumes exposure to the market for a period prior to the measurement date to allow for marketing activities that are usual and customary for transactions involving such assets or liabilities; it is not a forced transaction (for example, a forced liquidation or distress sale). The transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability is a hypothetical transaction at the measurement date, considered from the perspective of a market participant that holds the asset or owes the liability. Therefore, the objective of a fair value measurement is to determine the price that would be received to sell the asset or paid to transfer the liability at the measurement date (an exit price).

The Principal (or Most Advantageous) Market

8. A fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability occurs in the principal market for the asset or liability or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market for the asset or liability. The principal market is the market in which the reporting entity would sell the asset or transfer the liability with the greatest volume and level of activity for the asset or liability. The most advantageous market is the market in which the reporting entity would sell the asset or transfer the liability with the price that maximizes the amount that would be received for the asset or minimizes the amount that would be paid to transfer the liability, considering transaction costs in the respective market(s). In either case, the principal (or most advantageous) market (and thus, market participants) should be considered from the perspective of the reporting entity, thereby allowing for differences between and among entities with different activities. If there is a principal market for the asset or liability, the fair value

measurement shall represent the price in that market (whether that price is directly observable or otherwise determined using a valuation technique), even if the price in a different market is potentially more advantageous at the measurement date.

9. The price in the principal (or most advantageous) market used to measure the fair value of the asset or liability shall not be adjusted for transaction costs.⁵ Transaction costs represent the incremental direct costs to sell the asset or transfer the liability in the principal (or most advantageous) market for the asset or liability.⁶ Transaction costs are not an attribute of the asset or liability; rather, they are specific to the transaction and will differ depending on how the reporting entity transacts. However, transaction costs do not include the costs that would be incurred to transport the asset or liability to (or from) its principal (or most advantageous) market. If location is an attribute of the asset or liability (as might be the case for a commodity), the price in the principal (or most advantageous) market used to measure the fair value of the asset or liability shall be adjusted for the costs, if any, that would be incurred to transport the asset or liability to (or from) its principal (or most advantageous) market.

Market Participants

10. Market participants are buyers and sellers in the principal (or most advantageous) market for the asset or liability that are:
 - (a) Independent of the reporting entity; that is, they are not related parties⁷
 - (b) Knowledgeable, having a reasonable understanding about the asset or liability and the transaction based on all available information, including information that might be obtained through due diligence efforts that are usual and customary
 - (c) Able to transact for the asset or liability

5 Transaction costs should be accounted for in accordance with the provisions of other accounting pronouncements.

6 Incremental direct costs to sell the asset or transfer the liability refer to those costs that result directly from and are essential to that transaction and that would not have been incurred by the reporting entity had the decision to sell the asset (or transfer the liability) not been made (similar to cost to sell, as defined in paragraph 35 of FASB Statement No. 144, *Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets*).

7 This Statement uses the term *related parties* consistent with its use in FASB Statement No. 57, *Related Party Disclosures*.

SFAS 157 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

- (d) Willing to transact for the asset or liability; that is, they are motivated but not forced or otherwise compelled to do so.
11. The fair value of the asset or liability shall be determined based on the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. In developing those assumptions, the reporting entity need not identify specific market participants. Rather, the reporting entity should identify characteristics that distinguish market participants generally, considering factors specific to (a) the asset or liability, (b) the principal (or most advantageous) market for the asset or liability, and (c) market participants with whom the reporting entity would transact in that market.

Application to Assets

12. A fair value measurement assumes the highest and best use of the asset by market participants, considering the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible, and financially feasible at the measurement date. In broad terms, highest and best use refers to the use of an asset by market participants that would maximize the value of the asset or the group of assets within which the asset would be used. Highest and best use is determined based on the use of the asset by market participants, even if the intended use of the asset by the reporting entity is different.
13. The highest and best use of the asset establishes the valuation premise used to measure the fair value of the asset. Specifically:
- (a) *In-use*. The highest and best use of the asset is in-use if the asset would provide maximum value to market participants principally through its use in combination with other assets as a group (as installed or otherwise configured for use). For example, that might be the case for certain nonfinancial assets. If the highest and best use of the asset is in-use, the fair value of the asset shall be measured using an in-use valuation premise. When using an in-use valuation premise, the fair value of the asset is determined based on the price that would be received in a current transaction to sell the asset assuming that the asset would be used with other assets as a group and that those assets would be available to market participants. Generally, assumptions about the highest and best use of the asset should be consistent for all of the assets of the group within which it would be used.
 - (b) *In-exchange*. The highest and best use of the asset is in-exchange if the asset would provide maximum value to market participants principally on a standalone basis. For example, that might be the

case for a financial asset. If the highest and best use of the asset is in-exchange, the fair value of the asset shall be measured using an in-exchange valuation premise. When using an in-exchange valuation premise, the fair value of the asset is determined based on the price that would be received in a current transaction to sell the asset standalone.

14. Because the highest and best use of the asset is determined based on its use by market participants, the fair value measurement considers the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset, whether using an in-use or an in-exchange valuation premise.⁸

Application to Liabilities

15. A fair value measurement assumes that the liability is transferred to a market participant at the measurement date (the liability to the counterparty continues; it is not settled) and that the nonperformance risk relating to that liability is the same before and after its transfer. Nonperformance risk refers to the risk that the obligation will not be fulfilled and affects the value at which the liability is transferred. Therefore, the fair value of the liability shall reflect the nonperformance risk relating to that liability. Nonperformance risk includes but may not be limited to the reporting entity's own credit risk. The reporting entity shall consider the effect of its credit risk (credit standing) on the fair value of the liability in all periods in which the liability is measured at fair value. That effect may differ depending on the liability, for example, whether the liability is an obligation to deliver cash (a financial liability) or an obligation to deliver goods or services (a nonfinancial liability), and the terms of credit enhancements related to the liability, if any.

Fair Value at Initial Recognition

16. When an asset is acquired or a liability is assumed in an exchange transaction for that asset or liability, the transaction price represents the price paid to acquire the asset or received to assume the liability (an entry price). In contrast, the fair value of the asset or liability represents the price that would be received to sell the asset or paid to transfer the

⁸ The fair value of an asset in-use is determined based on the use of the asset together with other assets as a group (consistent with its highest and best use from the perspective of market participants), even if the asset that is the subject of the measurement is aggregated (or disaggregated) at a different level for purposes of applying other accounting pronouncements.

liability (an exit price). Conceptually, entry prices and exit prices are different. Entities do not necessarily sell assets at the prices paid to acquire them. Similarly, entities do not necessarily transfer liabilities at the prices received to assume them.

17. In many cases, the transaction price will equal the exit price and, therefore, represent the fair value of the asset or liability at initial recognition. In determining whether a transaction price represents the fair value of the asset or liability at initial recognition, the reporting entity shall consider factors specific to the transaction and the asset or liability. For example, a transaction price might not represent the fair value of an asset or liability at initial recognition if:
- (a) The transaction is between related parties.
 - (b) The transaction occurs under duress or the seller is forced to accept the price in the transaction. For example, that might be the case if the seller is experiencing financial difficulty.
 - (c) The unit of account represented by the transaction price is different from the unit of account for the asset or liability measured at fair value. For example, that might be the case if the asset or liability measured at fair value is only one of the elements in the transaction, the transaction includes unstated rights and privileges that should be separately measured, or the transaction price includes transaction costs.
 - (d) The market in which the transaction occurs is different from the market in which the reporting entity would sell the asset or transfer the liability, that is, the principal or most advantageous market. For example, those markets might be different if the reporting entity is a securities dealer that transacts in different markets, depending on whether the counterparty is a retail customer (retail market) or another securities dealer (inter-dealer market).

Valuation Techniques

18. Valuation techniques consistent with the market approach, income approach, and/or cost approach shall be used to measure fair value. Key aspects of those approaches are summarized below:
- (a) *Market approach.* The market approach uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable assets or liabilities (including a business). For example, valuation techniques consistent with the market

approach often use market multiples derived from a set of comparables. Multiples might lie in ranges with a different multiple for each comparable. The selection of where within the range the appropriate multiple falls requires judgment, considering factors specific to the measurement (qualitative and quantitative). Valuation techniques consistent with the market approach include matrix pricing. Matrix pricing is a mathematical technique used principally to value debt securities without relying exclusively on quoted prices for the specific securities, but rather by relying on the securities' relationship to other benchmark quoted securities.

- (b) *Income approach.* The income approach uses valuation techniques to convert future amounts (for example, cash flows or earnings) to a single present amount (discounted). The measurement is based on the value indicated by current market expectations about those future amounts. Those valuation techniques include present value techniques; option-pricing models, such as the Black-Scholes-Merton formula (a closed-form model) and a binomial model (a lattice model), which incorporate present value techniques;⁹ and the multiperiod excess earnings method, which is used to measure the fair value of certain intangible assets.¹⁰
- (c) *Cost approach.* The cost approach is based on the amount that currently would be required to replace the service capacity of an asset (often referred to as current replacement cost). From the perspective of a market participant (seller), the price that would be received for the asset is determined based on the cost to a market participant (buyer) to acquire or construct a substitute asset of comparable utility, adjusted for obsolescence. Obsolescence encompasses physical deterioration, functional (technological) obsolescence, and economic (external) obsolescence and is broader than depreciation for financial reporting purposes (an allocation of historical cost) or tax purposes (based on specified service lives).

9 The guidance in this Statement does not apply for the fair-value-based measurements using option-pricing models under Statement 123(R).

10 The use of the multiperiod excess earnings method to measure the fair value of in-process research and development is discussed in AICPA Practice Aid, *Assets Acquired in a Business Combination to Be Used in Research and Development Activities: A Focus on Software, Electronic Devices, and Pharmaceutical Industries*.

SFAS 157 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

19. Valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available shall be used to measure fair value. In some cases, a single valuation technique will be appropriate (for example, when valuing an asset or liability using quoted prices in an active market for identical assets or liabilities). In other cases, multiple valuation techniques will be appropriate (for example, as might be the case when valuing a reporting unit). If multiple valuation techniques are used to measure fair value, the results (respective indications of fair value) shall be evaluated and weighted, as appropriate, considering the reasonableness of the range indicated by those results. A fair value measurement is the point within that range that is most representative of fair value in the circumstances.
20. Valuation techniques used to measure fair value shall be consistently applied. However, a change in a valuation technique or its application (for example, a change in its weighting when multiple valuation techniques are used) is appropriate if the change results in a measurement that is equally or more representative of fair value in the circumstances. That might be the case if, for example, new markets develop, new information becomes available, information previously used is no longer available, or valuation techniques improve. Revisions resulting from a change in the valuation technique or its application shall be accounted for as a change in accounting estimate (FASB Statement No. 154, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*, paragraph 19). The disclosure provisions of Statement 154 for a change in accounting estimate are not required for revisions resulting from a change in a valuation technique or its application.

Inputs to Valuation Techniques

21. In this Statement, *inputs* refer broadly to the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk, for example, the risk inherent in a particular valuation technique used to measure fair value (such as a pricing model) and/or the risk inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique. Inputs may be observable or unobservable:
 - (a) *Observable inputs* are inputs that reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity.
 - (b) *Unobservable inputs* are inputs that reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use

in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances.

Valuation techniques used to measure fair value shall maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Fair Value Hierarchy

22. To increase consistency and comparability in fair value measurements and related disclosures, the fair value hierarchy prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value into three broad levels. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). In some cases, the inputs used to measure fair value might fall in different levels of the fair value hierarchy. The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement in its entirety falls shall be determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. Assessing the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment, considering factors specific to the asset or liability.
23. The availability of inputs relevant to the asset or liability and the relative reliability of the inputs might affect the selection of appropriate valuation techniques. However, the fair value hierarchy prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques, not the valuation techniques. For example, a fair value measurement using a present value technique might fall within Level 2 or Level 3, depending on the inputs that are significant to the measurement in its entirety and the level in the fair value hierarchy within which those inputs fall.

Level 1 Inputs

24. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the reporting entity has the ability to access at the measurement date. An active market for the asset or liability is a market in which transactions for the asset or liability occur with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis. A quoted price in an active market provides the most reliable evidence of fair value and shall be used to measure fair value whenever available, except as discussed in paragraphs 25 and 26.

SFAS 157 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

25. If the reporting entity holds a large number of similar assets or liabilities (for example, debt securities) that are required to be measured at fair value, a quoted price in an active market might be available but not readily accessible for each of those assets or liabilities individually. In that case, fair value may be measured using an alternative pricing method that does not rely exclusively on quoted prices (for example, matrix pricing) as a practical expedient. However, the use of an alternative pricing method renders the fair value measurement a lower level measurement.
26. In some situations, a quoted price in an active market might not represent fair value at the measurement date. That might be the case if, for example, significant events (principal-to-principal transactions, brokered trades, or announcements) occur after the close of a market but before the measurement date. The reporting entity should establish and consistently apply a policy for identifying those events that might affect fair value measurements. However, if the quoted price is adjusted for new information, the adjustment renders the fair value measurement a lower level measurement.
27. If the reporting entity holds a position in a single financial instrument (including a block) and the instrument is traded in an active market, the fair value of the position shall be measured within Level 1 as the product of the quoted price for the individual instrument times the quantity held. The quoted price shall not be adjusted because of the size of the position relative to trading volume (blockage factor). The use of a blockage factor is prohibited, even if a market's normal daily trading volume is not sufficient to absorb the quantity held and placing orders to sell the position in a single transaction might affect the quoted price.¹¹

Level 2 Inputs

28. Level 2 inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, a Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability. Level 2 inputs include the following:
 - (a) Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets

¹¹ The guidance in this Statement applies for positions in financial instruments (including blocks) held by all entities, including broker-dealers and investment companies within the scope of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guides for those industries.

- (b) Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, that is, markets in which there are few transactions for the asset or liability, the prices are not current, or price quotations vary substantially either over time or among market makers (for example, some brokered markets), or in which little information is released publicly (for example, a principal-to-principal market)
 - (c) Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability (for example, interest rates and yield curves observable at commonly quoted intervals, volatilities, prepayment speeds, loss severities, credit risks, and default rates)
 - (d) Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means (market-corroborated inputs).
29. Adjustments to Level 2 inputs will vary depending on factors specific to the asset or liability. Those factors include the condition and/or location of the asset or liability, the extent to which the inputs relate to items that are comparable to the asset or liability, and the volume and level of activity in the markets within which the inputs are observed. An adjustment that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety might render the measurement a Level 3 measurement, depending on the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the inputs used to determine the adjustment fall.

Level 3 Inputs

30. Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability. Unobservable inputs shall be used to measure fair value to the extent that observable inputs are not available, thereby allowing for situations in which there is little, if any, market activity for the asset or liability at the measurement date. However, the fair value measurement objective remains the same, that is, an exit price from the perspective of a market participant that holds the asset or owes the liability. Therefore, unobservable inputs shall reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability (including assumptions about risk). Unobservable inputs shall be developed based on the best information available in the circumstances, which might include the reporting entity's own data. In developing unobservable inputs, the reporting entity need not undertake all possible efforts to obtain information about market participant assumptions. However, the reporting entity shall not ignore

information about market participant assumptions that is reasonably available without undue cost and effort. Therefore, the reporting entity's own data used to develop unobservable inputs shall be adjusted if information is reasonably available without undue cost and effort that indicates that market participants would use different assumptions.

Inputs Based on Bid and Ask Prices

31. If an input used to measure fair value is based on bid and ask prices (for example, in a dealer market), the price within the bid-ask spread that is most representative of fair value in the circumstances shall be used to measure fair value, regardless of where in the fair value hierarchy the input falls (Level 1, 2, or 3). This Statement does not preclude the use of mid-market pricing or other pricing conventions as a practical expedient for fair value measurements within a bid-ask spread.

Disclosures

32. For assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis in periods subsequent to initial recognition (for example, trading securities), the reporting entity shall disclose information that enables users of its financial statements to assess the inputs used to develop those measurements and for recurring fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3), the effect of the measurements on earnings (or changes in net assets) for the period. To meet that objective, the reporting entity shall disclose the following information for each interim and annual period (except as otherwise specified) separately for each major category of assets and liabilities:
 - (a) The fair value measurements at the reporting date
 - (b) The level within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements in their entirety fall, segregating fair value measurements using quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1), significant other observable inputs (Level 2), and significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)
 - (c) For fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3), a reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances, separately presenting changes during the period attributable to the following:¹²

¹² For derivative assets and liabilities, the reconciliation disclosure required by paragraph 32(c) may be presented net.

- (1) Total gains or losses for the period (realized and unrealized), segregating those gains or losses included in earnings (or changes in net assets), and a description of where those gains or losses included in earnings (or changes in net assets) are reported in the statement of income (or activities)
 - (2) Purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements (net)
 - (3) Transfers in and/or out of Level 3 (for example, transfers due to changes in the observability of significant inputs)
 - (d) The amount of the total gains or losses for the period in subparagraph (c)(1) above included in earnings (or changes in net assets) that are attributable to the change in unrealized gains or losses relating to those assets and liabilities still held at the reporting date and a description of where those unrealized gains or losses are reported in the statement of income (or activities)
 - (e) In annual periods only, the valuation technique(s) used to measure fair value and a discussion of changes in valuation techniques, if any, during the period.
33. For assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis in periods subsequent to initial recognition (for example, impaired assets), the reporting entity shall disclose information that enables users of its financial statements to assess the inputs used to develop those measurements. To meet that objective, the reporting entity shall disclose the following information for each interim and annual period (except as otherwise specified) separately for each major category of assets and liabilities:
- (a) The fair value measurements recorded during the period and the reasons for the measurements
 - (b) The level within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements in their entirety fall, segregating fair value measurements using quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1), significant other observable inputs (Level 2), and significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)
 - (c) For fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3), a description of the inputs and the information used to develop the inputs
 - (d) In annual periods only, the valuation technique(s) used to measure fair value and a discussion of changes, if any, in the valuation

SFAS 157 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

technique(s) used to measure similar assets and/or liabilities in prior periods.

34. The quantitative disclosures required by this Statement shall be presented using a tabular format. (See Appendix A.)
35. The reporting entity is encouraged, but not required, to combine the fair value information disclosed under this Statement with the fair value information disclosed under other accounting pronouncements (for example, FASB Statement No. 107, *Disclosures about Fair Value of Financial Instruments*) in the periods in which those disclosures are required, if practicable. The reporting entity also is encouraged, but not required, to disclose information about other similar measurements (for example, inventories measured at market value under ARB 43, Chapter 4), if practicable.

Effective Date and Transition

36. This Statement shall be effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007, and interim periods within those fiscal years. Earlier application is encouraged, provided that the reporting entity has not yet issued financial statements for that fiscal year, including any financial statements for an interim period within that fiscal year.
37. This Statement shall be applied prospectively as of the beginning of the fiscal year in which this Statement is initially applied, except as follows. This Statement shall be applied retrospectively to the following financial instruments as of the beginning of the fiscal year in which this Statement is initially applied (a limited form of retrospective application):
 - (a) A position in a financial instrument that trades in an active market held by a broker-dealer or investment company within the scope of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guides for those industries that was measured at fair value using a blockage factor prior to initial application of this Statement
 - (b) A financial instrument that was measured at fair value at initial recognition under Statement 133 using the transaction price in accordance with the guidance in footnote 3 of EITF Issue No. 02-3, "Issues Involved in Accounting for Derivative Contracts Held for Trading Purposes and Contracts Involved in Energy Trading and Risk Management Activities," prior to initial application of this Statement

- (c) A hybrid financial instrument that was measured at fair value at initial recognition under Statement 133 using the transaction price in accordance with the guidance in Statement 133 (added by FASB Statement No. 155, *Accounting for Certain Hybrid Financial Instruments*) prior to initial application of this Statement.
38. At the date this Statement is initially applied to the financial instruments in paragraph 37(a)–(c), a difference between the carrying amounts and the fair values of those instruments shall be recognized as a cumulative-effect adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings (or other appropriate components of equity or net assets in the statement of financial position) for that fiscal year, presented separately. The disclosure requirements of Statement 154 for a change in accounting principle do not apply.
39. The disclosure requirements of this Statement (paragraphs 32–35), including those disclosures that are required in annual periods only, shall be applied in the first interim period of the fiscal year in which this Statement is initially applied. The disclosure requirements of this Statement need not be applied for financial statements for periods presented prior to initial application of this Statement.

The provisions of this Statement need not be applied to immaterial items.

This Statement was adopted by the unanimous vote of the seven members of the Financial Accounting Standards Board:

Robert H. Herz, *Chairman*

George J. Batavick

G. Michael Crooch

Thomas J. Linsmeier

Leslie F. Seidman

Edward W. Trott

Donald M. Young

Appendix A Implementation Guidance

Introduction

- A1. This appendix describes in general terms certain provisions of this Statement and provides examples that incorporate simplified assumptions to illustrate the application of those provisions. This Statement sets out a framework for measuring fair value, which refers to certain valuation concepts and practices. However, this Statement is not intended to establish valuation standards.

The Fair Value Measurement Approach

- A2. This Statement clarifies fair value in terms of the price in an orderly transaction between market participants to sell an asset or transfer a liability in the principal (or most advantageous) market for the asset or liability. The transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability is a hypothetical transaction at the measurement date, considered from the perspective of a market participant that holds the asset or owes the liability. Therefore, the objective of a fair value measurement is to determine the price that would be received to sell the asset or paid to transfer the liability at the measurement date (an exit price). Because that exit price objective applies for all assets and liabilities measured at fair value, any fair value measurement requires that the reporting entity determine:
- (a) The particular asset or liability that is the subject of the measurement (consistent with its unit of account)
 - (b) For an asset, the valuation premise appropriate for the measurement (consistent with its highest and best use)
 - (c) The principal (or most advantageous) market for the asset or liability (for an asset, consistent with its highest and best use)
 - (d) The valuation technique(s) appropriate for the measurement, considering the availability of data with which to develop inputs that represent the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability and the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the inputs fall.

- A3. The judgments applied in different valuation situations often will be different. The examples in this appendix illustrate, in qualitative terms, the judgments a reporting entity that measures assets and/or liabilities at fair value might apply in varying valuation situations.

The Valuation Premise

- A4. The valuation premise used to measure the fair value of an asset depends on the highest and best use of the asset by market participants. If the asset would provide maximum value to market participants principally through its use in combination with other assets as a group (highest and best use is “in-use”), the asset would be measured using an in-use valuation premise. If the asset would provide maximum value to market participants principally on a standalone basis (highest and best use is “in-exchange”), the asset would be measured using an in-exchange valuation premise.
- A5. When measuring the fair value of an asset in-use, the in-use valuation premise can be incorporated in the measurement differently, depending on the circumstances. For example:
- (a) The fair value of the asset might be the same whether using an in-use or an in-exchange valuation premise. For example, that might be the case if the asset is a business (such as a reporting unit) that market participants would continue to operate. In that case, the transaction would involve the business in its entirety. The use of the assets as a group in the context of an ongoing business would generate synergies that would be available to market participants (market participant synergies).
 - (b) The in-use valuation premise might be incorporated in the fair value of the asset through adjustments to the value of the asset in-exchange. For example, that might be the case if the asset is a machine and the fair value measurement is determined using an observed price for a similar machine (not installed or otherwise configured for use), adjusted for transportation and installation costs so that the fair value measurement reflects the current condition and location of the machine (installed and configured for use).
 - (c) The in-use valuation premise might be incorporated in the fair value of the asset through the market participant assumptions used to measure the fair value of the asset. For example, if the asset is work-in-process inventory that is unique and market participants would complete the inventory into finished goods, the

fair value of the inventory would assume that any specialized machinery necessary to complete the inventory into finished goods would be available to market participants. In that case, market participants would have the specialized machinery in place or would acquire the specialized machinery in conjunction with the inventory.

- (d) The in-use valuation premise might be incorporated in the fair value of the asset through the valuation technique used to measure the fair value of the asset. For example, that might be the case when using the multiperiod excess earnings method to measure the fair value of certain intangible assets because that valuation technique specifically considers the contribution of any complementary assets in the group in which an intangible asset would be used.
- (e) In more limited situations, the asset might be measured at an amount that approximates its fair value in-use when allocating the fair value of the asset group within which the asset is used to the individual assets of the group. For example, that might be the case if the valuation involves real property and the fair value of improved property (an asset group) is allocated to its component assets (such as land and improvements).

Highest and Best Use

- A6. Highest and best use is a valuation concept that refers broadly to the use of an asset that would maximize the value of the asset or the group of assets in which the asset would be used by market participants. For some assets, in particular, nonfinancial assets, application of the highest-and-best-use concept could have a significant effect on the fair value measurement. Examples 1–3 illustrate the application of the highest-and-best-use concept in situations in which nonfinancial assets are newly acquired.

Example 1—Asset Group

- A7. The reporting entity, a strategic buyer, acquires a group of assets (Assets A, B, and C) in a business combination. Asset C is billing software developed by the acquired entity for its own use in conjunction with Assets A and B (related assets). The reporting entity measures the fair value of each of the assets individually, consistent with the specified unit

of account for the assets. The reporting entity determines that each asset would provide maximum value to market participants principally through its use in combination with other assets as a group (highest and best use is in-use).

- A8. In this instance, the market in which the reporting entity would sell the assets is the market in which it initially acquired the assets (that is, the “entry” and “exit” markets from the perspective of the reporting entity are the same). Market participant buyers with whom the reporting entity would transact in that market have characteristics that are generally representative of both financial buyers and strategic buyers and include those buyers that initially bid for the assets.¹³ As discussed below, differences between the indicated fair values of the individual assets relate principally to the use of the assets by those market participants within different asset groups:
- (a) *Strategic buyer asset group.* The reporting entity, a strategic buyer, determines that strategic buyers have related assets that would enhance the value of the group within which the assets would be used (market participant synergies). Those assets include a substitute asset for Asset C (the billing software), which would be used for only a limited transition period and could not be sold standalone at the end of that period. Because strategic buyers have substitute assets, Asset C would not be used for its full remaining economic life. The indicated fair values of Assets A, B, and C within the strategic buyer asset group (reflecting the synergies resulting from the use of the assets within that group) are \$360, \$260, and \$30, respectively. The indicated fair value of the assets as a group within the strategic buyer asset group is \$650.
 - (b) *Financial buyer asset group.* The reporting entity determines that financial buyers do not have related or substitute assets that would enhance the value of the group within which the assets would be used. Because financial buyers do not have substitute assets, Asset C (the billing software) would be used for its full remaining economic life. The indicated fair values of Assets A, B, and C within the financial buyer asset group are \$300, \$200, and \$100, respectively. The indicated fair value of the assets as a group within the financial buyer asset group is \$600.

13 While market participant buyers might be broadly classified as strategic and/or financial buyers, there often will be differences among the market participant buyers within each of those groups, reflecting, for example, different uses for an asset and different operating strategies.

- A9. The fair values of Assets A, B, and C would be determined based on the use of the assets as a group within the strategic buyer group (\$360, \$260, and \$30). Although the use of the assets within the strategic buyer group does not maximize the fair value of each of the assets individually, it maximizes the fair value of the assets as a group (\$650).

Example 2—Land

- A10. The reporting entity acquires land in a business combination. The land is currently developed for industrial use as a site for a manufacturing facility. The current use of land often is presumed to be its highest and best use. However, nearby sites have recently been developed for residential use as sites for high-rise condominiums. Based on that development and recent zoning and other changes to facilitate that development, the reporting entity determines that the land currently used as a site for a manufacturing facility could be developed as a site for residential use (for high-rise condominiums).
- A11. In this instance, the highest and best use of the land would be determined by comparing (a) the fair value of the manufacturing operation, which presumes that the land would continue to be used as currently developed for industrial use (in-use) and (b) the value of the land as a vacant site for residential use, considering the demolition and other costs necessary to convert the land to a vacant site (in-exchange). The highest and best use of the land would be determined based on the higher of those values.¹⁴

Example 3—IPR&D Project

- A12. The reporting entity acquires an in-process research and development (IPR&D) project in a business combination. The reporting entity does not intend to complete the IPR&D project. If completed, the IPR&D project would compete with one of its own IPR&D projects (to provide the next generation of the reporting entity's commercialized technology). Instead, the reporting entity intends to hold (lock up) the IPR&D project to prevent its competitors from obtaining access to the technology. The IPR&D project is expected to provide defensive value, principally by improving the prospects for the reporting entity's own competing technology. For purposes of measuring the fair value of the IPR&D project at initial recognition, the highest and best use of the IPR&D project would

¹⁴ In situations involving real estate appraisal, the determination of highest and best use in the manner described above also might consider other factors relating to the manufacturing operation, including its assets and liabilities.

be determined based on its use by market participants. For example:

- (a) The highest and best use of the IPR&D project would be in-use if market participants would continue to develop the IPR&D project and that use would maximize the value of the group of assets in which the IPR&D project would be used. That might be the case if market participants do not have similar technology (in development or commercialized). The fair value of the IPR&D project, measured using an in-use valuation premise, would be determined based on the price that would be received in a current transaction to sell the IPR&D project, assuming that the IPR&D would be used with its complementary assets as a group and that those complementary assets would be available to market participants.
- (b) The highest and best use of the IPR&D project also would be in-use if, for competitive reasons, market participants would lock up the IPR&D project and that use would maximize the value of the group of assets in which the IPR&D project would be used (as a locked-up project). That might be the case if market participants have technology in a more advanced stage of development that would compete with the IPR&D project (if completed) and the IPR&D project would be expected to provide defensive value (if locked up). The fair value of the IPR&D project, measured using an in-use valuation premise, would be determined based on the price that would be received in a current transaction to sell the IPR&D project, assuming that the IPR&D would be used (locked up) with its complementary assets as a group and that those complementary assets would be available to market participants.
- (c) The highest and best use of the IPR&D project would be in-exchange if market participants would discontinue the development of the IPR&D project. That might be the case if the IPR&D project is not expected to provide a market rate of return (if completed) and would not otherwise provide defensive value (if locked up). The fair value of the IPR&D project, measured using an in-exchange valuation premise, would be determined based on the price that would be received in a current transaction to sell the IPR&D project standalone (which might be zero).

Valuation Techniques

- A13. This Statement emphasizes that valuation techniques consistent with the market approach, income approach, and/or cost approach should be used to measure fair value. In some cases, a single valuation technique will be appropriate. In other cases, multiple valuation techniques will be appropriate. If multiple valuation techniques are used, the reporting entity should evaluate the results (respective indications of fair value), considering the reasonableness of the range indicated by those results. The fair value measurement is the point within that range that is most representative of fair value in the circumstances. Examples 4 and 5 illustrate the use of multiple valuation techniques.

Example 4—Machine Held and Used

- A14. The reporting entity tests for impairment an asset group that is held and used in operations. The asset group is impaired. The reporting entity measures the fair value of a machine that is used in the asset group as a basis for allocating the impairment loss to the assets of the group in accordance with FASB Statement No. 144, *Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets*. The machine, initially purchased from an outside vendor, was subsequently customized by the reporting entity for use in its operations. However, the customization of the machine was not extensive. The reporting entity determines that the asset would provide maximum value to market participants through its use in combination with other assets as a group (as installed or otherwise configured for use). Therefore, the highest and best use of the machine is in-use.
- A15. The reporting entity determines that sufficient data are available to apply the cost approach and, because the customization of the machine was not extensive, the market approach. The income approach is not used because the machine does not have a separately identifiable income stream from which to develop reliable estimates of future cash flows. Further, information about short-term and intermediate-term lease rates for similar used machinery that otherwise could be used to project an income stream (lease payments over remaining service lives) is not available. The market and cost approaches are applied as follows:
- (a) *Market approach.* The market approach is applied using quoted prices for similar machines adjusted for differences between the machine (as customized) and the similar machines. The measurement reflects the price that would be received for the machine in its current condition (used) and location (installed and configured for use), thereby including installation and

transportation costs. The fair value indicated by that approach ranges from \$40,000 to \$48,000.

- (b) *Cost approach.* The cost approach is applied by estimating the amount that currently would be required to construct a substitute (customized) machine of comparable utility. The estimate considers the condition of the machine (for example, physical deterioration, functional obsolescence, and economic obsolescence) and includes installation costs. The fair value indicated by that approach ranges from \$40,000 to \$52,000.

A16. The reporting entity determines that the fair value indicated by the market approach is more representative of fair value than the fair value indicated by the cost approach and, therefore, ascribes more weight to the results of the market approach. That determination is based on the relative reliability of the inputs, considering the degree of comparability between the machine and the similar machines. In particular:

- (a) The inputs used in the market approach (quoted prices for similar machines) require relatively fewer and less subjective adjustments than the inputs used in the cost approach.
- (b) The range indicated by the market approach overlaps with, but is narrower than, the range indicated by the cost approach.
- (c) There are no known unexplained differences (between the machine and the similar machines) within that range.

The reporting entity further determines that the higher end of the range indicated by the market approach is most representative of fair value, largely because the majority of relevant data points in the market approach fall at or near the higher end of the range. Accordingly, the reporting entity determines that the fair value of the machine is \$48,000.

Example 5—Software Asset

A17. The reporting entity acquires a group of assets. The asset group includes an income-producing software asset internally developed for license to customers and its complementary assets (including a related database with which the software asset is used). For purposes of allocating the cost of the group to the individual assets acquired, the reporting entity measures the fair value of the software asset. The reporting entity determines that the software asset would provide maximum value to market participants through its use in combination with other assets (its

complementary assets) as a group. Therefore, the highest and best use of the software asset is in-use. (In this instance, the licensing of the software asset, in and of itself, does not render the highest and best use of the software asset in-exchange.)

- A18. The reporting entity determines that in addition to the income approach, sufficient data might be available to apply the cost approach but not the market approach. Information about market transactions for comparable software assets is not available. The income and cost approaches are applied as follows:
- (a) *Income approach.* The income approach is applied using a present value technique. The cash flows used in that technique reflect the income stream expected to result from the software asset (license fees from customers) over its economic life. The fair value indicated by that approach is \$15 million.
 - (b) *Cost approach.* The cost approach is applied by estimating the amount that currently would be required to construct a substitute software asset of comparable utility (considering functional, technological, and economic obsolescence). The fair value indicated by that approach is \$10 million.
- A19. Through its application of the cost approach, the reporting entity determines that market participants would not be able to replicate a substitute software asset of comparable utility. Certain attributes of the software asset are unique, having been developed using proprietary information, and cannot be readily replicated. The reporting entity determines that the fair value of the software asset is \$15 million, as indicated by the income approach.

Inputs to Valuation Techniques

- A20. This Statement emphasizes that valuation techniques used to measure the fair value of an asset or liability should maximize the use of observable inputs, that is, inputs that reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity. Examples of markets in which inputs might be observable for some assets and liabilities (for example, financial instruments) include the following:
- (a) *Exchange market.* In an active exchange market, closing prices are both readily available and generally representative of fair value. An example of such a market is the New York Stock Exchange.

- (b) *Dealer market.* In a dealer market, dealers stand ready to trade (either buy or sell for their own account), thereby providing liquidity by using their capital to hold an inventory of the items for which they make a market. Typically, bid and ask prices (representing the price the dealer is willing to pay and the price at which the dealer is willing to sell, respectively) are more readily available than closing prices. Over-the-counter markets (where prices are publicly reported by the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations systems or by Pink Sheets LLC) are dealer markets. For example, the market for U.S. Treasury securities is a dealer market. Dealer markets also exist for some other assets and liabilities, including other financial instruments, commodities, and physical assets (for example, certain used equipment).
- (c) *Brokered market.* In a brokered market, brokers attempt to match buyers with sellers but do not stand ready to trade for their own account. In other words, brokers do not use their own capital to hold an inventory of the items for which they make a market. The broker knows the prices bid and asked by the respective parties, but each party is typically unaware of another party's price requirements. Prices of completed transactions are sometimes available. Brokered markets include electronic communication networks, in which buy and sell orders are matched, and commercial and residential real estate markets.
- (d) *Principal-to-principal market.* Principal-to-principal transactions, both originations and resales, are negotiated independently with no intermediary. Little information about those transactions may be released publicly.

Fair Value Hierarchy

- A21. To increase consistency and comparability in fair value measurements and related disclosures, this Statement establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value into three broad levels. The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement in its entirety falls is determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the measurement in its entirety.

Level 1 Inputs

A22. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the reporting entity has the ability to access at the measurement date. A Level 1 input will be available for many financial assets and liabilities, some of which might be exchanged in multiple active markets (for example, on different exchanges). Therefore, the emphasis within Level 1 is on determining both of the following:

- (a) The principal market for the asset or liability or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market for the asset or liability, considered from the perspective of the reporting entity; and
- (b) Whether the reporting entity has the ability to access the price in that market for the asset or liability at the measurement date.

Example 6 illustrates the use of Level 1 inputs to measure the fair value of a financial asset that trades in multiple active markets with different prices.

Example 6—Level 1 principal (or most advantageous) market

A23. A financial asset is traded on two different exchanges with different prices. The reporting entity transacts in both markets and has the ability to access the price in those markets for the asset at the measurement date. In Market A, the price that would be received is \$26, and transaction costs in that market are \$3 (the net amount that would be received is \$23). In Market B, the price that would be received is \$25, and transaction costs in that market are \$1 (the net amount that would be received in Market B is \$24).

- (a) If Market A is the principal market for the asset (the market in which the reporting entity would sell the asset with the greatest volume and level of activity for the asset), the fair value of the asset would be measured using the price that would be received in that market (\$26).
- (b) If neither market is the principal market for the asset, the fair value of the asset would be measured using the price in the most advantageous market. The most advantageous market is the market in which the reporting entity would sell the asset with the price that maximizes the amount that would be received for the asset, considering transaction costs in the respective markets (that is, the net amount that would be received in the respective

markets). Because the price in Market B adjusted for transaction costs would maximize the net amount that would be received for the asset (\$24), the fair value of the asset would be measured using the price in that market (\$25). Although transaction costs are considered in determining the most advantageous market, the price in that market used to measure the fair value of the asset is not adjusted for those costs.

Level 2 Inputs

- A24. Level 2 inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly through corroboration with observable market data (market-corroborated inputs). If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, a Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability. An adjustment to a Level 2 input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety might render the measurement a Level 3 measurement, depending on the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the inputs used to determine the adjustment fall. Examples of Level 2 inputs for particular assets and liabilities follow.
- (a) *Receive-fixed, pay-variable interest rate swap based on the LIBOR swap rate.* A Level 2 input would include the LIBOR swap rate if that rate is observable at commonly quoted intervals for the full term of the swap.
 - (b) *Receive-fixed, pay-variable interest rate swap based on a foreign-denominated yield curve.* A Level 2 input would include the swap rate based on a foreign-denominated yield curve that is observable at commonly quoted intervals for substantially the full term of the swap. That would be the case if the term of the swap is 10 years and that rate is observable at commonly quoted intervals for 9 years, provided that any reasonable extrapolation of the yield curve for year 10 would not be significant to the fair value measurement of the swap in its entirety.
 - (c) *Receive-fixed, pay-variable interest rate swap based on a specific bank's prime rate.* A Level 2 input would include the bank's prime rate derived through extrapolation if the extrapolated values are corroborated by observable market data, for example, by correlation with an interest rate that is observable over substantially the full term of the swap.

SFAS 157 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

- (d) *Three-year option on exchange-traded shares.* A Level 2 input would include the implied volatility for the shares derived through extrapolation to year 3 if (1) prices for one- and two-year options on the shares are observable and (2) the extrapolated implied volatility of a three-year option is corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the option. In that case, the implied volatility could be derived by extrapolating from the implied volatility of the one- and two-year options on the shares and corroborated by the implied volatility for three-year options on comparable entities' shares, provided that correlation with the one- and two-year implied volatilities is established.
- (e) *Licensing arrangement.* For a licensing arrangement that is acquired in a business combination and that was recently negotiated with an unrelated party by the acquired entity (the party to the licensing arrangement), a Level 2 input would include the royalty rate at inception of the arrangement.
- (f) *Finished goods inventory at retail outlet.* For finished goods inventory that is acquired in a business combination, a Level 2 input would include either a price to customers in a retail market or a wholesale price to retailers in a wholesale market, adjusted for differences between the condition and location of the inventory item and the comparable (similar) inventory items so that the fair value measurement reflects the price that would be received in a transaction to sell the inventory to another retailer that would complete the requisite selling efforts. Conceptually, the fair value measurement should be the same, whether adjustments are made to a retail price (downward) or to a wholesale price (upward). Generally, the price that requires the least amount of subjective adjustments should be used for the fair value measurement.
- (g) *Building held and used.* A Level 2 input would include the price per square foot for the building (a valuation multiple) derived from observable market data, for example, multiples derived from prices in observed transactions involving comparable (similar) buildings in similar locations.
- (h) *Reporting unit.* A Level 2 input would include a valuation multiple (for example, a multiple of earnings or revenue or a similar performance measure) derived from observable market data, for example, multiples derived from prices in observed transactions involving comparable (similar) businesses, considering operational, market, financial, and nonfinancial factors.

Level 3 Inputs

- A25. Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability, that is, inputs that reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability (including assumptions about risk) developed based on the best information available in the circumstances. Assumptions about risk include the risk inherent in a particular valuation technique used to measure fair value (such as a pricing model) and/or the risk inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique.¹⁵ Examples of Level 3 inputs for particular assets and liabilities follow.
- (a) *Long-dated currency swap.* A Level 3 input would include interest rates in a specified currency that are not observable and cannot be corroborated by observable market data at commonly quoted intervals or otherwise for substantially the full term of the currency swap. The interest rates in a currency swap are the swap rates calculated from the respective countries' yield curves.
 - (b) *Three-year option on exchange-traded shares.* A Level 3 input would include historical volatility, that is, the volatility for the shares derived from the shares' historical prices. Historical volatility typically does not represent current market participant expectations about future volatility, even if it is the only information available to price an option.
 - (c) *Interest rate swap.* A Level 3 input would include an adjustment to a mid-market consensus (nonbinding) price for the swap developed using data that are not directly observable and that cannot otherwise be corroborated by observable market data.
 - (d) *Asset retirement obligation at initial recognition.* A Level 3 input would include expected cash flows (adjusted for risk) developed using the reporting entity's own data if there is no information reasonably available without undue cost and effort that indicates that market participants would use different assumptions. That Level 3 input would be used in a present value technique together with other inputs, for example (1) a risk-free interest rate or (2) a credit-adjusted risk-free rate if the effect of the reporting entity's

¹⁵ A measurement (for example, a "mark-to-model" measurement) that does not include an adjustment for risk would not represent a fair value measurement if market participants would include one in pricing the related asset or liability.

credit standing on the fair value of the liability is reflected in the discount rate rather than in the expected cash flows.¹⁶

- (e) *Reporting unit.* A Level 3 input would include a financial forecast (for example, of cash flows or earnings) developed using the reporting entity's own data if there is no information reasonably available without undue cost and effort that indicates that market participants would use different assumptions.

Transaction Prices and Initial Fair Value Measurements

- A26. This Statement clarifies that in many cases the transaction price, that is, the price paid (received) for a particular asset (liability), will represent the fair value of that asset (liability) at initial recognition, but not presumptively.¹⁷ Example 7 illustrates situations in which the price in a transaction involving a derivative instrument might (and might not) represent the fair value of the instrument.

Example 7—Interest Rate Swap at Initial Recognition

- A27. Entity A (a retail counterparty) enters into an interest rate swap in a retail market with Entity B (a securities dealer) for no initial consideration (transaction price is zero). Entity A transacts only in the retail market. Entity B transacts in the retail market (with retail counterparties) and in the inter-dealer market (with securities dealer counterparties).
 - (a) *Entity A (retail counterparty).* From the perspective of Entity A, the retail market in which it initially transacted is the principal market for the swap; if Entity A were to transfer its rights and obligations under the swap, it would do so with a securities dealer counterparty in that market. In that case, the transaction price (zero) would represent the fair value of the swap to Entity A at initial recognition, that is, the price that Entity A would receive

16 FASB Statement No. 143, *Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations*, illustrates the application of the expected present value technique to an asset retirement obligation measured at fair value at initial recognition under that Statement. (See Appendix C of Statement 143.)

17 The guidance in this Statement applies for derivatives and other financial instruments that are measured at fair value under FASB Statement No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, including hybrid financial instruments. Therefore, this Statement nullifies the guidance in footnote 3 of EITF Issue No. 02-3, "Issues Involved in Accounting for Derivative Contracts Held for Trading Purposes and Contracts Involved in Energy Trading and Risk Management Activities."

(or pay) to sell (or transfer) the swap in a transaction with a securities dealer counterparty in the retail market (an exit price).¹⁸ That price would not be adjusted for any incremental (transaction) costs that would be charged by that securities dealer counterparty.

- (b) *Entity B (securities dealer)*. From the perspective of Entity B, the inter-dealer market (not the retail market in which it initially transacted) is the principal market for the swap; if Entity B were to transfer its rights and obligations under the swap, it would do so with a securities dealer in that market. Because the market in which Entity B initially transacted is different from the principal market for the swap, the transaction price (zero) would not necessarily represent the fair value of the swap to Entity B at initial recognition.

Restricted Assets

- A28. The effect on a fair value measurement of a restriction on the sale or use of an asset by a reporting entity will differ depending on whether the restriction would be considered by market participants in pricing the asset. Examples 8 and 9 illustrate the effect of restrictions in determining the fair value of an asset.

Example 8—Restriction on Sale of Security

- A29. The reporting entity holds a security of an issuer for which sale is legally restricted for a specified period. (For example, such a restriction could limit sale to qualifying investors, as may be the case under Rule 144 or similar rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.) The restriction is specific to (an attribute of) the security and, therefore, would transfer to market participants. In that case, the fair value of the security would be based on the quoted price for an otherwise identical unrestricted security of the same issuer that trades in a public market, adjusted to reflect the effect of the restriction. The adjustment would reflect the amount market participants would demand because of the risk relating to the inability to access a public market for the security for the specified period.¹⁹ The adjustment will vary depending on the nature and duration

18 If the transaction price represents fair value at initial recognition and a pricing model will be used to measure fair value in subsequent periods, the model should be calibrated so that the model value at initial recognition equals the transaction price.

19 The guidance in this Statement applies for equity securities with restrictions that terminate within one year that are measured at fair value under FASB Statements No. 115, *Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities*, and No. 124, *Accounting for Certain Investments Held by Not-for-Profit Organizations*.

of the restriction, the extent to which buyers are limited by the restriction (for example, there might be a large number of qualifying investors), and factors specific to both the security and the issuer (qualitative and quantitative).²⁰

Example 9—Restrictions on Use of Asset

- A30. A donor contributes land in an otherwise developed residential area to a not-for-profit neighborhood association (Association). The land is currently used as a playground. The donor specifies that the land must continue to be used by the Association as a playground in perpetuity. Upon review of relevant documentation (legal and other), the Association determines that the fiduciary responsibility to meet the donor's restriction would not otherwise transfer to market participants if the asset was to be sold by the Association, that is, the donor restriction on the use of the land is specific to the Association. Absent the restriction on the use of the land by the Association, the land could be used as a site for residential development. In addition, the land has an easement for utility lines on a portion of the property.
- (a) *Donor restriction on use of land.* Because in this instance the donor restriction on the use of the land is specific to the Association, the restriction would not transfer to market participants. Therefore, the fair value of the land would be based on the higher of its fair value in-use as a playground or fair value in-exchange as a site for residential development, regardless of the restriction on the use of the land by the Association.²¹
 - (b) *Easement for utility lines.* Because the easement for utility lines is specific to (an attribute of) the land, it would transfer to market participants. Therefore, the fair value measurement of the land would consider the effect of the easement, regardless of whether highest and best use is in-use as a playground or in-exchange as a site for residential development.

²⁰ ASR No. 113, *Statement Regarding "Restricted Securities,"* provides related guidance.

²¹ The donor restriction, which is legally binding on the Association, would be indicated through classification of the associated net assets (permanently restricted) and disclosure of the nature of the restriction in accordance with paragraphs 12 and 14 of FASB Statement No. 117, *Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations*.

Liabilities and Credit Risk

- A31. Nonperformance risk relating to a liability includes the reporting entity's credit risk. The reporting entity should consider the effect of its credit risk (credit standing) on the fair value of the liability in all periods in which the liability is measured at fair value because those who might hold the entity's obligations as assets would consider the effect of the entity's credit standing in determining the prices they would be willing to pay. For example, assume that Entity X and Entity Y each enter into a contractual obligation to pay cash (\$500) to Entity Z in 5 years. Entity X has a AA credit rating and can borrow at 6 percent, while Entity Y has a BBB credit rating and can borrow at 12 percent. Entity X will receive about \$374 in exchange for its promise (the present value of \$500 in 5 years at 6 percent). Entity Y will receive about \$284 in exchange for its promise (the present value of \$500 in 5 years at 12 percent). The fair value of the liability to each entity (the proceeds) incorporates that entity's credit standing. Example 10 illustrates the effect of credit standing on the fair value of a financial liability at initial recognition and in subsequent periods.

Example 10—Structured Note

- A32. On January 1, 2007, Entity A, an investment bank with a AA credit rating, issues a five-year fixed rate note to Entity B. The contractual principal amount to be paid by Entity A at maturity is linked to the S&P 500 index. No credit enhancements are issued in conjunction with or otherwise related to the contract (that is, no collateral is posted and there is no third-party guarantee). Entity A elects to account for the entire note at fair value in accordance with FASB Statement No. 155, *Accounting for Certain Hybrid Financial Instruments*. The fair value of the note (the obligation of Entity A) during 2007 is measured using an expected present value technique. Changes in fair value are discussed below.
- (a) *Fair value at January 1, 2007.* The expected cash flows used in the expected present value technique are discounted at the risk-free rate (using the treasury yield curve at January 1, 2007), plus the current market observable AA corporate bond spread to treasuries adjusted (up or down) for Entity A's specific credit risk (credit-adjusted risk-free rate). Therefore, the fair value of the obligation of Entity A at initial recognition considers nonperformance risk, including that entity's credit risk (presumably, reflected in the proceeds).

SFAS 157 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

- (b) *Fair value at March 31, 2007.* During March 2007, the credit spread for AA corporate bonds widens, with no changes to the specific credit risk of Entity A. The expected cash flows used in the expected present value technique are discounted at the risk-free rate (using the treasury yield curve at March 31, 2007), plus the current market observable AA corporate bond spread to treasuries, adjusted for Entity A's specific credit risk (credit-adjusted risk-free rate). Entity A's specific credit risk is unchanged from initial recognition. Therefore, the fair value of the obligation of Entity A changes due to changes in credit spreads generally. Changes in credit spreads reflect current market participant assumptions about changes in nonperformance risk generally.
- (c) *Fair value at June 30, 2007.* As of June 30, 2007, there have been no changes to the AA corporate bond spreads. However, based on structured note issuances corroborated with other qualitative information, Entity A determines that its own specific credit worthiness has strengthened within the AA credit spread. The expected cash flows used in the expected present value technique are discounted at the risk-free rate (using the treasury yield curve at June 30, 2007), plus the current market observable AA corporate bond spread to treasuries (unchanged from March 31, 2007), adjusted for Entity A's specific credit risk (credit-adjusted risk-free rate). Therefore, the fair value of the obligation of Entity A changes due to the change in its own specific credit risk within the AA corporate bond spread.

Fair Value Disclosures

- A33. This Statement requires disclosures about the fair value of assets and liabilities recognized in the statement of financial position in periods subsequent to initial recognition, whether the measurements are made on a recurring basis (for example, trading securities) or on a nonrecurring basis (for example, impaired assets). Quantitative disclosures using a tabular format are required in all periods (interim and annual). Qualitative (narrative) disclosures about the valuation techniques used to measure fair value are required in all annual periods. The disclosures required by paragraph 32(a)–(d) and paragraph 33(a) and (b) are illustrated below.

Assets Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

A34. For assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis during the period, this Statement requires quantitative disclosures about the fair value measurements separately for each major category of assets and liabilities (paragraph 32(a) and (b)). For assets, that information might be presented as follows:

(\\$ in 000s)	Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using			
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
Description	12/31/XX			
Trading securities	\$115	\$105	\$10	
Available-for-sale securities	75	75		
Derivatives	60	25	15	\$20
Venture capital investments	10			10
Total	\$260	\$205	\$25	\$30

(Note: For liabilities, a similar table should be presented.)

Assets Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)

- A35. For assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) during the period, this Statement requires a reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances, separately for each major category of assets and liabilities, except for derivative assets and liabilities, which may be presented net (paragraph 32(c) and (d)). For assets, the reconciliation might be presented as follows:

(\$ in 000s)	Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)		
	Derivatives	Venture Capital Investments	Total
Beginning balance	\$14	\$11	\$25
Total gains or losses (realized/unrealized)			
Included in earnings (or changes in net assets)	11	(3)	8
Included in other comprehensive income	4		4
Purchases, issuances, and settlements	(7)	2	(5)
Transfers in and/or out of Level 3	(2)	0	(2)
Ending balance	<u>\$20</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$30</u>
The amount of total gains or losses for the period included in earnings (or changes in net assets) attributable to the change in unrealized gains or losses relating to assets still held at the reporting date	<u>\$7</u>	<u>\$2</u>	<u>\$9</u>

(Note: For liabilities, a similar table should be presented.)

Gains and losses (realized and unrealized) included in earnings (or changes in net assets) for the period (above) are reported in trading revenues and in other revenues as follows:

	<u>Trading Revenues</u>	<u>Other Revenues</u>
Total gains or losses included in earnings (or changes in net assets) for the period (above)	<u>\$11</u>	<u>\$(3)</u>
Change in unrealized gains or losses relating to assets still held at reporting date	<u>\$7</u>	<u>\$2</u>

Assets Measured at Fair Value on a Nonrecurring Basis

- A36. For each major category of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis during the period, this Statement requires disclosures about the fair value measurements (paragraph 33(a) and (b)). That information might be presented as follows:

(\$ in millions)	<u>Fair Value Measurements Using</u>				
	Year Ended 12/31/XX	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Gains (Losses)
Long-lived assets held and used	\$75		\$75		\$(25)
Goodwill	30			\$30	(35)
Long-lived assets held for sale	26		26		<u>(15)</u>
					<u><u>\$(75)</u></u>

SFAS 157 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

In accordance with the provisions of Statement 144, long-lived assets held and used with a carrying amount of \$100 million were written down to their fair value of \$75 million, resulting in an impairment charge of \$25 million, which was included in earnings for the period.

In accordance with the provisions of Statement 142, goodwill with a carrying amount of \$65 million was written down to its implied fair value of \$30 million, resulting in an impairment charge of \$35 million, which was included in earnings for the period.

In accordance with the provisions of Statement 144, long-lived assets held for sale with a carrying amount of \$35 million were written down to their fair value of \$26 million, less cost to sell of \$6 million (or \$20 million), resulting in a loss of \$15 million, which was included in earnings for the period.

Appendix B Present Value Techniques

Introduction

- B1. FASB Concepts Statement No. 7, *Using Cash Flow Information and Present Value in Accounting Measurements*, provides guidance for using present value techniques to measure fair value. That guidance focuses on a traditional or discount rate adjustment technique and an expected cash flow (expected present value) technique. This appendix clarifies that guidance.²² This appendix neither prescribes the use of one specific present value technique nor limits the use of present value techniques to measure fair value to the techniques discussed herein. The present value technique used to measure fair value will depend on facts and circumstances specific to the asset or liability being measured (for example, whether comparable assets or liabilities can be observed in the market) and the availability of sufficient data.

The Components of a Present Value Measurement

- B2. Present value is a tool used to link uncertain future amounts (cash flows or values) to a present amount using a discount rate (an application of the income approach) that is consistent with value maximizing behavior and capital market equilibrium. A fair value measurement of an asset or liability, using present value, should capture the following elements from the perspective of market participants as of the measurement date:
- (a) An estimate of future cash flows for the asset or liability being measured.
 - (b) Expectations about possible variations in the amount and/or timing of the cash flows representing the uncertainty inherent in the cash flows.
 - (c) The time value of money, represented by the rate on risk-free monetary assets that have maturity dates or durations that coincide with the period covered by the cash flows (risk-free interest rate). For present value computations denominated in nominal U.S. dollars, the yield curve for U.S. Treasury securities determines the appropriate risk-free interest rate. U.S. Treasury

²² That guidance is included or otherwise referred to principally in paragraphs 39–46, 51, 62–71, 114, and 115 of Concepts Statement 7.

securities are deemed (default) risk free because they pose neither uncertainty in timing nor risk of default to the holder.

- (d) The price for bearing the uncertainty inherent in the cash flows (risk premium).
- (e) Other case-specific factors that would be considered by market participants.
- (f) In the case of a liability, the nonperformance risk relating to that liability, including the reporting entity's (obligor's) own credit risk.

General Principles

- B3. Present value techniques differ in how they capture those elements. However, certain general principles govern the application of any present value technique:
- (a) Cash flows and discount rates should reflect assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability.
 - (b) Cash flows and discount rates should consider only factors attributed to the asset (or liability) being measured.
 - (c) To avoid double counting or omitting the effects of risk factors, discount rates should reflect assumptions that are consistent with those inherent in the cash flows.²³
 - (d) Assumptions about cash flows and discount rates should be internally consistent. For example, nominal cash flows (that include the effect of inflation) should be discounted at a rate that includes the effect of inflation. The nominal risk-free interest rate includes the effect of inflation. Real cash flows (that exclude the effect of inflation) should be discounted at a rate that excludes the effect of inflation. Similarly, after-tax cash flows should be discounted using an after-tax discount rate. Pretax cash flows should be discounted at a rate consistent with those cash flows (for example, a U.S. Treasury rate is quoted on a pretax basis, as is a LIBOR rate or a prevailing term loan rate).

²³ For example, a discount rate that reflects expectations about future defaults is appropriate if using contractual cash flows of a loan (discount rate adjustment technique). That same rate would not be used if using expected (probability-weighted) cash flows (expected present value technique) because the expected cash flows already reflect assumptions about future defaults; instead, a discount rate that is commensurate with the risk inherent in the expected cash flows should be used.

- (e) Discount rates should be consistent with the underlying economic factors of the currency in which the cash flows are denominated.

Risk and Uncertainty

- B4. A fair value measurement, using present value, is made under conditions of uncertainty because the cash flows used are estimates rather than known amounts. In many cases, both the amount and timing of the cash flows will be uncertain. Even contractually fixed amounts, like the payments on a loan, will be uncertain if there is risk of default.
- B5. Risk-averse market participants generally seek compensation for bearing the uncertainty inherent in the cash flows of an asset or liability (risk premium). A fair value measurement should include a risk premium reflecting the amount market participants would demand because of the risk (uncertainty) in the cash flows. Otherwise, the measurement would not faithfully represent fair value. In some cases, determining the appropriate risk premium might be difficult. However, the degree of difficulty alone is not a sufficient basis on which to exclude a risk adjustment.
- B6. Present value techniques differ in how they adjust for risk and in the type of cash flows they use. For example, the discount rate adjustment technique uses a risk-adjusted discount rate and contractual, promised, or most likely cash flows; Method 1 of the expected present value technique uses a risk-free rate and risk-adjusted expected cash flows; and Method 2 of the expected present value technique uses a risk-adjusted discount rate (which is different from the rate used in the discount rate adjustment technique) and expected cash flows. Those present value techniques are discussed below.

Discount Rate Adjustment Technique

- B7. The discount rate adjustment technique uses a single set of cash flows from the range of possible estimated amounts, whether contractual or promised (as is the case for a bond) or most likely cash flows. In all cases, those cash flows are conditional upon the occurrence of specified events (for example, contractual or promised cash flows for a bond are conditional on the event of no default by the debtor). The discount rate used in the discount rate adjustment technique is derived from observed rates of return for comparable assets or liabilities that are traded in the market. Accordingly, the contractual, promised, or most likely cash flows are discounted at a rate that corresponds to an observed market rate associated with such conditional cash flows (market rate of return).

SFAS 157 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

- B8. The application of the discount rate adjustment technique requires an analysis of market data for comparable assets or liabilities. Comparability is established by considering the nature of the cash flows (for example, whether the cash flows are contractual or noncontractual and are likely to respond similarly to changes in economic conditions), as well as other factors (for example, credit standing, collateral, duration, restrictive covenants, and liquidity). Alternatively, if a single comparable asset or liability does not fairly reflect the risk inherent in the cash flows of the asset or liability being measured, it may be possible to derive a discount rate using data for several comparable assets or liabilities in conjunction with the risk-free yield curve (a “build-up” approach).
- B9. To illustrate a build-up approach, assume that Asset A is a contractual right to receive \$800 in 1 year (no timing uncertainty). There is an established market for comparable assets, and information about those assets, including price information, is available. Of those comparable assets:
- (a) Asset B is a contractual right to receive \$1,200 in 1 year and has a market price of \$1,083. Thus, the implied annual rate of return (1-year market rate of return) is 10.8 percent $[(\$1,200/\$1,083) - 1]$.
 - (b) Asset C is a contractual right to receive \$700 in 2 years and has a market price of \$566. Thus, the implied annual rate of return (2-year market rate of return) is 11.2 percent $[(\$700/\$566)^{0.5} - 1]$.
 - (c) All three assets are comparable with respect to risk (dispersion of possible payoffs and credit).
- B10. Based on the timing of the contractual payments to be received relative to Asset A (one year for Asset B versus two years for Asset C), Asset B is deemed more comparable to Asset A. Using the contractual payment to be received for Asset A (\$800) and the 1-year market rate derived from Asset B (10.8 percent), the fair value of Asset A is \$722 $(\$800/1.108)$. Alternatively, in the absence of available market information for Asset B, the one-year market rate could be derived from Asset C using the build-up approach. In that case, the 2-year market rate indicated by Asset C (11.2 percent) would be adjusted to a 1-year market rate based on the term structure of the risk-free yield curve. Additional information and analysis also might be required to determine if the risk premium for one-year and two-year assets is the same. If it is determined that the risk premium for one-year and two-year assets is not the same, the two-year market rate of return would be further adjusted for that effect.

- B11. In applying the discount rate adjustment technique to fixed claims, the adjustment for risk inherent in the cash flows of the asset or liability being measured is included in the discount rate. In some applications of the discount rate adjustment technique to cash flows that are other than fixed claims, an adjustment to the cash flows also may be necessary to achieve comparability with the observed asset or liability from which the discount rate is derived.

Expected Present Value Technique

- B12. The expected present value technique uses as a starting point a set of cash flows that, in theory, represents the probability-weighted average of all possible cash flows (expected cash flows). The resulting estimate is identical to *expected value*, which, in statistical terms, is the weighted average of a discrete random variable's possible values where the respective probabilities are used as weights. Because all possible cash flows are probability weighted, the resulting expected cash flow is not conditional upon the occurrence of any specified event (as are the cash flows used in the discount rate adjustment technique).
- B13. In making an investment decision, risk-averse market participants would consider the risk inherent in the expected cash flows. Portfolio theory distinguishes between two types of risk. The first is risk specific to a particular asset or liability, also referred to as unsystematic (diversifiable) risk. The second is general market risk, also referred to as systematic (nondiversifiable) risk. The systematic or nondiversifiable risk of an asset (or liability) refers to the amount by which the asset (or liability) increases the variance of a diversified portfolio when it is added to that portfolio. Portfolio theory holds that in a market in equilibrium, market participants will be compensated only for bearing the systematic or nondiversifiable risk inherent in the cash flows. (In markets that are inefficient or out of equilibrium, other forms of return or compensation might be available.)
- B14. Method 1 of the expected present value technique adjusts the expected cash flows for the systematic (market) risk by subtracting a cash risk premium (risk-adjusted expected cash flows). These risk-adjusted expected cash flows represent a certainty-equivalent cash flow, which is discounted at a risk-free interest rate. A *certainty-equivalent cash flow* refers to an expected cash flow (as defined), adjusted for risk such that one is indifferent to trading a certain cash flow for an expected cash flow.

SFAS 157 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

For example, if one were willing to trade an expected cash flow of \$1,200 for a certain cash flow of \$1,000, the \$1,000 is the certainty equivalent of the \$1,200 (the \$200 would represent the cash risk premium). In that case, one would be indifferent as to the asset held.

- B15. In contrast, Method 2 of the expected present value technique adjusts for systematic (market) risk by adding a risk premium to the risk-free interest rate. Accordingly, the expected cash flows are discounted at a rate that corresponds to an expected rate associated with probability-weighted cash flows (expected rate of return). Models used for pricing risky assets, such as the Capital Asset Pricing Model, can be used to estimate the expected rate of return. Because the discount rate used in the discount rate adjustment technique is a rate of return relating to conditional cash flows, it likely will be higher than the discount rate used in Method 2 of the expected present value technique, which is an expected rate of return relating to expected or probability-weighted cash flows.
- B16. To illustrate Methods 1 and 2, assume that an asset has expected cash flows of \$780 in 1 year based on the possible cash flows and probabilities shown below. The applicable risk-free interest rate for cash flows with a 1-year horizon is 5 percent, and the systematic risk premium is 3 percent.

Possible Cash Flows	Probability	Probability-Weighted Cash Flows
\$500	15%	\$75
\$800	60%	\$480
\$900	25%	\$225
		<u>\$780</u>
Expected cash flows		<u><u>\$780</u></u>

- B17. In this simple illustration, the expected cash flows (\$780) represent the probability-weighted average of the 3 possible outcomes. In more realistic situations, there could be many possible outcomes. However, it is not always necessary to consider distributions of literally all possible cash flows using complex models and techniques to apply the expected present value technique. Rather, it should be possible to develop a limited number of discrete scenarios and probabilities that capture the array of possible cash flows. For example, a reporting entity might use realized cash flows for some relevant past period, adjusted for changes in

circumstances occurring subsequently (for example, changes in external factors, including economic or market conditions, industry trends, and competition as well as changes in internal factors impacting the entity more specifically), considering the assumptions of market participants.

- B18. In theory, the present value (fair value) of the asset's cash flows is the same (\$722) whether determined under Method 1 or Method 2, as indicated below. Specifically:
- (a) Under Method 1, the expected cash flows are adjusted for systematic (market) risk. In the absence of market data directly indicating the amount of the risk adjustment, such adjustment could be derived from an asset pricing model using the concept of certainty equivalents. For example, the risk adjustment (cash risk premium of \$22) could be determined based on the systematic risk premium of 3 percent ($\$780 - [\$780 \times (1.05/1.08)]$), which results in risk-adjusted expected cash flows of \$758 ($\$780 - \22). The \$758 is the certainty equivalent of \$780 and is discounted at the risk-free interest rate (5 percent). The present value (fair value) of the asset is \$722 ($\$758/1.05$).
 - (b) Under Method 2, the expected cash flows are not adjusted for systematic (market) risk. Rather, the adjustment for that risk is included in the discount rate. Thus, the expected cash flows are discounted at an expected rate of return of 8 percent (the 5 percent risk-free interest rate plus the 3 percent systematic risk premium). The present value (fair value) of the asset is \$722 ($\$780/1.08$).
- B19. When using an expected present value technique to measure fair value, either Method 1 or Method 2 could be used. The selection of Method 1 or Method 2 will depend on facts and circumstances specific to the asset or liability being measured, the extent to which sufficient data are available, and the judgments applied.

Appendix C

Background Information and Basis for Conclusions

CONTENTS	<i>paragraphs</i>
Introduction	C1
Background Information	C2–C7
Scope	C8–C24
Share-Based Payment Transactions	C8
Leasing Transactions	C9
EITF Issue 02-3	C10–C17
Statement 114	C18
Opinion 21	C19–C20
Practicability Exceptions	C21–C22
Other Similar Measurements	C23–C24
Definition of Fair Value	C25–C50
Principal (or Most Advantageous) Markets	C27–C31
Market Participants	C32–C34
Application to Assets	C35–C38
<i>Highest and Best Use</i>	C36–C38
Application to Liabilities	C39–C49
<i>The Transfer</i>	C40–C41
<i>Nonperformance Risk and Credit Standing</i>	C42–C49
Interaction between Fair Value and Fair Market Value	C50
Fair Value at Initial Recognition	C51–C52
Valuation Techniques	C53–C62
Single versus Multiple Valuation Techniques	C54–C56
Consistency Constraint	C57
Present Value Techniques	C58–C61
Multiperiod Excess Earnings Method	C62
Inputs to Valuation Techniques	C63
Fair Value Hierarchy	C64–C92
Level 1 Inputs	C66–C80
<i>Adjustments to Quoted Prices in Active Markets</i>	C68–C70
<i>Financial Instruments</i>	C71–C80
Level 2 Inputs	C81–C82
Level 3 Inputs	C83–C87
Inputs Based on Bid and Ask Prices	C88–C92
Disclosures	C93–C105

NOVEMBER 2006 DISCUSSION PAPER—FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Fair Value Measurements	C95
Level 3 Reconciliation for Recurring Fair Value Measurements	C96–C100
Other Disclosures	C101–C104
Amendment to Opinion 28	C105
Effective Date and Transition	C106–C110
Benefits and Costs	C111–C115
International Financial Reporting Standards	C116

Appendix C Background Information and Basis for Conclusions

Introduction

- C1. This appendix summarizes considerations that Board members deemed significant in reaching the conclusions in this Statement. It includes the reasons for accepting certain views and rejecting others. Individual Board members gave greater weight to some factors than to others.

Background Information

- C2. In many accounting pronouncements, the Board has concluded that fair value information is relevant, and users of financial statements generally have agreed. Paragraph 47 of FASB Concepts Statement No. 2, *Qualitative Characteristics of Accounting Information*, states, “To be relevant to investors, creditors, and others for investment, credit, and similar decisions, accounting information must be capable of making a difference in a decision by helping users to form predictions about the outcomes of past, present, and future events or to confirm or correct expectations.”
- C3. Some have expressed concerns about the ability to apply the fair value measurement objective in GAAP, including in response to the FASB Proposal, *Principles-Based Approach to U.S. Standard Setting*, issued in October 2002.²⁴ In large part, those concerns focus on the reliability of the measurements in the absence of quoted market prices, including concerns about the ability to verify the measurements. Paragraph 59 of Concepts Statement 2 states, “The reliability of a measure rests on the faithfulness with which it represents what it purports to represent, coupled with an assurance for the user, which comes through verification, that it has that representational quality.”
- C4. The Board believes that, in part, those concerns result because there is limited guidance for applying the fair value measurement objective in GAAP. The guidance that currently exists has evolved piecemeal over time and is dispersed among the accounting pronouncements that

²⁴ In July 2003, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) published, “Study Pursuant to Section 108(d) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 on the Adoption by the United States Financial Reporting System of a Principles-Based Accounting System,” which encouraged a move to more “objectives-oriented” accounting standards.

require fair value measurements. Differences in that guidance have created inconsistencies that have added to the complexity in GAAP. There also is limited conceptual guidance for addressing measurement issues in the Board’s conceptual framework.

- C5. In June 2003, the Board added the fair value measurement project to its agenda to address fair value measurement issues broadly.²⁵ At that time, the Board agreed that, conceptually, the definition of fair value and its application in GAAP should be the same for all assets and liabilities. This Statement is the result of that project. This Statement defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. This Statement also simplifies and codifies the related guidance that currently exists for developing fair value measurements, eliminating differences that have added to the complexity in GAAP. This Statement applies under other accounting pronouncements that require or permit fair value measurements, the Board having previously concluded in those pronouncements that fair value is the relevant measurement attribute. This Statement does not require any new fair value measurements.
- C6. In June 2004, the Board issued an Exposure Draft, *Fair Value Measurements*, and received comment letters from nearly 100 respondents. In September 2004, the Board held public roundtable meetings with some of those respondents to discuss significant issues raised in the comment letters. In October 2005, the Board issued a proposed FASB Staff Position (FSP) FAS 133-a, “Accounting for Unrealized Gains (Losses) Relating to Derivative Instruments Measured at Fair Value under Statement 133,” to address related practice issues under EITF Issue No. 02-3, “Issues Involved in Accounting for Derivative Contracts Held for Trading Purposes and Contracts Involved in Energy Trading and Risk Management Activities,” raised by respondents to the Exposure Draft. (See paragraphs C10–C17.) The Board received comment letters from 25 respondents (principally, financial institutions).
- C7. In developing this Statement, the Board considered comments from respondents to the Exposure Draft and to proposed FSP FAS 133-a, as well as input from the Valuation Resource Group, the Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Council, the User Advisory Council, members of the Investor Task Force, and other interested parties. In response, the Board reconsidered and/or clarified certain aspects of the proposals in the Exposure Draft.

²⁵ The Board has a separate project on its agenda to improve its conceptual framework.

Scope

Share-Based Payment Transactions

- C8. Accounting pronouncements that require fair value measurements but that are excluded from the scope of this Statement are limited to FASB Statement No. 123 (revised 2004), *Share-Based Payment*, and its related interpretive accounting pronouncements that address share-based payment transactions. The fair value measurement objective in Statement 123(R) is generally consistent with the fair value measurement objective in this Statement. However, for certain share-based payment transactions with employees, the measurements at the grant date are fair-value-based measurements, not fair value measurements. Although some measurements in Statement 123(R) are fair value measurements, the Board decided for practical reasons to exclude Statement 123(R) in its entirety from the scope of this Statement.

Leasing Transactions

- C9. In the Exposure Draft, the Board decided to exclude from the scope of this Statement FASB Statement No. 13, *Accounting for Leases*, and other accounting pronouncements that require fair value measurements for leasing transactions. At that time, the Board was concerned that applying the fair value measurement objective in this Statement to leasing transactions could have unintended consequences when considered together with longstanding valuation practices common within the leasing industry. The Board decided to defer consideration of fair value measurement issues specific to those transactions. However, respondents indicated that the fair value measurement objective for leasing transactions is generally consistent with the fair value measurement objective in this Statement and that the guidance in this Statement should apply for the fair value measurements required for those transactions. Others in the leasing industry subsequently affirmed that view. Based on that input, the Board decided to include those accounting pronouncements in the scope of this Statement.

EITF Issue 02-3

- C10. In the Exposure Draft, the Board decided to exclude from the scope of this Statement the guidance in footnote 3 of Issue 02-3, which stated:

The FASB staff believes that, in the absence of (a) quoted market prices in an active market, (b) observable prices of other current market transactions, or (c) other observable data supporting a valuation technique, the transaction price represents the best information available with which to estimate fair

value at the inception of the arrangement. Therefore, in the FASB staff's view an entity should not recognize an unrealized gain or loss at inception of a derivative instrument unless the fair value of that instrument is obtained from a quoted market price in an active market or is otherwise evidenced by comparison to other observable current market transactions or based on a valuation technique incorporating observable market data. For example, a valuation technique that includes extrapolated price curves with little or no observable market inputs for any significant duration of the instrument should not result in an initial fair value estimate that differs from the transaction price for the instrument taken as a whole, because, in this example, the transaction price is the best evidence of the instrument's fair value at that point in time.

- C11. The guidance in footnote 3 of Issue 02-3 applied for derivatives (and other) instruments measured at fair value at initial recognition under FASB Statement No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*. That guidance precluded immediate recognition in earnings of an unrealized gain or loss, measured as the difference between the transaction price and the fair value of the instrument at initial recognition, if the fair value of the instrument was determined using significant unobservable inputs. However, Issue 02-3 did not provide guidance for when to subsequently recognize that unrealized gain or loss in earnings. As a result, practice was diverse with regard to both the method and timing of revenue recognition. For example, some entities recognized the unrealized gain or loss in earnings when the fair value of the instrument was observable (generally, at or near the end of the contract). Other entities amortized the unrealized gain or loss in earnings over the term of the instrument. In the Exposure Draft, the Board acknowledged that issue but decided not to address that issue in this Statement because it raised recognition issues similar to those that were being addressed in its revenue recognition project.
- C12. Respondents disagreed with that scope exclusion. They said that for many entities, in particular, financial institutions, Issue 02-3 is significant and that the Board should address related issues in this Statement, focusing on potential inconsistencies between the guidance in footnote 3 of Issue 02-3 and the related guidance proposed in the Exposure Draft. In response, the Board decided to address those issues separately in proposed FSP FAS 133-a.
- C13. In proposed FSP FAS 133-a, the Board decided that an instrument should be measured at fair value under Statement 133 using the guidance in this Statement and that an unrealized gain or loss should not be recognized in earnings until a minimum reliability threshold for the measurement is met. In reaching that decision, the Board concluded that for some entities, in particular, securities dealers that transact in different

SFAS 157 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

markets with different counterparties, the transaction price (an entry price) might not represent the fair value of the instrument (an exit price) at initial recognition. The Board agreed that, conceptually, an unrealized gain or loss at initial recognition should be immediately recognized in earnings. However, the Board observed that if the fair value of the instrument is measured using significant unobservable inputs, some (or all) of the unrealized gain or loss might represent measurement error, raising concerns about the reliability of the measurement and the effect of the measurement on earnings. Therefore, the minimum reliability threshold would have precluded recognition in earnings of an unrealized gain or loss at initial recognition if the fair value of the instrument is measured using significant unobservable inputs. Instead, the unrealized gain or loss at initial recognition would have been recognized as a deferred credit or debit, separate from the instrument.

- C14. Respondents to proposed FSP FAS 133-a generally agreed that the proposed FSP would represent an improvement over the related guidance in Issue 02-3, largely because an instrument would be measured at its fair value at initial recognition and in all subsequent periods. However, many of those respondents expressed concerns that the minimum reliability threshold approach for revenue recognition would add to the complexity in GAAP. They indicated that if the measurement objective is fair value, then financial reporting should reflect that measurement and the consequences of using that measurement.
- C15. In response, the Board met with some respondents to develop an alternative approach focusing on expanded disclosures about fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs and the effect of the measurements on earnings for the period. The Board discussed that alternative disclosure approach with certain users of financial statements, including members of the Investor Task Force that concentrate on the investment banking, energy trading, and insurance industries, and members of the User Advisory Council. Those users generally supported that disclosure approach (over the minimum reliability threshold approach). In particular, they indicated that the expanded disclosures would allow users of financial statements to make more informed judgments and adjustments to their own models.
- C16. Based on the input received, the Board decided not to impose the minimum reliability threshold in proposed FSP FAS 133-a. The Board agreed that the fair value measurement objective in this Statement should apply for fair value measurements at initial recognition under Statement 133 (an exit price objective). Consistent with that objective, this Statement clarifies that the measurements should be adjusted for

risk, that is, the amount market participants would demand because of the risk (uncertainty) inherent in a particular valuation technique used to measure fair value (such as a pricing model) and/or the risk inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique (a risk premium notion). Accordingly, a measurement (for example, a “mark-to-model” measurement) that does not include an adjustment for risk would not represent a fair value measurement if market participants would include one in pricing the related asset or liability.

- C17. To improve transparency in financial reporting, the Board decided to require expanded disclosures about fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs and the effects of such measurements on earnings. This Statement includes those expanded disclosure requirements (for all assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs) and nullifies the guidance in footnote 3 of Issue 02-3.

Statement 114

- C18. In the Exposure Draft, the Board decided to exclude FASB Statement No. 114, *Accounting by Creditors for Impairment of a Loan*, from the scope of this Statement. The Board clarified that the measurement for impaired loans, determined using a present value technique, is not a fair value measurement. Respondents agreed. However, they noted that the practical expedient in Statement 114 (observable market price or the fair value of collateral if the loan is collateral-dependent) is a fair value measurement. They said that when the practical expedient is used, the guidance in this Statement should apply. The Board agreed and decided to include Statement 114 in the scope of this Statement as it relates to the practical expedient.

Opinion 21

- C19. In this Statement, the Board affirmed that the measurement for receivables and payables in APB Opinion No. 21, *Interest on Receivables and Payables*, determined using a present value technique, is a fair value measurement. The discount rate for contractual (promised) cash flows described in that Opinion (rate commensurate with the risk) embodies the same notion as the discount rate used in the traditional approach (or discount rate adjustment technique) described in FASB Concepts Statement No. 7, *Using Cash Flow Information and Present Value in Accounting Measurements*, and clarified in this Statement. Paragraph 13 of Opinion 21 explains:

SFAS 157 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The objective is to approximate the rate which would have resulted if an independent borrower and an independent lender had negotiated a similar transaction under comparable terms and conditions with the option to pay the cash price upon purchase or to give a note for the amount of the purchase which bears the prevailing rate of interest to maturity.

- C20. Accordingly, the guidance for using present value techniques to measure fair value in this Statement applies for the measurements required under Opinion 21. It also applies for the similar measurements required under other accounting pronouncements.

Practicability Exceptions

- C21. The Board observed that some of the accounting pronouncements within the scope of this Statement permit practicability exceptions to fair value measurements in specified circumstances. Those practicability exceptions include the following:
- (a) The use of a transaction price (an entry price) to measure fair value (an exit price) at initial recognition (guarantees under FASB Interpretation No. 45, *Guarantor's Accounting and Disclosure Requirements for Guarantees, Including Indirect Guarantees of Indebtedness of Others*, and financial assets and liabilities under FASB Statement No. 140, *Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities*)
 - (b) An exemption to the requirement to measure fair value if it is not practicable to do so (financial instruments under FASB Statement No. 107, *Disclosures about Fair Value of Financial Instruments*, and financial assets obtained and financial liabilities incurred in a sale under Statement 140 and EITF Issue No. 85-40, "Comprehensive Review of Sales of Marketable Securities with Put Arrangements")
 - (c) An exemption to the requirement to measure fair value if fair value is not reasonably determinable (nonmonetary assets under APB Opinion No. 29, *Accounting for Nonmonetary Transactions*, FASB Statement No. 153, *Exchanges of Nonmonetary Assets*, and EITF Issue No. 99-17, "Accounting for Advertising Barter Transactions"; asset retirement obligations under FASB Statement No. 143, *Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations*, and FASB Interpretation No. 47, *Accounting for Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations*; restructuring obligations under FASB Statement No. 146, *Accounting for Costs Associated with Exit or Disposal Activities*; and participation rights under FASB Statements No. 87, *Employers' Accounting for Pensions*, and No. 106, *Employers' Accounting for Postretirement Benefits Other Than Pensions*)

- (d) An exemption to the requirement to measure fair value if fair value cannot be measured with sufficient reliability (contributions under FASB Statement No. 116, *Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made*, and AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide, *Not-for-Profit Organizations*)
 - (e) The use of certain of the measurement methods referred to in paragraph 37 of FASB Statement No. 141, *Business Combinations*, that allow measurements other than fair value for certain assets acquired and liabilities assumed in a business combination.
- C22. The Board acknowledged the inconsistencies created by those practicability exceptions. However, the Board decided for practical reasons not to address those inconsistencies in this Statement. The Board is addressing issues relating to some practicability exceptions in other agenda projects (for example, its business combinations project). Other practicability exceptions raise issues about what to measure at fair value that are beyond the scope of this Statement.

Other Similar Measurements

- C23. This Statement does not apply under accounting pronouncements that permit measurements that are based on, or otherwise use, vendor-specific objective evidence of fair value. Those accounting pronouncements include AICPA Statement of Position 97-2, *Software Revenue Recognition*, as modified by AICPA Statement of Position 98-9, *Modification of SOP 97-2, Software Revenue Recognition, With Respect to Certain Transactions*, and EITF Issue No. 00-21, "Revenue Arrangements with Multiple Deliverables." In those accounting pronouncements, vendor-specific objective evidence of fair value refers to the price for a deliverable established by the reporting entity. Issue 00-21 further refers to the price for a deliverable established by a third-party vendor as a practical expedient to vendor-specific objective evidence of fair value. Conceptually, vendor-specific objective evidence of fair value is a measurement determined based on a transaction price (an entry price) that is different from a fair value measurement (an exit price), whether considered from the perspective of the reporting entity or a third-party vendor (as a practical expedient).
- C24. This Statement also does not apply for the market value measurement that results when measuring inventories at the lower of cost or market under ARB No. 43, Chapter 4, "Inventory Pricing." ARB 43, Chapter 4, places upper and lower limits on the measurement that may not result in a fair value measurement.

Definition of Fair Value

- C25. The definition of fair value in this Statement retains the exchange price notion contained, either explicitly or implicitly, in earlier definitions of fair value. However, this Statement clarifies that the exchange price is the price in an orderly transaction between market participants to sell the asset or transfer the liability in the principal (or most advantageous) market for the asset or liability. The Board affirmed that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability is an orderly transaction, not a forced transaction (for example, if the seller is experiencing financial difficulty), that assumes exposure to the market for a period prior to the measurement date to allow for information dissemination and marketing in order to transact at the most advantageous price for the asset or liability at the measurement date. To convey that notion more clearly, the Board revised the definition of fair value in this Statement to refer to an orderly transaction, as do other definitions used in valuations for purposes other than financial reporting that are similar to fair value (for example, fair market value).
- C26. The transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability is a hypothetical transaction at the measurement date, considered from the perspective of a market participant that holds the asset or owes the liability. Therefore, the objective of a fair value measurement is to determine the price that would be received for the asset or paid to transfer the liability at the measurement date, that is, an exit price. The Board concluded that an exit price objective is appropriate because it embodies current expectations about the future inflows associated with the asset and the future outflows associated with the liability from the perspective of market participants. The emphasis on inflows and outflows is consistent with the definitions of assets and liabilities in FASB Concepts Statement No. 6, *Elements of Financial Statements*. Paragraph 25 of Concepts Statement 6 defines *assets* in terms of future economic benefits (future inflows). Paragraph 35 of Concepts Statement 6 defines *liabilities* in terms of future sacrifices of economic benefits (future outflows).

Principal (or Most Advantageous) Markets

- C27. The Exposure Draft emphasized within Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy that the price in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability should be used to measure the fair value of the asset or liability. The most advantageous market is the market in which the reporting entity would sell the asset or transfer the liability with the price that maximizes the amount that would be received for the asset or minimizes the amount that would be paid to transfer the liability, considering transaction costs

in the respective markets. The Board concluded that a most advantageous market approach is reasonable based on the assumption that the goal of most entities is to maximize profits or net assets. The most advantageous market approach embodies both the buying side and the selling side of rational economic behavior and is consistent with normal profit motivations.

- C28. Respondents generally agreed with that most advantageous market approach. However, some respondents interpreted the related guidance within Level 1 as requiring the use of prices in most advantageous markets over prices in principal markets, referring to possible conflicts with ASR No. 118, *Accounting for Investment Securities by Registered Investment Companies*, and its principal market approach for registered funds. They noted that an approach that prioritizes prices in most advantageous markets over prices in principal markets would not be cost effective because it would require continuous evaluations of prices for multiple assets and liabilities as a basis for determining which of those prices are the most advantageous at the measurement date. The Board agreed that its intent was not to require that entities continuously search across all possible markets in which transactions for the related asset or liability can be observed for the most advantageous price for the asset or liability. To convey its intent more clearly, the Board clarified its view that generally the principal market for an asset or liability (the market in which the reporting entity would sell the asset or transfer the liability with the greatest volume and level of activity for the asset or liability) will represent the most advantageous market for the asset or liability. Accordingly, this Statement specifies that if there is a principal market for the asset or liability (determined under ASR 118 or otherwise), the fair value measurement should represent the price in that market (whether observable or otherwise determined using a valuation technique), even if the price in a different market is potentially more advantageous at the measurement date.
- C29. Some respondents further indicated that to achieve consistency in applying the fair value measurement objective in this Statement, the principal (or most advantageous) market approach should not be limited to Level 1; it is a general principle that should apply broadly. The Board agreed and decided to expand the principal (or most advantageous) market approach so that it applies broadly. The Board observed that because different entities (and operating units within those entities) with different activities transact in different markets, the principal (or most advantageous) market for the same asset or liability might be different for different entities. Because financial reporting is from the perspective of the reporting entity, the Board determined that an exit price should be

determined based on the interaction of market participants (buyers and sellers) in the principal (or most advantageous) market considered from the perspective of the reporting entity, thereby allowing for differences between and among entities.

- C30. The Board affirmed that the price in the principal (or most advantageous) market used to measure the fair value of an asset or liability should not be adjusted for transaction costs. Transaction costs refer to the incremental direct costs to transact in the principal (or most advantageous) market for the asset or liability, similar to cost to sell as defined in paragraph 35 of FASB Statement No. 144, *Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets*, and may differ, depending on how the reporting entity transacts. In other words, transaction costs are not an attribute of an asset or liability.
- C31. In response to related issues raised by some respondents, the Board clarified that transaction costs are different from transportation costs, that is, the costs that would be incurred to transport the asset or liability to (or from) its principal (or most advantageous) market. This Statement clarifies that if location is an attribute of the asset or liability (for example, a commodity), the price in the principal (or most advantageous) market used to measure the fair value of the asset or liability should be adjusted for those costs.

Market Participants

- C32. This Statement emphasizes that a fair value measurement is a market-based measurement, not an entity-specific measurement. Therefore, a fair value measurement should be determined based on the assumptions that market participants—buyers and sellers in the principal (or most advantageous) market for the asset or liability—would use in pricing the asset or liability. Paragraph 26 of Concepts Statement 7 explains:

Among their many functions, markets are systems that transmit information in the form of prices. Marketplace participants attribute prices to assets and, in doing so, distinguish the risks and rewards of one asset from those of another. Stated differently, the market's pricing mechanism ensures that unlike things do not appear alike and that like things do not appear to be different (a qualitative characteristic of accounting information). An observed market price encompasses the consensus view of all marketplace participants about an asset or liability's utility, future cash flows, the uncertainties surrounding those cash flows, and the amount that marketplace participants demand for bearing those uncertainties.

- C33. To convey more clearly the idea of a measurement that is made from the perspective of market participants, this Statement clarifies the “willing parties” referred to in earlier definitions of fair value in the context of market participants, referring to buyers and sellers in the principal (or most advantageous) market for the asset or liability that are independent of the reporting entity (unrelated), knowledgeable, and both able and willing to transact.
- C34. In that context, some respondents questioned the extent to which market participants would be expected to be knowledgeable, referring to markets that are characterized by information asymmetry, where some market participants have information about an asset or liability that is not available to other market participants. The Board agreed that it would be reasonable to presume that a market participant that is both able and willing to transact for the asset or liability would undertake efforts necessary to become sufficiently knowledgeable about the asset or liability based on available information, including information obtained through usual and customary due diligence efforts, and would factor any related risk into the fair value measurement.

Application to Assets

- C35. For an asset, a fair value measurement assumes the highest and best use of the asset by market participants.

Highest and Best Use

- C36. Highest and best use is a valuation concept used to value many assets (for example, real estate). In broad terms, the highest and best use of an asset refers to the use of an asset that would maximize the fair value of the asset or the group of assets in which the asset would be used by market participants. Highest and best use is determined based on the use of the asset by market participants, even if the intended use of the asset by the reporting entity is different. Paragraph 32(a) of Concepts Statement 7 explains:

The entity’s managers might intend a different use or settlement than that anticipated by others. For example, they might intend to operate a property as a bowling alley, even though others in the marketplace consider its highest and best use to be a parking lot.

- C37. This Statement incorporates that highest-and-best-use concept as a basis for selecting the valuation premise that should be used to measure the fair value of the asset. If the highest and best use of an asset is in-use, the fair value of the asset would be measured using an in-use valuation

premise, reflecting the price that would be received in a current transaction to sell the asset assuming that the asset would be used with other assets as a group and that those assets would be available to market participants. If the highest and best use of an asset is in-exchange, the fair value of the asset would be measured using an in-exchange valuation premise, reflecting the price that would be received in a current transaction to sell the asset standalone.

- C38. In the context of the related guidance included in the Exposure Draft, some respondents referred to possible conflicts between the in-use valuation premise and the exchange notion encompassed within the definition of fair value. In this Statement, the Board clarified that the exchange notion applies regardless of the valuation premise used to measure the fair value of an asset. Whether using an in-use or an in-exchange valuation premise, the measurement is a market-based measurement determined based on the use of an asset by market participants, not a value determined based solely on the use of an asset by the reporting entity (a value-in-use or entity-specific measurement).

Application to Liabilities

- C39. For a liability, a fair value measurement assumes that the liability is transferred to a market participant at the measurement date and that the nonperformance risk relating to that liability (that is, the risk that the obligation will not be fulfilled) is the same before and after its transfer.

The Transfer

- C40. Because the liability is transferred to a market participant, the liability continues; it is not settled with the counterparty. The Board acknowledged that in some cases, the reporting entity might not have the intent to transfer the liability to a third party. For example, the reporting entity might have advantages (or disadvantages) relative to the market that would make it more (or less) beneficial for the reporting entity to perform or otherwise settle the liability using its own internal resources. However, the Board agreed that the fair value of the liability from the perspective of a market participant is the same regardless of how the reporting entity intends to settle the liability. Conceptually, a fair value measurement provides a market benchmark to use as a basis for assessing the reporting entity's advantages (or disadvantages) in performance or settlement relative to the market. Specifically, when a liability is measured at fair value, the relative efficiency of the reporting entity in settling the liability using its own internal resources appears in earnings over the course of its settlement, not before.

- C41. In the context of both assets and liabilities, paragraph 33 of Concepts Statement 7 explains:

If the entity measures an asset or liability at fair value, its comparative advantage or disadvantage will appear in earnings as it realizes assets or settles liabilities for amounts different [from] fair value. The effect on earnings appears when the advantage is employed to achieve cost savings or the disadvantage results in excess costs. In contrast, if the entity measures an asset or liability using a measurement other than fair value, its comparative advantage or disadvantage is embedded in the measurement of the asset or liability at initial recognition. If the offsetting entry is to revenue or expense, measurements other than fair value cause the future effects of this comparative advantage or disadvantage to be recognized in earnings at initial measurement.

Nonperformance Risk and Credit Standing

- C42. Nonperformance risk includes (but may not be limited to) the reporting entity's own credit risk. In the Exposure Draft, the Board concluded, as it did in Concepts Statement 7, that a fair value measurement for a liability always considers the credit risk of the entity obligated to perform. Those who might hold the reporting entity's obligations as assets would consider the effect of the entity's credit risk in determining the prices they would be willing to pay. Therefore, this Statement clarifies that a fair value measurement for a liability should consider the effect of the reporting entity's own credit risk (credit standing) on the fair value of the liability in all periods in which the liability is measured at fair value.
- C43. Respondents agreed that, conceptually, the effect of the reporting entity's own credit standing should be considered in all liability measurements at fair value. However, they expressed concerns about requiring that the reporting entity consider the effect of changes in its credit standing in liability remeasurements at fair value, noting that related issues are not clearly and consistently addressed in GAAP (including Statements 107 and 133).
- C44. Paragraph 68 of Statement 107 states:

The Board acknowledges that, as for assets with no quoted prices, variations in the methods used to estimate the fair value of liabilities with no quoted prices might reduce the comparability of fair value information among entities. Some entities will estimate fair value by using an incremental rate of borrowing that considers changes in an entity's own credit risk, while others will use a settlement rate that ignores at least part of those credit risk changes. However, the Board concluded that it should not, at this time, prescribe a single method to be used for all unquoted liabilities.

SFAS 157 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

- C45. Similarly, paragraph 316 of Statement 133 states:

Some respondents to the Exposure Draft noted that Statement 107 permits an entity to choose whether to consider changes in its own creditworthiness in determining the fair value of its debt and asked for further guidance on that issue. The definition of fair value in Statement 125 says that in measuring liabilities at fair value by discounting estimated future cash flows, an objective is to use discount rates at which those liabilities could be settled in an arm's-length transaction. However, the FASB's pronouncements to date have not broadly addressed whether changes in a debtor's creditworthiness after incurrence of a liability should be reflected in measuring its fair value. Pending resolution of the broad issue of the effect of a debtor's creditworthiness on the fair value of its liabilities, the Board decided to use the definition in Statement 125 but not to provide additional guidance on reflecting the effects of changes in creditworthiness.

- C46. Respondents' concerns focused on the counterintuitive and potentially confusing reporting that could result from including the effect of changes in the reporting entity's credit standing in liability remeasurements at fair value ("gains" for credit deterioration and "losses" for credit improvements). Respondents acknowledged that liabilities currently remeasured at fair value on a regular basis are limited largely to derivative liabilities under Statement 133. However, they stated that issues related to credit standing and liability remeasurements will become more pervasive as more liabilities are remeasured at fair value on a regular basis (referring to other agenda projects, including the fair value option project). Respondents urged the Board to address related issues in this Statement.
- C47. In its redeliberations, the Board noted that in Concepts Statement 7, it considered issues related to credit standing and liability remeasurements similar to those referred to by respondents. Paragraphs 83–88 of Concepts Statement 7 explain:

The role of an entity's credit standing in the accounting measurement of its liabilities has been a controversial question among accountants. The entity's credit standing clearly affects the interest rate at which it borrows in the marketplace. The initial proceeds of a loan, therefore, always reflect the entity's credit standing at that time. Similarly, the price at which others buy and sell the entity's loan includes their assessment of the entity's ability to repay... However, some have questioned whether an entity's financial statements should reflect the effect of its credit standing (or changes in credit standing).

Some suggest that the measurement objective for liabilities is fundamentally different from the measurement objective for assets. In their view, financial statement users are better served by liability measurements that focus on the entity's obligation. They suggest a measurement approach in which financial statements would portray the present value of an obligation such

that two entities with the same obligation but different credit standing would report the same carrying amount. Some existing accounting pronouncements take this approach, most notably FASB Statements No. 87, *Employers' Accounting for Pensions*, and No. 106, *Employers' Accounting for Postretirement Benefits Other Than Pensions*.

However, there is no convincing rationale for why the initial measurement of some liabilities would necessarily include the effect of credit standing (as in a loan for cash) while others might not (as in a warranty liability or similar item). Similarly, there is no rationale for why, in initial or fresh-start measurement, the recorded amount of a liability should reflect something other than the price that would exist in the marketplace. Consistent with its conclusions on fair value (refer to paragraph 30), the Board found no rationale for taking a different view in subsequent fresh-start measurements of an existing asset or liability than would pertain to measurements at initial recognition.

Some argue that changes in an entity's credit standing are not relevant to users of financial statements. In their view, a fresh-start measurement that reflects changes in credit standing produces accounting results that are confusing. If the measurement includes changes in credit standing, and an entity's credit standing declines, the fresh-start measurement of its liabilities declines. That decline in liabilities is accompanied by an increase in owners' equity, a result that they find counterintuitive. How, they ask, can a bad thing (declining credit standing) produce a good thing (increased owners' equity)?

Like all measurements at fair value, fresh-start measurement of liabilities can produce unfamiliar results when compared with reporting the liabilities on an amortized basis. A change in credit standing represents a change in the relative positions of the two classes of claimants (shareholders and creditors) to an entity's assets. If the credit standing diminishes, the fair value of creditors' claims diminishes. The amount of shareholders' residual claim to the entity's assets may appear to increase, but that increase probably is offset by losses that may have occasioned the decline in credit standing. Because shareholders usually cannot be called on to pay a corporation's liabilities, the amount of their residual claims approaches, and is limited by, zero. Thus, a change in the position of borrowers necessarily alters the position of shareholders, and vice versa.

The failure to include changes in credit standing in the measurement of a liability ignores economic differences between liabilities. Consider the case of an entity that has two classes of borrowing. Class One was transacted when the entity had a strong credit standing and a correspondingly low interest rate. Class Two is new and was transacted under the entity's current lower credit standing. Both classes trade in the marketplace based on the entity's current credit standing. If the two liabilities are subject to fresh-start measurement, failing to include changes in the entity's credit standing makes the classes of borrowings seem different—even though the marketplace evaluates the quality of their respective cash flows as similar to one another.

- C48. The Board further noted that in the amendment to IAS 39, *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement—The Fair Value Option*, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) considered similar issues in the context of a financial liability. Paragraph BC89 of the IAS 39 amendment explains that in reaching its decision to include credit risk relating to a financial liability in the measurement of that liability, the IASB noted that “. . . credit risk affects the value at which liabilities could be repurchased or settled. Accordingly, the fair value of a financial liability reflects the credit risk relating to that liability.”
- C49. In its redeliberations, the Board affirmed that, conceptually, credit standing is an essential component of a fair value measurement. A measurement that does not consider the effect of the reporting entity’s credit standing is not a fair value measurement. The Board acknowledged the practical concerns about credit standing and liability remeasurements at fair value expressed by respondents. Some Board members share those concerns, especially considering situations in which the reporting entity is experiencing financial difficulty and reports gains resulting from credit deterioration that cannot be immediately realized. However, the Board agreed that those concerns derive from a threshold issue that relates principally to the selection of the appropriate measurement attribute for liability remeasurements. The Board plans to continue to address the issue of which measurement attribute should be required for liability remeasurements in individual accounting pronouncements on a project-by-project basis.

Interaction between Fair Value and Fair Market Value

- C50. The Board agreed that the measurement objective encompassed in the definition of fair value used for financial reporting purposes is generally consistent with similar definitions of fair market value used for valuation purposes. For example, the definition of fair market value in Internal Revenue Service Revenue Ruling 59-60 (the legal standard of value in many valuation situations) refers to “the price at which property would change hands between a willing buyer and a willing seller when the former is not under any compulsion to buy and the latter is not under any compulsion to sell, both parties having reasonable knowledge of relevant facts.” However, the Board observed that the definition of fair market value relates principally to assets (property). Further, the definition has a significant body of interpretive case law, developed in the context of tax

regulation. Because such interpretive case law, in the context of financial reporting, may not be relevant, the Board chose not to adopt the definition of fair market value, and its interpretive case law, for financial reporting purposes.

Fair Value at Initial Recognition

- C51. Respondents indicated that the guidance in the Exposure Draft was ambiguous about when a price in an actual transaction that involves the reporting entity should be used to measure the fair value of an asset or liability at initial recognition. Many of those respondents referred to related practice issues under Issue 02-3 (and its guidance in footnote 3 for fair value measurements at initial recognition). In its redeliberations, the Board considered that issue largely in the context of the related guidance in paragraphs 7 and 27 of Concepts Statement 7, which state:

At initial recognition, the cash or equivalent amount paid or received (historical cost or proceeds) is usually assumed to approximate fair value, absent evidence to the contrary.

A transaction in the marketplace—an exchange for cash at or near to the date of the transaction—is the most common trigger for accounting recognition, and accountants typically accept actual exchange prices as fair value in measuring those transactions, absent persuasive evidence to the contrary. Indeed, the usual condition for using a measurement other than the exchange price is a conclusion that the stated price is not representative of fair value. [Footnote reference omitted.]

- C52. In this Statement, the Board clarified that in situations in which the reporting entity acquires an asset or assumes a liability in an exchange transaction, the transaction price represents the price paid to acquire the asset or received to assume the liability (an entry price). The fair value of the asset or liability represents the price that would be received to sell the asset or paid to transfer the liability (an exit price). Conceptually, entry and exit prices are different. Entities do not necessarily sell or otherwise dispose of assets at the prices paid to acquire them. Similarly, entities do not necessarily transfer liabilities at the prices paid to assume them. The Board agreed that in many cases the transaction price will equal the exit price and, therefore, represent the fair value of the asset or liability at initial recognition, but not presumptively (a change to Concepts Statement 7). This Statement includes examples of factors the reporting entity should consider in determining whether a transaction price represents the fair value of the asset or liability at initial recognition. The Board plans to consider those factors in assessing the appropriate measurement attribute at initial recognition in individual accounting pronouncements on a project-by-project basis.

Valuation Techniques

- C53. This Statement emphasizes that valuation techniques used to measure fair value should be consistent with the market approach, income approach, and/or cost approach. The related guidance in the Exposure Draft contained references to the use of “multiple” valuation techniques consistent with all three valuation approaches whenever the information necessary to apply those techniques is available without undue “cost and effort.” In its redeliberations, the Board reconsidered and/or clarified certain aspects of that guidance.

Single versus Multiple Valuation Techniques

- C54. Several respondents interpreted the related guidance in the Exposure Draft as requiring the use of multiple valuation techniques in all cases (except as otherwise indicated, for example, when valuing an asset or liability using quoted prices in an active market for identical assets or liabilities). They emphasized that in many cases, multiple valuation techniques would not be appropriate or cost beneficial. The Board affirmed that its intent was not to require the use of multiple valuation techniques. To convey its intent more clearly, the Board clarified that, consistent with existing valuation practice, valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available should be used to measure fair value. This Statement does not specify the valuation technique that should be used in any particular circumstances. Determining the appropriateness of valuation techniques in the circumstances requires judgment.
- C55. The Exposure Draft referred to the cost and effort involved in obtaining the information used in a particular valuation technique as a basis for determining whether to use that valuation technique. Some respondents pointed out that the most appropriate valuation technique also might be the most costly valuation technique and that cost and effort should not be a basis for determining whether to use that valuation technique. Moreover, a cost-and-effort criterion likely would not be consistently applied. The Board agreed and removed that cost-and-effort criterion from this Statement.
- C56. The Board expects that in some cases, a single valuation technique will be used. In other cases, multiple valuation techniques will be used, and the results of those techniques evaluated and weighted, as appropriate, in determining fair value. The Board acknowledged that valuation

techniques will differ, depending on the asset or liability and the availability of data. However, in all cases, the objective is to use the valuation technique (or combination of valuation techniques) that is appropriate in the circumstances and for which there are sufficient data.

Consistency Constraint

- C57. This Statement emphasizes the need for consistency in the valuation technique(s) used to measure fair value. This Statement does not preclude a change in the valuation technique used to measure fair value or its application (for example, a change in its weighting when multiple valuation techniques are used), provided that the change results in a measurement that is equally or more representative of fair value in the circumstances. The Board decided that absent an error (for example, in the selection and/or application of a valuation technique), revisions resulting from a change in the valuation technique used or its application should be accounted for as a change in accounting estimate in accordance with the provisions of FASB Statement No. 154, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*. The Board concluded that in those situations, the disclosure requirements in Statement 154 for a change in accounting estimate would not be cost beneficial. Therefore, those disclosures are not required.

Present Value Techniques

- C58. Valuation techniques consistent with the income approach include the present value techniques discussed in Concepts Statement 7, specifically, the (a) traditional approach (or discount rate adjustment technique) and (b) expected cash flow approach (or expected present value technique). In this Statement, the Board clarified aspects of the guidance for applying those present value techniques in Concepts Statement 7.
- C59. Those clarifications focus principally on the adjustment for risk (systematic or nondiversifiable risk) when using an expected present value technique. The Board understands that because Concepts Statement 7 refers to the appropriate discount rate for expected cash flows as the risk-free interest rate, the related guidance could be interpreted as requiring that the adjustment for risk be reflected only in the expected cash flows. However, in many valuation situations, the adjustment for risk is reflected in the discount rate, that is, as an adjustment to the risk-free interest rate. The Board agreed that it was not

its intent to preclude that approach. To convey its intent more clearly, the Board expanded the guidance in Concepts Statement 7 to clarify that when using an expected present value technique, the adjustment for risk may be reflected in either:

- (a) The expected cash flows, in which case the risk-adjusted expected cash flows should be discounted at a risk-free interest rate (Method 1); or
 - (b) The discount rate, in which case the unadjusted expected cash flows should be discounted at a risk-adjusted discount rate, that is, the risk-free interest rate, adjusted for risk (Method 2).
- C60. In its discussions, the Board acknowledged, as it did in paragraph 68 of Concepts Statement 7, that “. . . the appropriate risk premium consistent with fair value may be difficult to determine.” However, the Board decided that the potential difficulty of determining the appropriate risk premium is not, in and of itself, a sufficient basis for excluding that adjustment (in effect, permitting the use of no risk adjustment). Risk is an essential element of any present value technique. Therefore, a fair value measurement, using present value, should include an adjustment for risk if market participants would include one in pricing the related asset or liability.
- C61. This Statement incorporates the related guidance in Concepts Statement 7, as clarified. (See Appendix B.) However, the Board decided not to revise Concepts Statement 7 in this project to reflect conforming changes to that guidance. Some respondents indicated that leaving the conceptual guidance in Concepts Statement 7 unchanged would create conflicts between the Concepts Statements and Level A GAAP that would be confusing. The Board acknowledged those concerns but concluded that it was not necessary to revise Concepts Statement 7 at this time. The Board will consider the need to revise Concepts Statement 7 in its conceptual framework project.

Multiperiod Excess Earnings Method

- C62. In response to questions raised by some respondents, the Board clarified that valuation techniques consistent with the income approach also include the multiperiod excess earnings method discussed in the AICPA Practice Aid, *Assets Acquired in a Business Combination to Be Used in Research and Development Activities: A Focus on Software, Electronic Devices, and Pharmaceutical Industries* (Practice Aid). However, for in-process research and development (IPR&D), the Board observed that the related guidance in the Practice Aid could be interpreted as permitting a fair value measurement

using an in-exchange valuation premise (to value the IPR&D standalone) in some situations in which this Statement would require a fair value measurement using an in-use valuation premise (to value the IPR&D within a group of assets). For example, that might be the case if, for competitive reasons, the reporting entity intends to hold (lock up) IPR&D acquired in a business combination that market participants would develop (and use within a group of assets). The Board agreed that the multiperiod excess earnings method should continue to be used under this Statement. However, consistent with the related guidance in this Statement, the valuation premise used for the fair value measurement should be determined based on the use of an asset by market participants, even if the intended use by the reporting entity is different.

Inputs to Valuation Techniques

- C63. In this Statement, *inputs* refer broadly to the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk. The Board decided that a necessary input to a valuation technique is an adjustment for risk. The measurement should include an adjustment for risk whenever market participants would include one in pricing the related asset or liability (consistent with the risk premium notion in Concepts Statement 7, reconsidered in this Statement) so that the measurement reflects an exit price for the related asset or liability, that is, the price the reporting entity would receive (or pay) in a transaction to sell (or transfer) the related asset (or liability). In this Statement, the Board focused on the need to adjust for the risk inherent in a particular valuation technique used to measure fair value, such as a pricing model (model risk) and/or the risk inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique (input risk).

Fair Value Hierarchy

- C64. To increase consistency and comparability in fair value measurements and related disclosures, this Statement establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs used to measure fair value into three broad levels, considering the relative reliability of the inputs. The availability of inputs might affect the valuation technique(s) used to measure fair value. However, the fair value hierarchy focuses on the inputs, not the valuation techniques, thereby requiring judgment in the selection and application of valuation techniques.

- C65. Many respondents generally agreed that prioritizing the inputs used to measure fair value is important and that the fair value hierarchy provides a useful construct for considering the relative reliability of fair value measurements. However, several respondents urged the Board to revise the fair value hierarchy initially proposed in the Exposure Draft to convey more clearly a continuum of inputs. The principal concerns focused on the use of the fair value hierarchy as a framework for disclosures about fair value measurements. In response, the Board subsequently revised the fair value hierarchy, as discussed below.

Level 1 Inputs

- C66. Like the Exposure Draft, this Statement includes within Level 1 quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. The Board affirmed its conclusion in other accounting pronouncements that quoted prices in active markets generally provide the most reliable evidence of fair value and should be used to measure fair value whenever available. For example, paragraph 57 of Statement 107 states:

The Board concluded that quoted market prices provide the most reliable measure of fair value. Quoted market prices are easy to obtain and are reliable and verifiable. They are used and relied upon regularly and are well understood by investors, creditors, and other users of financial information. In recent years, new markets have developed and some existing markets have evolved from thin to active markets, thereby increasing the ready availability of reliable fair value information.

- C67. The Board also affirmed its decision in the Exposure Draft that a fair value measurement within Level 1 should be based on a quoted price in an active market that the reporting entity has the ability to access for the asset or liability at the measurement date. Because a quoted price, alone, forms the basis for the measurement, the access requirement within Level 1 limits discretion in pricing the asset or liability, including in situations in which there are multiple markets for the asset or liability with different prices and no single market represents a principal market for the asset or liability.

Adjustments to Quoted Prices in Active Markets

- C68. The Exposure Draft emphasized that a quoted price (unadjusted) in an active market should be used to measure fair value whenever it is available. Some respondents interpreted the related guidance as requiring the use of a quoted price in an active market without regard to whether that price is readily available or representative of fair value. Those respondents referred to possible conflicts with ASR 118, which

requires adjustments to a quoted price in those situations (fair value pricing). In its redeliberations, the Board affirmed that its intent was not to preclude adjustments to a quoted price if that price is not readily available or representative of fair value, noting that in those situations, the market for the particular asset or liability might not be active. To convey its intent more clearly, the Board clarified that in those situations, the fair value of the asset or liability should be measured using the quoted price, as adjusted, but within a lower level of the fair value hierarchy.

- C69. A few respondents referred to situations in which an entity holds a large number of similar assets and liabilities (for example, debt securities) that are required to be measured at fair value and a quoted price in an active market is not readily accessible for each of those assets and liabilities. They indicated that in those situations, the fair value hierarchy should allow for practical considerations and trade-offs in selecting the valuation technique used to measure fair value within Level 1, considering the number of assets and/or liabilities required to be measured in a financial reporting period and the timing of that reporting. The Board subsequently revised the guidance within Level 1 to allow for the use of an alternative pricing method that does not rely exclusively on quoted prices (for example, matrix pricing) as a practical expedient in the limited situations referred to. However, when the practical expedient within Level 1 is used, the fair value measurement is a lower level measurement.
- C70. The Board observed that in some cases, significant events (for example, principal-to-principal transactions, brokered trades, or announcements) might occur after the close of a market but before the measurement date. In those cases, a quoted price in that market might not be representative of fair value at the measurement date. The Board affirmed its view in the Exposure Draft that the reporting entity need not undertake all possible efforts to obtain information about after-hours trading or news events. However, the reporting entity should not ignore information that is available at the reporting date (for example, a large change in the price in another market after the close of the principal market in which the asset or liability trades). The Board agreed that entities should establish and consistently apply a policy for identifying those events that might affect fair value measurements. However, if a quoted price is adjusted for new information, the fair value measurement is a lower level measurement.

Financial Instruments

- C71. Prior to this Statement, the FASB, the AICPA Accounting Standards Executive Committee (AcSEC), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and others considered issues relating to fair value measurements involving financial instruments. The threshold issue focused on whether the appropriate unit of account for a block position in an instrument that trades in an active market is (a) the individual trading unit, where the fair value measurement would be determined as the product of the quoted price for the individual instrument times the quantity held (P×Q), or (b) the block, where the fair value measurement would be determined using the quoted price, adjusted because of the size of the position relative to trading volume (blockage factor).
- C72. In other FASB Statements (including Statements 107 and 133, and FASB Statements No. 115, *Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities*, and No. 124, *Accounting for Certain Investments Held by Not-for-Profit Organizations*), the Board decided that for a block, the fair value measurement should be based on the individual trading unit, determined using P×Q. Therefore, those Statements preclude the use of a blockage factor, even if the normal trading volume for one day is not sufficient to absorb the quantity held and placing orders to sell the position in a single transaction might affect the quoted price.
- C73. Paragraph 58 of Statement 107 states:
- Although many respondents to the 1990 and 1987 Exposure Drafts agreed with the usefulness of disclosing quoted market prices derived from active markets, some argued that quoted prices from thin markets do not provide relevant measures of fair value, particularly when an entity holds a large amount of a thinly traded financial instrument that could not be absorbed by the market in a single transaction. The Board considered this issue and reiterated its belief that quoted prices, even from thin markets, provide useful information because investors and creditors regularly rely on those prices to make their decisions. The Board noted that providing the liquidation value of a block of financial instruments is not the objective of this Statement. The Board also concluded that requiring the use of available quoted market prices would increase the comparability of the disclosures among entities.
- C74. Similarly, paragraph 315 of Statement 133 states:
- The definition of fair value requires that fair value be determined as the product of the number of trading units of an asset times a quoted market price if available [as required by Statement 107]. . . . Some respondents to the Exposure Draft indicated that the guidance in Statement 107 (and implicitly the definition of *fair value* in this Statement) should be revised to require or permit consideration of a discount in valuing a large asset position.

They asserted that an entity that holds a relatively large amount (compared with average trading volume) of a traded asset and liquidates the entire amount at one time likely would receive an amount less than the quoted market price. Although respondents generally focused on a discount, holding a relatively large amount of an asset might sometimes result in a premium over the market price for a single trading unit. The Board currently believes that the use of a blockage factor would lessen the reliability and comparability of reported estimates of fair value.

- C75. For broker-dealers and certain investment companies (investment companies other than registered funds subject to SEC reporting requirements that used blockage factors in financial statements for fiscal years ending on or before May 31, 2000), the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guides for those industries allowed an exception to the requirement of other FASB pronouncements to use P×Q to measure the fair value of a block. Specifically, the Guides permitted a fair value measurement using a blockage factor, where appropriate.
- C76. In developing this Statement, the Board decided to address that inconsistency within GAAP. The Board considered the earlier work completed by AcSEC through its Blockage Factor Task Force, which was formed in 2000 to address issues specific to the use of blockage factors (discounts) by broker-dealers and investment companies. Based on its discussions with industry representatives (broker-dealers, mutual funds, and other investment companies) and a review of relevant academic research and market data, the task force affirmed that discounts involving large blocks exist, generally increasing as the size of the block to be traded (expressed as a percentage of the daily trading volume) increases but that the methods for measuring the blockage factors (discounts) vary among entities and are largely subjective.
- C77. In the Exposure Draft, the Board acknowledged the diversity in practice with respect to the methods for measuring blockage factors (discounts). However, the Board agreed that for entities that regularly buy and sell securities in blocks, the financial reporting that would result when using P×Q to measure the fair value of a block position would not be representationally faithful of the underlying business activities. In particular, if a block is purchased at a discount to the quoted price, a fair value measurement using P×Q would give the appearance of a gain upon buying the block, followed by a reported loss on subsequently selling the block (at a discount to the quoted price). At that time, the Board understood that for blocks held by broker-dealers, industry practice was to also sell the securities in blocks. In view of that selling

SFAS 157 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

practice (in blocks), the Board decided that this Statement should allow the exception to P×Q in the Guides to continue, thereby permitting the use of blockage factors by broker-dealers and certain investment companies that buy or sell securities in blocks.

- C78. Many respondents, in particular, broker-dealers, agreed with that decision. However, during its redeliberations, the Board discussed the need for expanded disclosures about blocks measured using blockage factors with representative preparers (broker-dealers) and users (analysts that follow broker-dealers). Through those discussions, the Board learned that for blocks held by broker-dealers, industry practice is often to sell the securities in multiple transactions involving quantities that might be large but that are not necessarily blocks; that is, the securities could be sold at the quoted price for an individual trading unit. Because of that selling practice, the majority of the Board decided that there was no compelling reason to allow the exception to P×Q in the Guides to continue under this Statement, noting that revised IAS 39 includes similar guidance in paragraph AG72, which states that “the fair value of a portfolio of financial instruments is the product of the number of units of the instrument and its quoted market price.”
- C79. In reaching that decision, the majority of the Board affirmed its conclusions relating to the prohibition on the use of blockage factors in other FASB Statements. In particular, the Board emphasized that when a quoted price in an active market for a security is available, that price should be used to measure fair value without regard to an entity’s intent to transact at that price. Basing the fair value on the quoted price results in comparable reporting. Adjusting the price for the size of the position introduces management intent (to trade in blocks) into the measurement, reducing comparability. Following the reasoning used in Statement 107, the quoted price provides useful information because investors regularly rely on quoted prices for decision making. Also, the decision to exchange a large position in a single transaction at a price lower than the price that would be available if the position were to be exchanged in multiple transactions (in smaller quantities) is a decision whose consequences should be reported when that decision is executed. Until that transaction occurs, the entity that holds the block has the ability to effect the transaction either in the block market or in another market (the principal or more advantageous market for the individual trading unit).

- C80. This Statement precludes the use of blockage factors and eliminates the exception to PxQ in the Guides for a financial instrument that trades in an active market (within Level 1). In other words, the unit of account for an instrument that trades in an active market is the individual trading unit. This Statement amends Statements 107, 115, 124, 133, and 140 to remove the similar unit-of-account guidance in those accounting pronouncements, which referred to a fair value measurement using PxQ for an instrument that trades in any market, including a market that is not active, for example, a thin market (within Level 2). In this Statement, the Board decided not to specify the unit of account for an instrument that trades in a market that is not active. The Board plans to address unit-of-account issues broadly in its conceptual framework project.

Level 2 Inputs

- C81. The Exposure Draft limited the inputs within Level 2 to quoted prices in active markets for similar assets or liabilities, adjusted for differences that are objectively determinable. Several respondents indicated that because all adjustments involve some degree of subjective judgment and estimation, Level 2 would be overly restrictive. The Board agreed and decided to broaden Level 2 to include all inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability.
- C82. Observable inputs within Level 2 include inputs that are directly observable for the asset or liability (including quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities) as well as inputs that are not directly observable for the asset or liability but that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data through correlation or by other means (market-corroborated inputs). The concept of market-corroborated inputs is intended to incorporate observable market data (such as interest rates and yield curves that are observable at commonly quoted intervals), based on an assessment of factors relevant to the asset or liability. The Board concluded that market-corroborated inputs are observable inputs and that fair value measurements using market-corroborated inputs (within Level 2) should be distinguished from fair value measurements using unobservable inputs (within Level 3).

Level 3 Inputs

- C83. The Exposure Draft included within a single level (Level 3) observable inputs other than quoted prices in active markets (for identical or similar assets or liabilities) together with all unobservable inputs (previously referred to as entity inputs). Several respondents observed that fair value measurements reported and disclosed within Level 3 would be overly

broad. In particular, they indicated that the measurements would range widely in reliability and that including such a wide range in a single level could be misleading to users of financial statements. Some fair value measurements would be objectively determined (using quoted inputs other than prices), while other fair value measurements would be more subjectively determined (using unobservable inputs). The Board agreed and decided to limit Level 3 inputs to unobservable inputs.

- C84. In reaching that decision, the Board affirmed its conclusion in other accounting pronouncements that unobservable inputs should be used to measure fair value to the extent that observable inputs are not available, allowing for situations in which there might be little, if any, market activity for the asset or liability at the measurement date. However, the fair value measurement objective remains the same—an exit price from the perspective of a market participant that holds the asset or owes the liability. Therefore, unobservable inputs should reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability (including assumptions about risk) developed based on the best information available in the circumstances.
- C85. The Board agreed that in many cases, the best information available with which to develop unobservable inputs might be the reporting entity's own data. The Board affirmed its view in Concepts Statement 7 (and other existing accounting pronouncements) that the reporting entity may use its own data to develop unobservable inputs, provided that there is no information reasonably available without undue cost and effort that indicates that market participants would use different assumptions in pricing the asset or liability. Paragraph 38 of Concepts Statement 7 explains:

... an entity that uses cash flows in accounting measurements often has little or no information about some or all of the assumptions that marketplace participants would use in assessing the fair value of an asset or a liability. In those situations, the entity must necessarily use the information that is available without undue cost and effort in developing cash flow estimates. The use of an entity's own assumptions about future cash flows is compatible with an estimate of fair value, as long as there are no contrary data indicating that marketplace participants would use different assumptions. If such data exist, the entity must adjust its assumptions to incorporate that market information.

- C86. In this Statement, the Board clarified that the reporting entity need not undertake all possible efforts to obtain information about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability or otherwise establish the absence of contrary data indicating that market participants would use different assumptions. However, the reporting entity must not ignore information about market participant assumptions that is available within reasonable cost-benefit constraints.
- C87. Within Level 3, unobservable inputs relevant to the asset or liability should be used as a basis for replicating the actions of market participants in a hypothetical transaction for the asset or liability at the measurement date. The Board understands that for some, a measurement using a hypothetical construct that relies on unobservable inputs raises concerns about the resulting fair value measurement. In particular, some believe that a hypothetical construct might not faithfully represent an actual economic phenomenon and, as such, would seem to be of questionable relevance to users of financial statements. Some Board members share those concerns. However, the Board agreed that concerns about fair value measurements that are predicated on hypothetical transactions in hypothetical markets derive from a threshold issue that relates principally to the selection of the appropriate measurement attribute, an area of focus in the Board's conceptual framework project. The Board plans to continue to address the issue of which measurement attribute should be required in individual accounting pronouncements on a project-by-project basis.

Inputs Based on Bid and Ask Prices

- C88. The Board observed that in some situations, inputs might be determined based on bid and ask prices, for example, in a dealer market where the bid price represents the price the dealer is willing to pay and the ask price represents the price at which the dealer is willing to sell. The related guidance in ASR 118 provides entities (investment companies and broker-dealers) with flexibility in selecting the bid-ask pricing method used to measure fair value. Accordingly, the practice that has evolved under ASR 118 is diverse.
- C89. In the Exposure Draft, the Board agreed that a single bid-ask spread pricing method would maximize the consistency and comparability of fair value measurements within Level 1. At that time, the Board decided to require the use of bid prices for long positions (assets) and ask prices for short positions (liabilities), similar to the related guidance in paragraph BC99 of revised IAS 39, which states:

SFAS 157 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The Board confirmed the proposal in the Exposure Draft that the appropriate quoted market price for an asset held or liability to be issued is usually the current bid price and, for an asset to be acquired or liability held, the asking price. It concluded that applying mid-market prices to an individual instrument is not appropriate because it would result in entities recognising up-front gains or losses for the difference between the bid-ask price and the mid-market price.

- C90. Respondents agreed that a single bid-ask spread pricing method would maximize the consistency and comparability of fair value measurements using bid and ask prices. However, many respondents stated that because different market participants transact at different prices within a bid-ask spread, the resulting measurements would not be relevant in all cases. Some of those respondents emphasized that for entities that enter into derivative instruments to manage risk, the bid-ask spread pricing method would create operational difficulties because many of those instruments are traded in active dealer markets and currently valued using other pricing methods (for example, mid-market prices or prices within a range of observable bid and ask prices). Other respondents indicated that the bid-ask spread pricing method within Level 1 would create inconsistencies between fair value measurements using bid and ask prices within Level 1 and fair value measurements using bid and ask prices within other levels of the fair value hierarchy. Respondents stated that this Statement should allow an approach consistent with the related guidance in ASR 118.
- C91. In its redeliberations, the Board reconsidered the required bid-ask spread pricing method within Level 1. The Board decided that the price within the bid-ask spread that is most representative of fair value in the circumstances should be used to measure the fair value of the related asset or liability within all levels of the fair value hierarchy, provided that the price is consistently determined. In reaching that decision, the Board observed that in many situations, bid and ask prices establish the boundaries within which market participants would negotiate the price in the exchange for the related asset or liability. The Board concluded that having clarified the fair value measurement objective in this Statement, entities should use judgment in meeting that objective. Accordingly, bid-ask spread pricing methods appropriate under ASR 118 are appropriate under this Statement. The use of bid prices for long positions (assets) and ask prices for short positions (liabilities) is permitted but not required.

- C92. Because the Exposure Draft would have required the use of bid prices for long positions (assets) and ask prices for short positions (liabilities), the Board initially decided to specify the pricing for offsetting positions to preclude recognition of up-front gains or losses. Specifically, the Board decided to require the use of mid-market prices for the matched portion and bid and ask prices for the net open position, as appropriate, similar to the related guidance in paragraph BC100 of revised IAS 39. Because this Statement does not require the use of bid prices for long positions (assets) and ask prices for short positions (liabilities), the Board decided not to include in this Statement the guidance for offsetting positions in the Exposure Draft.

Disclosures

- C93. The Board observed that few of the accounting pronouncements that require fair value measurements also require disclosures about those measurements. Further, the required disclosures vary. The Board decided that having established a framework for measuring fair value, this Statement should require expanded disclosures about fair value measurements. Because at initial recognition many assets and liabilities are measured in the statement of financial position at amounts that approximate fair value (for example, in a business combination), the Board decided to limit the disclosures to fair value measurements in periods subsequent to initial recognition, whether the measurements are made on a recurring or nonrecurring basis.
- C94. Some respondents disagreed with the Board's decision to include expanded disclosures about fair value measurements in this Statement. They indicated that, instead, the Board should develop a comprehensive disclosure framework and reconsider all related disclosures currently required under existing accounting pronouncements in the context of that framework. Some of those respondents further indicated that the Board should consider disclosures about fair value (and changes in fair value) in its project on financial statement presentation (formerly, financial performance reporting by business enterprises). In the Exposure Draft, the Board considered the interaction between that project and the fair value measurement project. Based on input initially received from members of the User Advisory Council and others, the Board decided that until such time as a final Statement in that project is issued, expanded disclosures about fair value measurements would provide information that is useful to users of financial statements. The Board agreed that the issues raised by respondents indicate the need to reconsider or otherwise clarify some of the disclosure requirements

initially proposed in the Exposure Draft, but not eliminate those requirements from this Statement altogether, noting that some entities (in particular, entities in the financial services industry) already are making similar disclosures in SEC filings.

Fair Value Measurements

- C95. The Board affirmed that the reporting entity should disclose information that enables users of its financial statements to assess the extent to which fair value is used to measure assets and liabilities in periods subsequent to initial recognition and the inputs used for fair value measurements. In the Exposure Draft, the Board concluded that information about the inputs used for fair value measurements would allow users of financial statements to assess the relative reliability of the measurements. Many respondents generally agreed with those disclosures, subject to clarifications to conform the disclosures to the levels within the fair value hierarchy, as revised. Therefore, the disclosures required by this Statement segregate fair value measurements using quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1), significant other observable inputs (Level 2), and significant unobservable inputs (Level 3), separately for each major category of assets and liabilities. To improve consistency in the fair value measurements disclosed, this Statement specifies that the level within the fair value hierarchy in which a fair value measurement in its entirety falls should be determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the measurement in its entirety.

Level 3 Reconciliation for Recurring Fair Value Measurements

- C96. The Board affirmed that the reporting entity should disclose information that enables users of its financial statements to assess the effects of recurring fair value measurements on earnings (or changes in net assets) for the period. That disclosure is limited to recurring fair value measurements because similar disclosures for nonrecurring fair value measurements (for example, impaired assets) are currently required under other accounting pronouncements.
- C97. In the Exposure Draft, the Board decided that the disclosures for recurring fair value measurements should focus principally on earnings (or changes in net assets), separate from other comprehensive income, and the unrealized gains or losses included in earnings (or changes in net assets) for the period. In reaching that decision, the Board concluded that information about unrealized gains or losses included in earnings would allow users to broadly assess the quality of reported earnings. However,

some respondents disagreed. They stated that disclosures about unrealized gains or losses, alone, would not be cost beneficial and, in some cases, could be misleading. For example, users of financial statements might conclude that unrealized gains or losses are of a lesser quality than realized gains or losses, which might not be the case. Also, because some entities do not currently capture that information, incremental systems changes (in some cases significant) would be required to comply with the disclosures. Those respondents encouraged the Board to reconsider the disclosures.

- C98. Concurrent with its redeliberations of related issues in proposed FSP FAS 133-a, the Board discussed the need for expanded disclosures about fair value measurements with certain users of financial statements, including members of the Investor Task Force that concentrate on the investment banking, energy trading, and insurance industries, and members of the User Advisory Council. Those discussions focused on expanded disclosures about recurring fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (within Level 3) and the effect of the measurements on earnings for the period. Those users strongly supported the expanded disclosures. They indicated that the expanded disclosures would allow users of financial statements to make more informed judgments and segregate the effects of fair value measurements that are inherently subjective, enhancing their ability to assess the quality of earnings broadly. Based on that input, the Board concluded that expanded disclosures about recurring fair value measurements and the effect of the measurements on earnings (or changes in net assets) for the period, separate from other comprehensive income, would provide useful information to users of financial statements and should be required in this Statement.
- C99. To balance the needs of users with the concerns of respondents, the Board discussed the expanded disclosures with some respondents (principally, financial institutions). Those respondents indicated that expanded disclosures for recurring fair value measurements within Level 3 could be provided within reasonable cost-benefit constraints if presented in the form of a reconciliation of beginning and ending balances that segregates all changes during the period for each major category of assets and liabilities, except as follows. They stated that because the same derivative can be an asset in one reporting period and a liability in the next reporting period, separate (gross) presentation for derivative assets and liabilities would not be cost beneficial. In particular, systems changes would be needed to track and reconcile the information necessary to separately capture the related earnings effects. In considering that presentation issue, the Board agreed that the information conveyed by

those disclosures would be more meaningful if presented separate (gross) rather than net. However, the Board decided that presentation issues for derivatives disclosures should be considered in the context of its current project on derivatives disclosures. The Board decided to allow derivatives to be presented net for purposes of the reconciliation disclosure in this Statement.

- C100. The reconciliation of beginning and ending balances of recurring fair value measurements within Level 3 required in this Statement segregates changes from all sources, including total gains or losses recognized in earnings (or changes in net assets) during the period. The Board concluded (and respondents agreed) that disclosure of total gains or losses would provide needed context for disclosure of the change in unrealized gains or losses recognized in earnings (or changes in net assets) during the period relating to the assets and liabilities measured within Level 3 that are still held at the end of the period. The Board further concluded that because subsequent changes in fair value reflect changes in economic conditions without regard to whether an entity has transacted, disclosure of total gains or losses would provide incremental information about changes in shareholder wealth due to changes in economic conditions that would further enable users of financial statements to assess the effects of fair value measurements on earnings (or changes in net assets) for the period.

Other Disclosures

- C101. A few respondents stated that this Statement should standardize disclosures of the discount rate and assumptions used in valuation techniques to measure fair value. The Board affirmed its view in the Exposure Draft that standardizing those disclosures for all assets and liabilities measured at fair value (for example, requiring disclosure of assumptions used to measure fair value) would not be practical. By way of example, the Board referred to other accounting pronouncements in which it reached different decisions on whether to require disclosures about significant assumptions. The Board noted that in some cases, an overwhelming volume of information would need to be disclosed for that information to be meaningful. Because sensitivity disclosures rely largely on those assumptions, the Board also decided not to require sensitivity disclosures (for example, market risk disclosures), as further suggested by some respondents. Instead, this Statement establishes broad disclosure objectives, which the Board expects to consider as a basis for requiring more specific disclosures in individual accounting pronouncements that require fair value measurements on a project-by-project basis.

- C102. A few respondents also referred to the disclosures about the fair value of financial instruments required by Statement 107. They suggested that the Board consolidate those disclosures with the disclosures in this Statement. The Board disagreed. The disclosures required by Statement 107 are specific to financial instruments, as defined in that Statement, and extend beyond the measurements themselves. Further, those disclosures apply regardless of whether a financial instrument is recognized in the statement of financial position and measured at fair value. The Board agreed that the disclosures required by this Statement should be encouraged for financial instruments disclosed at fair value, including financial instruments recognized in the statement of financial position at amounts other than fair value (for example, loans carried at cost). Therefore, this Statement amends Statement 107 to refer to the related disclosures in this Statement.
- C103. A few respondents also referred to possible conflicts and overlap with SEC disclosure requirements within management discussion and analysis, noting that to varying degrees the disclosures required by this Statement would duplicate those and other industry-specific disclosures made outside the basic financial statements. The Board affirmed its view in the Exposure Draft that the disclosures required by this Statement supplement related disclosures made outside the basic financial statements. The disclosures required by this Statement apply for all entities that hold assets and liabilities recognized in the statement of financial position that are measured at fair value. Further, all entities should include those disclosures within the basic financial statements.
- C104. The Board emphasized that consistent with its related codification initiatives, the fair value information disclosed under this Statement should be combined and disclosed together with the fair value information disclosed under other pronouncements, including Statement 107 (for example, in a single fair value footnote), where practicable. The Board concluded that having those disclosures available in one place would enhance users' understanding about fair value and the use of fair value in financial reporting.

Amendment to Opinion 28

- C105. In the Exposure Draft, the Board decided that the disclosures required by this Statement should be made in all interim periods. Some respondents emphasized that those disclosures in all interim periods would not be cost beneficial. The Board acknowledged those concerns. However, the Board affirmed its conclusion in the Exposure Draft that fair value disclosures in interim periods would provide timely information to users

about fair value measurements and factors affecting those measurements during the year. Moreover, increased information about fair value on an ongoing basis would enhance users' understanding of fair value and the use of fair value in financial reporting. Because of respondents' concerns, the Board decided to limit the disclosures that are required in interim periods to quantitative disclosures. To communicate more clearly the information conveyed by those quantitative disclosures, the Board decided to require tabular presentation (in all periods). In reaching that decision, the Board considered related research, which indicates that tabular presentation of financial information is an important communications tool. This Statement amends APB Opinion No. 28, *Interim Financial Reporting*, to require those disclosures in all interim periods. Qualitative disclosures, for example, narrative disclosure about the valuation techniques used to measure fair value, are required only in annual periods.

Effective Date and Transition

- C106. The Board decided that this Statement should be effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007, and interim periods within those fiscal years. Because this Statement applies under other accounting pronouncements that require fair value measurements and does not require any new fair value measurements, the Board believes that the extended transition period under this Statement provides sufficient time for entities, their auditors, and users of financial statements to prepare for implementation of the provisions of this Statement. The Board encourages earlier application, provided that the reporting entity has not yet issued financial statements for that fiscal year (annual or interim).
- C107. The Board agreed, as it did in the Exposure Draft, that because the substantive guidance in this Statement focuses broadly on the methods used to measure fair value, application of that guidance could result in a change in the method of applying an accounting principle. However, because the methods used to measure fair value are referred to generally, for example, in the context of inputs requiring both quantitative and qualitative assessments, the Board concluded that a change in the methods used to measure fair value would be inseparable from a change in the fair value measurements (that is, as new events occur or as new information is obtained, for example, through better insight or improved

judgment). Therefore, the Board decided that the guidance in this Statement should be applied prospectively (similar to a change in accounting estimate) as of the beginning of the fiscal year in which this Statement is initially applied, except as discussed below.

- C108. For the change in accounting for derivative (or other) instruments under Issue 02-3, the Board concluded that application of the guidance in this Statement would result in a change in the method of applying an accounting principle and that the change in the method would be separable from the change in the fair value measurements. Therefore, the Board decided that the guidance in this Statement should be applied retrospectively (similar to a change in accounting principle), but on a limited basis as of the beginning of the fiscal year in which this Statement is initially applied, considering the practical limitations involved in applying the change in method in all prior periods. Therefore, the difference between the carrying amount and the fair value of a derivative (or other instrument) that was measured at initial recognition using the transaction price in accordance with the guidance in footnote 3 of Issue 02-3 prior to initial application of this Statement should be recognized as a cumulative-effect adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings (or other appropriate components of equity or net assets in the statement of financial position) for that fiscal year, presented separately.
- C109. For the change in accounting for positions in financial instruments (including blocks) held by broker-dealers and certain investment companies, the Board agreed that application of the guidance in this Statement would result in a change in the method of applying an accounting principle that would be separable from the change in fair value measurements. The Board observed that because the information necessary to apply that change in accounting principle retrospectively to all prior periods presented should be available, the guidance in this Statement could be applied retrospectively (similar to a change in accounting principle) in all prior periods. However, the Board decided that three different transition approaches in this Statement (including two different transition approaches for financial instruments) would be unduly burdensome. Therefore, the Board decided for practical reasons that the limited retrospective transition approach for the change in accounting under Issue 02-3 also should apply for the change in accounting for positions in financial instruments (including blocks) held by broker-dealers and investment companies.

SFAS 157 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

- C110. To achieve comparability in future periods, all of the disclosures required by this Statement, including disclosures about the valuation techniques used to measure fair value required in annual periods only, are required in the first interim period in which this Statement is initially applied. However, those disclosures need not be presented in periods prior to initial application of this Statement.

Benefits and Costs

- C111. The mission of the FASB is to establish and improve standards of financial accounting and reporting to provide information that is useful to users of financial statements (present and potential investors, creditors, donors, and other capital market participants) in making rational investment, credit, and similar resource allocation decisions. In fulfilling that mission, the Board endeavors to determine that a proposed standard will fill a significant need and that the costs imposed to meet that standard, as compared with other alternatives, are justified in relation to the overall benefits of the resulting information. Although the costs to implement a new standard may not be borne evenly, users of financial statements benefit from improvements in financial reporting, thereby facilitating the functioning of markets for capital and credit and the efficient allocation of resources in the economy.
- C112. This Statement establishes a single definition of fair value and a framework for measuring fair value in GAAP. A single definition of fair value, together with a framework for measuring fair value, should result in increased consistency in application and, with respect to the resulting fair value measurements, increased comparability. Concepts Statement 2 emphasizes that providing comparable information enables users of financial statements to identify similarities in and differences between two sets of economic events.
- C113. This Statement also expands disclosures about fair value measurements, improving the quality of information provided to users of financial statements. Providing information that is useful to users of financial statements in making rational investment, credit, and similar decisions is the first objective of financial reporting in FASB Concepts Statement No. 1, *Objectives of Financial Reporting by Business Enterprises*. In developing the disclosure requirements of this Statement, the Board obtained input from users, preparers, and other interested parties to ensure that the disclosures would be provided within reasonable cost-benefit constraints. This Statement encourages entities to include the fair value information disclosed under this Statement together with the fair value information disclosed under other accounting pronouncements in one place, where

practicable. The Board concluded that having that information available in one place would improve the quality of information provided to users of financial statements about fair value measurements, thereby enhancing users' understanding about fair value and the use of fair value in financial reporting.

- C114. In addition, the amendments made by this Statement simplify and, where appropriate, codify the related guidance that currently exists for measuring fair value, eliminating differences that have added to the complexity in GAAP, consistent with the Board's related codification initiatives.
- C115. Although the framework for measuring fair value builds on current practice and requirements, the Board acknowledges that for some entities, certain methods required by this Statement may result in a change to practice. Further, some entities will need to make systems and operational changes, thereby incurring incremental costs. Some entities also might incur incremental costs in applying the requirements of this Statement. However, the Board believes that the benefits resulting from increased consistency and comparability of fair value information and improved communication of that information to users of financial statements will be ongoing. On balance, the Board concluded that this Statement will result in improved financial reporting.

International Financial Reporting Standards

- C116. Many International Financial Reporting Standards require fair value measurements. Like the FASB, the IASB has previously addressed issues related to fair value largely in the context of financial instruments included in the scope of revised IAS 39. The IASB currently has on its agenda a fair value measurements project to consider fair value measurement broadly, focusing on the definition of fair value and the framework for measuring fair value. As part of that project, the IASB plans to issue this Statement in the form of a preliminary views document for public comment.