

EPLUS INC
Form 8-K
August 11, 2006

**United States
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): August 11, 2006 (August 7, 2006)

ePlus inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware
(State or other
jurisdiction of
incorporation or
organization)**

**000-28926
(Commission File
Number)**

**54-1817218
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)**

13595 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, VA 20171-3413
(Address, including zip code, of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (703) 984-8400

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2 below):

☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition

As discussed in Item 4.02 below, which is incorporated herein by reference, on August 7, 2006, the audit committee (the "Audit Committee") of the board of directors of ePlus inc. (the "Company") concluded that financial statements included in the Company's quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and annual reports on Form 10-K for the periods commencing with the fiscal year ended March 31, 1998 should no longer be relied upon because of incorrect accounting for stock-based compensation expense described therein.

Item. 4.02 Non-Reliance on Previously Issued Financial Statements or a Related Audit Report or Completed Interim Review

(a) On August 7, 2006, the Audit Committee concluded that the Company's previously issued financial statements for the periods commencing with the fiscal year ended March 31, 1998 should no longer be relied upon because of incorrect accounting for stock-based compensation expense described below.

As previously reported on Form 12b-25 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on June 30, 2006, and as further reported on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 17, 2006, the Chief Executive Officer of the Company, Phillip G. Norton, received a letter dated June 20, 2006 from a Company stockholder raising concerns regarding certain options issued to the Company's four senior officers in 2004 (the "2004 Options"). The Chief Executive Officer forwarded the June 20, 2006 letter to the Chairman of the Company's Audit Committee. The Audit Committee commenced a review and assessment of the matters raised in the June 20, 2006 letter and engaged independent legal counsel and outside accounting advisors to assist in this effort. The Audit Committee's review and assessment is ongoing.

The Audit Committee's review and assessment included, among other things, review of a large volume of Company documents, emails, and other electronic documents; interviews of the Company's senior management, certain other Company employees whom the Audit Committee believed may have relevant information, the Company's outside securities counsel, and the members of the Company's Compensation Committee; and, with the assistance of its outside accounting advisors, analysis of applicable accounting rules and regulations. The Audit Committee's review and assessment initially focused on the matters raised in the June 20, 2006 letter regarding the 2004 Options and subsequently was expanded to cover all options granted to the Company's four senior officers, and then was expanded again to cover all options granted by the Company since its initial public offering in 1996.

Based on its review and assessment, the Audit Committee preliminarily has concluded that the actual measurement dates for certain stock options granted by the Company in the fiscal years ended March 31, 1998 through March 31, 2005 differ from the recorded measurement dates. As a result, non-cash stock-based compensation expense should have been recorded with respect to these stock option grants, and the amount of such expense is expected to be material. The Audit Committee has further determined that certain stock option grants that were not in accordance with the Company's stock-based compensation plans should have been accounted for using variable plan accounting for the duration of the options. Under variable plan accounting, stock-based compensation expense is recognized based on the difference between the market price of the stock as of the end of each fiscal quarter and the exercise price of the option. Accordingly, the Company will restate its previously issued financial statements for the fiscal years ended March 31, 2004 and 2005, as well as previously reported interim financial information, to reflect additional non-cash charges for stock-based compensation expense in certain reported periods commencing with the fiscal year ended March 31, 1998. In addition, the Company's financial statements as of and for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2006, to be included in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2006, will include non-cash charges for stock-based compensation expense.

The Audit Committee has not determined the final amounts of additional stock-based compensation expense to be recorded in prior periods or the impact in any future periods. However, based on the review and assessment performed to date, the aggregate amount of stock-based compensation expense to be recorded from April 1, 1997 to March 31,

2006 is presently estimated to be approximately \$3 million, which represents approximately 2% of the Company's cumulative earnings before taxes over the nine-year period. This estimate is preliminary, unaudited, and subject to change. There can be no assurance that the final amount of the restatement will not differ materially from this estimate. The stock-based compensation expense in certain years may be greater than the aggregate net impact over the entire period, and in other years may result in negative stock-based compensation expense, depending on the market price of the Company's common stock. In periods where negative stock-based compensation expense is recorded, the restatement will have the effect of increasing reported amounts of earnings before income taxes, net earnings, net earnings per share and retained earnings, and decreasing paid in capital. The cumulative stock-based compensation expenses incurred as a result of the restatement will have the effect of decreasing reported amounts of earnings before income taxes, net earnings, net earnings per share and retained earnings, and increasing paid in capital. The Company presently believes that the restatement related to stock-based compensation expense will not affect its revenues, cash flows, or cash balances.

In addition, as previously reported on its Form 8-K filed on June 28, 2006, the Company's financial statements for fiscal years ended March 31, 2005 and 2004 will be restated in connection with the presentation of dealer floor plan financing arrangements.

The Audit Committee also has concluded that the Company's internal controls, system of reporting, and documentation with respect to options were inadequate during the affected periods and will recommend specific measures designed to remedy such inadequacies.

The Company has not yet determined the tax consequences that may result from these matters or whether tax consequences will give rise to monetary liabilities which may have to be satisfied in any future period. The Company also expects that expenses arising from the investigation, the restatement and related activities, which will be recorded in the periods incurred, will be significant.

For the above-stated reasons, the Company's prior financial statements and the related reports from the Company's independent registered public accountants, earnings statements and press releases, and similar communications issued by the Company, relating to periods commencing with the fiscal year ended March 31, 1998 should no longer be relied upon.

The Audit Committee has discussed the matters disclosed in this Item 4.02(a) with the Company's independent registered public accounting firm.

The Company intends to file its restated financial statements and its annual report for the year ended March 31, 2006 as soon as practicable. As previously announced, the Company received a Staff Determination letter from Nasdaq on July 18, 2006 indicating that the Company's securities are subject to delisting because the Company has not yet filed its Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2006 and is therefore not in compliance with the continued listing standard in Nasdaq Marketplace Rule 4310(c)(14). The Company has requested a hearing before a Nasdaq Listing Qualifications Panel ("Panel") to review the Staff Determination. At the hearing, which is scheduled for September 7, 2006, the Company will ask the Panel for additional time to remedy the late filing and to restate its financial statements. There can be no assurance that the Panel will grant the additional time or that the Company will maintain its Nasdaq listing.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(a) Not applicable.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Exhibits

99.1 Press Release dated August 11, 2006 issued by ePlus inc.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

ePlus inc.

By: /s/ Steven J. Mencarini

Steven J. Mencarini

Chief Financial Officer

Date: August 11, 2006

