
UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended June 30, 2018

or

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 1-5667

Cabot Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

04-2271897
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

Two Seaport Lane
Boston, Massachusetts
(Address of principal executive offices)

02210-2019
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (617) 345-0100

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/> (Do not check if smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emerging growth company	<input type="checkbox"/>		

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

The Company had 61,558,577 shares of common stock, \$1.00 par value per share, outstanding as of August 6, 2018.

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Part I. Financial Information

Item 1. Financial Statements

CABOT CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
UNAUDITED

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(In millions, except per share amounts)			
Net sales and other operating revenues	\$ 854	\$ 705	\$ 2,392	\$ 1,994
Cost of sales	654	544	1,824	1,505
Gross profit	200	161	568	489
Selling and administrative expenses	74	63	221	191
Research and technical expenses	17	14	48	40
Purification Solutions long-lived assets impairment (Note E)	—	—	162	—
Purification Solutions goodwill impairment (Note E)	—	—	92	—
Income (loss) from operations	109	84	45	258
Interest and dividend income	2	3	8	7
Interest expense	(14)	(13)	(41)	(39)
Other income (expense)	(2)	(6)	4	(5)
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in earnings of affiliated companies	95	68	16	221
(Provision) benefit for income taxes	4	(16)	(194)	(33)
Equity in earnings of affiliated companies, net of tax	—	3	2	6
Net income (loss)	99	55	(176)	194
Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests, net of tax	11	8	31	18
Net income (loss) attributable to Cabot Corporation	<u>\$ 88</u>	<u>\$ 47</u>	<u>\$ (207)</u>	<u>\$ 176</u>
Weighted-average common shares outstanding:				
Basic	61.8	62.4	61.8	62.3
Diluted	62.3	62.7	61.8	62.8
Earnings per common share:				
Basic	\$ 1.41	\$ 0.73	\$ (3.36)	\$ 2.79
Diluted	\$ 1.40	\$ 0.73	\$ (3.36)	\$ 2.78
Dividends per common share	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.315	\$ 0.96	\$ 0.915

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

CABOT CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
UNAUDITED

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(In millions)			
Net income (loss)	\$ 99	\$ 55	\$ (176)	\$ 194
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax				
Foreign currency translation adjustment, net of tax provision (benefit) of \$2, \$(4), \$(2) and \$(1)	(109)	54	(50)	(15)
Unrealized holding gains (losses) arising during the period, net of tax provision (benefit) of \$—, \$—, \$— and \$—	(1)	—	(1)	—
Derivatives: net investment hedges				
(Gains) losses reclassified to interest expense, net of tax provision of \$1, \$—, \$1 and \$—	(1)	—	(3)	—
Pension and other postretirement benefit liability adjustments				
Amortization of net loss and prior service credit included in net periodic benefit cost, net of tax	—	—	—	2
Other comprehensive income (loss)	(111)	54	(54)	(13)
Comprehensive income (loss)	(12)	109	(230)	181
Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests, net of tax	11	8	31	18
Foreign currency translation adjustment attributable to noncontrolling interests, net of tax	(7)	3	—	—
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests, net of tax	4	11	31	18
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to Cabot Corporation	\$ (16)	\$ 98	\$ (261)	\$ 163

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

CABOT CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
ASSETS
UNAUDITED

	<u>June 30, 2018</u>	<u>September 30, 2017</u>
	(In millions)	
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 131	\$ 280
Accounts and notes receivable, net of reserve for doubtful accounts of \$9 and \$9	664	527
Inventories:		
Raw materials	122	93
Work in process	3	2
Finished goods	311	293
Other	46	45
Total inventories	<u>482</u>	<u>433</u>
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	65	59
Total current assets	<u>1,342</u>	<u>1,299</u>
Property, plant and equipment, net	1,248	1,305
Goodwill	92	154
Equity affiliates	51	56
Intangible assets, net	96	137
Assets held for rent	116	104
Deferred income taxes	68	237
Other assets	44	46
Total assets	<u>\$ 3,057</u>	<u>\$ 3,338</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

CABOT CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
UNAUDITED

	June 30, 2018	September 30, 2017
	(In millions, except share and per share amounts)	
Current liabilities:		
Short-term borrowings	\$ 312	\$ 7
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	491	457
Income taxes payable	25	22
Current portion of long-term debt	36	256
Redeemable preferred stock	26	—
Total current liabilities	890	742
Long-term debt	630	661
Deferred income taxes	1	38
Other liabilities	247	245
Redeemable preferred stock	—	27
Commitments and contingencies (Note I)		
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock:		
Authorized: 2,000,000 shares of \$1 par value	—	—
Issued and Outstanding: None and none		
Common stock:		
Authorized: 200,000,000 shares of \$1 par value		
Issued: 61,759,181 and 62,087,627 shares		
Outstanding: 61,558,577 and 61,884,347 shares	62	62
Less cost of 200,604 and 203,280 shares of common treasury stock	(7)	(6)
Additional paid-in capital	—	—
Retained earnings	1,417	1,707
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	(313)	(259)
Total Cabot Corporation stockholders' equity	1,159	1,504
Noncontrolling interests	130	121
Total stockholders' equity	1,289	1,625
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 3,057	\$ 3,338

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

CABOT CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
UNAUDITED

	Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017
	(In millions)	
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:		
Net income (loss)	\$ (176)	\$ 194
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	117	115
Long-lived assets impairment charge	162	—
Goodwill impairment charge	92	—
Deferred tax provision (benefit)	131	(25)
Gain on sale of investments	(10)	—
Gain on sale of land	(11)	—
Equity in net income of affiliated companies	(2)	(6)
Non-cash compensation	16	10
Other non-cash (income) expense	14	(2)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Accounts and notes receivable	(151)	(64)
Inventories	(77)	(61)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(6)	(7)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	40	34
Income taxes payable	2	3
Other liabilities	(6)	(9)
Cash dividends received from equity affiliates	8	9
Cash provided by operating activities	<u>143</u>	<u>191</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:		
Additions to property, plant and equipment	(167)	(86)
Cash paid for acquisition of business, net of cash acquired of \$1	(64)	—
Proceeds from sale of investments	11	—
Proceeds from sale of land	13	—
Change in assets held for rent	(5)	(5)
Other	1	2
Cash used in investing activities	<u>(211)</u>	<u>(89)</u>
Cash Flows from Financing Activities:		
Repayments under financing arrangements	(1)	(3)
Increase in short-term borrowings, net	2	2
Proceeds from (repayments of) issuance of commercial paper, net	303	—
Repayments of long-term debt	(251)	(1)
Purchases of common stock	(59)	(43)
Proceeds from sales of common stock	18	21
Cash dividends paid to noncontrolling interests	(21)	(13)
Cash dividends paid to common stockholders	(60)	(57)
Cash used in financing activities	<u>(69)</u>	<u>(94)</u>
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash	(12)	(10)
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(149)	(2)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	280	200
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>\$ 131</u>	<u>\$ 198</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

CABOT CORPORATION
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2018
UNAUDITED

A. Basis of Presentation

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting policies generally accepted in the United States (“U.S.”) and include the accounts of Cabot Corporation (“Cabot” or the “Company”) and its wholly owned subsidiaries and majority-owned and controlled U.S. and non-U.S. subsidiaries. Additionally, Cabot considers consolidation of entities over which control is achieved through means other than voting rights. Intercompany transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

The unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Form 10-Q and consequently do not include all disclosures required by Form 10-K. Additional information may be obtained by referring to Cabot’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for its fiscal year ended September 30, 2017 (“2017 10-K”).

The financial information submitted herewith is unaudited and reflects all adjustments which are, in the opinion of management, necessary to provide a fair statement of the results for the interim periods ended June 30, 2018 and 2017. All such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature. The results for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the fiscal year.

Effective October 1, 2017, the Company changed its method of accounting for its U.S. carbon black inventories from the last-in, first-out (“LIFO”) method to the first-in, first-out (“FIFO”) method. The Company applied this change retrospectively to all prior periods presented, which is discussed in further detail in Note B.

As discussed in Note C, in November 2017, the Company acquired all of the issued and outstanding shares of 8755329 Canada Inc. (“Tech Blend”), a North American producer of black masterbatches. The financial position, results of operations and cash flows of Tech Blend are included in the Company’s consolidated financial statements from the date of acquisition.

B. Significant Accounting Policies

Revenue Recognition and Accounts Receivable

Cabot recognizes revenue when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, delivery has occurred or services have been rendered, the price is fixed or determinable and collectability is reasonably assured. Cabot generally is able to ensure that products meet customer specifications prior to shipment. If the Company is unable to determine that the product has met the specified objective criteria prior to shipment or if title has not transferred because of sales terms, the revenue is considered “unearned” and is deferred until the revenue recognition criteria are met.

Shipping and handling charges related to sales transactions are recorded as sales revenue when billed to customers or included in the sales price. Taxes collected on sales to customers are excluded from revenues.

The following table shows the relative size of the revenue recognized in each of the Company’s reportable segments:

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Reinforcement Materials	57%	54%	57%	53%
Performance Chemicals	33%	34%	33%	35%
Purification Solutions	9%	10%	9%	11%
Specialty Fluids	1%	2%	1%	1%

Cabot derives the substantial majority of its revenues from the sale of products in its Reinforcement Materials, Performance Chemicals, and Purification Solutions segments. Revenue from these products is typically recognized when the product is shipped and title and risk of loss have passed to the customer. The Company offers certain of its customers cash discounts and volume rebates as sales incentives. The discounts and volume rebates are recorded as a reduction in sales at the time revenue is recognized and are estimated based on historical experience and contractual obligations. Cabot periodically reviews the assumptions underlying its estimates of discounts and volume rebates and adjusts its revenues accordingly.

For major activated carbon injection systems projects in Purification Solutions, revenue is recognized using the percentage-of-completion method.

Revenue in Specialty Fluids arises primarily from the rental of cesium formate. This revenue is recognized throughout the rental period based on the contracted rental terms. Customers are also billed and revenue is recognized, typically at the end of the job, for cesium formate product that is not returned. The Company also generates revenues from cesium formate sold outside of the rental process and from the sale of fine cesium chemicals. This revenue is recognized upon delivery of the product.

Cabot maintains allowances for doubtful accounts based on an assessment of the collectability of specific customer accounts, the aging of accounts receivable and other economic information on both a historical and prospective basis. Customer account balances are charged against the allowance when it is probable the receivable will not be recovered. There were no material changes in the allowance for any of the periods presented. There is no material off-balance sheet credit exposure related to customer receivable balances.

Intangible Assets and Goodwill Impairment

The Company records tangible and intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed in business combinations under the acquisition method of accounting. Amounts paid for an acquisition are allocated to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed based on their fair values at the date of acquisition. The Company uses assumptions and estimates in determining the fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in a business combination. The determination of the fair value of intangible assets requires the use of significant judgment with regard to assumptions used in the valuation model. The Company estimates the fair value of identifiable acquisition-related intangible assets principally based on projections of cash flows that will arise from these assets. The projected cash flows are discounted to determine the fair value of the assets at the dates of acquisition. The Company acquired Tech Blend in November 2017, which included separately identifiable intangible assets of \$29 million as part of the purchase price allocation as discussed in Note C.

Definite-lived intangible assets, which are comprised of trademarks, customer relationships and developed technologies, are amortized over their estimated useful lives and are reviewed for impairment when indication of potential impairment exists, such as a significant reduction in cash flows associated with the assets.

Goodwill is comprised of the purchase price of business acquisitions in excess of the fair value assigned to the net tangible and identifiable intangible assets acquired. Goodwill is not amortized, but is reviewed for impairment annually as of May 31, or when events or changes in the business environment indicate that the carrying value of the reporting unit may exceed its fair value. A reporting unit, for the purpose of the impairment test, is at or below the operating segment level, and constitutes a business for which discrete financial information is available and regularly reviewed by segment management. Reinforcement Materials, and the Fumed Metal Oxides and Specialty Compounds businesses within Performance Chemicals, which are considered separate reporting units, carry the Company's goodwill balances as of May 31, 2018. The Purification Solutions reporting unit has no remaining goodwill balance subsequent to the goodwill impairment charge recorded in the second quarter of fiscal 2018. As part of the Tech Blend acquisition, goodwill of \$33 million was generated and is reflected in the Specialty Compounds reporting unit.

For the purpose of the goodwill impairment test, the Company first assesses qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount. If an initial qualitative assessment identifies that it is more likely than not that the carrying value of a reporting unit exceeds its estimated fair value, an additional quantitative evaluation is performed. Alternatively, the Company may elect to proceed directly to the quantitative goodwill impairment test. If based on the quantitative evaluation the fair value of the reporting unit is less than its carrying amount, a goodwill impairment loss would result. The goodwill impairment loss would be the amount by which the carrying value of the reporting unit, including goodwill, exceeds its fair value, limited to the total amount of goodwill allocated to that reporting unit. The fair value of a reporting unit is based on discounted estimated future cash flows. The fair value is also benchmarked against a market approach using the guideline public companies method. The assumptions used to estimate fair value include management's best estimates of future growth rates, operating cash flows, capital expenditures and discount rates over an estimate of the remaining operating period at the reporting unit level. Refer to Note E and Note F for details on the Purification Solutions goodwill impairment test and the resulting charge recorded in the second quarter of fiscal 2018, and the results of the Company's annual goodwill impairment test performed as of May 31, 2018, respectively.

Long-lived Assets Impairment

The Company's long-lived assets primarily include property, plant and equipment, intangible assets, long-term investments and assets held for rent. The carrying values of long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in business circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable.

To test for impairment of assets, the Company generally uses a probability-weighted estimate of the future undiscounted net cash flows of the assets over their remaining lives to determine if the value of the asset is recoverable. Long-lived assets are grouped with other assets and liabilities at the lowest level for which independent identifiable cash flows are determinable.

An asset impairment is recognized when the carrying value of the asset is not recoverable based on the analysis described above, in which case the asset is written down to its fair value. If the asset does not have a readily determinable market value, a discounted cash flow model may be used to determine the fair value of the asset. In circumstances when an asset does not have separately identifiable cash flows, an impairment charge is recorded when the Company no longer intends to use the asset. In the second quarter of fiscal 2018, the Company determined that the long-lived asset group of Purification Solutions was not fully recoverable and accordingly, the Company recorded an impairment charge for the carrying value in excess of the fair value of the asset group, as described in Note E.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are recorded at cost. Depreciation of property, plant and equipment is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets. The depreciable lives for buildings, machinery and equipment, and other fixed assets are between twenty and twenty-five years, ten and twenty-five years, and three and twenty-five years, respectively. The cost and accumulated depreciation for property, plant and equipment sold, retired, or otherwise disposed of are removed from the Consolidated Balance Sheets and resulting gains or losses are included in earnings in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. Expenditures for repairs and maintenance are charged to expenses as incurred. Expenditures for major renewals and betterments, which significantly extend the useful lives of existing plant and equipment, are capitalized and depreciated.

Income Tax in Interim Periods

The Company records its tax provision or benefit on an interim basis using an estimated annual effective tax rate. This rate is applied to the current period ordinary income or loss to determine the income tax provision or benefit allocated to the interim period. Losses from jurisdictions for which no benefit can be recognized and the income tax effects of unusual or infrequent items are excluded from the estimated annual effective tax rate and are recognized in the impacted interim period.

Valuation allowances are provided against the future tax benefits that arise from the deferred tax assets in jurisdictions for which no benefit can be recognized. The estimated annual effective tax rate may be significantly impacted by nondeductible expenses and the Company's projected earnings mix by tax jurisdiction. Adjustments to the estimated annual effective income tax rate are recognized in the period when such estimates are revised.

Inventory Valuation

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market. Effective October 1, 2017, the Company changed its method of accounting for its U.S. carbon black inventories from the LIFO method to the FIFO method. Total U.S. inventories accounted for utilizing the LIFO cost flow assumption represented 7% of the Company's total worldwide inventories as of September 30, 2017 prior to this change in method. The Company believes the FIFO method is preferable because it: (i) conforms the accounting for U.S. carbon black inventories to the Company's inventory valuation methodology for the majority of its other inventories; (ii) better represents how management assesses and reports on the performance of the Reinforcement Materials and Performance Chemicals operating segments that carry the Company's U.S. carbon black inventories, as the impact of accounting for this inventory on a LIFO basis has historically been excluded from segment results; (iii) better aligns the accounting for U.S. carbon black inventories with the physical flow of that inventory; and (iv) improves comparability with many of the Company's peers.

The Company applied this change retrospectively to all prior periods presented. This change resulted in a \$17 million increase in retained earnings as of October 1, 2016, from \$1,544 million to \$1,561 million. In addition, the following financial statement line items in the Company's Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three and nine months ended June 30, 2017, its Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2017, and its Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the nine months ended June 30, 2017 were adjusted:

Consolidated Statements of Operations

	Three Months Ended June 30				
	2017				
	As Originally Reported	Effect of Change	As Adjusted		
	(In millions, except per share amounts)				
Cost of sales	\$ 546	\$ (2)	\$ 544		
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in earnings of affiliated companies	\$ 66	\$ 2	\$ 68		
(Provision) benefit for income taxes	\$ (16)	\$ —	\$ (16)		
Net income (loss)	\$ 53	\$ 2	\$ 55		
Net income (loss) attributable to Cabot Corporation	\$ 45	\$ 2	\$ 47		
Earnings per common share:					
Basic	\$ 0.71	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.73		
Diluted	\$ 0.71	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.73		

Consolidated Statements of Operations

	Nine Months Ended June 30				
	2017				
	As Originally Reported	Effect of Change	As Adjusted		
	(In millions)				
Cost of sales	\$ 1,509	\$ (4)	\$ 1,505		
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in earnings of affiliated companies	\$ 217	\$ 4	\$ 221		
(Provision) benefit for income taxes	\$ (32)	\$ (1)	\$ (33)		
Net income (loss)	\$ 191	\$ 3	\$ 194		
Net income (loss) attributable to Cabot Corporation	\$ 173	\$ 3	\$ 176		
Earnings per common share:					
Basic	\$ 2.75	\$ 0.04	\$ 2.79		
Diluted	\$ 2.74	\$ 0.04	\$ 2.78		

Consolidated Balance Sheets

	September 30, 2017				
	2017				
	As Originally Reported	Effect of Change	As Adjusted		
	(In millions)				
Inventories	\$ 396	\$ 37	\$ 433		
Deferred income taxes (assets)	\$ 250	\$ (13)	\$ 237		
Retained earnings	\$ 1,683	\$ 24	\$ 1,707		

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

	Nine Months Ended June 30				
	2017				
	As Originally Reported	Effect of Change	As Adjusted		
	(In millions)				
Net income (loss)	\$ 191	\$ 3	\$ 194		
Deferred tax provision (benefit)	\$ (26)	\$ 1	\$ (25)		
Inventories	\$ (57)	\$ (4)	\$ (61)		

If the Company had continued to account for its U.S. carbon black inventories under LIFO, there would have been an increase in Cost of Sales of \$8 million and \$11 million, an additional benefit to the (Provision) benefit for income taxes of \$2 million and \$3 million, an impact to the Net income (loss) attributable to Cabot Corporation of \$6 million and \$8 million, and a decrease of \$0.10 and \$0.13 in both basic and diluted earnings per common share in the Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018, respectively. The impact to the Consolidated Balance Sheets as of June 30, 2018 would have been a decrease of \$48 million in Inventories, an increase of \$16 million in Deferred income taxes, and a decrease of \$32 million in Retained earnings.

The cost of Specialty Fluids inventories that are classified as assets held for rent is determined using the average cost method. The cost of all other inventories is determined using the FIFO method.

Cabot periodically reviews inventory for both potential obsolescence and potential declines in anticipated selling prices. In this review, the Company makes assumptions about the future demand for and market value of the inventory, and based on these assumptions estimates the amount of any obsolete, unmarketable, slow moving, or overvalued inventory. Cabot writes down the value of these inventories by an amount equal to the difference between the cost of the inventory and its estimated net realizable value.

Pensions and Other Postretirement Benefits

The Company recognizes the funded status of defined benefit pension and other postretirement benefit plans as an asset or liability. This amount is defined as the difference between the fair value of plan assets and the benefit obligation. The Company is required to recognize as a component of Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax, the actuarial gains/losses and prior service costs/credits that arise but were not previously required to be recognized as components of net periodic benefit cost. Other comprehensive income (loss) is adjusted as these amounts are later recognized in income as components of net periodic benefit cost.

Redeemable Preferred Stock

In November 2013, the Company purchased all of its joint venture partner's common stock in the former NHUMO, S.A. de C.V. ("NHUMO") joint venture. At the close of the transaction, NHUMO issued redeemable preferred stock to the joint venture partner with a redemption value of \$25 million. The preferred stock accumulates dividends at a fixed rate of 6% annually and is redeemable at the option of the former joint venture partner or the Company for \$25 million starting in November 2018 or upon the occurrence of certain other conditions. Annual payment of the dividends by NHUMO is contingent on NHUMO achieving a minimum EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) level and if such minimum EBITDA is not achieved in any year, the dividend will be accumulated and paid at the time the preferred shares are redeemed. The minimum EBITDA was achieved in all fiscal years since the close of the transaction and dividend payments of approximately \$1 million were paid for each fiscal year and a final dividend payment of approximately \$1 million is due in November 2018. The preferred stock issued in connection with the transaction is not mandatorily redeemable and has embedded put and call rights at the fixed redemption price. Accordingly, the instrument is accounted for as a financing obligation and has been separately presented in the Consolidated Balance Sheets as a long-term liability as of September 30, 2017 and as a current liability as of June 30, 2018 as it becomes redeemable beginning in November 2018.

Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) ("AOCI"), which is included as a component of stockholders' equity, includes unrealized gains or losses on available-for-sale marketable securities and derivative instruments, currency translation adjustments in foreign subsidiaries, translation adjustments on foreign equity securities and minimum pension liability adjustments.

Recently Adopted Accounting Standards

In March 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued a new standard that amends the accounting standard for stock compensation by simplifying several aspects of the accounting for employee share-based payment transactions, including the related accounting for income taxes, forfeitures, and the withholding of shares to satisfy the employer's tax withholding requirements, as well as classification in the Statements of Cash Flows. The Company adopted the standard on October 1, 2017. The following guidance was updated under the new standard, and its impact to Cabot is described below:

- When accounting for forfeitures the Company may elect to estimate the number of forfeitures to be recognized over the term of an award, which was also permitted under the previous guidance, or account for forfeitures as they occur. The Company elected to modify its accounting policy and account for forfeitures as they occur. The Company applied the accounting change on a modified retrospective basis, which resulted in a cumulative-effect charge of less than \$1 million to Retained earnings as of October 1, 2017.
- Excess tax benefits or deficiencies related to stock compensation that were previously recorded to Additional paid-in capital are now recognized as a discrete tax benefit or expense in (Provision) benefit for income taxes within the Consolidated Statements of Operations. The impact on the (Provision) benefit for income taxes was a discrete tax benefit of \$2 million during the first nine months of fiscal 2018.
- Excess tax benefits are no longer reclassified out of cash flows from operating activities to financing activities in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows. The Company elected to apply this cash flow presentation requirement retrospectively, which resulted in the reclassification of \$8 million of tax benefit from share-based compensation awards from cash flows from financing activities to cash flows from operating activities in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the nine months ended June 30, 2017.

- Cash paid by an employer when directly withholding shares for tax withholding purposes are required to be classified as a financing activity in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows. This method of presentation is consistent with the Company's historical presentation.

In August 2017, the FASB issued a new standard that amends the hedge accounting recognition and presentation requirements under hedge accounting. The new standard will make more financial and nonfinancial hedging strategies eligible for hedge accounting, amends the presentation and disclosure requirements, and simplifies how companies assess effectiveness. The Company adopted the standard on October 1, 2017. The adoption of this standard did not impact the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In May 2014, the FASB issued a new standard that amends the existing accounting standards for revenue recognition. The standard requires entities to recognize revenue when they transfer promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration the entity expects to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services. This standard is applicable for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017. The Company has completed its preliminary assessment of the new standard, which included reviewing a sample of contracts across the Company's four business segments. Based on this assessment, the Company does not expect adoption of this standard to have a material impact on how it recognizes revenue. The Company has substantially completed its assessment of the new standard and is preparing to implement the updates that will be necessary to its revenue recognition policy, internal controls, processes and financial statement disclosures. The Company will adopt this standard on October 1, 2018 and expects to apply a modified retrospective approach.

In February 2016, the FASB issued a new standard for the accounting for leases. This new standard requires lessees to recognize assets and liabilities for most leases, but recognize expenses on their income statements in a manner that is similar to the current accounting treatment for leases. The standard is applicable for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018 and for interim periods within those years, and early adoption is permitted. The Company expects to adopt the standard on October 1, 2019. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the adoption of this standard on its consolidated financial statements.

In August 2016, the FASB issued final amendments to clarify how entities should classify certain cash receipts and cash payments on the statement of cash flows, such as distributions received from equity method investees, proceeds from the settlement of insurance claims, and proceeds from the settlement of corporate-owned life insurance policies. The new standard is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within those years, and early adoption is permitted. The Company will adopt this standard on October 1, 2018. The adoption of this standard is not expected to materially impact the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In March 2017, the FASB issued a new standard that amends the requirements on the presentation of net periodic pension and postretirement benefit costs. Currently, net benefit costs are reported as employee costs within operating income. The new standard requires the service cost component to be presented with other employee compensation costs. The other components will be reported separately outside of operations. The new standard is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017. The Company will adopt this standard on October 1, 2018. The adoption of this standard is not expected to materially impact the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In February 2018, the FASB issued a new standard that allows entities to reclassify from AOCI to Retained earnings for stranded tax effects resulting from enactment of H.R. 1 (the "Act"), commonly referred to as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. The amendments in this new standard also require certain disclosures about stranded tax effects. The new standard is effective for all entities for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, including interim periods within those years, and early adoption is permitted. The Company is evaluating this standard and the timing of its adoption. The adoption of this standard is not expected to materially impact the Company's consolidated financial statements.

C. Acquisition of Tech Blend

In November 2017, the Company acquired all of the issued and outstanding shares and cash of Tech Blend, a North American producer of black masterbatches, for a purchase price of \$65 million, paid in cash. The purchase price was subject to a working capital adjustment, which was immaterial. The operating results of the business are included in the Company's Performance Chemicals segment. The acquisition extends the Company's global footprint in black masterbatch and compounds and provides a platform to serve global customers and grow in conductive formulations. Since the date of acquisition, Tech Blend revenues have totaled approximately \$19 million through June 30, 2018.

The Company incurred acquisition costs of less than \$1 million through June 30, 2018 associated with the transaction, which are included in Selling and administrative expenses in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

The allocation of the purchase price set forth below was based on estimates of the fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed.

	(In millions)
Assets	
Cash	\$ 1
Accounts Receivable	5
Inventories	3
Property, plant and equipment	7
Intangible assets	29
Goodwill	33
Total assets acquired	78
Liabilities	
Current liabilities	(3)
Deferred tax liabilities	(10)
Total liabilities assumed	(13)
Cash consideration paid	\$ 65

As part of the purchase price allocation, the Company determined the separately identifiable intangible assets are comprised of developed technologies of \$21 million, which will be amortized over 25 years, and customer relationships of \$8 million, which will be amortized over 12 years. The Company estimated the fair values of the identifiable acquisition-related intangible assets based on projections of cash flows that will arise from those assets. The projected cash flows are discounted to determine the fair value of the assets at the date of acquisition. The determination of the fair value of the intangible assets acquired required the use of significant judgment with regard to (i) assumptions in the discounted cash flow model used and (ii) determination of the useful lives of the developed technologies and customer relationships.

The excess of the purchase price over the fair value of the tangible net assets and intangible assets acquired was recorded as goodwill. The goodwill recognized is attributable to the growth and operating synergies that the Company expects to realize from this acquisition. Goodwill generated from the acquisition will not be deductible for tax purposes.

D. Employee Benefit Plans

Net periodic defined benefit pension and other postretirement benefit costs include the following:

	Three Months Ended June 30							
	2018		2017		2018		2017	
	Pension Benefits				Postretirement Benefits			
	U.S.	Foreign	U.S.	Foreign	U.S.	Foreign	U.S.	Foreign
	(In millions)							
Service cost	\$ 1	\$ 2	\$ 1	\$ 2	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Interest cost	1	2	1	1	1	—	1	—
Expected return on plan assets	(3)	(4)	(3)	(3)	—	—	—	—
Amortization of prior service credit	—	—	—	—	(1)	—	(1)	—
Amortization of actuarial loss	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Net periodic benefit (credit) cost	\$ (1)	\$ 1	\$ (1)	\$ 1	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —

Nine Months Ended June 30

	2018		2017		2018		2017	
	Pension Benefits				Postretirement Benefits			
	U.S.	Foreign	U.S.	Foreign	U.S.	Foreign	U.S.	Foreign
	(In millions)							
Service cost	\$ 1	\$ 6	\$ 1	\$ 7	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Interest cost	3	6	3	4	1	—	1	—
Expected return on plan assets	(8)	(11)	(8)	(10)	—	—	—	—
Amortization of prior service credit	—	—	—	—	(2)	—	(2)	—
Amortization of actuarial loss	—	2	—	4	—	—	—	—
Net periodic benefit (credit) cost	<u>\$ (4)</u>	<u>\$ 3</u>	<u>\$ (4)</u>	<u>\$ 5</u>	<u>\$ (1)</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ (1)</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

E. Purification Solutions Goodwill and Long-Lived Assets Impairment Charges

During the second quarter of fiscal 2018, the Company recorded impairment charges relating to the goodwill and long-lived assets of the Purification Solutions reporting unit, and an associated deferred tax benefit, in the Consolidated Statement of Operations as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 (In millions)
Purification Solutions goodwill impairment charge	\$ 92
Purification Solutions long-lived assets impairment charge	162
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	(30)
Impairment charges, after tax	<u>\$ 224</u>

In the second quarter of fiscal 2018, the Purification Solutions reporting unit experienced further share losses, lower customer demand and declining prices in the mercury removal and North America powdered activated carbon applications, which led the Company to reassess its previous estimates for expected growth in volumes, prices and margins in the reporting unit. The forecasted demand and profit margins in mercury removal applications were lowered reflecting further unit closures at coal-fired utility plants, lower usage levels of activated carbon and lower plant utilization levels for coal-fired utilities, as well as lower pricing due to industry overcapacity, among other factors. While development programs continue to progress, growth estimates in other environmental and specialty applications were also lowered, reflecting heightened competition and updated timelines to commercialize certain new products. Due to these revised forecasts, the Company performed the quantitative goodwill impairment test and determined that the estimated fair value of the Purification Solutions reporting unit was lower than the reporting unit's carrying value, resulting in a goodwill impairment charge of \$92 million.

In determining the fair value of the Purification Solutions reporting unit, the Company used an income approach (a discounted cash flow analysis) which incorporated significant estimates and assumptions related to future periods, including growth rates in environmental and specialty applications and pricing assumptions of activated carbon, among others. In addition, an estimate of the reporting unit's weighted average cost of capital ("WACC") was used to discount future estimated cash flows to their present value. The WACC was based upon externally available data considering market participants' cost of equity and debt, optimal capital structure and risk factors specific to the Purification Solutions reporting unit.

Prior to determining the goodwill impairment charge, the Company considered whether the assets of the reporting unit were recoverable. As a result of this assessment, the Company recorded an inventory reserve adjustment of \$13 million and impairments to long lived assets of \$162 million. The adjustment to inventory carrying value was determined based on reassessments of volumes, pricing, and margins described above and was recorded in Cost of sales in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. The impairment analysis to assess if definite-lived intangible assets and property, plant and equipment were recoverable was based on the estimated undiscounted cash flows of the reporting unit, and these cash flows were not sufficient to recover the carrying value of the long-lived assets over their remaining useful lives. Accordingly, the Company recorded impairment charges of \$64 million and \$98 million, to its definite-lived intangible assets and property, plant and equipment, respectively, in the quarter ended March 31, 2018 based on the lower of the carrying amount or fair value of the long-lived assets.

The Company used the income approach to determine the fair value of the definite-lived intangible assets and the cost approach to determine the fair value of its property, plant and equipment. Cabot will continue to monitor for events or changes in business circumstances that may indicate that the remaining carrying value of the asset group may not be recoverable.

The Company recorded a tax benefit related to the impairment charges of \$30 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2018 which was subsequently reduced by \$2 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 due to finalization of the impairment charges by tax jurisdiction.

F. Goodwill and Intangible Assets

The carrying amount of goodwill attributable to each reportable segment with goodwill balances and the changes in those balances during the nine month period ended June 30, 2018 are as follows:

	Reinforcement Materials	Performance Chemicals	Purification Solutions	Total
	(In millions)			
Balance at September 30, 2017	\$ 53	\$ 9	\$ 92	\$ 154
Goodwill acquired ⁽¹⁾	—	33	—	33
Impairment charge ⁽²⁾	—	—	(92)	(92)
Foreign currency impact	(2)	(1)	—	(3)
Balance at June 30, 2018	<u>\$ 51</u>	<u>\$ 41</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 92</u>

(1) Consists of goodwill acquired in the acquisition of Tech Blend as described in Note C.

(2) Refer to Note E for details on the Purification Solutions goodwill impairment test and the resulting impairment charge recorded in the second fiscal quarter of 2018. Based on the Company's most recent annual goodwill impairment test performed as of May 31, 2018, the fair values of the Reinforcement Materials, Fumed Metal Oxides, and Specialty Compounds reporting units were substantially in excess of their carrying values.

The following table provides information regarding the Company's intangible assets:

	June 30, 2018			September 30, 2017		
	Gross Carrying Value	Accumulated Amortization	Net Intangible Assets	Gross Carrying Value	Accumulated Amortization	Net Intangible Assets
	(In millions)					
Intangible assets with finite lives ⁽¹⁾						
Developed technologies	\$ 50	\$ (1)	\$ 49	\$ 49	\$ (7)	\$ 42
Trademarks	8	—	8	16	(1)	15
Customer relationships	49	(10)	39	94	(14)	80
Total intangible assets	<u>\$ 107</u>	<u>\$ (11)</u>	<u>\$ 96</u>	<u>\$ 159</u>	<u>\$ (22)</u>	<u>\$ 137</u>

(1) Refer to Note E for intangible assets impairment charges recorded in the second fiscal quarter of 2018.

Intangible assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives, which range between twelve and twenty-five years, with a weighted average amortization period of approximately nineteen years. Amortization expense for the three month periods ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 was \$1 million and \$2 million, respectively, and is included in Cost of sales and Selling and administrative expenses in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. Amortization expense for both nine month periods ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 was \$6 million and is included in Cost of sales and Selling and administrative expenses in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. Total amortization expense is estimated to be approximately \$6 million each year for the next five fiscal years.

G. Stockholders' Equity

In January 2015, the Board of Directors authorized Cabot to repurchase up to five million shares of its common stock in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. As of June 30, 2018, under such authorization, Cabot has repurchased 4,171,802 shares of its common stock and 828,198 shares remained available for repurchase. The Company retired the repurchased shares and recorded the excess of the purchase price over par value to additional paid-in capital until such amount was reduced to zero and then charged the remainder against retained earnings. In July 2018, the Board of Directors authorized Cabot to repurchase up to an additional ten million shares of its common stock on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The January 2015 share repurchase authorization remains in place. Neither authorization has a set expiration date.

During the first nine months of fiscal 2018 and 2017, Cabot paid cash dividends in the aggregate amount of \$0.96 and \$0.915, respectively, per share of common stock, with a total cost of \$60 million and \$57 million, respectively.

Noncontrolling Interest

The following table illustrates the noncontrolling interest activity for the periods presented:

	Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017
	(In millions)	
Noncontrolling interests at beginning of period	\$ 121	\$ 98
Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	31	18
Foreign currency translation adjustment attributable to noncontrolling interests, net of tax	—	—
Dividends declared to noncontrolling interests	(22)	(14)
Contribution from noncontrolling interest	—	2
Noncontrolling interests at end of period	<u>\$ 130</u>	<u>\$ 104</u>

During the nine months ended June 30, 2018, \$21 million of the dividends declared to noncontrolling interests during the period were paid. During the nine months ended June 30, 2017, \$13 million of the dividends declared to noncontrolling interests during the period were paid.

H. Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

Comprehensive income combines net income (loss) and other comprehensive income items, which are reported as components of stockholders' equity in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Changes in each component of AOCI, net of tax, were as follows:

	Currency Translation Adjustment	Unrealized Gains on Investments	Pension and Other Postretirement Benefit Liability Adjustments	Total
	(In millions)			
Balance at September 30, 2017, attributable to Cabot Corporation	\$ (204)	\$ 2	\$ (57)	\$ (259)
Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications	—	—	—	—
Amounts reclassified from AOCI	(1)	—	—	(1)
Less: Other comprehensive income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	3	—	—	3
Balance at December 31, 2017, attributable to Cabot Corporation	(208)	2	(57)	(263)
Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications	59	—	—	59
Amounts reclassified from AOCI	(1)	—	—	(1)
Less: Other comprehensive income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	4	—	—	4
Balance at March 31, 2018, attributable to Cabot Corporation	(154)	2	(57)	(209)
Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications	(109)	(1)	—	(110)
Amounts reclassified from AOCI	(1)	—	—	(1)
Less: Other comprehensive income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	(7)	—	—	(7)
Balance at June 30, 2018, attributable to Cabot Corporation	<u>\$ (257)</u>	<u>\$ 1</u>	<u>\$ (57)</u>	<u>\$ (313)</u>

The amounts reclassified out of AOCI and into the Consolidated Statements of Operations in the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 were as follows:

	Affected Line Item in the Consolidated Statements of Operations	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
		2018	2017	2018	2017
(In millions)					
Derivatives: net investment hedges					
(Gains) losses reclassified to interest expense	Interest expense	\$ (2)	\$ —	\$ (4)	\$ —
Pension and other postretirement benefit liability adjustment					
Amortization of actuarial losses	Net Periodic Benefit Cost - see Note D for details	1	1	2	4
Amortization of prior service credit	Net Periodic Benefit Cost - see Note D for details	(1)	(1)	(2)	(2)
Total before tax		(2)	—	(4)	2
Tax impact	Provision (benefit) for income taxes	1	—	1	—
Total after tax		\$ (1)	\$ —	\$ (3)	\$ 2

I. Commitments and Contingencies

Purchase Commitments

Cabot has entered into long-term purchase agreements primarily for the purchase of raw materials. Under certain of these agreements, the quantity of material being purchased is fixed, but the price paid changes as market prices change. For these purchase commitments, the amounts included in the table below are based on market prices at June 30, 2018, which may differ from actual market prices at the time of purchase.

	Payments Due by Fiscal Year						
	Remainder of Fiscal 2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Thereafter	Total
(In millions)							
Reinforcement Materials	\$ 79	\$ 294	\$ 180	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 1,901	\$ 2,734
Performance Chemicals	19	67	55	54	54	461	710
Purification Solutions	3	7	6	1	—	—	17
Specialty Fluids	—	15	—	—	—	—	15
Total	\$ 101	\$ 383	\$ 241	\$ 195	\$ 194	\$ 2,362	\$ 3,476

Guarantee Agreements

Cabot has provided certain indemnities pursuant to which it may be required to make payments to an indemnified party in connection with certain transactions and agreements. In connection with certain acquisitions and divestitures, Cabot has provided routine indemnities with respect to such matters as environmental, tax, insurance, product and employee liabilities. In connection with various other agreements, including service and supply agreements with customers, Cabot has provided indemnities for certain contingencies and routine warranties. Cabot is unable to estimate the maximum potential liability for these types of indemnities as a maximum obligation is not explicitly stated in most cases and the amounts, if any, are dependent upon the outcome of future contingent events, the nature and likelihood of which cannot be reasonably estimated. The duration of the indemnities vary, and in many cases are indefinite. Cabot has not recorded any liability for these indemnities in the consolidated financial statements, except as otherwise disclosed.

Contingencies

Cabot is a defendant, or potentially responsible party, in various lawsuits and environmental proceedings wherein substantial amounts are claimed or at issue.

Environmental Matters

As of June 30, 2018 and September 30, 2017, Cabot had \$15 million and \$12 million, respectively, reserved for environmental matters. These environmental matters mainly relate to former operations. The Company's reserves for environmental matters represent Cabot's best estimates of the probable costs to be incurred at those sites where costs are reasonably estimable based on the Company's analysis of the extent of clean up required, alternative clean-up methods available, abilities of other responsible parties to contribute and its interpretation of laws and regulations applicable to each site.

Cash payments related to these environmental matters were \$2 million in the first nine months of both fiscal 2018 and 2017. Cabot reviews the adequacy of the reserves as circumstances change at individual sites and adjusts the reserves as appropriate. Almost all of Cabot's environmental issues relate to sites that are mature and have been investigated and studied and, in many cases, are subject to agreed upon remediation plans. However, depending on the results of future testing, changes in risk assessment practices, remediation techniques and regulatory requirements, newly discovered conditions, and other factors, it is reasonably possible that the Company could incur additional costs in excess of environmental reserves currently recorded. Management estimates, based on the latest available information, that any such future environmental remediation costs that are reasonably possible to be in excess of amounts already recorded would be immaterial to the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Respirator Liabilities

Cabot has exposure in connection with a safety respiratory products business that a subsidiary acquired from American Optical Corporation ("AO") in an April 1990 asset purchase transaction. The subsidiary manufactured respirators under the AO brand and disposed of that business in July 1995. In connection with its acquisition of the business, the subsidiary agreed, in certain circumstances, to assume a portion of AO's liabilities, including costs of legal fees together with amounts paid in settlements and judgments, allocable to AO respiratory products used prior to the 1990 purchase by the Cabot subsidiary. In exchange for the subsidiary's assumption of certain of AO's respirator liabilities, AO agreed to provide to the subsidiary the benefits of: (i) AO's insurance coverage for the period prior to the 1990 acquisition and (ii) a former owner's indemnity of AO holding it harmless from any liability allocable to AO respiratory products used prior to May 1982. As more fully described in the 2017 10-K, the respirator liabilities generally involve claims for personal injury, including asbestosis, silicosis and coal worker's pneumoconiosis, allegedly resulting from the use of respirators that are alleged to have been negligently designed and/or labeled. Neither Cabot, nor its past or present subsidiaries, at any time manufactured asbestos or asbestos-containing products. At no time did this respiratory product line represent a significant portion of the respirator market.

As of June 30, 2018 and September 30, 2017, there were approximately 35,000 and 37,000 claimants, respectively, in pending cases asserting claims against AO in connection with respiratory products. Cabot has a reserve to cover its expected share of liability for existing and future respirator liability claims. At June 30, 2018 and September 30, 2017, the reserve was \$17 million and \$18 million, respectively. The Company made payments related to its respirator liability of \$1 million and \$3 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2018 and fiscal 2017, respectively.

The Company's current estimate of the cost of its share of existing and future respirator liability claims is based on facts and circumstances existing at this time. Developments that could affect the Company's estimate include, but are not limited to, (i) significant changes in the number of future claims, (ii) changes in the rate of dismissals without payment of pending claims, (iii) significant changes in the average cost of resolving claims, (iv) significant changes in the legal costs of defending these claims, (v) changes in the nature of claims received, (vi) changes in the law and procedure applicable to these claims, (vii) the financial viability of other parties that contribute to the settlement of respirator claims, (viii) a change in the availability of insurance coverage maintained by certain of the other parties that contribute to the settlement of respirator claims, or the indemnity provided by a former owner of the business, (ix) changes in the allocation of costs among the various parties paying legal and settlement costs, and (x) a determination that the assumptions that were used to estimate Cabot's share of liability are no longer reasonable. The Company cannot determine the impact of these potential developments on its current estimate of its share of liability for existing and future claims. Accordingly, the actual amount of these liabilities for existing and future claims could be different than the reserved amount.

Other Matters

The Company has various other lawsuits, claims and contingent liabilities arising in the ordinary course of its business and with respect to its divested businesses. The Company does not believe that any of these matters will have a material adverse effect on its financial position; however, litigation is inherently unpredictable. Cabot could incur judgments, enter into settlements or revise its expectations regarding the outcome of certain matters, and such developments could have a material impact on its results of operations in the period in which the amounts are accrued or its cash flows in the period in which the amounts are paid.

J. Income Tax

Effective Tax Rate

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(Dollars in millions)			
(Provision) benefit for income taxes	\$ 4	\$ (16)	\$ (194)	\$ (33)
Effective tax rate	(3)%	23%	1202%	14%

For the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018, the tax (provision) benefit included a net discrete tax benefit of \$23 million and a net discrete tax expense of \$139 million, respectively, of which a net tax benefit of \$4 million and a net tax expense of \$185 million, respectively, resulted from the Act. The amounts for the three and nine month periods also included a net tax expense of \$2 million and a net tax benefit of \$28 million, respectively, associated with the Purification Solutions goodwill and long-lived assets impairment charges as well as a net tax benefit of \$20 million from a change in valuation allowance on a beginning of year tax balance. For the three and nine months ended June 30, 2017, the tax provision included a net discrete tax expense of \$5 million and a net discrete tax benefit of \$15 million, respectively, primarily comprised of a tax expense associated with various return to provision adjustments related to tax return filings and a tax benefit associated with the generation of excess foreign tax credits upon repatriation of previously taxed foreign earnings.

Tax Reform

On December 22, 2017, the U.S. enacted significant changes to federal income tax law affecting the Company, including a permanent reduction of the U.S. corporate income tax rate from 35% to 21%, effective January 1, 2018. Cabot expects that these changes will positively impact the Company's future after-tax earnings in the U.S., primarily due to the lower federal statutory tax rate and the establishment of a full participation exemption regime for foreign earnings. In transitioning to this new full participation exemption regime for foreign earnings, Cabot is subject to a one-time tax for the deemed repatriation of certain foreign earnings. A discussion of certain provisions of the Act and the Company's preliminary assessment of the impact of such provisions on its consolidated financial statements is set forth below.

Uncertain Impacts of the Act

The accounting standard for income taxes ("ASC 740") required the Company to recognize the effect of the tax law changes under the Act in the first quarter of fiscal 2018. However, due to the potential uncertainty or diversity of views in accounting for the impact of the Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission staff issued Staff Accounting Bulletin 118 ("SAB 118") to address the application of U.S. GAAP in situations where a registrant does not have the necessary information available, prepared, or analyzed (including computations) in reasonable detail to complete the accounting for certain income tax effects of the Act.

In particular, SAB 118 clarified that the impact of the Act must be accounted for and reported in one of three ways: (1) by reflecting the tax effects of the Act for which the accounting is complete; (2) by reporting provisional amounts for those specific income tax effects of the Act for which the accounting is incomplete but a reasonable estimate can be determined, with such provisional amounts (or adjustments to provisional amounts) identified in the measurement period, as defined therein, being included as an adjustment to tax expense or benefit from continuing operations in the period the amounts are determined; or (3) where the income tax effects cannot be reasonably estimated, no provisional amounts should be reported and the registrant should continue to apply ASC 740 based on the provisions of the tax laws that were in effect immediately prior to the enactment of the Act. The measurement period begins in the reporting period that includes the Act's enactment date and ends when the accounting has been completed, but not beyond one year from the enactment date.

Due to various uncertainties as described below, the Company has not completed its accounting for certain tax impacts of the Act. However, as provided in SAB 118, reasonable estimates, including any adjustments to the estimates made during the first quarter of fiscal 2018, have been made and recorded as provisional amounts in its financial results for the third quarter of fiscal 2018. A discussion of the material impacts of tax law changes under the Act for which the accounting is incomplete follows:

- **Revaluation of Deferred Tax Assets:** Due to the Company's September 30 fiscal year-end, the reduction in the corporate tax rate to 21% effective January 1, 2018 will apply on a pro-rata basis for fiscal 2018, resulting in a U.S. federal statutory tax rate of 24.53% for the fiscal year. The reduction requires the Company to revalue its deferred tax assets and liabilities to account for the future financial impact of these amounts.

As of June 30, 2018, the accounting for this item was incomplete. Additional information is necessary in order to complete the accounting for this item, including: (1) further analysis regarding the impact of the reduced rate on the reversal of deferred tax assets and liabilities for the full fiscal 2018 at the pro-rata rate, and (2) the true-up of deferred tax assets and liabilities upon the filing of the U.S. income tax return for fiscal 2017. However, for the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018, the Company has recorded a total provisional tax expense of less than \$1 million and \$17 million, respectively, related to the impact of the rate change on deferred tax balances. The adjustment to the provisional amount recorded during the three months ended June 30, 2018 was primarily associated with changes in estimates of temporary differences for the full fiscal year 2018.

- Deemed Repatriation: In general, the Act provides that U.S. shareholders of a “specified foreign corporation”, as defined in the Act, must include in U.S. taxable income its pro-rata share of certain undistributed and previously untaxed post-1986 foreign earnings and profits (“E&P”). The amount of E&P taken into account is the amount determined either as of November 2, 2017 or December 31, 2017, whichever is greater. This inclusion is offset by a deduction that results in an effective U.S. federal income tax rate of either 15.5% or 8%. The 15.5% rate applies to the “aggregate cash position”, as defined in the Act, of the specified foreign corporations and the 8% rate applies to the extent that the income inclusion exceeds the aggregate cash position. The aggregate cash position is determined as the cash position either as of September 30, 2018, or the average of September 30, 2016 and September 30, 2017, whichever is greater. Finally, the U.S. cash tax impact of the deemed repatriation inclusion may be offset by the utilization of foreign tax credits, which are pro-rated to reflect the deduction described above.

As of June 30, 2018, the accounting for this item is incomplete. Significant additional information will need to be obtained and analyzed in order to complete the accounting for this item. This includes: (1) the determination of the full fiscal 2018 E&P and foreign tax credits of the specified foreign corporations; (2) the true-up of the pre-fiscal 2018 E&P and foreign tax credits of the specified foreign corporations upon the filing of the U.S. income tax return for fiscal 2017 (tax year 2016); (3) establishing the appropriate foreign exchange rate for the full fiscal year 2018 used to translate foreign taxes; (4) clarification of the state income tax impact of the repatriation, including guidance from states in which Cabot has a taxable presence on the extent to which the state will conform with the provisions of the Act, as well as determination of the apportionment of the Company’s income for the full fiscal year 2018; (5) uncertainty as to which of the alternative aggregate cash position measurement dates will apply to the Company; and (6) further guidance from the U.S. Treasury Department on the interpretation and application of the rules.

In the absence of such additional information, Cabot has made a reasonable estimate of the financial impact of this item. For the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018, the Company recorded a provisional benefit of \$5 million and a provisional expense of \$144 million, respectively, to the (Provision) benefit for income taxes for deemed repatriation. The adjustment to the provisional amount recorded during the three months ended June 30, 2018 was due to a change in the prevailing interpretation of pending U.S. Treasury Department guidance discussed in Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) Notice 2018-7, relating to the appropriate U.S. shareholder level at which foreign earnings are aggregated. On August 1, 2018 this interpretation was further confirmed upon issuance of U.S. Treasury Department guidance. This amount is expected to be a fully non-cash charge due to the Company’s existing tax attributes.

- Deferred Tax Liability on Unremitted Earnings: In addition to the deemed repatriation of foreign earnings, going forward, the Act effectively establishes a participation exemption system of taxation that, in general, provides a 100% deduction for dividends from specified foreign corporations. However, the Company is still required to provide non-U.S. withholding taxes, as well as other potential tax impacts, on undistributed earnings of non-U.S. subsidiaries that it does not consider to be indefinitely reinvested.

As of June 30, 2018, the accounting for this item is incomplete. Additional information necessary to complete the accounting includes: (1) finalization of U.S. previously taxed income resulting from the deemed repatriation of foreign earnings; (2) further analysis of the amount of distributable reserves, including treatment thereof under local law, available in various non-U.S. subsidiaries; (3) clarification of the state income tax impact of unremitted earnings that are not indefinitely reinvested; and (4) evolving interpretations of the U.S. GAAP rules applicable to the Act. As a result of the Act, the Company has made certain changes to its indefinite reinvestment assertion and has made a reasonable estimate of the financial impact of this item. For the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018, the Company recorded a provisional amount of \$1 million and \$24 million, respectively, to its tax expense for this item. The adjustment to the provisional amount recorded during the three months ended June 30, 2018 was due to a change in the prevailing interpretation of pending U.S. Treasury Department guidance discussed in IRS Notice 2018-7, relating to the appropriate U.S. shareholder level at which foreign earnings are aggregated. On August 1, 2018 this interpretation was further confirmed upon issuance of U.S. Treasury Department guidance.

The Company will continue to evaluate the impact of the Act on its business and consolidated financial statements and will make any further adjustments to its provisional amounts in subsequent reporting periods upon obtaining, preparing or analyzing additional information affecting the income tax effects initially reported as a provisional amount.

Accounting for the Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income Tax

Under the Act, Cabot may be subject to a tax on global intangible low-taxed income ("GILTI") in future years. In general, GILTI is a 10.5% tax on foreign income in excess of a deemed return on tangible assets of foreign corporations. This tax is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017. The Company has not yet adopted an accounting policy with respect to whether (i) to recognize deferred taxes for temporary differences (including outside basis differences) expected to reverse as GILTI or (ii) to recognize these temporary differences as period costs if and when incurred.

Other Material Provisions of the Act Effective in Future Periods

The Act also contains a number of other provisions that may have a material financial impact on the Company in the future. These include base erosion anti-abuse tax, foreign derived intangible income and the interest expense limitation under Internal Revenue Code section 163(j). These tax law changes apply only to tax years beginning after December 31, 2017. Therefore, the Company has not and will not record any amounts related to these items in its fiscal 2018 financial results.

Uncertainties

Cabot and certain subsidiaries are under audit in a number of jurisdictions. In addition, certain statutes of limitations are scheduled to expire in the near future. It is reasonably possible that a further change in the unrecognized tax benefits may also occur within the next twelve months related to the settlement of one or more of these audits or the lapse of applicable statutes of limitations. However, an estimated range of the impact on the unrecognized tax benefits cannot be quantified at this time.

Cabot files U.S. federal and state and non-U.S. income tax returns in jurisdictions with varying statutes of limitations. The 2014 through 2015 tax years generally remain subject to examination by the IRS and various tax years from 2005 through 2015 remain subject to examination by the respective state tax authorities. In significant non-U.S. jurisdictions, various tax years from 2002 through 2016 remain subject to examination by their respective tax authorities. As of December 31, 2017, Cabot's significant non-U.S. jurisdictions include Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the Netherlands.

During the three months ended June 30, 2018, Cabot did not release any uncertain tax positions. During the nine months ended June 30, 2018, Cabot released uncertain tax positions of \$2 million due to the expirations of statutes of limitations in various jurisdictions. During the three and nine months ended June 30, 2017, Cabot released uncertain tax positions of less than \$1 million and \$3 million, respectively, due to the expirations of statutes of limitations in various jurisdictions.

K. Earnings Per Share

The following tables summarize the components of the basic and diluted earnings (loss) per common share ("EPS") computations:

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
(In millions, except per share amounts)				
Basic EPS:				
Net income (loss) attributable to Cabot Corporation	\$ 88	\$ 47	\$ (207)	\$ 176
Less: Undistributed earnings allocated to participating securities ⁽¹⁾	—	—	—	1
Earnings (loss) allocated to common shareholders (numerator)	<u>\$ 88</u>	<u>\$ 47</u>	<u>\$ (207)</u>	<u>\$ 175</u>
Weighted average common shares and participating securities outstanding	62.5	62.9	62.5	62.8
Less: Participating securities ⁽¹⁾	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.5</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.5</u>
Adjusted weighted average common shares (denominator)	<u>61.8</u>	<u>62.4</u>	<u>61.8</u>	<u>62.3</u>
Earnings (loss) per common share - basic:	\$ 1.41	\$ 0.73	\$ (3.36)	\$ 2.79
Diluted EPS:				
Earnings (loss) allocated to common shareholders	\$ 88	\$ 47	\$ (207)	\$ 175
Plus: Earnings (loss) allocated to participating securities	1	—	1	1
Less: Adjusted earnings allocated to participating securities ⁽²⁾	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Earnings (loss) allocated to common shareholders (numerator)	<u>\$ 88</u>	<u>\$ 47</u>	<u>\$ (207)</u>	<u>\$ 175</u>
Adjusted weighted average common shares outstanding	61.8	62.4	61.8	62.3
Effect of dilutive securities:				
Common shares issuable ⁽³⁾	<u>0.5</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>0.5</u>
Adjusted weighted average common shares (denominator)	<u>62.3</u>	<u>62.7</u>	<u>61.8</u>	<u>62.8</u>
Earnings (loss) per common share - diluted:	\$ 1.40	\$ 0.73	\$ (3.36)	\$ 2.78

(1) Participating securities consist of shares underlying outstanding and achieved performance-based restricted stock units issued during and after fiscal 2017 and all unvested time-based restricted stock units.

Undistributed earnings are the earnings which remain after dividends declared during the period are assumed to be distributed to the common and participating shareholders. Undistributed earnings are allocated to common and participating shareholders on the same basis as dividend distributions. The calculation of undistributed earnings is as follows:

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
(In millions)				
Calculation of undistributed earnings (loss):				
Net income (loss) attributable to Cabot Corporation	\$ 88	\$ 47	\$ (207)	\$ 176
Less: Dividends declared on common stock	21	19	60	57
Undistributed earnings (loss)	<u>\$ 67</u>	<u>\$ 28</u>	<u>\$ (267)</u>	<u>\$ 119</u>
Allocation of undistributed earnings (loss):				
Undistributed earnings (loss) allocated to common shareholders	\$ 67	\$ 28	\$ (267)	\$ 118
Undistributed earnings (loss) allocated to participating shareholders	—	—	—	1
Undistributed earnings (loss)	<u>\$ 67</u>	<u>\$ 28</u>	<u>\$ (267)</u>	<u>\$ 119</u>

- (2) Undistributed earnings are adjusted for the assumed distribution of dividends to the dilutive securities, which are described in (3) below, and then reallocated to participating securities.
- (3) Represents incremental shares of common stock from the (i) assumed exercise of stock options issued under Cabot's equity incentive plans; (ii) assumed issuance of shares to employees pursuant to the Company's Deferred Compensation and Supplemental Retirement Plan; and (iii) assumed issuance of shares for outstanding and achieved performance-based restricted stock unit awards issued before fiscal 2017 under Cabot's equity incentive plans using the treasury stock method. For the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018, 260,630 and 799,163 incremental shares of common stock, respectively, were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share because the inclusion of these shares would have been antidilutive. For the three and nine months ended June 30, 2017, 191,616 and 172,969 incremental shares of common stock, respectively, were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share because the inclusion of these shares would have been antidilutive.

L. Restructuring

Cabot's restructuring activities were recorded in the Consolidated Statements of Operations in the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 as follows:

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
(In millions)				
Cost of sales	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ (8)	\$ 2
Selling and administrative expenses	—	—	1	1
Total	<u>\$ 1</u>	<u>\$ 1</u>	<u>\$ (7)</u>	<u>\$ 3</u>

Details of all restructuring activities and the related reserves during the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018 were as follows:

	Severance and Employee Benefits	Environmental Remediation	Asset Sales	Asset Impairment and Accelerated Depreciation	Other	Total
	(In millions)					
Reserve at September 30, 2017	\$ 1	\$ 2	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 3
Charges	—	—	—	—	1	1
Accrual for deposit on sale of land	—	—	(4)	—	—	(4)
Cash received (paid)	—	—	4	—	(1)	3
Reserve at December 31, 2017	\$ 1	\$ 2	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 3
Charges (gain)	1	—	(11)	1	—	(9)
Costs charged against assets / (liabilities)	—	—	2	(1)	—	1
Cash (paid) received	(1)	—	9	—	—	8
Reserve at March 31, 2018	\$ 1	\$ 2	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 3
Charges (gain)	—	1	—	—	—	1
Accrual for deposit on sale of land rights	—	—	(3)	—	—	(3)
Cash (paid) received	(1)	(1)	3	—	—	1
Reserve at June 30, 2018	\$ —	\$ 2	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2

Cabot's severance and employee benefit reserves and other closure related reserves are reflected in Accounts payable and accrued liabilities on the Company's Consolidated Balance Sheets. Cabot's environmental remediation reserves related to restructuring activities are reflected in Other liabilities on the Company's Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Marshall, Texas Plan

In October 2017, Cabot indefinitely idled three of the seven production units at its activated carbon manufacturing facility in Marshall, Texas. The decision, affecting approximately 40 local employees, was driven by the need to better match the business' production capacity and cost structure with the current demand for powdered activated carbon in North America. Total costs related to this plan are expected to be approximately \$1 million, comprised of approximately \$1 million of non-cash accelerated depreciation costs and less than \$1 million of severance costs. The Company recorded charges of approximately \$1 million in the nine months ended June 30, 2018, comprised mainly of accelerated depreciation charges. No further charges are anticipated related to this plan.

2016 Plan

In October 2015, in response to challenging macroeconomic conditions, the Company announced its intention to restructure its operations subject to local consultation requirements and processes in certain locations. Cabot's plan resulted in the termination of employment for approximately 300 employees across the Company's global locations.

Most of the charges and cash outlays related to this plan were recorded in fiscal 2016. The Company recorded pre-tax cash charges related to plan of approximately \$1 million in the first nine months of both fiscal 2018 and 2017, and expects to record approximately \$1 million of cash charges in the remainder of fiscal 2018. The charges recorded and anticipated are comprised of severance, employee benefits and other transition costs. As of June 30, 2018, Cabot has less than \$1 million of accrued severance charges in the Consolidated Balance Sheets related to these actions.

Additionally, in fiscal 2016 Cabot closed its carbon black manufacturing facility in Merak, Indonesia to consolidate production in Asia using the Company's Cilegon, Indonesia and other Asian and global carbon black production sites to meet regional demand. The decision was driven by the financial performance at the Merak facility in the years preceding the closure. Manufacturing operations ceased at the end of January 2016.

The Company completed the sale of the land in Merak on which the facility was located in the second quarter of fiscal 2018. The Company received a refundable deposit of \$4 million of cash in the first quarter of fiscal 2018, which was recorded in Accounts payable and accrued liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2017. An additional payment of approximately \$9 million was received in the second quarter of fiscal 2018, resulting in a net gain of approximately \$11 million. The Company recorded net charges of less than \$1 million in the nine months ended June 30, 2017 primarily for site clearing and demolition costs related to the Merak closure.

As of June 30, 2018, Cabot has less than \$1 million of accrued severance costs in the Consolidated Balance Sheets related to the Merak facility closure.

Other Actions

Cabot has recorded approximately \$1 million of severance charges in the nine months ended June 30, 2018, nearly all of which has been paid in the first nine months of fiscal 2018.

Additionally, in previous years, the Company entered into other various restructuring actions that have been substantially completed, other than the sale of land rights in Thane, India and environmental remediation activities in Berre, France that remain to be completed.

The Company entered into an agreement to sell the land rights in Thane, India. The sale is anticipated to be completed for consideration of approximately \$32 million and is anticipated to result in a net pre-tax gain of approximately \$32 million upon completion of the transaction. The Company received a deposit of \$3 million in cash in the first quarter of fiscal 2015 and another deposit of \$3 million in cash in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 related to this transaction that are recorded in Accounts payable and accrued liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets as the sale has not been consummated.

M. Financial Instruments and Fair Value Measurements

The FASB authoritative guidance on fair value measurements defines fair value, provides a framework for measuring fair value, and requires certain disclosures about fair value measurements. The required disclosures focus on the inputs used to measure fair value. The guidance establishes the following hierarchy for categorizing these inputs:

- Level 1 — Quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 — Significant other observable inputs (e.g., quoted prices for similar items in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar items in markets that are not active, inputs other than quoted prices that are observable such as interest rate and yield curves, and market-corroborated inputs)
- Level 3 — Significant unobservable inputs

There were no transfers of financial assets or liabilities measured at fair value between Level 1 and Level 2 and there were no Level 3 investments during the first nine months of either fiscal 2018 or 2017.

At June 30, 2018 and September 30, 2017, Cabot had derivatives relating to foreign currency risks carried at fair value. At June 30, 2018 and September 30, 2017, the fair value of these derivatives was a net liability of \$17 million and \$13 million, respectively, and was included in Prepaid expenses and other current assets and Other liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. These derivatives are classified as Level 2 instruments within the fair value hierarchy as the fair value determination was based on observable inputs.

At June 30, 2018 and September 30, 2017, the fair value of guaranteed investment contracts, included in Other assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheets, was \$11 million and \$12 million, respectively. Guaranteed investment contracts were classified as Level 2 instruments within the fair value hierarchy as the fair value determination was based on other observable inputs.

At June 30, 2018 and September 30, 2017, the fair values of cash and cash equivalents, accounts and notes receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, and short-term borrowings and variable rate debt approximated their carrying values due to the short-term nature of these instruments. Both the carrying value and fair value of the long-term fixed rate debt were \$0.66 billion as of June 30, 2018. The carrying value and fair value of the long-term fixed rate debt were \$0.91 billion and \$0.94 billion, respectively, as of September 30, 2017. The fair values of Cabot's fixed rate long-term debt are estimated based on comparable quoted market prices at the respective period ends. The carrying amounts of Cabot's floating rate long-term debt and capital lease obligations approximate their fair values. All such measurements are based on observable inputs and are classified as Level 2 within the fair value hierarchy. The valuation technique used is the discounted cash flow model.

N. Derivatives

Foreign Currency Risk Management

Cabot's international operations are subject to certain risks, including currency exchange rate fluctuations and government actions. Cabot endeavors to match the currency in which debt is issued to the currency of the Company's major, stable cash receipts. In some situations, Cabot has issued debt denominated in U.S. dollars and then entered into cross-currency swaps that exchange the dollar principal and interest payments into Euro-denominated principal and interest payments.

Additionally, the Company has foreign currency exposure arising from its net investments in foreign operations. Cabot may enter into cross-currency swaps to mitigate the impact of currency rate changes on the Company's net investments.

The Company also has foreign currency exposure arising from the denomination of monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies other than the functional currency of a given subsidiary as well as the risk that currency fluctuations could affect the dollar value of future cash flows generated in foreign currencies. Accordingly, Cabot uses short-term forward contracts to minimize the exposure to foreign currency risk. In certain situations where the Company has forecasted purchases under a long-term commitment or forecasted sales denominated in a foreign currency, Cabot may enter into appropriate financial instruments in accordance with the Company's risk management policy to hedge future cash flow exposures.

The following table provides details of the derivatives held as of June 30, 2018 and September 30, 2017 to manage foreign currency risk.

Description	Borrowing	Notional Amount		Hedge Designation
		June 30, 2018	September 30, 2017	
Cross-Currency Swaps	3.4% Notes	USD 250 million swapped to EUR 223 million	USD 250 million swapped to EUR 223 million	Net investment
Forward Foreign Currency Contracts (1)	N/A	USD (6) million	USD 5 million	No designation

(1) Cabot's forward foreign exchange contracts are denominated in the Indonesian rupiah and Czech koruna.

Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities

The Company determines the fair value of financial instruments using quoted market prices whenever available. When quoted market prices are not available for various types of financial instruments (such as forwards, options and swaps), the Company uses standard models with market-based inputs, which take into account the present value of estimated future cash flows and the ability of Cabot or the financial counterparty to perform. For interest rate and cross-currency swaps, the significant inputs to these models are interest rate curves for discounting future cash flows and are adjusted for credit risk. For forward foreign currency contracts, the significant inputs are interest rate curves for discounting future cash flows, and exchange rate curves of the foreign currency for translating future cash flows.

Fair Value Hedge

For derivative instruments that are designated and qualify as fair value hedges, the gain or loss on the derivative as well as the offsetting gain or loss on the hedged item attributable to the hedged risk are recognized in current period earnings.

Cash Flow Hedge

For derivative instruments that are designated and qualify as cash flow hedges, the effective portion of the gain or loss on the derivative is recorded in AOCI and reclassified to earnings in the same period or periods during which the hedged transaction affects earnings. Gains and losses on the derivative representing either hedge ineffectiveness or hedge components excluded from the assessment of effectiveness are recognized in current period earnings.

Net Investment Hedge

For net investment hedges, changes in the fair value of the effective portion of the derivatives' gains or losses are reported as foreign currency translation gains or losses in AOCI while changes in the ineffective portion are reported in earnings. Effectiveness is assessed based on the hypothetical derivative method. The gains or losses on derivative instruments reported in AOCI are reclassified to earnings in the period in which earnings are affected by the underlying item, such as a disposal or substantial liquidations of the entities being hedged. Effective October 1, 2017, the Company elected to de-designate its existing net investment hedge instruments in which hedge effectiveness was assessed using the method based on changes in forward exchange rates and re-designate the net investment hedges in which hedge effectiveness will be assessed using the method based on changes in spot exchange rates.

The Company has cross-currency swaps with a notional amount of \$250 million, which are designated as hedges of its net investments in certain Euro-denominated subsidiaries. Cash settlements occur semi-annually on March 15th and September 15th for fixed rate interest payments and a cash exchange of the notional currency amount will occur at the end of the term in 2026. During the first nine months of both fiscal 2018 and 2017, the Company received net cash interest of \$2 million. As of June 30, 2018, the fair value of these swaps was a net liability of \$17 million and was included in Prepaid expenses and other current assets and Other liabilities and the cumulative loss of \$15 million was included in AOCI on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. As of September 30, 2017, the fair value of these swaps was a net liability of \$13 million and was included in Prepaid expenses and other current assets and Other Liabilities and the cumulative loss of \$9 million was included in AOCI on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

The following tables summarize the impact of the cross-currency swaps to AOCI and the Consolidated Statements of Operations:

Description	Three Months Ended June 30									
	2018		2017		2018		2017			
	Gain/(Loss) Recognized in AOCI		(Gain)/Loss Reclassified from AOCI into Interest Expense in the Consolidated Statements of Operations		(Gain)/Loss Recognized in Interest Expense in the Consolidated Statements of Operations (Amount Excluded from Effectiveness Testing)					
Cross-currency swaps (1)	\$	10	\$	(10)	\$	(2)	\$	—	\$	—

Description	Nine Months Ended June 30									
	2018		2017		2018		2017			
	Gain/(Loss) Recognized in AOCI		(Gain)/Loss Reclassified from AOCI into Interest Expense in the Consolidated Statements of Operations		(Gain)/Loss Recognized in Interest Expense in the Consolidated Statements of Operations (Amount Excluded from Effectiveness Testing)					
Cross-currency swaps (1)	\$	(3)	\$	(2)	\$	(4)	\$	—	\$	1

(1) As noted above, effective October 1, 2017, the Company changed the method it uses to assess effectiveness from the method based on changes in forward exchange rates, in which all gains/losses were recognized in AOCI, to the method based on changes in spot exchange rates.

Other Derivative Instruments

From time to time, the Company may enter into certain derivative instruments that may not be designated as hedges for accounting purposes, which may include cross-currency swaps, foreign currency forward contracts and commodity derivatives. For cross-currency swaps and foreign currency forward contracts not designated as hedges, the Company uses standard models with market-based inputs. The significant inputs to these models are interest rate curves for discounting future cash flows, and exchange rate curves of the foreign currency for translating future cash flows. In determining the fair value of the commodity derivatives, the significant inputs to valuation models are quoted market prices of similar instruments in active markets. Although these derivatives do not qualify for hedge accounting, Cabot believes that such instruments are closely correlated with the underlying exposure, thus managing the associated risk. The gains or losses from changes in the fair value of derivative instruments that are not accounted for as hedges are recognized in current period earnings.

At June 30, 2018, the fair value of derivative instruments not designated as hedges were immaterial and were presented in Accounts payable and accrued liabilities, and Prepaid expenses and other current assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. At September 30, 2017 the fair value of derivative instruments not designated as hedges were immaterial and were presented in Prepaid expenses and other current assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

O. Venezuela

Cabot owns 49% of a carbon black operating affiliate in Venezuela, which is accounted for as an equity affiliate, through wholly-owned subsidiaries that carry the investment and receive its dividends. As of June 30, 2018, these subsidiaries carried the operating affiliate investment of \$13 million.

During each of the nine month periods ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, the Company received dividends in the amounts of \$3 million, which were paid in U.S. dollars.

A significant portion of the Company's operating affiliate's sales are exports denominated in U.S. dollars. The Venezuelan government mandates that a certain percentage of the dollars collected from these sales be converted into bolivars. The exchange rates made available to the Company as of June 30, 2018 and September 30, 2017 were 96,000 bolivars and 3,345 bolivars to the U.S. dollar, respectively. Due to a reduced level of export sales in recent quarters, this exchange rate devaluation had an immaterial impact on the Company's results.

The operating entity has historically been profitable. The Company continues to closely monitor developments in Venezuela and their potential impact on the recoverability of its equity affiliate investment. Any future change in the exchange rate made available to the Company could cause the Company to change the exchange rate it uses and result in gains or losses on the bolivar-denominated assets held by its operating affiliate and wholly-owned subsidiaries.

P. Financial Information by Segment

The Company identifies a business as an operating segment if: (i) it engages in business activities from which it may earn revenues and incur expenses; (ii) its operating results are regularly reviewed by the Chief Operating Decision Maker (“CODM”), who is Cabot’s President and Chief Executive Officer, to make decisions about resources to be allocated to the segment and assess its performance; and (iii) it has available discrete financial information. The Company has determined that all of its businesses are operating segments. The CODM reviews financial information at the operating segment level to allocate resources and to assess the operating results and financial performance for each operating segment. Operating segments are aggregated into a reportable segment if the operating segments are determined to have similar economic characteristics and if the operating segments are similar in the following areas: (i) nature of products and services; (ii) nature of production processes; (iii) type or class of customer for their products and services; (iv) methods used to distribute the products or provide services; and (v) if applicable, the nature of the regulatory environment.

The Company has four reportable segments: Reinforcement Materials, Performance Chemicals, Purification Solutions and Specialty Fluids.

The Reinforcement Materials segment represents the rubber blacks and elastomer composites product lines.

The Performance Chemicals segment combines the specialty carbons, specialty compounds and inkjet colorants product lines into the Specialty Carbons and Formulations business, and combines the fumed metal oxides and aerogel product lines into the Metal Oxides business. These businesses are similar in terms of economic characteristics, nature of products, processes, customer class and product distribution methods, and, therefore, have been aggregated into one reportable segment. The net sales from each of these businesses for the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 were as follows:

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(In millions)			
Specialty Carbons and Formulations	\$ 195	\$ 154	\$ 548	\$ 454
Metal Oxides	79	75	223	208
Total Performance Chemicals	<u>\$ 274</u>	<u>\$ 229</u>	<u>\$ 771</u>	<u>\$ 662</u>

The Purification Solutions segment represents the Company’s activated carbon business and the Specialty Fluids segment includes cesium formate oil and gas drilling fluids and high-purity fine cesium chemicals product lines.

Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes (“Segment EBIT”) is presented for each reportable segment in the table below. Segment EBIT excludes certain items, meaning items management does not consider representative of on-going operating segment results. In addition, Segment EBIT includes Equity in earnings of affiliated companies, net of tax, the full operating results of a contractual joint venture in Purification Solutions, royalties, Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests, net of tax, and discounting charges for certain Notes receivable, but excludes Interest expense, foreign currency transaction gains and losses, interest income, dividend income, unearned revenue, general unallocated expense and unallocated corporate costs.

Financial information by reportable segment is as follows:

	Reinforcement Materials	Performance Chemicals	Purification Solutions	Specialty Fluids	Segment Total	Unallocated and Other ⁽¹⁾	Consolidated Total
(In millions)							
Three Months Ended June 30, 2018							
Revenues from external customers ⁽²⁾	\$ 466	\$ 274	\$ 70	\$ 12	\$ 822	\$ 32	\$ 854
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes ⁽³⁾	\$ 74	\$ 56	\$ (6)	\$ 3	\$ 127	\$ (32)	\$ 95
Three Months Ended June 30, 2017							
Revenues from external customers ⁽²⁾	\$ 367	\$ 229	\$ 71	\$ 12	\$ 679	\$ 26	\$ 705
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes ⁽³⁾	\$ 51	\$ 46	\$ (2)	\$ 4	\$ 99	\$ (31)	\$ 68
Nine Months Ended June 30, 2018							
Revenues from external customers ⁽²⁾	\$ 1,307	\$ 771	\$ 206	\$ 24	\$ 2,308	\$ 84	\$ 2,392
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes ⁽³⁾	\$ 215	\$ 160	\$ (6)	\$ (2)	\$ 367	\$ (351)	\$ 16
Nine Months Ended June 30, 2017							
Revenues from external customers ⁽²⁾	\$ 1,014	\$ 662	\$ 207	\$ 30	\$ 1,913	\$ 81	\$ 1,994
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes ⁽³⁾	\$ 145	\$ 146	\$ 4	\$ 6	\$ 301	\$ (80)	\$ 221

(1) Unallocated and Other includes certain items and eliminations necessary to reflect management's reporting of operating segment results. These items are reflective of the segment reporting presented to the CODM.

(2) Consolidated Total Revenues from external customers reconciles to Net sales and other operating revenues on the Consolidated Statements of Operations. Revenues from external customers that are categorized as Unallocated and Other reflects royalties, external shipping and handling fees, the impact of unearned revenue, the removal of 100% of the sales of an equity method affiliate and discounting charges for certain Notes receivable. Details are provided in the table below:

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
(In millions)				
Royalties, the impact of unearned revenue, the removal of 100% of the sales of an equity method affiliate and discounting charges for certain notes receivable	\$ (2)	\$ (4)	\$ (10)	\$ (6)
Shipping and handling fees	34	30	94	87
Total	\$ 32	\$ 26	\$ 84	\$ 81

- (3) Consolidated Total Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes reconciles to Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in earnings of affiliated companies on the Consolidated Statements of Operations. Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes that are categorized as Unallocated and Other includes:

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(In millions)			
Interest expense	\$ (14)	\$ (13)	\$ (41)	\$ (39)
Certain items ^(a)				
Purification Solutions goodwill and long-lived assets impairment charge	—	—	(254)	—
Inventory reserve adjustment	—	—	(13)	—
Global restructuring activities	(1)	(1)	7	(3)
Legal and environmental matters and reserves	—	—	(6)	2
Gains (losses) on sale of investments	—	—	10	—
Executive transition costs	(1)	—	(1)	—
Acquisition and integration-related charges	—	—	(1)	—
Non-recurring gains (losses) on foreign exchange	—	(1)	—	(1)
Other	(1)	—	(2)	—
Total certain items, pre-tax	(3)	(2)	(260)	(2)
Unallocated corporate costs ^(b)	(15)	(11)	(45)	(37)
General unallocated income (expense) ^(c)	—	(2)	(3)	4
Less: Equity in earnings of affiliated companies, net of tax ^(d)	—	3	2	6
Total	\$ (32)	\$ (31)	\$ (351)	\$ (80)

- (a) Certain items are items of expense and income that management does not consider representative of the Company's fundamental on-going segment results and they are, therefore, excluded from Segment EBIT.
- (b) Unallocated corporate costs are costs that are not controlled by the segments and primarily benefit corporate interests.
- (c) General unallocated income (expense) consists of gains (losses) arising from foreign currency transactions, net of other foreign currency risk management activities, the profit or loss related to the corporate adjustment for unearned revenue, and the impact of including the full operating results of a contractual joint venture in Purification Solutions Segment EBIT. Fiscal 2017 amounts have been recast to reflect the retrospective application of the Company's election to change its inventory valuation method of accounting for its U.S. carbon black inventories from the LIFO method to the FIFO method, which resulted in General unallocated income (expense) decreasing by \$2 million and increasing by \$4 million, respectively, for the three and nine months ended June 30, 2017.
- (d) Equity in earnings of affiliated companies, net of tax, is included in Segment EBIT and is removed in Unallocated and other to reconcile to Income (loss) from operations before income taxes and equity in earnings from affiliated companies.

Q. Subsequent Event

Cabot owns 100% of a carbon black operating entity in Argentina. Due to recent negative economic trends in Argentina, including multiple periods of increasing inflation rates, devaluation of the Argentine peso, and increasing borrowing rates locally, the cumulative three-year inflation rate for the country exceeds 100%, and is expected to exceed 100% for the foreseeable future. Therefore, the operating entity is considered to be functioning in a highly inflationary economy, and will begin using Cabot's reporting currency, the U.S. dollar, as its functional currency as of July 1, 2018. No financial statement impact is expected at the date of conversion as a result of the change in functional currency.

Income from operations is not expected to be significantly impacted from this change since the operating entity's sales and a portion of its raw material purchases are denominated in U.S. dollars. However, any future change in the Argentine peso exchange rate will result in foreign currency exchange gains or losses on the operating entity's peso-denominated monetary assets and liabilities.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Critical Accounting Policies

Our consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting policies generally accepted in the United States ("GAAP"). The preparation of our financial statements requires management to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. We consider an accounting estimate to be critical to the financial statements if (i) the estimate is complex in nature or requires a high degree of judgment and (ii) different estimates and assumptions were used, the results could have a material impact on the consolidated financial statements. On an ongoing basis, we evaluate our estimates and the application of our policies. We base our estimates on historical experience, current conditions and on various other assumptions that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates. Our critical accounting policies have not substantially changed from those described in the 2017 Form 10-K, other than our method for accounting for U.S. carbon black inventories which we changed effective October 1, 2017, as described below. We have updated the discussion of the Inventory Valuation, Intangible Asset and Goodwill Impairment, and Long-lived Assets Impairment policies included below to reflect recent events.

Inventory Valuation

Effective October 1, 2017, we changed our method of accounting for U.S. carbon black inventories from the LIFO method to the FIFO method. Total U.S. inventories accounted for utilizing the LIFO cost flow assumption represented 7% of total worldwide inventories as of September 30, 2017 prior to this change in method. We believe the FIFO method is preferable because it: (i) conforms the accounting for U.S. carbon black inventories to the inventory valuation methodology for the majority of our other inventories; (ii) better represents how management assesses and reports on the performance of the Reinforcement Materials and Performance Chemicals operating segments that carry U.S. carbon black inventories, as the impact of accounting for this inventory on a LIFO basis has historically been excluded from segment results; (iii) better aligns the accounting for U.S. carbon black inventories with the physical flow of that inventory; and (iv) improves comparability with many of our peers. We applied this change retrospectively to all prior periods presented for which details are presented in Note B of our Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements ("Note B").

The cost of Specialty Fluids inventories that are classified as assets held for rent is determined using the average cost method. The cost of all other inventories is determined using the FIFO method.

We periodically review inventory for both potential obsolescence and potential declines in anticipated selling prices. In this review, we make assumptions about the future demand for and market value of the inventory, and based on these assumptions estimate the amount of any obsolete, unmarketable, slow moving or overvalued inventory. We write down the value of our inventories by an amount equal to the difference between the cost of the inventory and its estimated net realizable value. Historically, such write-downs have not been material. If actual market conditions are less favorable than those projected by management at the time of the assessment, however, additional inventory write-downs may be required, which could reduce our gross profit and our earnings.

Intangible Assets and Goodwill Impairment

We record tangible and intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed in business combinations under the acquisition method of accounting. Amounts paid for an acquisition are allocated to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed based on their fair values at the date of acquisition. We use assumptions and estimates in determining the fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in a business combination. The determination of the fair value of intangible assets requires the use of significant judgment with regard to assumptions used in the valuation model. We estimate the fair value of identifiable acquisition-related intangible assets principally based on projections of cash flows that will arise from these assets. The projected cash flows are discounted to determine the fair value of the assets at the dates of acquisition.

Definite-lived intangible assets, which are comprised of trademarks, customer relationships and developed technologies, are amortized over their estimated useful lives and are reviewed for impairment when indication of potential impairment exists, such as a significant reduction in cash flows associated with the assets. As discussed in Note C of our Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements, we acquired Tech Blend in November 2017, and the purchase price allocation included separately identifiable intangible assets of \$29 million.

Goodwill is comprised of the purchase price of business acquisitions in excess of the fair value assigned to the net tangible and identifiable intangible assets acquired. Goodwill is not amortized, but is reviewed for impairment annually as of May 31, or when events or changes in the business environment indicate that the carrying value of the reporting unit may exceed its fair value. A reporting unit, for the purpose of the impairment test, is at or below the operating segment level, and constitutes a business for which discrete financial information is available and regularly reviewed by segment management. Reinforcement Materials, and the Fumed Metal Oxides and Specialty Compounds businesses within Performance Chemicals, which are considered separate reporting units, carry our Goodwill balances as of May 31, 2018. The Purification Solutions reporting unit has no remaining goodwill balance subsequent to the goodwill impairment charge recorded in the second quarter of fiscal 2018. As part of the Tech Blend acquisition, goodwill of \$33 million was generated and is reflected in the Specialty Compounds reporting unit.

For the purpose of the goodwill impairment test, we first assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount. If an initial qualitative assessment identifies that it is more likely than not that the carrying value of a reporting unit exceeds its estimated fair value, an additional quantitative evaluation is performed. Alternatively, we may elect to proceed directly to the quantitative goodwill impairment test. If based on the quantitative evaluation the fair value of the reporting unit is less than its carrying amount, a goodwill impairment loss would result. The goodwill impairment loss would be the amount by which the carrying value of the reporting unit, including goodwill, exceeds its fair value, limited to the total amount of goodwill allocated to that reporting unit. The fair value of a reporting unit is based on discounted estimated future cash flows. The fair value is also benchmarked against a market approach using the guideline public companies method. The assumptions used to estimate fair value include management's best estimates of future growth rates, operating cash flows, capital expenditures and discount rates over an estimate of the remaining operating period at the reporting unit level. Refer to Note E and Note F of our Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements ("Note E" and "Note F") for details on the Purification Solutions goodwill impairment test and the resulting charge recorded in the second quarter of fiscal 2018, and the results of our annual goodwill impairment test performed as of May 31, 2018, respectively.

Long-lived Assets Impairment

Our long-lived assets primarily include property, plant and equipment, intangible assets, long-term investments and assets held for rent. The carrying values of long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in business circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable.

To test for impairment of assets, we generally use a probability-weighted estimate of the future undiscounted net cash flows of the assets over their remaining lives to determine if the value of the asset is recoverable. Long-lived assets are grouped with other assets and liabilities at the lowest level for which independent identifiable cash flows are determinable.

An asset impairment is recognized when the carrying value of the asset is not recoverable based on the analysis described above, in which case the asset is written down to its fair value. If the asset does not have a readily determinable market value, a discounted cash flow model may be used to determine the fair value of the asset. In circumstances when an asset does not have separately identifiable cash flows, an impairment charge is recorded when we no longer intend to use the asset. In the second quarter of fiscal 2018, we determined that the long-lived asset group of Purification Solutions was not recoverable and accordingly, we recorded an impairment charge for the carrying value in excess of the fair value of the asset group, as described in Note E.

Results of Operations

Cabot is organized into four reportable business segments: Reinforcement Materials, Performance Chemicals, Purification Solutions and Specialty Fluids. Cabot is also organized for operational purposes into three geographic regions: the Americas; Europe, Middle East and Africa; and Asia Pacific. The discussions of our results of operations for the periods presented reflect these structures.

Our analysis of our financial condition and operating results should be read with our consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes.

Definition of Terms and Non-GAAP Financial Measures

When discussing our results of operations, we use several terms as described below.

The term "product mix" refers to the mix of types and grades of products sold or the mix of geographic regions where products are sold, and the positive or negative impact this has on the revenue or profitability of the business and/or segment.

Our discussion under the heading “(Provision) Benefit for Income Taxes and Reconciliation of Effective Tax Rate to Operating Tax Rate” includes a discussion of our “effective tax rate” and our “operating tax rate” and includes a reconciliation of the two rates. Our operating tax rate is a non-GAAP financial measure and should not be considered as an alternative to our effective tax rate, the most comparable GAAP financial measure. In calculating our operating tax rate, we exclude discrete tax items, which include: (i) unusual or infrequent items, such as a significant release or establishment of a valuation allowance, (ii) items related to uncertain tax positions, such as the tax impact of audit settlements, interest on tax reserves, and the release of tax reserves from the expiration of statutes of limitations, and (iii) other discrete tax items, such as the tax impact of legislative changes and, on a quarterly basis, the timing of losses in certain jurisdictions and the cumulative rate adjustment, if applicable. We also exclude the tax impact of certain items, as defined below in the discussion of Total segment EBIT, on both operating income and the tax provision. Our definition of the operating tax rate may not be comparable to the definition used by other companies. Management believes that this non-GAAP financial measure is useful supplemental information because it helps our investors compare our tax rate year to year on a consistent basis and to understand what our tax rate on current operations would be without the impact of these items.

Our discussion under the heading “Third Quarter and First Nine Months of Fiscal 2018 versus Third Quarter and First Nine Months of Fiscal 2017—By Business Segment” includes a discussion of Total segment EBIT, which is a non-GAAP financial measure defined as Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in earnings of affiliated companies less certain items and other unallocated items. Our Chief Operating Decision Maker, who is our President and Chief Executive Officer, uses segment EBIT to evaluate the operating results of each segment and to allocate resources to the segments. We believe Total segment EBIT, which reflects the sum of EBIT from our four reportable segments, provides useful supplemental information for our investors as it is an important indicator of our operational strength and performance, allows investors to see our results through the eyes of management, and provides context for our discussion of individual business segment performance. Total segment EBIT should not be considered an alternative for Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in earnings of affiliated companies, which is the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure. A reconciliation of Total segment EBIT to Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in earnings of affiliated companies is provided under the heading “Third Quarter of Fiscal 2018 versus Third Quarter of Fiscal 2017—By Business Segment”. Investors should consider the limitations associated with this non-GAAP measure, including the potential lack of comparability of this measure from one company to another.

In calculating Total segment EBIT, we exclude from our Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in earnings of affiliated companies (i) items of expense and income that management does not consider representative of our fundamental on-going segment results, which we refer to as “certain items”, and (ii) items that, because they are not controlled by the business segments and primarily benefit corporate objectives, are not allocated to our business segments, such as interest expense and other corporate costs, which include unallocated corporate overhead expenses such as certain corporate salaries and headquarter expenses, plus costs related to special projects and initiatives, which we refer to as “other unallocated items”. Management believes excluding the items identified as certain items facilitates operating performance comparisons from period to period by eliminating differences caused by the existence and timing of certain expense and income items that would not otherwise be apparent on a GAAP basis and also facilitates an evaluation of our operating performance without the impact of these costs or benefits. The items of income and expense that we have excluded from Total segment EBIT, as applicable, but that are included in our GAAP Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in earnings of affiliated companies, as applicable, are described below.

- Asset impairment charges, which primarily include charges associated with an impairment of goodwill or other long-lived assets.
- Inventory reserve adjustment, which resulted from an evaluation performed as part of an impairment analysis.
- Global restructuring activities, which include costs or benefits associated with cost reduction initiatives or plant closures and are primarily related to (i) employee termination costs, (ii) asset impairment charges associated with restructuring actions, (iii) costs to close facilities, including environmental costs and contract termination penalties and (iv) gains realized on the sale of land or equipment associated with restructured plants or locations.
- Acquisition and integration-related charges, which include transaction costs, redundant costs incurred during the period of integration, and costs associated with transitioning certain management and business processes to our processes.
- Legal and environmental reserves and matters, which consist of costs or benefits for matters typically related to former businesses or that are otherwise incurred outside of the ordinary course of business.
- Gains (losses) on sale of investments, which primarily relate to the sale of investments accounted for using the cost method.

- Non-recurring gains (losses) on foreign exchange, which primarily relate to the impact of controlled currency devaluations on our net monetary assets denominated in that currency.
- Executive transition costs, which include incremental charges, including stock compensation charges, associated with the retirement or termination of employment of senior executives of the Company.

Overview

During the third quarter of fiscal 2018, Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in earnings of affiliated companies increased compared to the third quarter of fiscal 2017 primarily due to improved business segment results from both Reinforcement Materials and Performance Chemicals. Reinforcement Materials results were driven by higher volumes, higher spot pricing in Asia and calendar year 2018 customer agreement pricing and product mix. Performance Chemicals benefitted from strong volume growth and price increases.

Third Quarter of Fiscal 2018 versus Third Quarter of Fiscal 2017—Consolidated

Net Sales and Other Operating Revenues and Gross Profit

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(In millions)			
Net sales and other operating revenues	\$ 854	\$ 705	\$ 2,392	\$ 1,994
Gross profit	\$ 200	\$ 161	\$ 568	\$ 489

The \$149 million increase in net sales in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 compared to the third quarter of fiscal 2017 was driven by a more favorable price and product mix (combined \$66 million) predominantly in Reinforcement Materials, higher volumes (\$43 million) and the favorable impact from foreign currency translation (\$35 million). For the first nine months of fiscal 2018, net sales increased by \$398 million compared to the first nine months of fiscal 2017 primarily due to a more favorable price and product mix (\$238 million) predominantly in Reinforcement Materials, the favorable impact from foreign currency translation (\$90 million) and higher volumes (\$68 million). The higher volumes were driven by the Reinforcement Materials and Performance Chemicals segments (combined \$82 million) and were partially offset by Purification Solutions and Specialty Fluids (combined \$14 million).

Gross profit increased by \$39 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 compared to the third quarter of fiscal 2017, primarily due to higher unit margins and higher volumes driven by the Reinforcement Materials segment and the favorable impact from foreign currency translation. For the first nine months of fiscal 2018, gross profit increased by \$79 million compared to the prior year period primarily due to higher unit margins and higher volumes from the Reinforcement Materials and Performance Chemicals segments as well as the favorable impact from foreign currency translation, partially offset by higher fixed costs.

Selling and Administrative Expenses

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(In millions)			
Selling and administrative expenses	\$ 74	\$ 63	\$ 221	\$ 191

Selling and administrative expenses increased by \$11 million and by \$30 million in the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2018 compared to the same periods of fiscal 2017, primarily due to ongoing corporate projects and higher incentive compensation accruals.

Research and Technical Expenses

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(In millions)			
Research and technical expenses	\$ 17	\$ 14	\$ 48	\$ 40

Research and technical expenses increased by \$3 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 and by \$8 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2018 compared to the same periods of fiscal 2017, primarily due to higher spending on growth projects across the Company.

Interest and Dividend Income, Interest Expense and Other Income (Expense)

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(In millions)			
Interest and dividend income	\$ 2	\$ 3	\$ 8	\$ 7
Interest expense	\$ (14)	\$ (13)	\$ (41)	\$ (39)
Other income (expense)	\$ (2)	\$ (6)	\$ 4	\$ (5)

Interest and dividend income decreased by \$1 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 compared to the same period for fiscal 2017 primarily due to interest earned on lower cash balances while the interest and dividend income for the first nine months of fiscal 2018 increased by \$1 million compared to the same periods of fiscal 2017 due to higher interest rates.

Interest expense increased by \$1 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 and increased by \$2 million during the first nine months of fiscal 2018 compared to the same periods in fiscal 2017 primarily due to higher commercial paper debt balances and higher interest rates.

Other income (expense) changed by \$4 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 compared to the third quarter of fiscal 2017, primarily due to the favorable comparison of foreign currency movements. Other income (expense) changed by \$9 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2018 compared to the same period of fiscal 2017 primarily due to the realized gains on the sale of cost-method investments.

(Provision) Benefit for Income Taxes and Reconciliation of Effective Tax Rate to Operating Tax Rate

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(Dollars in millions)			
(Provision) benefit for income taxes	\$ 4	\$ (16)	\$ (194)	\$ (33)
Effective tax rate	(3)%	23%	1202%	14%
Impact of discrete tax items ⁽¹⁾ :				
Unusual or infrequent items	3%	(4)%	(1143)%	7%
Items related to uncertain tax positions	(1)%	(2)%	(13)%	—%
Other discrete tax items	23%	5%	136%	—%
Impact of certain items	(1)%	(1)%	(161)%	—%
Operating tax rate	21%	21%	21%	21%

(1) For the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018, Impact of discrete tax items included a net discrete tax benefit of \$26 million and a net discrete tax expense of \$164 million, respectively. For both the three and nine months ended June 30, 2017, impact of discrete tax items included a net discrete tax expense of \$5 million and a net discrete tax benefit of \$15 million, respectively. The nature of the discrete tax items for the periods ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 were as follows:

- (a) Unusual or infrequent items during the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018 consisted of the net tax impacts resulting from the enactment of H.R. 1 (the "Act") as discussed further below and in the discussion under the heading "Tax Reform" in Note J of our Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements ("Note J") (net tax benefit of \$4 million and net tax expense of \$185 million, respectively), net tax impacts from cash management activities, foreign exchange (gain)/loss on the re-measurement of a deferred tax liability, as well as impacts related to stock compensation deductions. Additionally, unusual or infrequent items during the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 included the tax impact of excludible foreign exchange gains and losses in certain jurisdictions. Unusual or infrequent items during the three and nine months ended June 30, 2017 included the net tax impacts from excess foreign tax credits upon repatriation of previously taxed foreign earnings and the accrual of U.S. tax on certain foreign earnings;
- (b) Items related to uncertain tax positions during the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 included net tax impacts from the reversal of accruals for uncertain tax positions due to the expiration of statutes of limitations and the settlement of tax audits, the accrual of interest on uncertain tax positions, the refinement of the accrual for existing uncertain tax positions (fiscal 2018 only) and the accrual of a prior year uncertain tax position (fiscal 2017 only);
- (c) Other discrete tax items during the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018 included changes in valuation allowances on beginning of year tax balances. Additionally, other discrete tax items during the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 included net tax impacts from various return to provision adjustments related to tax return filings, changes in non-US tax laws and as a result of audit settlements (fiscal 2018 only).

For fiscal 2018, our expected operating tax rate is reconciled to our expected effective tax rate in the table below.

	Forecast for the Year Ended September 30, 2018
Effective tax rate	200%
Impact of discrete tax items:	
Unusual or infrequent items	(171)%
Items related to uncertain tax positions	(2)%
Other discrete tax items	20%
Impact of certain items	(26)%
Operating tax rate	<u>21%</u>

We file U.S. federal and state and non-U.S. income tax returns in jurisdictions with varying statutes of limitations. We are under audit in a number of jurisdictions. It is possible that some of these audits will be resolved in fiscal 2018 and could impact our anticipated effective tax rate. We have filed our tax returns in accordance with the tax laws, in all material respects, in each jurisdiction and maintain tax reserves for uncertain tax positions.

Tax Reform

On December 22, 2017, the U.S. enacted significant changes to federal income tax law affecting us, including a permanent reduction of the U.S. corporate income tax rate from 35% to 21%, effective January 1, 2018. We expect that these changes will positively impact our future after-tax earnings in the U.S., primarily due to the lower federal statutory tax rate and the establishment of a full participation exemption regime for foreign earnings. In transitioning to this new full participation exemption regime for foreign earnings, we are subject to a one-time tax for the deemed repatriation of certain foreign earnings. Refer to the discussion under the heading "Tax Reform" in Note J.

Equity in Earnings of Affiliated Companies and Net Income (Loss) Attributable to Noncontrolling Interests

	<u>Three Months Ended June 30</u>		<u>Nine Months Ended June 30</u>	
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
	(In millions)			
Equity in earnings of affiliated companies, net of tax	\$ —	\$ 3	\$ 2	\$ 6
Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests, net of tax	\$ 11	\$ 8	\$ 31	\$ 18

Equity in earnings of affiliated companies, net of tax, decreased by \$3 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 and by \$4 million for the nine months ended June 30, 2018 compared to the same periods of fiscal 2017, primarily due to lower earnings from our Venezuelan equity affiliate.

Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests, net of tax, increased by \$3 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 and \$13 million for the first nine months of fiscal 2018 as compared to the same periods of fiscal 2017, primarily due to the higher profitability from our joint ventures in China and the Czech Republic.

Net Income Attributable to Cabot Corporation

In the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2018, we reported net income (loss) attributable to Cabot Corporation of \$88 million and (\$207) million, respectively, or \$1.40 and (\$3.36) per diluted common share, respectively. This compares to net income (loss) attributable to Cabot Corporation of \$47 million and \$176 million, respectively, or \$0.73 and \$2.78 per diluted common share, respectively, in the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2017. The net loss for the first nine months of fiscal 2018 is due to a tax charge recorded of \$185 million in connection with the enactment of the Act, and the Purification Solutions asset impairment charge of \$226 million after-tax.

Third Quarter and First Nine Months of Fiscal 2018 versus Third Quarter and First Nine Months of Fiscal 2017—By Business Segment

Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in earnings of affiliated companies, certain items, other unallocated items, and Total segment EBIT for the three and nine months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 are set forth in the table below. The details of certain items and other unallocated items are shown below and in Note P of our Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(In millions)			
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in earnings of affiliated companies	\$ 95	\$ 68	\$ 16	\$ 221
Less: Certain items	(3)	(2)	(260)	(2)
Less: Other unallocated items	(29)	(29)	(91)	(78)
Total segment EBIT	\$ 127	\$ 99	\$ 367	\$ 301

In the third quarter of fiscal 2018, Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in earnings of affiliated companies increased by \$27 million and total segment EBIT increased by \$28 million when compared to the third quarter of fiscal 2017 primarily due to higher unit margins (\$21 million), higher volumes (\$19 million) and the favorable impact from foreign currency translation (\$11 million), partially offset by higher fixed costs (\$15 million) and the unfavorable impact from inventory changes (\$8 million). Higher unit margins were primarily driven by calendar year 2018 customer agreement pricing and mix gains and higher spot pricing in Asia in Reinforcement Materials. The higher fixed costs were associated with our investments in growth initiatives and higher personnel costs.

In the first nine months of fiscal 2018, Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in earnings of affiliated companies decreased by \$205 million primarily due to the Purification Solutions asset impairment charges totaling \$254 million and an additional overall increase in charges from Other unallocated items and Certain items totaling \$17 million, partially offset by the \$66 million increase in business EBIT. Total segment EBIT increased by \$66 million when compared to the same period of fiscal 2017 primarily due to higher volumes (\$24 million) in Reinforcement Materials and Performance Chemicals, higher unit margins (\$71 million) largely due to Reinforcement Materials and the favorable impact from foreign currency translation (\$20 million), partially offset by higher fixed costs (\$39 million) and the unfavorable impact from inventory changes (\$9 million). Higher unit margins were primarily driven by calendar year 2018 customer agreement pricing and mix and spot pricing in Asia in the Reinforcement Materials segment. The higher fixed costs were associated with our investments in growth initiatives for both Reinforcement Materials and Performance Chemicals and higher personnel costs.

Certain Items

Details of the certain items for the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2018 are as follows:

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(In millions)			
Purification Solutions goodwill and long-lived asset impairment charge (Note E)	\$ —	—	\$ (254)	—
Inventory reserve adjustment (Note E)	—	—	(13)	—
Global restructuring activities (Note L)	(1)	(1)	7	(3)
Legal and environmental matters and reserves	—	—	(6)	2
Gains (losses) on sale of investments	—	—	10	—
Executive transition costs	(1)	—	(1)	—
Acquisition and integration-related charges	—	—	(1)	—
Non-recurring gains (losses) on foreign exchange	—	(1)	—	(1)
Other	(1)	—	(2)	—
Total certain items, pre-tax	(3)	(2)	(260)	(2)
Tax-related certain items:				
Tax impact of certain items	(2)	—	28	—
Discrete tax items (Note J)	26	(5)	(164)	15
Total tax-related certain items	24	(5)	(136)	15
Total certain items, after tax	\$ 21	\$ (7)	\$ (396)	\$ 13

The tax impact of certain items is determined by (1) starting with the current and deferred income tax expense or benefit included in Net income (loss) attributable to Cabot Corporation, and (2) subtracting the tax expense or benefit on “adjusted earnings”. Adjusted earnings is defined as the pre-tax income attributable to Cabot Corporation excluding certain items. The tax expense or benefit on adjusted earnings is calculated by applying the operating tax rate, as defined under the heading “Definition of Terms and Non-GAAP Financial Measures”, to adjusted earnings.

Other Unallocated Items

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(In millions)			
Interest expense	\$ (14)	\$ (13)	\$ (41)	\$ (39)
Unallocated corporate costs	(15)	(11)	(45)	(37)
General unallocated income (expense)	—	(2)	(3)	4
Less: Equity in earnings of affiliated companies, net of tax	—	3	2	6
Total other unallocated items	\$ (29)	\$ (29)	\$ (91)	\$ (78)

A discussion of items that we refer to as “other unallocated items” can be found under the heading “Definition of Terms and Non-GAAP Financial Measures”. The balances of unallocated corporate costs are primarily comprised of expenditures related to managing a public company that are not allocated to the segments and corporate business development costs related to ongoing corporate projects. The balances of General unallocated income (expense) consist of gains (losses) arising from foreign currency transactions, net of other foreign currency risk management activities, the profit or loss related to the corporate adjustment for unearned revenue, and the impact of including the full operating results of a contractual joint venture in Purification Solutions segment EBIT.

Total other unallocated items was unchanged in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 as compared to the same period in fiscal 2017. Within Total other unallocated items, Unallocated corporate costs increased by \$4 million over the same period of fiscal 2017 and were offset by the favorable impact from currency translation and higher interest income.

Total other unallocated items changed by \$13 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2018 as compared to the same period in fiscal 2017 primarily due to the unfavorable impact from foreign currency translation which is included in General unallocated income (expense), and an increase in Unallocated corporate costs for corporate projects and corporate management spending.

Reinforcement Materials

Sales and EBIT for Reinforcement Materials for the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2018 and fiscal 2017 were as follows:

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(In millions)			
Reinforcement Materials Sales	\$ 466	\$ 367	\$ 1,307	\$ 1,014
Reinforcement Materials EBIT	\$ 74	\$ 51	\$ 215	\$ 145

Sales in Reinforcement Materials increased by \$99 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 compared to the same period of fiscal 2017, primarily due to a more favorable price and product mix (combined \$59 million), higher volumes (\$21 million) and a favorable impact from foreign currency translation (\$19 million). The favorable price and product mix impact was primarily due to price and mix improvements from calendar year 2018 customer agreements, higher spot pricing in Asia, and the passthrough of higher feedstock costs in our pricing.

In the first nine months of fiscal 2018, sales in Reinforcement Materials increased by \$293 million when compared to the first nine months of fiscal 2017. The increase was principally driven by a more favorable price and product mix (combined \$218 million), the favorable impact from foreign currency translation (\$47 million) and higher volumes (\$30 million). The more favorable price and product mix impact was primarily due to calendar year 2018 customer agreement pricing and mix, higher spot pricing in Asia, and the passthrough of higher feedstock costs in our pricing.

EBIT in Reinforcement Materials increased by \$23 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 compared to the same period of fiscal 2017, primarily due to higher unit margins (\$19 million), higher volumes (\$9 million) and the favorable impact from foreign currency translation (\$7 million), partially offset by higher fixed costs (\$9 million) and the unfavorable impact of inventory changes (\$2 million). Higher unit margins were driven by price improvements in calendar year 2018 customer agreements, a more favorable product mix and spot pricing in Asia. The higher fixed costs were primarily due to higher maintenance and personnel costs.

EBIT in Reinforcement Materials increased by \$70 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2018 compared to the same period of fiscal 2017. The increase was principally driven by higher unit margins (\$67 million), higher volumes (\$13 million) and the favorable impact of foreign currency translation (\$12 million), partially offset by higher fixed costs (\$20 million) and the unfavorable impact of inventory changes (\$3 million). Higher unit margins were driven by price and mix improvements in calendar year 2018 customer agreements and spot pricing in Asia. The higher fixed costs were primarily due to higher maintenance and personnel costs.

Performance Chemicals

Sales and EBIT for Performance Chemicals for the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2018 and fiscal 2017 were as follows:

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(In millions)			
Specialty Carbons and Formulations Sales	\$ 195	\$ 154	\$ 548	\$ 454
Metal Oxides Sales	79	75	223	208
Performance Chemicals Sales	\$ 274	\$ 229	\$ 771	\$ 662
Performance Chemicals EBIT	\$ 56	\$ 46	\$ 160	\$ 146

Sales in Performance Chemicals increased by \$45 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 compared to the same period of fiscal 2017, primarily due to higher volumes (\$24 million), a favorable impact from foreign currency translation (\$13 million) and a more favorable price and product mix (combined \$8 million). The higher volumes were driven by the Specialty Carbons and Formulations business with volume increases across all regions while the favorable price and product mix was primarily due to price increases achieved for both Specialty Carbons and Formulations and Metal Oxides sales.

In the first nine months of fiscal 2018, sales in Performance Chemicals increased by \$109 million when compared to the same period of fiscal 2017. The increase was primarily due to higher volumes (\$52 million), a favorable price and product mix (combined \$23 million) and the favorable impact of foreign currency translation (\$34 million). Both the higher volumes and improved pricing were driven by the Specialty Carbons and Formulations business.

EBIT in Performance Chemicals increased by \$10 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 compared to the same period of fiscal 2017, primarily due to higher volumes (\$11 million), higher unit margins (\$8 million) and the favorable impact from foreign currency translation (\$4 million), partially offset by higher fixed costs (\$9 million) and the unfavorable impact from inventory changes (\$4 million). Higher volumes were driven by Specialty Carbons and Formulations volume increases in all regions. Higher unit margins were driven by price increases in Specialty Carbons and Formulations and Metal Oxides while higher fixed costs were primarily driven by increased spending related to growth initiatives.

EBIT in Performance Chemicals increased by \$14 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2018 when compared to the same period of fiscal 2017 principally due to higher volumes (\$21 million), higher unit margins (\$14 million) and the favorable impact of foreign currency translation (\$9 million), partially offset by higher fixed costs (\$27 million). Higher volumes were primarily related to the Specialty Carbons and Formulations business in Europe, Asia and North America. Higher fixed costs were primarily due to increased maintenance costs to ensure the reliability of our facilities and increased spending related to growth initiatives.

Purification Solutions

Sales and EBIT for Purification Solutions for the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2018 and fiscal 2017 were as follows:

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(In millions)			
Purification Solutions Sales	\$ 70	\$ 71	\$ 206	\$ 207
Purification Solutions EBIT	\$ (6)	\$ (2)	\$ (6)	\$ 4

Sales in Purification Solutions decreased by \$1 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 compared to the same period of fiscal 2017 due to lower volumes (\$5 million), partially offset by a favorable impact from foreign currency translation (\$3 million) and a more favorable price and product mix (\$1 million). Sales in Purification Solutions decreased by \$1 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2018 when compared to the same period of fiscal 2017. Volume decreases (\$10 million) during the first nine months of fiscal 2018 were offset by the favorable impact from foreign currency translation (\$9 million).

EBIT in Purification Solutions decreased by \$4 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 compared to the same period of fiscal 2017, primarily due to lower volumes (\$3 million), lower unit margins (\$3 million) and the unfavorable impact from inventory changes (\$2 million), partially offset by lower fixed costs (\$4 million). EBIT in Purification Solutions decreased by \$10 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2018 when compared to the same period of fiscal 2017 due to lower volumes (\$5 million), lower unit margins (\$8 million), the unfavorable impact of inventory changes (\$4 million) and the unfavorable impact of foreign currency translation (\$1 million), partially offset by lower fixed costs (\$9 million). The lower volumes and lower unit margins for both the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2018 were primarily due to ongoing competitive pressures within the mercury removal application, higher variable unit costs and a less favorable product mix. Lower fixed costs for both the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2018 were primarily driven by restructuring actions at our Marshall, Texas facility.

Specialty Fluids

Sales and EBIT for Specialty Fluids for the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2018 and 2017 were as follows:

	Three Months Ended June 30		Nine Months Ended June 30	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(In millions)			
Specialty Fluids Sales	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 24	\$ 30
Specialty Fluid EBIT	\$ 3	\$ 4	\$ (2)	\$ 6

Sales in Specialty Fluids remained unchanged in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 and decreased by \$6 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2018 compared to the same periods of fiscal 2017. The decrease in sales for the first nine months of fiscal 2018 was primarily due to lower volumes from reduced project activity.

EBIT in Specialty Fluids decreased by \$1 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2018 compared to the same period of fiscal 2017 due to the mix of projects in the quarter. EBIT decreased by \$8 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2018 compared to the same period of fiscal 2017 primarily due to lower volumes from reduced project activity.

Outlook

Looking ahead to the fourth quarter, we anticipate that Reinforcement Materials will continue its robust performance supported by our advantaged leadership position and our strong commercial execution. In Performance Chemicals, we expect to maintain margins and continued strong volumes in Specialty Carbons and Formulations, but we expect lower volumes and higher costs in the Metal Oxides business due to maintenance that has been scheduled to align with two of our fumed silica partners' turnarounds in the fourth quarter. Although the ongoing competitive pressures will continue to impact results in the Purification Solutions segment, we expect higher seasonal volumes in the fourth quarter to improve results sequentially. We continue to review our strategic options for our Purification Solutions business and look for opportunities to better position the business for growth and long-term value enhancement. In the Specialty Fluids segment, we are expecting the continued ramp up of drilling activity on recently awarded projects to drive improved results in the fourth quarter. We continue to execute on our strategy and are poised to deliver a very successful 2018 fiscal year.

On July 6, 2018, the U.S. and China began imposing tariffs on certain of each other's products, and both countries have identified additional tariffs that may be imposed on additional imported products, including consumer goods, such as tires. Based on the current tariffs and the products subject to them, we do not anticipate these tariffs will have a material impact on our results of operations because of the significant geographic alignment between our manufacturing operations and our customers. We will continue to monitor the potential for disruption and adverse revenue and/or cost impacts that may result from these and any future actions.

Cash Flows and Liquidity

Overview

Our liquidity position, as measured by cash and cash equivalents plus borrowing availability, decreased by \$451 million during the first nine months of fiscal 2018, which was largely attributable to higher net working capital, an increased use of cash in investing activities, and the refinancing of our \$250 million, 2.55% fixed rate debt with commercial paper. As of June 30, 2018, we had cash and cash equivalents of \$131 million and borrowing availability under our revolving credit agreement of \$697 million. Our revolving credit agreement supports our commercial paper program and may be used for working capital, letters of credit and other general corporate purposes.

At June 30, 2018, we were in compliance with all covenants under our revolving credit facility, including the total consolidated debt to consolidated EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) covenant.

A significant portion of our business occurs outside the U.S. and our cash generation does not always align geographically with our cash needs. The vast majority of our cash and cash equivalent holdings tend to be held outside the U.S. Cash held by foreign subsidiaries is generally used to finance the subsidiaries' operational activities and future investments. We use commercial paper throughout the year to manage short-term U.S. cash needs. The commercial paper balance is generally paid down at quarter-end using cash derived from customer collections, settlement of intercompany balances and short-term intercompany loans. The balance of commercial paper outstanding as of June 30, 2018 was \$303 million. In the unusual event that additional funds are needed in the U.S., we have the ability to repatriate additional funds.

We do not expect Tax Reform, discussed in more detail in Note J, to have a material impact on our liquidity position due to our existing tax attributes. We are evaluating the impact of tax reform on our opportunities to repatriate some portion of our foreign cash balances to the U.S.

We generally manage our cash and debt on a global basis to provide for working capital requirements as needed by region or site. Cash and debt are generally denominated in the local currency of the subsidiary holding the assets or liabilities, except where there are operational cash flow reasons to hold non-functional currency or debt.

We anticipate sufficient liquidity from (i) cash on hand; (ii) cash flows from operating activities; and (iii) cash available from our revolving credit agreement and our commercial paper program to meet our operational and capital investment needs and financial obligations for the foreseeable future. The liquidity we derive from cash flows from operations is, to a large degree, predicated on our ability to collect our receivables in a timely manner, the cost of our raw materials, and our ability to manage inventory levels.

We issued \$30 million of 7.42% medium term notes in fiscal 1999 that mature on December 11, 2018 and are included in Current portion of long-term debt on the Consolidated Balance Sheets as of June 30, 2018. We intend to pay off these notes at maturity with cash on hand and/or commercial paper borrowings.

The following discussion of the changes in our cash balance refers to the various sections of our Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Cash provided by operating activities, which consists of net income adjusted for the various non-cash items included in income, changes in working capital including the impact of higher raw material prices and changes in certain other balance sheet accounts, totaled \$143 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2018 compared to \$191 million during the same period of fiscal 2017.

Cash provided by operating activities in the first nine months of fiscal 2018 was driven primarily by a net loss of \$176 million plus the non-cash impacts of the impairment of the assets and goodwill of the Purification Solutions business of \$162 million and \$92 million, respectively, depreciation and amortization of \$117 million and an increase in our deferred tax provision of \$131 million. In addition, there was an increase in Accounts payable and accrued liabilities. Partially offsetting these cash inflows were increases in Accounts and notes receivable and Inventories.

Cash provided by operating activities in the first nine months of fiscal 2017 was driven primarily by net income excluding the non-cash impact of depreciation and amortization of \$115 million. In addition, there was an increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities. Partially offsetting these cash inflows were increases in accounts and notes receivable, inventories, and deferred tax benefits.

Cash Flows from Investing Activities

In the nine months ended June 30, 2018, investing activities consumed \$211 million of cash, which was primarily driven by \$64 million of cash paid for our acquisition of Tech Blend, net of cash acquired of \$1 million, and capital expenditures of \$167 million. These capital expenditures were for sustaining and compliance capital projects at our operating facilities as well as capacity expansion capital expenditures in Reinforcement Materials and Performance Chemicals. In the nine months ended June 30, 2017, investing activities consumed \$89 million of cash which was primarily driven by capital expenditures of \$86 million. These capital expenditures were primarily for sustaining and compliance capital projects at our operating facilities.

Capital expenditures for fiscal 2018 are expected to be approximately \$250 million. Our planned capital spending program for fiscal 2018 is primarily for sustaining, compliance and improvement capital projects at our operating facilities as well as expansion capital expenditures, primarily for the construction of our fumed silica manufacturing plants in Carrollton, Kentucky and Wuhai, China and debottlenecking of our carbon black network.

Cash Flows from Financing Activities

Financing activities consumed \$69 million of cash in the first nine months of fiscal 2018 compared to \$94 million of cash consumed in the first nine months of fiscal 2017. In the first nine months of fiscal 2018, financing activities consisted of share repurchases and dividend payments to stockholders as well as the repayment of our \$250 million of 2.55% fixed rate debt, which was offset by proceeds from the issuance of commercial paper. In the first nine months of fiscal 2017, financing activities consisted of share repurchases and dividend payments to stockholders.

Purchase Commitments

We have entered into long-term purchase agreements primarily for the purchase of raw materials. Under certain of these agreements the quantity of material being purchased is fixed, but the price paid changes as market prices change. For those commitments, the amounts included in the table below are based on market prices at June 30, 2018, which may differ from actual market prices at the time of purchase.

	Payments Due by Fiscal Year						Total
	Remainder of Fiscal 2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Thereafter	
	(In millions)						
Reinforcement Materials	\$ 79	\$ 294	\$ 180	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 1,901	\$ 2,734
Performance Chemicals	19	67	55	54	54	461	710
Purification Solutions	3	7	6	1	—	—	17
Specialty Fluids	—	15	—	—	—	—	15
Total	<u>\$ 101</u>	<u>\$ 383</u>	<u>\$ 241</u>	<u>\$ 195</u>	<u>\$ 194</u>	<u>\$ 2,362</u>	<u>\$ 3,476</u>

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of June 30, 2018, we had no material transactions that meet the definition of an off-balance sheet arrangement.

Forward-Looking Information

This report on Form 10-Q contains “forward-looking statements” under the Federal securities laws. These forward-looking statements address expectations or projections about the future, including our expectations for future financial performance and the factors we expect to impact our volumes, demand for our products, fixed costs and margins; the amount and timing of the charge to earnings we will record and the cash outlays we will make in connection with the closing of certain manufacturing facilities and restructuring initiatives; the consideration we expect to receive for the sale of lands rights in Thane, India; our estimated future amortization expenses for our intangible assets; the sufficiency of our cash on hand, cash provided from operations and cash available under our credit facilities to fund our cash requirements, including for the repayment of the current portion of our long-term debt; uses of available cash including anticipated capital spending and future cash outlays associated with long-term contractual obligations; the impact we expect tax reform legislation in the U.S. to have on our future after-tax earnings and liquidity position, and our expected tax rate for fiscal 2018; the possible outcome of legal and environmental proceedings; and the impact we expect the recently enacted U.S.-China trade tariffs will have on our results of operations. From time to time, we also provide forward-looking statements in other materials we release to the public and in oral statements made by authorized officers.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties, potentially inaccurate assumptions, and other factors, some of which are beyond our control or difficult to predict. If known or unknown risks materialize, our actual results could differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements.

In addition to factors described elsewhere in this report, the following are some of the factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements: changes in raw material costs; lower than expected demand for our products; changes in environmental requirements in the U.S.; the loss of one or more of our important customers; our inability to complete capacity expansions or other development projects; the availability of raw materials; our failure to develop new products or to keep pace with technological developments; fluctuations in currency exchange rates; patent rights of others; stock and credit market conditions; the timely commercialization of products under development (which may be disrupted or delayed by technical difficulties, market acceptance, competitors’ new products, as well as difficulties in moving from the experimental stage to the production stage); demand for our customers’ products; competitors’ reactions to market conditions; unanticipated disruptions or delays in plant operations or development projects; delays in the successful integration of structural changes, including acquisitions or joint ventures; severe weather events that cause business interruptions, including plant and power outages or disruptions in supplier or customer operations; changes in global trade policies; the accuracy of the assumptions we used in establishing reserves for environmental matters and for our share of liability for respirator claims; and the outcome of pending litigation. Other factors and risks are discussed in our 2017 10-K.

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

Refer to the discussion under the headings “Recently Adopted Accounting Standards” and “Recent Accounting Pronouncements” in Note B.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Information about market risks for the period ended June 30, 2018 does not differ materially from that discussed under Item 7A of our 2017 10-K.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

As of June 30, 2018, we carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and our principal financial officer, of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Rule 13a-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). Based upon that evaluation, our principal executive officer and our principal financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of that date.

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during our fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2018 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Part II. Other Information**Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds****Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

The table below sets forth information regarding Cabot's purchases of its equity securities during the quarter ended June 30, 2018:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Total Number of Shares Purchased⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾</u>	<u>Average Price Paid per Share</u>	<u>Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs⁽¹⁾</u>	<u>Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs⁽¹⁾</u>
April 1, 2018 - April 30, 2018	—	\$ —	—	1,508,098
May 1, 2018 - May 31, 2018	285,000	\$ 60.14	285,000	1,223,098
June 1, 2018 - June 30, 2018	394,900	\$ 63.55	394,900	828,198
Total	679,900		679,900	

- (1) On July 16, 2018, the Company announced that the Board of Directors authorized Cabot to repurchase up to ten million shares of its common stock on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The existing share repurchase authorization announced on January 13, 2015 remains in place, under which, as of August 7, 2018, 828,198 shares remain. Neither authorization has a set expiration date.
- (2) Total number of shares purchased does not include 1,747 shares withheld to pay taxes on the vesting of equity awards made under the Company's equity incentive plans or to pay the exercise price of options exercised during the period.

Item 6. Exhibits

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
Exhibit 3.1	Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Cabot Corporation effective January 9, 2009 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of Cabot's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended December 31, 2008, file reference 1-5667, filed with the SEC on February 9, 2009).
Exhibit 3.2	The By-laws of Cabot Corporation as amended January 8, 2016 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of Cabot Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended December 31, 2015, file reference 1-5667, filed with the SEC on February 5, 2016).
Exhibit 10.1*†	Transition and Separation Agreement dated June 27, 2018 between Cabot Corporation and Eduardo E. Cordeiro.
Exhibit 31.1*	Certification of Principal Executive Officer required by Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Exchange Act.
Exhibit 31.2*	Certification of Principal Financial Officer required by Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Exchange Act.
Exhibit 32**	Certifications of the Principal Executive Officer and the Principal Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350.
Exhibit 101.INS*	XBRL Instance Document.
Exhibit 101.SCH*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.
Exhibit 101.CAL*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document.
Exhibit 101.DEF*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document.
Exhibit 101.LAB*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document.
Exhibit 101.PRE*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document.

* Filed herewith.

** Furnished herewith.

† Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.



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Cabot Corporation
Two Seaport Lane
Suite 1300
Boston, MA 02210-2019
USA

June 11, 2018

By Hand

Eduardo E. Cordeiro

Dear Eddie:

This transition and separation agreement (the "Agreement") confirms the terms of the remainder of your employment with Cabot Corporation ("Cabot" or the "Company") and the termination of your employment with the Company. You may accept this offer only by signing a copy of this Agreement where indicated below and returning it to Arthur T. Wood at Cabot Corporation, 2 Seaport Lane, Boston, MA 02210, so that Mr. Wood receives it not later than July 2, 2018, and by not thereafter revoking this Agreement; otherwise this offer shall be null and void.

You have resigned from your position as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company on and effective as of May 15, 2018 (the "Transition Date"). You acknowledge and agree that as of the Transition Date you have also resigned from any and all (i) officer positions you held with the Company or any of its Affiliates (as defined below), (ii) memberships you held on any boards of directors, boards of managers or other governing boards or bodies of the Company or any of its Affiliates, and (iii) memberships you held on any of the committees of any such boards or bodies (all such resignations, together with your resignation from your position as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, the "Resignations"). The Company, on its own behalf and on behalf of its Affiliates has accepted the Resignations, as of the Transition Date. You agree to execute such documents confirming the Resignations as the Company may reasonably request.

From Transition Date through the date that your employment terminates (the "Separation Date"), you will continue to be employed by the Company as a strategic advisor to the Company. Provided that you comply in full with your obligations hereunder, it is expected that the Separation Date will be December 31, 2018. The period beginning on the Transition Date and concluding on the Separation Date is hereinafter referred to as the "Transition Period".

During the Transition Period you will continue to receive your base salary, payable at the rate in effect as of the date hereof, and to participate in all employee benefit plans of the Company (including, but not limited to, the Company's medical, dental, life insurance, supplemental life insurance and vacation benefit plans) in accordance with the terms of those plans. During the Transition Period, you will perform such duties as may be assigned to you from time to time by the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company (the "CEO") or his designee, including but not limited to assisting with an orderly transition of your duties and responsibilities to the Company's Chief Financial Officer, meeting with advisors and other constituents of the Company to facilitate this transition and providing advice to the Company based on your knowledge of the Company and its business. You agree to

continue to devote your best professional efforts to the Company, and to abide by all Company policies and procedures as in effect from time to time.

During the Transition Period you will remain an at-will employee of the Company. If your employment terminates prior to December 31, 2018, the date of such termination of employment will be the "Separation Date" for purposes of this Agreement.

If the Company terminates your employment prior to December 31, 2018 for any reason other than "Cause", as defined below, you shall be entitled, in addition to the Transition Benefits described below, to receive payment of your base salary through December 31, 2018, all subject to your execution and non-revocation of the Release, as defined below, which payment shall be made within 30 days following the Separation Date. Further, if the Company terminates your employment prior to November 12, 2018 for any reason other than "Cause", as defined below, the Company shall also (i) either, at its option and after consultation with you, accelerate the vesting, or pay to you the cash value, of (a) the 7,587 time-based restricted stock units, the 8,851 performance-based restricted stock units (adjusted to reflect any performance adjustments that have occurred or will occur), the 12,809 stock options with an exercise price of \$39.54 per share awarded to you on November 12, 2015 that, in each case, were scheduled to vest on November 12, 2018, and, (b) to the extent they remain unvested, the 8,248 stock options with an exercise price of \$50.46 per share awarded to you on November 11, 2016 and scheduled to vest on November 11, 2018, and the 6,894 stock options with an exercise price of \$62.24 per share awarded to you on November 10, 2017 and scheduled to vest on November 10, 2018 (collectively, the "LTI Benefit") and (ii) pay to you your fiscal 2018 short-term incentive bonus in an amount that reflects the Company's achievement with respect to corporate performance, as determined by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company in its sole discretion, and 100% of target in respect of your individual performance (the "STI Payment") at such time as the 2018 STI payments are made to other participants under the 2018 STI program. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Company terminates your employment for Cause, you will not be eligible to receive such base salary, the Transition Benefits (as defined below), the LTI Benefit or the STI Payment. Upon any termination of employment, any Long-Term Incentive Awards that are then unvested (after giving effect to any accelerated vesting as described in this paragraph in the event that the Company terminates your employment for any reason other than Cause prior to November 12, 2018), will be forfeited with no consideration due to you.

If you voluntarily terminate your employment with the Company prior to September 30, 2018 you shall not be entitled to the STI Payment, and if you voluntarily terminate your employment with the Company prior to November 12, 2018 and you will forfeit all unvested Long-Term Incentive Awards.

For purposes of this Agreement, "Cause", as determined by the Company in its good faith, reasonable judgment, shall mean only (i) your material breach of this Agreement or any material written policy of the Company or its Affiliates, which material breach, if susceptible to cure, remains uncured fourteen (14) days after the Company has provided written notice to you specifying in reasonable detail the nature of the alleged breach or (ii) your commission of a felony or other crime involving moral turpitude. For purposes of this Agreement, "Affiliates" means all persons and entities directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Company, where control may be by management authority, equity interest or otherwise.

You will receive, on the Separation Date, any base salary earned, but unpaid, as of the Separation Date, as well as pay, at your final base rate of pay, for any vacation days you had earned but not used as of the Separation Date, determined in accordance with Company policy and as reflected on the books of

the Company (together, the “Final Compensation”). You will receive the Final Compensation regardless of whether or not you decide to accept the additional payments and benefits offered by Cabot in this Agreement.

Except as otherwise stated herein, this Agreement does not modify or supersede any obligations that you have to Cabot by law or otherwise.

In consideration of your acceptance of this Agreement and subject to your meeting in full your obligations hereunder, including your obligation to execute, without subsequently revoking, a post-employment general release and waiver of claims in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A (the “Release”) on or after the Separation Date (and within the time period prescribed therein), the Company will provide you with the following payments and benefits. If you do not timely execute the Release, or if the Release does not become effective in accordance with its terms, you shall not receive any of the payments or benefits described in paragraphs (1) through (6) below (collectively, the “Transition Benefits”) or the payments and benefits set forth above in the event that the Company terminates your employment for any reason other than Cause prior to December 31, 2018 or November 12, 2018, as applicable. The Transition Benefits and such other payments and benefits, if applicable, shall only be made, commence, or become effective, as applicable, on the expiration of the seven-day period provided for in the Release, and only if the revocation rights contained therein are not timely exercised by you.

1. Within 30 days following the Separation Date, Cabot will pay to you a separation payment in an amount equal to \$722,500, such payment to be reduced by any deductions and withholding that Cabot determines is required by law or otherwise.
2. Cabot agrees that the period of time during which you shall be able to exercise any vested options to purchase Company common stock held by you at the Separation Date shall be the earlier of (i) 24 months from the Separation Date and (ii) the original expiration date of such options. Except as specifically modified by the preceding sentence, any such exercise of vested stock options by you shall be in accordance with the terms of the 2009 Long-Term Incentive Plan or 2017 Long-Term Incentive Plan, as applicable, and the terms of the award agreements under which such stock options were granted. Any unvested options to purchase Company common stock held by you on the Separation Date shall be forfeited on the Separation Date for no consideration. A list of those stock options is contained in Section 9 below.
3. Your benefits under the Cabot Corporation Deferred Compensation Plan and the Supplemental 401(k) Plan (together, the “Deferred Compensation Plans”) shall be paid in accordance with the terms of the Deferred Compensation Plans; provided that in no event shall any benefits under the Deferred Compensation Plans be paid earlier than six months following the Separation Date.
4. If you timely elect to continue medical and/or dental coverage in accordance with COBRA (as outlined in the materials being provided to you), then from the Separation Date until the earlier of (i) the 18-month anniversary of the Separation Date, (ii) the date you cease to be eligible for such coverage under COBRA, or (iii) the date you become eligible for coverage under the medical and/or dental plan of another employer, subject to your payment of the applicable COBRA premiums, Cabot will make monthly payments to you in an amount equal to the difference between the monthly COBRA premiums due for such coverage and the monthly amount active employees pay for the same such coverage. Any such payments made to you under this paragraph may be reduced by

any applicable deductions and withholdings, as determined by Cabot. Upon conclusion of this 18-month period (or, if earlier, the occurrence of an event set forth in subclause (ii) or (iii) above), Cabot will cease making monthly payments with respect to COBRA continuation coverage and you will be responsible for paying the entire cost of the COBRA coverage for the remaining amount of time (if any) you are legally entitled to such coverage. Cabot reserves the right to amend, modify, terminate or discontinue the medical and dental coverage or benefits provided to its employees or former employees, or the costs associated therewith, at any time. Likewise, if the benefits provided by Cabot described in this paragraph are in violation of any laws or regulations, including without limitation, regulations under the Affordable Care Act or under Section 105(h) of the Internal Revenue Code, in whole or in part, or would otherwise subject Cabot to any tax or penalty under such laws or regulations, Cabot reserves the right to amend, modify, terminate or discontinue the benefits described in this paragraph in accordance with such laws or regulation.

5. During the twenty-four-month period following the Separation Date, the Company will continue to support the financial planning benefit received by you from AYCO, as if you were an active employee, in accordance with the Company's program guidelines, as in effect from time to time. The Company reserves the right to amend, modify, terminate or discontinue the financial planning benefit provided by AYCO to its employees or former employees, or the costs associated therewith, at any time. To the extent this benefit is taxable, you shall pay to the Company any associated withholding amounts required by federal, state and/or local wage or income taxes attributable to this benefit.
6. The Company will provide you with outplacement services by a service provider designated by the Company, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000, further details of which will be provided to you. In no event shall you be entitled to any cash in lieu of such outplacement services.
7. For and in consideration of the payments and benefits provided to you under this Agreement, which are conditioned on your signing the Release, and to which you acknowledge you would not otherwise be entitled, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which you hereby acknowledge, you, on your own behalf and that of your heirs, executors, administrators, beneficiaries, representatives, successors and assigns, and any other person or entity claiming through or under you, hereby release and forever discharge the Company and its subsidiaries and other Affiliates, and all of their respective past, present and future directors, shareholders, officers, members, managers, general and limited partners, insurers, employees, agents, representatives, consultants, successors and assigns, any employee benefit plans maintained by or on behalf of the Company or its subsidiaries, Affiliates, or successors, or any of the trustees or administrators thereof, and all others connected with any of the foregoing, in their official and individual capacities (collectively, the "Releasees"), from any and all causes of action, suits, rights, claims, demands, damages and compensation of any kind and nature whatsoever, whether at law or in equity, whether now known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or otherwise, which you now have or ever have had against the Releasees, or any of them, in any way related to, connected with or arising out of your employment and/or other relationship with the Company or any of its Affiliates or the termination thereof, or pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family Medical and Leave Act, the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act or any similar state law, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (as amended by the Older Workers Benefit Protection Act), the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, the wage and hour, wage payment or fair employment practices laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and any other state or states in which you have provided services to the Company or

its Affiliates (each as amended from time to time) and/or any other federal, state or local law, regulation, or other requirement (collectively, the "Claims") through the date that you sign this Agreement, and hereby waive all such Claims.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, this release does not include and will not preclude a claim for or with respect to: (a) base salary payable through the Separation Date, or accrued, unused vacation time as recorded on the Company's books as of the Separation Date; (b) vested benefits under any Company employee benefit plan; (c) payments and benefits under this Agreement; (d) any claim which, as a matter of law, cannot be released by private agreement; and (e) rights to be indemnified by Cabot under Cabot's By-Laws and/or Cabot's Restated Certificate of Incorporation or as an officer or former officer of Cabot to insurance coverage under Cabot's directors' and officers' insurance program in accordance with its terms.

a. **Notwithstanding the generality of the foregoing, nothing herein is intended to or shall preclude you or anyone on your behalf from filing a complaint and/or charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or any similar state or local government agency and/or filing a related lawsuit and/or cooperating with said agency in any investigation or other proceeding.** Nonetheless, you acknowledge that you shall not be entitled to receive any personal or individual relief, recovery, or monies in connection with such complaint, charge or related lawsuit brought against any of the Releasees, without regard as to who brought said complaint or charge. Further, nothing herein limits, restricts or in any other way affects your communicating with any governmental agency or entity, or communicating with any official or staff person of a governmental agency or entity, concerning matters relevant to such governmental agency or entity.

8. You affirm and warrant that you have not filed any complaints, charges or claims for relief against Cabot with any local, state or federal court or administrative agency. You also affirm that you have been paid and/or have received all leave (paid or unpaid), compensation, wages, bonuses, commissions, and/or benefits to which you may be entitled and that no other leave (paid or unpaid), compensation, wages, bonuses, commissions and/or benefits are due to you, except as expressly provided in this Agreement. You acknowledge that, upon receiving the Final Compensation, you will have received pay for all work you have performed for the Company. You will not continue to earn vacation or other paid time off after the Separation Date. You further affirm that you have not been retaliated against for reporting any allegations of wrongdoing by the Releasees, including any allegations of fraud or impropriety.
9. You understand and agree that, except as otherwise provided in paragraph 5 above, your participation in all employee benefit plans of the Company will end as of the Separation Date, in accordance with the terms of those plans. You understand and agree that your rights and obligations with respect to any shares of stock, stock units or stock options granted to you by Cabot which are vested on or as of the Separation Date shall be governed by the applicable equity plan under which they were granted and any agreements or other requirements applicable to those shares, stock units or options. You understand and agree that the following Long-Term Incentive grants will be forfeited by you on the Separation Date with no consideration due to you pursuant to the terms of such awards:

Award Grant Date	Time Based Stock Units	Performance Based Stock Units Granted	Stock Options
Nov. 10, 2017	4,820	5,623	16,086 options with exercise price of \$62.24
Nov. 11, 2016	5,945	6,936	10,998 options with exercise price of \$50.46

You further understand and agree that if you terminate your employment with the Company for any reason prior to November 10, 11, or 12, 2018, as the case may be, the following Long-Term Incentive grants, to the extent they remain unvested, will also be forfeited by you on the date of such termination of employment with no consideration due to you pursuant to the terms of such awards:

Award Grant Date	Time Based Stock Units	Performance Based Stock Units Granted	Stock Options
Nov. 10, 2017			6,894 options with exercise price of \$62.24
Nov. 11, 2016			8,248 options with exercise price of \$50.46
November 12, 2015	7,587	8,851	12,809 options with exercise price of \$39.54

To the extent you are in possession of any stock unit and/or stock option award certificates for any shares of stock and/or stock options granted to you which will not be vested on or as of the Separation Date, you further agree to return, no later than the Separation Date, all such certificates in your possession.

10. You agree that you will continue to keep confidential and protect Confidential Information, as defined herein, and that you will not, directly or indirectly, disclose it to others or use it for any purpose. As used in this Agreement, "Confidential Information" means:

- (a) any and all information of Cabot (including, for purposes of this paragraph 10, Cabot, its

Affiliates and its subsidiaries) of a confidential and/or proprietary nature, including, but not limited to: technology; inventions (whether or not patentable); trade secrets; samples; compositions; techniques and equipment; methods; manufacturing processes and processing conditions; engineering data; drawings; specifications; formulae; plant design and layout; products and product applications; development plans and new business opportunities; experimental work; commercial and developmental operations; the identities and requirements of customers and prospective customers; customer lists; suppliers and supplier lists; the identities of other individuals or third parties with whom Cabot has or with which Cabot is seeking to develop a business relationship and the nature and details of any such relationship or potential relationship; software and networks; business, marketing and any other plans and strategies; sales, pricing, raw materials and cost information; financial information; compensation, benefits and related incentives; and any other information relating to Cabot and its businesses to the extent that such information has not been published beyond confidential and/or proprietary customer, supplier or business partner communications or is not publicly available; and,

- (b) any and all information received confidentially by Cabot in the conduct of its business from any customer or other third party (e.g. supplier or business partner) of a confidential and/or proprietary nature, including, but not limited to: technology; inventions (whether or not patentable); trade secrets; samples; compositions; performance targets and criteria; techniques and equipment; methods; manufacturing processes and processing conditions; engineering data; drawings; specifications; plant design and layout; products and product applications; development plans and new business opportunities; experimental work; commercial and developmental operations; customers and customer lists; suppliers and supplier lists; software and networks; business and marketing plans and strategies; pricing and costs information; financial information; and any other information relating to such customer or third party and its businesses.

11. In exchange for the payments and benefits provided to you under this Agreement, and to protect the Confidential Information, customer goodwill and other legitimate business interests of Cabot (including, for purposes of this paragraph 11, Cabot, its Affiliates and its subsidiaries), you agree that:

- (a) for a period of eighteen months following the Separation Date, you will not, directly or indirectly (either alone or in association with any person, firm, corporation, or other entity or otherwise) work for or on behalf of, become an owner, partner or investor in, consult with, or otherwise provide any services to any third party (whether or not for compensation) in any area or activity that is competitive with any business or research and development activity of Cabot in which you have been involved or to which you have been exposed during your employment at Cabot;
- (b) for a period of eighteen months following the Separation Date, you will not directly or indirectly (either alone or in association with any person, firm, corporation, or other entity or otherwise) solicit, contact or call upon, or attempt to do the same, any customer of Cabot with whom you had contact during your employment with Cabot in an effort to induce such customer to purchase goods or services offered by Cabot from a party other than Cabot; and,

- (c) for a period of eighteen months following the Separation Date, you will not directly or indirectly (either alone or in association with any person, firm, corporation, or other entity or otherwise) hire, recruit, solicit, induce, or attempt to do the same, any employee or independent contractor of or supplier to Cabot who is employed by or providing services or products to Cabot as of or prior to the Separation Date, to leave the employ of Cabot or otherwise cease to make his/her/its services or products available to Cabot.

12. You acknowledge that you have carefully read and considered all the terms and conditions of this Agreement, including the restraints imposed upon you pursuant to paragraphs 10 and 11. You understand and agree that these restraints are necessary for the reasonable and proper protection of the legitimate business interests of Cabot (including, for purposes of this paragraph 12, Cabot, its Affiliates and its subsidiaries), and that a breach by you of any one of these restraints would cause irreparable harm and damage to Cabot. You further acknowledge that damages would not be an adequate remedy for a breach or threatened breach by you of any one of the covenants referenced in paragraphs 10 and 11. You therefore agree that Cabot shall be entitled to the enforcement of this Agreement by injunction, specific performance or other equitable relief, without need of posting a bond and without prejudice to any other rights and remedies that Cabot may have under this Agreement or under applicable law. You further agree that in the event that any provision of this Agreement shall be determined by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable by reason of its being extended over too great a time, too large a geographic area or too great a range of activities, such provision shall be deemed to be modified to permit its enforcement to the maximum extent permitted by law. In the event of any breach, or alleged or threatened breach, of this Agreement, you hereby consent and submit to the jurisdiction of the federal and state courts in and of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and this Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, without regard to the conflict of laws principles thereof.
13. You hereby agree that all inventions, discoveries and improvements conceived or made by you during your employment with Cabot (including, for purposes of this paragraph 13, Cabot, its Affiliates and its subsidiaries) that (i) relate to the business or activities of Cabot or (ii) were conceived or developed by you during normal working hours or using Cabot's facilities, belong to Cabot, whether or not reduced to writing or practice during your employment with Cabot. You hereby assign to Cabot or its nominee all your rights and interest in any such inventions, discoveries and improvements and agree to keep protected the interest of Cabot or its nominee in any such inventions, discoveries and improvements. You are also assigning to Cabot or its nominee all copyrights and reproduction rights to any material prepared by you during your employment with Cabot that (i) relate to the business activities of Cabot or (ii) were conceived or developed by you during normal working hours or using Cabot's facilities. To the extent that you cannot assign and transfer any of the foregoing rights or interest, then you hereby grant Cabot an irrevocable, worldwide, fully paid-up, royalty-free, exclusive license, with the right to sublicense through multiple tiers, to make, use, sell, improve, reproduce, distribute, perform, display, transmit, manipulate in any manner, create derivative works based upon, and otherwise exploit or utilize in any manner the aforesaid inventions, discoveries, improvements and materials. If within the twelve-month period following the Separation Date, you disclose to anyone or file a patent application with respect to any invention, discovery or improvement relating to any subject matter with which your work for Cabot was concerned, such invention, discovery or improvement shall be presumed to have been made by you during your employment with Cabot unless you can provide clear and convincing evidence to the contrary.

14. You agree to offer reasonable cooperation to the Company hereafter with respect to all matters arising during or related to your employment with the Company, including, but not limited to, all matters in connection with any governmental investigation, litigation, arbitration or other proceeding which may have arisen as of, or which may arise following, the Separation Date, and the filing and prosecution of any patent application(s) worldwide. Following the Separation Date, Cabot will compensate you for your time at a reasonable rate (less any required withholding) for services required under this paragraph 14 and will also reimburse you your out-of-pocket expenses incurred in complying with Company requests hereunder, provided that such expenses are authorized by the Company in advance.
15. Subject to paragraph 7(a), you agree not to make negative, disparaging or derogatory comments to anyone about Cabot (including Cabot, its subsidiaries, Affiliates and successors), its businesses, its management (including without limitation its shareholders, officers and directors), its employees and/or products of any of the foregoing. You further agree that you will not otherwise do or say anything that could disrupt the good morale of Cabot's employees or harm Cabot's interests or reputation, except that, at the conclusion of the non-compete period, you may engage in reasonable competitive activities, subject to your obligations of confidentiality and non-use provided in paragraph 10 herein. For its part, Cabot will instruct members of the Company's Executive Committee to refrain from making negative, disparaging or derogatory comments to any external third parties about you, unless otherwise compelled by law. Nothing in this paragraph 15 shall prevent or otherwise prohibit a positive employer reference should one be requested by you.
16. You hereby represent and acknowledge that in executing this Agreement, you do not rely and have not relied upon any representation or statement (other than the express terms of this Agreement) made by Cabot or by any agents, representatives or attorneys of Cabot with regard to the subject matter, basis or effect of this Agreement. This Agreement (including Exhibit A) constitutes the entire agreement between you and Cabot and replaces all prior and contemporaneous agreements, communications and understandings, whether written or oral, with respect to your employment at Cabot and its termination and all related matters. Notwithstanding the foregoing, you acknowledge that you continue to be bound by your obligations under the Employee Agreement between you and the Company, dated July 20, 1998 (the "Employee Agreement"), to the extent such obligations are in addition to the obligations and matters set forth herein. For the avoidance of doubt, paragraph 11 herein supersedes your obligations under paragraph 6 of the Employee Agreement, which the parties agree is null and void. In addition, your rights and obligations under Cabot's benefit plans, including but not limited to the Deferred Compensation Plan and the Supplemental 401(k) Plan, shall be governed by the terms of such plans.
17. This Agreement may not be modified, altered or changed except upon express written consent of both parties wherein specific reference is made to this Agreement.
18. The parties agree that neither this Agreement nor the furnishing of any consideration herein shall be deemed or construed at any time for any purposes as an admission by Cabot of any liability or unlawful conduct of any kind.
19. You agree that you have been given at least 21 calendar days within which to consider this Agreement (the "consideration period") and that the consideration period will end on July 2, 2018 (though you may sign this Agreement prior to July 2, 2018 if you voluntarily choose to do so), that you fully understand and have voluntarily agreed to all of the terms of this Agreement and that

Cabot has advised you to consult with an attorney concerning this Agreement (including without limitation the release of claims contained herein), which creates legally binding obligations.

20. In signing this Agreement, you represent and warrant that, by the Separation Date, you will have returned to the Company any and all non-public documents, materials and information (whether in hardcopy, on electronic media or otherwise) related to Company business (whether present or otherwise) and all keys, access cards, credit cards, computer hardware and software, telephones and telephone-related equipment and all other property of the Company or any of its Affiliates in your possession or control. Further, you represent and warrant that you will not retain any copy of any non-public Company documents, materials or information (whether in hardcopy, on electronic media or otherwise). Recognizing that your employment with the Company will end on the Separation Date, you agree that you will not, for any purpose, attempt to access or use any Company computer or computer network or system, including without limitation its electronic mail system after the Separation Date. Further, you acknowledge that you will disclose to the Company all passwords necessary or desirable to enable the Company to access all information which you have password-protected on any of its computer equipment or on its computer network or system.
21. Amounts payable under this Agreement will be reduced by all applicable tax and other required withholdings.
22. THIS AGREEMENT SPECIFICALLY WAIVES ALL RIGHTS AND CLAIMS YOU MAY HAVE UNDER THE AGE DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT ACT AND THE OLDER WORKERS' BENEFIT PROTECTION ACT. In accordance with these statutes, the Company advises you to consult with counsel prior to your execution of this Agreement. You acknowledge that you have had ample opportunity to consult with counsel prior to your execution of this Agreement, and were encouraged and advised in writing to do so. By signing this Agreement, you acknowledge and agree that you are not waiving any rights or claims under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act which may arise after this Agreement is executed. Your waiver of claims under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act is in exchange for consideration that is in addition to anything of value to which you were already entitled. By signing this Agreement, you acknowledge that you have carefully read and fully understand all of its provisions, and knowingly and voluntarily intend to be legally bound by all of the terms in this Agreement. You further acknowledge that you have relied solely and completely upon your own judgment and/or the advice of counsel in entering into this Agreement.

If the terms of this Agreement are acceptable to you, please sign and return a copy of this letter to Arthur T. Wood at Cabot Corporation, 2 Seaport Lane, Boston, MA 02210, within 21 days, that is, by July 2, 2018. If you sign this Agreement prior to the end of this 21-day period, you certify that you knowingly and voluntarily decided to sign it after considering it for less than 21 days, and your decision to do so was not induced by the Company through fraud, misrepresentation, or a threat to withdraw or alter the offers herein.

If you accept the foregoing offer, you shall have the right to revoke this Agreement by delivering or sending to Mr. Wood at the address above written notice of revocation so that your notice of revocation is received by Mr. Wood within seven calendar days after the date that this letter is signed by you. If you revoke within this time period, this Agreement shall be null and void in its entirety and you will not be entitled to any additional payments and benefits set forth in this Agreement. Otherwise this Agreement shall be binding upon you, your heirs and representatives and shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, Cabot and its successors and assigns.

Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, the Company shall have the right to terminate the Transition Benefits and require that you repay or forfeit, as applicable, any Transition Benefits, the STI Payment or Long-Term Incentive awards previously paid or provided to you hereunder at any time if the Company determines, reasonably and in good faith, that you have breached any of the terms and conditions of this Agreement or the Employee Agreement, but any such termination of Transition Benefits shall not relieve you of your obligations and undertakings under this Agreement (including without limitation your release of claims under this Agreement). Any Company determination made under this paragraph shall be subject to judicial review.

Very truly yours,

CABOT CORPORATION

By: /s/Sean D. Keohane
Sean D. Keohane
President and Chief Executive Officer

Having carefully read and fully understanding the provisions and effects of this Agreement, the foregoing offer by Cabot Corporation is knowingly and voluntarily accepted and agreed to this 27th day of June, 2018.

/s/Eduardo E. Cordeiro

Eduardo E. Cordeiro

Post-Employment General Release and Waiver of Claims

For and in consideration of certain benefits to be provided to me under the Separation and Transition Agreement between me and Cabot Corporation (the "Company"), dated as of June 11, 2018 (the "Agreement"), which are conditioned on my signing this General Release and Waiver of Claims (this "Release of Claims"), and to which I am not otherwise entitled, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which I hereby acknowledge, on my own behalf and on behalf of my heirs, executors, administrators, beneficiaries, representatives, successors and assigns, and any other person or entity claiming through or under me, I hereby release and forever discharge the Company and its subsidiaries and other affiliates, and all of their respective past, present and future directors, shareholders, officers, members, managers, general and limited partners, insurers, employees, agents, representatives, consultants, successors and assigns, any employee benefit plans maintained by or on behalf of the Company or its subsidiaries, Affiliates, or successors, or any of the trustees or administrators thereof, and all others connected with any of the foregoing, in their official and individual capacities (collectively, the "Releasees"), from any and all causes of action, suits, rights, claims, demands, damages and compensation of any kind and nature whatsoever, whether at law or in equity, whether now known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or otherwise, which I now have or ever have had against the Releasees, or any of them, in any way related to, connected with or arising out of my employment and/or other relationship with the Company or any of its affiliates or the termination thereof, or pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act or any similar state law, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (as amended by the Older Workers Benefit Protection Act), the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, the wage and hour, wage payment or fair employment practices laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and any other state or states in which I have provided services to the Company or its affiliates (each as amended from time to time) and/or any other federal, state or local law, regulation, or other requirement (collectively, the "Claims") through the date that I sign this Release of Claims, and I hereby waive all such Claims.

I understand that nothing contained in this Release of Claims shall be construed to prohibit me or anyone on my behalf from filing a complaint and/or charge with or participating in any investigation or proceeding conducted by the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or a comparable state or local agency or filing a related lawsuit, provided, however, that I hereby agree to waive my right to recover monetary damages or other individual relief in any charge, complaint or lawsuit filed by me or by anyone else on my behalf. I further understand that nothing contained herein limits, restricts or in any other way affects my communicating with any governmental agency or entity, or communicating with any official or staff person of a governmental agency or entity, concerning matters relevant to such governmental agency or entity.

Further, this release does not include and will not preclude a claim for or with respect to: (a) base salary payable through the Separation Date; or accrued, unused vacation time as recorded on the Company's books as of the Separation Date; (b) vested benefits under any Company employee benefit plan; (c) payments and benefits under the Agreement; (d) any claim which, as a matter of law, cannot be released by private agreement; and (e) my rights to be indemnified by Cabot under Cabot's By-Laws and/or Cabot's Restated Certificate of Incorporation or as an officer or former officer of Cabot to insurance coverage under Cabot's directors' and officers' insurance program in accordance with its terms.

I acknowledge that this Release of Claims creates legally binding obligations, and that the Company hereby advises me to consult an attorney before signing it. I further acknowledge that I may not sign this Release of Claims prior to the Separation Date (as such term is defined in the Agreement), but must sign this Release of Claims by the later of (i) eight (8) days following the Separation Date (as defined in the Agreement) and (ii) twenty-one (21) days following June 11, 2018. In signing this Release of Claims, I give the Company assurance that I have signed it voluntarily and with a full understanding of its terms; that I have had sufficient opportunity of not less than twenty-one (21) days before signing this Release of Claims to consider its terms and to consult with an attorney, if I wished to do so, or to consult with any person of my choosing; and that I have not relied on any promises or representations, express or implied, that are not set forth expressly in this Release of Claims. I understand that I will have seven (7) days after signing this Release of Claims to revoke my signature, and that, if I intend to revoke my signature, I must do so in writing addressed and delivered to Arthur T. Wood at Cabot Corporation prior to the end of the seven (7)-day revocation period. I understand that this Release of Claims will become effective upon the eighth (8th) day following the date that I sign it, provided that I do not revoke my acceptance in accordance with the immediately preceding sentence.

I represent and warrant that I have (i) returned to the Company any and all non-public documents, materials and information (whether in hardcopy, on electronic media or otherwise) related to Company business (whether present or otherwise) and all keys, access cards, credit cards, computer hardware and software, telephones and telephone-related equipment and all other property of the Company or any of its Affiliates in my possession or control, and (ii) not retained any copy of any non-public Company documents, materials or information (whether in hardcopy, on electronic media or otherwise). I agree that I will not, for any purpose, attempt to access or use any Company computer or computer network or system, including without limitation its electronic mail system. Further, I acknowledge that I have disclosed to the Company all passwords necessary or desirable to enable the Company to access all information which I have password-protected on any of its computer equipment or on its computer network or system.

Accepted and agreed:

Signature:

Eduardo E. Cordeiro

Date: 1/ /2019

Principal Executive Officer Certification

I, Sean D. Keohane, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Cabot Corporation;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: August 8, 2018

/s/ Sean D. Keohane

Sean D. Keohane
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Principal Financial Officer Certification

I, Erica McLaughlin, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Cabot Corporation;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: August 8, 2018

/s/ Erica McLaughlin
Erica McLaughlin
Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

**Certifications Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350,
as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the
Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**

In connection with the filing of the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2018 (the "Report") by Cabot Corporation (the "Company"), each of the undersigned hereby certifies pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that, to his knowledge:

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of section 13 (a) or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: August 8, 2018

/s/ Sean D. Keohane
Sean D. Keohane
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: August 8, 2018

/s/ Erica McLaughlin
Erica McLaughlin
Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

