



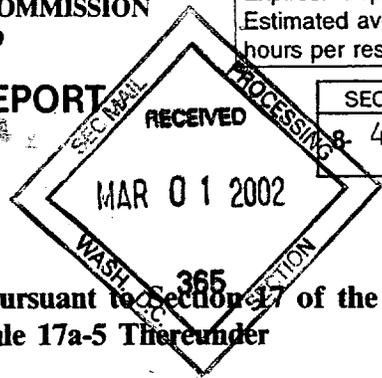
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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

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8-46673

**ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT**  
**FORM X-17A-5**  
**PART III**



**FACING PAGE**  
**Information Required of Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Section 17 of the**  
**Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17a-5 Thereunder**

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING 01/01/01 AND ENDING 12/31/01  
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

**A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION**

NAME OF BROKER-DEALER: VM Equity Partners, Inc.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
FIRM ID. NO.

ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: (Do not use P.O. Box No.)

10 S. Riverside Plaza

(No. and Street)

Chicago

Illinois

60606

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON TO CONTACT IN REGARD TO THIS REPORT

Richard C. May

(312) 526-7200

(Area Code — Telephone No.)

**B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION**

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT whose opinion is contained in this Report\*

Dugan & Lopatka, CPAs, PC

(Name — if individual, state last, first, middle name)

104 East Roosevelt Road

Wheaton

IL

60187

(Address)

(City)

(State)

Zip Code)

CHECK ONE:

- Certified Public Accountant
- Public Accountant
- Accountant not resident in United States or any of its possessions.

**PROCESSED**

MAR 18 2002

THOMSON  
FINANCIAL

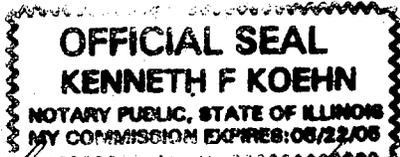
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\*Claims for exemption from the requirement that the annual report be covered by the opinion of an independent public accountant must be supported by a statement of facts and circumstances relied on as the basis for the exemption. See section 240.17a-5(e)(2).

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

I, Richard C. May, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief the accompanying financial statement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of VM Equity Partners, Inc., as of December 31, ~~2001~~, are true and correct. I further swear (or affirm) that neither the company nor any partner, proprietor, principal officer or director has any proprietary interest in any account classified solely as that of a customer, except as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Kenneth F. Koehn  
Notary Public

Richard C May  
Signature  
President  
Title

This report\*\* contains (check all applicable boxes):

- (a) Facing page.
- (b) Statement of Financial Condition.
- (c) Statement of Income (Loss).
- (d) Statement of Changes in Financial Condition.
- (e) Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity or Partners' or Sole Proprietor's Capital.
- (f) Statement of Changes in Liabilities Subordinated to Claims of Creditors.
- (g) Computation of Net Capital
- (h) Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirements Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3.
- (i) Information Relating to the Possession or control Requirements Under Rule 15c3-3.
- (j) A Reconciliation, including appropriate explanation, of the Computation of Net Capital Under Rule 15c3-1 and the Computation for Determination of the Reserve Requirements Under Exhibit A of Rule 15c3-3.
- (k) A Reconciliation between the audited and unaudited Statements of Financial Condition with respect to methods of consolidation.
- (l) An Oath or Affirmation.
- (m) A copy of the SIPC Supplemental Report.
- (n) A report describing any material inadequacies found to exist or found to have existed since the date of the previous audit.

\*\*For conditions of confidential treatment of certain portions of this filing, see section 240.17a-5(e)(3).

**VM EQUITY PARTNERS, INC.  
AND SUBSIDIARY**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2001**

**TOGETHER WITH  
AUDITOR'S REPORT**

# Dugan & Lopatka

Certified Public Accountants & Consultants  
A Professional Corporation  
104 East Roosevelt Road  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187  
(630) 665-4440  
Fax (630) 665-5030  
<http://www.tdip.com>  
e-mail: [info@tdip.com](mailto:info@tdip.com)

Michael J. Dugan  
Gerald L. Lopatka  
Mark F. Schultz  
Gwendolyn S. Henry  
Peter J. Zich  
Leo M. Misdorn  
R. Dirk Schilling

*Geneva office:*  
115 Campbell Street  
Geneva, Illinois 60134  
(630) 232-4565

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of  
VM Equity Partners, Inc. and Subsidiary:

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of VM Equity Partners, Inc. and Subsidiary (a Delaware Corporation) as of December 31, 2001, and the related statements of income, changes in shareholders' equity, changes in liabilities subordinated to claims of general creditors, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of VM Equity Partners, Inc. and Subsidiary as of December 31, 2001, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

To the Board of Directors of  
VM Equity Partners, Inc. and Subsidiary  
Page two

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The information contained in Schedules 1 and 2 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information required by rule 17a-5 of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

*Dugan & Lopatka*  
DUGAN & LOPATKA

Wheaton, Illinois  
February 8, 2002

VM EQUITY PARTNERS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION  
DECEMBER 31, 2001

A S S E T S

CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash	\$ 30,270
Investments (Note 3)	70,010
Receivables - Trade	40,784
Due from affiliates	164,957

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Total assets \$ 306,021

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PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, at cost:

Office equipment	\$ 5,057
Less - Accumulated depreciation	(1,011)

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Net property and equipment \$ 4,046

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\$ 310,067

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The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Accounts payable - Trade \$ 3,823

COMMITMENT (Note 5)

SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY (EXHIBIT 2):

Capital stock, .01 par value; 3,000 shares  
authorized, 100 shares issued and outstanding \$ 1

Paid-in capital 14,999

Retained earnings 291,244

Total shareholders' equity \$ 306,244

\$ 310,067

VM EQUITY PARTNERS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001

	Capital Stock - Common	Paid-in Capital	Retained Earnings
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
BALANCES, December 31, 2000	\$ 1	\$ 14,999	\$ 123,956
Net income (EXHIBIT 3)	-	-	195,288
Distributions to owners	-	-	(28,000)
BALANCES, December 31, 2001	<u>\$ 1</u>	<u>\$ 14,999</u>	<u>\$ 291,244</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

VM EQUITY PARTNERS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY  
STATEMENT OF INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001

REVENUES:	
Advisory services	\$ 1,318,267
Interest income	93
	<hr/>
Total revenues	\$ 1,318,360
	<hr/>
OPERATING EXPENSES:	
Contract services (Note 4)	\$ 782,964
Professional staff	15,362
Referral fees	71,000
Marketing	12,318
Telephone	1,576
Rent (Notes 4 and 5)	95,400
Office expenses	9,928
NASD related expenses	4,369
Professional fees	72,467
Depreciation	1,011
Legal fees	44,504
Administrative expenses	3,709
Miscellaneous expenses	8,464
	<hr/>
Total operating expenses	\$ 1,123,072
	<hr/>
NET INCOME	\$ 195,288
	<hr/> <hr/>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

VM EQUITY PARTNERS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Cash received from customers	\$ 1,213,616
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(1,118,238)
Interest received	96
	<hr/>
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 95,474
	<hr/>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Purchase of equipment	\$ (5,057)
	<hr/>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:	
Distributions to owners	\$ (28,000)
Purchase of investments	(40,010)
	<hr/>
Net cash used in financing activities	\$ (68,010)
	<hr/>
NET CHANGE IN CASH	\$ 22,407
CASH, Beginning of year	7,863
	<hr/>
CASH, End of year	\$ 30,270
	<hr/> <hr/>
RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Net income	\$ 195,288
	<hr/>
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided:	
Change in assets and liabilities -	
Depreciation	\$ 1,011
Increase in accounts receivable	(104,648)
Increase in accounts payable	3,823
	<hr/>
Net adjustments	\$ (99,814)
	<hr/>
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 95,474
	<hr/> <hr/>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

VM EQUITY PARTNERS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY  
STATEMENT OF CLAIMS IN LIABILITIES  
SUBORDINATED TO CLAIMS OF GENERAL CREDITORS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001

Subordinated liabilities at December 31, 2000	\$	-
Increases		-
Decreases		-
		<hr/>
Subordinated liabilities at December 31, 2001	\$	-
		<hr/> <hr/>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

VM EQUITY PARTNERS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2001

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

VM Equity Partners, Inc. and Subsidiary (the Company) act as an intermediary in the U.S. capital markets by advising companies on their alternative strategies for raising capital. The Company executes their capital acquisition strategy by assisting with the placement of senior debt, subordinated debt or equity with institutional investors or other qualified investors. The Company's main office is located in Chicago, Illinois.

Principles of consolidation -

The accompanying consolidated financial statements were prepared on a consolidated basis and include the accounts of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiary, VM Equity First Mile, L.L.C. All significant intercompany transactions and year-end balances have been eliminated.

Allowance for doubtful accounts -

The Company considers accounts receivable to be fully collectible; accordingly, no allowance for doubtful accounts is required.

Property and equipment -

Property and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method. The cost of all depreciable property is charged to operations over their useful lives, approximately 5 years.

Credit risk -

Financial instruments which potentially subject the Company to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash. The Company places its cash and deposits with high credit quality financial institutions; however, deposits may exceed the federally insured limits.

Income taxes -

Effective January 1, 1997, the Company elected to be taxed under the provisions of Subchapter S of the Internal Revenue Code. Under those provisions, the shareholders are liable for individual income taxes on the Company's taxable income. The Company is responsible for paying Illinois Replacement Tax (1.5%).

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES: (Continued)

Estimates -

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(2) RELATED OWNERSHIP:

VM Equity Partners, Inc. and Subsidiary is owned by a shareholder of Valuemetrics, Inc. The Company entered into an agreement, effective October 14, 1996, to spin off the stock owned by Valuemetrics, Inc. to the shareholders of Valuemetrics, Inc. This transaction qualified under the Internal Revenue Code for nonrecognition of gain.

(3) INVESTMENTS:

In 2000, the Company acquired a 10% interest in First Mile Technologies, Inc. During 2001, the Company also acquired less than 1% interest in Planet Salvage, Inc. and a 3% interest in a pledge fund which works with start-up companies. The Company maintains the right to purchase up to 3% of the new start-up companies. These investments are recorded at cost.

(4) RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS:

During the year ended December 31, 2001, the Company conducted the following transactions with Valuemetrics, Inc.

Payment for contract services and support	\$	518,964
Rental payments		95,400

(5) COMMITMENT:

The Company leases office space from Valuemetrics, Inc. The term of the lease is month to month. Rental expense for the period ended December 31, 2001 was \$95,400.

(6) NET CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS:

The Company is subject to the Securities and Exchange Commission Uniform Net Capital Rule (rule 15c3-2), which requires the maintenance of minimum net capital and requires that the ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital, both as defined, shall not exceed 15 to 1 (and the rule of the "applicable" exchange also provides that equity capital may not be withdrawn or cash dividends paid if the resulting net capital ratio would exceed 10 to 1). At December 31, 2001, the Company had net capital of \$30,491, which was \$25,491 in excess of its required net capital of \$5,000. The Company's aggregate indebtedness to net capital ratio was 0.12 to 1 as of December 31, 2001.

# Dugan & Lopatka

Certified Public Accountants & Consultants  
A Professional Corporation  
104 East Roosevelt Road  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187  
(630) 665-4440  
Fax (630) 665-5030  
<http://www.tdip.com>  
e-mail: [info@tdip.com](mailto:info@tdip.com)

Michael J. Dugan  
Gerald L. Lopatka  
Mark F. Schultz  
Gwendolyn S. Henry  
Peter J. Zich  
Leo M. Misdorn  
R. Dirk Schilling

*Geneva office:*  
115 Campbell Street  
Geneva, Illinois 60134  
(630) 232-4565

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL STRUCTURE REQUIRED BY SEC RULE 17a-5

To the Board of Directors of  
VM Equity Partners, Inc. and Subsidiary:

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of VM Equity Partners, Inc. and Subsidiary for the year ended December 31, 2001, we considered its internal control structure, including procedures for safeguarding securities, in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control structure.

Also, as required by rule 17a-5(g)(1) of the Securities and Exchange Commission, we have made a study of the practices and procedures (including tests of compliance with such practices and procedures) followed by VM Equity Partners, Inc. and Subsidiary that we considered relevant to the objectives stated in rule 17a-5(g), in making the periodic computations of aggregate indebtedness and net capital under rule 17a-3(a)(11) and the procedures for determining compliance with the exemptive provisions under rule 15c3-3.

We did not review the practice and procedures followed by the Company in making the quarterly securities examinations, counts, verifications and comparisons, and the recordation of differences required by rule 17a-13 or in complying with the requirements for prompt payment for securities under Section 8 of Regulation T of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, because the Company does not carry security accounts for customers or perform custodial functions relating to customer securities.

Independent Auditor's Report on Internal  
Control Structure Required by Sec Rule 17a-5  
Page two

The management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure and the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgements by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control structure policies and procedures and of the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph and to assess whether those practices and procedures can be expected to achieve the Commissions' above-mentioned objectives. Two of the objectives of an internal control structure and the practices and procedures are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets for which the Company has responsibility are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Rule 17a-5(g) lists additional objectives of the practices and procedures listed in the preceding paragraph.

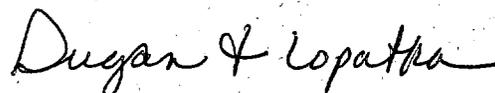
Because of inherent limitations in any internal control structure or the practices and procedures referred to above, errors or irregularities may occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of them to future periods is subject to the risk that they may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of their design and operation may deteriorate.

Our consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of the specific internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or irregularities in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. However, we noted no matters involving the internal control structure, including procedures for safeguarding securities that we consider to be material weaknesses as defined above.

We understand that practices and procedures that accomplish the objectives referred to in the second paragraph of this report are considered by the Commission to be adequate for its purposes in accordance with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and related regulations, and that practices and procedures that do not accomplish such objectives in all material respects indicate a material inadequacy for such purposes. Based on this understanding and on our study, we believe that the Company's practices and procedures were adequate at December 31, 2001, to meet the Commission's objectives.

Independent Auditor's Report on Internal  
Control Structure Required by Sec Rule 17a-5  
Page three

This report is intended solely for the use of management, the Securities and Exchange Commission and other regulatory agencies which rely on Rule 17a-5(g) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and should not be used for any other purpose.



DUGAN & LOPATKA

Wheaton, Illinois  
February 8, 2002

VM EQUITY PARTNERS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY  
COMPUTATION OF NET CAPITAL UNDER RULE 15C3-1  
OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2001

## NET CAPITAL:

Total shareholders' equity qualified for net capital	\$ 306,244
Deductions -	
Non-allowable assets - Accounts receivable	205,743
Investments	70,010
	<hr/>
Net capital	\$ 30,491
	<hr/> <hr/>

## AGGREGATE INDEBTEDNESS:

Accounts payable	\$ 3,823
	<hr/> <hr/>

## COMPUTATION OF BASIC NET CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS:

Minimum net capital required	\$ 5,000
Net capital	30,491
	<hr/>
Excess net capital	\$ 25,491
	<hr/> <hr/>

## RATIO: Aggregate indebtedness to net capital

0.12 to 1

## Reconciliation with Company's computation (included in Part II of Form X-17A-5 as of December 31, 2001)

Net capital as reported in the Company's Part II (unaudited) FOCUS report	\$ 270,927
Net audit adjustments	35,317
	<hr/>
Net capital per above	\$ 306,244
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VM EQUITY PARTNERS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY  
COMPUTATION FOR DETERMINATION OF RESERVE REQUIREMENTS  
UNDER RULE 15c3-3 OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2001

The Company is exempt from Rule 15c-3 under the provisions of Rule 15c-3(k)(1).  
The Company was in compliance with the conditions of this exemption.