

For Immediate Release

TradeStation Group Reports 2010 Third Quarter Financial Results

Plantation FL, October 21, 2010 – TradeStation Group, Inc. (NASDAQ GS: TRAD) today reported 2010 third quarter net revenues of \$29.6 million, net income of \$3.1 million, and earnings per share (diluted) of 8 cents, compared to 2009 third quarter net revenues of \$32.4 million, net income of \$3.7 million, and earnings per share (diluted) of 9 cents. Included in 2010 third quarter net income are \$2.4 million in non-recurring net federal, state and local tax benefits, as well as \$426,000 of after-tax “mark-to-market” net losses, primarily from TradeStation Securities’ investment in the Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE). Excluding the non-recurring tax benefits and “mark-to-market” losses, the company would have had 2010 third quarter net revenues of \$30.3 million, net income of \$1.1 million, and earnings per share (diluted) of 3 cents.¹ Management believes that excluding the non-recurring tax benefits and “mark-to-market” losses provides investors with a better view of the results of the company’s operations.

Brokerage commissions and fees for the 2010 third quarter were \$26.0 million, as compared to 2009 third quarter brokerage commissions and fees of \$28.6 million. Brokerage commissions and fees are the largest component of the company’s net revenues.

“During a very difficult quarter, when market volatility, especially intra-day market volatility, decreased, we continued to generate net income and add new accounts,” said David Fleischman, the company’s Chief Financial Officer. “We continue to believe that TradeStation’s strength and positioning speak well to our chances of developing significant market share in the active trader space over the next several years.”

¹ The following table reconciles net income, as reported, to net income excluding the after tax effect of tax benefits, net, and net losses on marketable securities for the three months ended September 30, 2010.

	<u>Amount (in thousands)</u>	<u>Earnings per Share (diluted)</u>
Net income, as reported	\$3,056	\$0.08
Net federal, state and local tax benefits *	(2,410)	(0.06)
Net losses on marketable securities *	426	0.01
Net income, excluding the effect of federal, state and local tax benefits, net and losses on marketable securities, net	<u>\$1,072</u>	<u>\$0.03</u>

* After taxes

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TradeStation Reports DARTs and Record Total Accounts

For the 2010 third quarter, TradeStation experienced the following year-over-year daily trading results with respect to equities, futures and forex accounts:

	<u>Q3 10</u>	<u>Q3 09</u>	<u>% Decrease</u>
Daily Average Revenue Trades	75,746	79,577	5%

The company also published today, in a separate announcement, its DARTs, Total Client Assets, Average Equities Client Credit Balances and Average Equities Client Margin Balances for the month of September 2010.

TradeStation had 47,434 active brokerage accounts at September 30, 2010, a 4.1% increase from September 30, 2009.

TradeStation's Average Client Trades 404 Times per Year and Has an Average Account Balance of \$71,000 for Equities and \$22,000 for Futures

TradeStation's brokerage client account metrics are among the best in the industry. TradeStation brokerage clients generated the following client account metrics in the 2010 third quarter:

Client Trading Activity

Annualized average revenue per account	\$2,288
Annualized trades per account	404

Client Account Assets

Average assets per account (Equities)	\$71,000
Average assets per account (Futures)	\$22,000

Company Purchases 583,079 Shares under Stock Buy-Back Plan

In the 2010 third quarter, the company purchased 583,079 shares of its common stock pursuant to its stock buy-back plan (which terminates in mid-November 2010) for a total purchase price of \$3.75 million. Since buying under the plan began November 13, 2006, through September 30, 2010 the company has purchased 6,751,486 shares for a total purchase price of \$58.1 million.

Under the stock buy-back plan, the company is authorized, over a 4-year period, to purchase up to \$60 million of its common stock using available and unrestricted cash in the open market or through privately-

negotiated transactions pursuant to one or more Rule 10b5-1 plans or programs. Pursuant to the plan, up to \$1,250,000 of company cash per month during each month of the 4-year period (i.e., up to \$15 million per 12-month period and up to \$60 million for the 4-year period) has been authorized to be used to purchase company shares at prevailing prices, subject to compliance with applicable securities laws, rules and regulations, including Rules 10b5-1 and 10b-18. The buy-back plan does not obligate the company to acquire any specific number of shares in any period, and may be modified, suspended, extended or discontinued at any time without prior notice.

Company Provides 2010 Fourth Quarter Business Outlook

TradeStation today also published its 2010 Fourth Quarter Business Outlook.

The company's 2010 Fourth Quarter Business Outlook estimated ranges are as follows:

2010 FOURTH QUARTER BUSINESS OUTLOOK (In Millions, Except Per Share Data)

	<u>2010 Fourth Quarter</u>
NET REVENUES	\$30.0 to \$32.0
EARNINGS PER SHARE (Diluted)	\$0.02 to \$0.04

The company's 2010 fourth quarter estimated ranges are based on numerous assumptions, including: basing the midpoints of the ranges on average daily revenue per account for each asset class (equities, futures, forex) at approximately the same level as average daily revenue per account over the 9-month period ended September 30, 2010, adjusted for seasonality, plus a stub period in October 2010 (the period used and the formula and criteria applied often vary with each Business Outlook based upon management's judgment each period concerning the best assumptions to use); U.S. Treasury Bill and Treasury Note yields the company receives remaining constant at current levels throughout the remainder of the 2010 year; no unrealized gain or loss on TradeStation Securities' investment in the CBOE or its U.S. Treasury portfolio in the 2010 fourth quarter; anticipated growth, attrition and trading activity of active trader equities, futures and forex accounts, and the proportions in trading activity among those asset classes (each of which have different profit margin structures); the timing of expenses relating to the company's growth initiatives as compared to the timing of anticipated benefits from those initiatives; and numerous other assumptions concerning the company's business and industry, market conditions, and various decisions, acts or failures to act both within and outside of the company's control. All assumptions, expectations and beliefs relating to the Business Outlook are forward-looking in nature and actual results may differ materially from those estimated, including, but not limited to, as

a result of, or as indicated by, the issues, uncertainties and risk factors set forth and referenced above and below. In particular, to the extent market volatility and/or market volumes move to significantly higher or lower levels, net account growth increases, slows or decreases, the U.S. Treasury Bill and/or Treasury Note rates of interest are different than what has been assumed, and/or economic or financial market conditions persist or worsen, or improve sooner or to a higher degree than expected, or the company is subject to material “mark-to-market” adjustments (up or down) on its investment in the CBOE or its U.S. treasury securities holdings, the results estimated in the Business Outlook will likely be materially different than actual results.

Conference Call/Webcast

At 11:00, a.m., Eastern Time, today, members of TradeStation Group senior management will conduct an analyst conference call to discuss the company’s 2010 third quarter results and its 2010 Fourth Quarter Business Outlook. All company shareholders and the public are invited to listen. The telephone conference will be broadcast live via the Internet at www.TradeStation.com. The live webcast will be accompanied by slides of graphs and charts. A rebroadcast of the call will be accessible for approximately 90 days.

About TradeStation Group, Inc.

TradeStation Group, Inc. (NASDAQ GS: TRAD), through its principal operating subsidiary, TradeStation Securities, Inc., offers the *TradeStation* platform to the active trader and certain institutional trader markets. *TradeStation* is an electronic trading platform that offers state-of-the-art electronic order execution and enables clients to design, test, optimize, monitor and automate their own custom Equities, Options, Futures and Forex trading strategies.

TradeStation Securities, Inc. (Member NYSE, FINRA, SIPC, DTCC, OCC & NFA) is a licensed securities broker-dealer and a registered futures commission merchant, and also a member of the Boston Options Exchange, Chicago Board Options Exchange, Chicago Stock Exchange, International Securities Exchange and NASDAQ OMX. Its *TradeStation Prime Services* division, based in New York, seeks to provide prime brokerage services to small and mid-sized hedge funds and other firms. The company’s technology subsidiary, TradeStation Technologies, Inc., develops and offers strategy trading software tools and subscription services. Its London-based subsidiary, TradeStation Europe Limited, an FSA-authorized brokerage firm, introduces UK and other European accounts to TradeStation Securities.

Forward-Looking Statements – Issues, Uncertainties and Risk Factors

This press release, including the 2010 Fourth Quarter Business Outlook estimated ranges contained in this press release, and today’s earnings conference call, contain statements and estimates that are forward-looking and are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. When used in this press release, or the conference call, the words “anticipate(s),” “anticipated,” “anticipation,” “assume(s),” “assumption(s),” “become(s),” “belief(s),” “believe(s),” “believed,” “could,” “designed,” “estimate,” “estimates,” “estimated,” “expect(s),” “expected,” “expectation(s),” “going forward,” “future,” “hopeful,” “hopefully,” “hope(s),” “intend(s),” “intended,” “look forward,” “may,” “might,” “opportunity,” “opportunities,” “outlook(s),” “pending,” “plan(s),” “planned,” “potential,”

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“scheduled,” “shall,” “should,” “think(s),” “to be,” “upcoming,” “well-positioned,” “will,” “wish,” “would,” and similar expressions, if and to the extent used, are intended to identify forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements are based largely on current expectations and beliefs concerning future events that are subject to substantial risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from the results herein suggested or suggested in the conference call. Factors that may cause or contribute to the various potential differences include, but are not limited to, the following:

- the company’s ability (or lack thereof), based upon market conditions, the level of success of its marketing and product development and enhancement efforts, product and service quality and reliability, competition (including both price and quality-of-offering competition, which are intense) and other factors (such as rule based trading not growing generally to the extent the company believes it will), to achieve significant, or any, net increases in DARTs, brokerage accounts and brokerage commissions and fees sequentially or year over year (for example: TradeStation’s DARTs and brokerage commissions and fees both decreased sequentially and year over year in the 2009 third and fourth quarters and the 2010 first and third quarters, and decreased year over year in the 2010 second quarter, and these and other items may decrease sequentially or year over year in subsequent periods);*
- with respect to net new customer accounts in particular, which fell to the lowest rate of increase in the company’s history during the 2010 third quarter, the company’s ability (or lack thereof) to maintain or increase the rate of quarterly gross account additions and to control the rate of quarterly account attrition, particularly in current market and economic conditions, including unemployment, high volatility and swings in volatility, and if those conditions worsen and/or are prolonged (net account growth began substantially to slow in the 2009 third quarter);*
- negative or other significant changes in the condition of the securities and futures markets, and the financial markets and economy generally (which could cause the company to experience significantly lower revenues, net income and earnings per share, as well as reduced market value of its publicly-traded shares of common stock), or unexpected positive changes (which could have the opposite effect);*
- changes in the combined average volume of the major U.S. equities and futures exchanges and in market volatility, which tend to significantly affect customer trading volume at TradeStation (for example, sharply increased market volatility in May 2010, and the 2010 second quarter as a whole, as compared to the first quarter in 2010, likely contributed to the significant increase in client trading volume in the 2010 second quarter -- and more recent lower volatility has likely contributed to lower client trading volume since May 2010);*
- changes in U.S. Treasury Note and/or Treasury Bill rates of interest that are inconsistent with, or different from, the company’s assumption that there will be no increases in 2010, that is, that those rates will remain at close to zero percent throughout 2010;*
- “mark-to-market” gains or losses on marketable securities that impact the company’s financial results even though they do not affect the company’s operations (for example, “mark-to-market” gains on marketable securities increased earnings per share by three cents in the 2010 second quarter and “mark-to-market” losses decreased earnings per share by one cent in the 2010 third quarter);*
- technical difficulties, outages, errors or failures in the company’s electronic and software products, services and systems relating to market data, order execution and trade processing and reporting, and other software or system errors and failures, which have occurred periodically over the past two years (also, although the company maintains a redundant back-up system to its order execution systems, that*

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redundancy is not seamless, which could materially intensify the negative consequences of any such difficulties, outages, errors or failures), and the failure or inability of the company to address the underlying issues or causes relating to such problems, to adequately correct them and ensure they do not repeat (particularly as the volume of market data received from the exchanges, or the volume of the company's client base's trading volume, requires increased, improved or different hardware and/or software capacity, technology or company domain know-how);

- *the company's new "TradeStation Prime Services" division turning out to be less profitable or more costly than expected, or resulting in unanticipated claims or liabilities against the company, as a result of (1) unanticipated start-up costs and expenses that are not offset or exceeded by expected revenues as and when planned (or at all), (2) the TradeStation trading platform, and the prime services offering generally, not growing in appeal to prime services clients to the extent the company believes they will, (3) the failure of the company to make timely and quality enhancements to its trading platform, or to offer alternative platforms, which are believed necessary to attract prime services clients to use TradeStation to execute and clear trades, (4) TradeStation's size and balance sheet being unacceptably small to mid-size and larger prime services clients (which are part of the market segment the company intends to serve) and/or (5) the general unpredictability of operating results for a start-up business division, particularly given TradeStation's lack of experience in offering prime brokerage services;*
- *a substantial decrease in the company's available cash should a large portion of its current available cash be used for acquisitions or other expansion activities;*
- *infrastructure, capital or other large expenses, or unforeseen or unexpected liabilities and claims, the company may face as it seeks to grow its U.S. active trader market business, and its institutional (including prime services) and non-U.S. trader market businesses, including potential acquisition, joint venture, investment or business combination risks, costs and expenses (such as start-up costs and expenses, absorption of ongoing losses from an acquired entity, professional fees and, in the case of an acquisition, amortization expense) incurred in the event the company acquires, joint ventures with, invests in, or combines with other businesses, or launches additional new divisions (such potential opportunities are continuously under consideration);*
- *business interruptions, slowdowns or failures affecting vendors or vendor services used by the company for clearance, settlement and back-office systems, whether caused by adverse economic conditions or other events, which could significantly interrupt, impair or injure the company's core business operations;*
- *the potential negative effects on the company's forex commissions and fees, and forex business and prospects generally, (1) based on unexpected mistakes, delays and costs in connection with its planned restructuring of its forex business model, and (2) a recently enacted CFTC rule imposing a limit on buying power leverage of 50-to-1 on major foreign currency pairs and 20-to-1 for other currency pairs and a proposed FINRA rule which would, if adopted, prohibit broker-dealers and futures commission merchants from offering buying power higher than a leverage of 4-to-1, each as compared to the buying power leverage of up to 100-to-1 or 200-to-1 typically offered throughout the world today;*
- *the potential negative effects on the company's brokerage commissions and fees of any future rules that may be imposed which ban short selling or restrict or limit short selling (such as the new rule adopted by the SEC in February 2010, which limits short selling on individual stocks whose value has declined ten percent or more in a single day), as a significant percentage of the firm's daily client trades on many*

trading days are short sale transactions, and its intended “securities lending” operations depend on short selling, that is, the need of clients to locate and borrow stock to effect their transactions;

- *in general, new or modified regulatory rules or requirements, or increased or more stringent enforcement and higher fines or greater sanctions, concerning required liquidity, net capital or deposits, or the manner in which TradeStation Securities operates its business and monitors and ensures compliance of its business operations with applicable laws, rules and regulations, that may be enacted or imposed in response to the current economic crisis and recent scandals, and which could materially increase the firm’s cash requirements to conduct its business, require substantial increases in compliance, legal and/or brokerage operations costs, result in fines, penalties or sanctions, limit or reduce the firm’s access to, or use of, a significant percentage of its now-available cash, or otherwise limit the firm’s ability to engage fully, and with as much success, in the services it currently provides and/or those expanded services that TradeStation Securities is seeking to provide;*
- *the frequency and size of, and ability to collect, unsecured client account debits as a result of volatile market movements and unstable economic conditions, particularly in concentrated positions held in client accounts or as a result of other high-risk positions or circumstances;*
- *the company’s estimated earnings per share (diluted) being based on assumptions of a certain number of outstanding shares and an average stock price for particular time periods that turn out to be inaccurate (if the number of outstanding shares and/or the average stock price is actually higher than what has been assumed, there will be more dilution and the actual earnings per share would be lower, and, if both of those are lower, there will be less dilution and higher earnings per share) because of new or modified company share buy-back plans (which the company considers from time to time and which could be implemented later in 2010) or other events or factors that can affect the price of the company’s shares or the number of outstanding shares;*
- *unauthorized intrusion and/or other criminal or fraudulent activity in customer accounts by persons who unlawfully or improperly access or use customer accounts (through deceit or otherwise) and then place orders or other transactions in, or deposit misappropriated funds in, or improperly withdraw funds from, those accounts;*
- *the effect of changes in product mix (how much of customer trading volume is stocks versus equity options versus futures versus forex), which can affect the company’s revenues, net income and margins, even if overall volume remains the same;*
- *the effect of unanticipated increased infrastructure costs that may be incurred as the company seeks to increase its product development/information technology headcount and resources (which the company continues to try to do as quickly as possible) and grows its brokerage firm operations, adds offices, adds accounts and introduces and expands existing and new product and service offerings;*
- *pending regulatory matters which could result in fines, sanctions and/or other negative consequences;*
- *the amount of unexpected legal, consultation and professional fees (including fees related to pending and future regulatory matters, lawsuits or other proceedings against the company, or potential acquisitions, investments, business combinations or strategic relationships);*
- *the general variability and unpredictability of operating results forecast on a quarterly or annual basis; and*

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- *other items, events and unpredictable costs or revenue impact items or events that may occur, and other issues, risks and uncertainties indicated from time to time in the company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including, but not limited to, the company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2010 and June 30, 2010, and other SEC filings, and company press releases, conference calls and public presentations or statements.*

Contact

David H. Fleischman
Chief Financial Officer
TradeStation Group, Inc.
954-652-7000

TRADESTATION GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(Unaudited)
(in thousands, except per share data)

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
REVENUES:				
Brokerage commissions and fees	\$ 26,031	\$ 28,623	\$ 83,435	\$ 93,422
Interest income	2,757	1,612	7,673	3,948
Brokerage interest expense	-	-	-	-
Net interest income	<u>2,757</u>	<u>1,612</u>	<u>7,673</u>	<u>3,948</u>
Subscription fees and other	1,517	1,777	4,754	5,809
Gains (losses) on marketable securities, net	<u>(728)</u>	<u>344</u>	<u>4,175</u>	<u>344</u>
Net revenues	<u>29,577</u>	<u>32,356</u>	<u>100,037</u>	<u>103,523</u>
EXPENSES:				
Employee compensation and benefits	11,400	10,509	34,055	31,662
Clearing and execution	6,952	7,160	22,452	23,822
Data centers and communications	3,403	2,902	10,846	8,551
Marketing	1,791	1,453	5,070	5,046
Professional services	1,109	754	2,545	2,514
Occupancy and equipment	805	800	2,364	2,282
Depreciation and amortization	1,317	1,062	3,330	3,306
Other	<u>2,474</u>	<u>1,653</u>	<u>6,220</u>	<u>4,862</u>
Total expenses	<u>29,251</u>	<u>26,293</u>	<u>86,882</u>	<u>82,045</u>
Income before income taxes	326	6,063	13,155	21,478
INCOME TAX (BENEFIT) PROVISION	<u>(2,730)</u>	<u>2,366</u>	<u>2,484</u>	<u>8,420</u>
Net income	<u>\$ 3,056</u>	<u>\$ 3,697</u>	<u>\$ 10,671</u>	<u>\$ 13,058</u>
EARNINGS PER SHARE:				
Basic	<u>\$ 0.08</u>	<u>\$ 0.09</u>	<u>\$ 0.27</u>	<u>\$ 0.31</u>
Diluted	<u>\$ 0.08</u>	<u>\$ 0.09</u>	<u>\$ 0.26</u>	<u>\$ 0.31</u>
WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES				
OUTSTANDING:				
Basic	<u>39,624</u>	<u>41,285</u>	<u>40,051</u>	<u>41,715</u>
Diluted	<u>39,996</u>	<u>41,792</u>	<u>40,476</u>	<u>42,188</u>

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TRADESTATION GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(in thousands)

	September 30, 2010	December 31, 2009
<u>ASSETS:</u>	(Unaudited)	
Cash and cash equivalents, including restricted cash of \$478 at September 30, 2010 and \$717 at December 31, 2009*	\$ 52,512	\$ 57,405
Cash and investments segregated in compliance with federal regulations	1,277,768	785,208
Marketable securities*	56,678	76,342
Receivables from brokers, dealers, clearing organizations and clearing agents	36,689	32,226
Receivables from brokerage customers, net	53,227	45,034
Property and equipment, net	16,711	7,578
Deferred income taxes, net	1,780	1,276
Deposits with clearing organizations	35,485	38,521
Other assets	4,122	5,606
	<u>\$ 1,534,972</u>	<u>\$ 1,049,196</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY:</u>		
<u>LIABILITIES:</u>		
Payables to brokers, dealers and clearing organizations	\$ 198	\$ 114
Payables to brokerage customers	1,347,914	868,741
Accounts payable	5,340	2,627
Accrued expenses	8,210	7,206
Total liabilities	<u>1,361,662</u>	<u>878,688</u>
<u>COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES</u>		
<u>SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</u>	<u>173,310</u>	<u>170,508</u>
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	<u>\$ 1,534,972</u>	<u>\$ 1,049,196</u>

*Marketable securities as of September 30, 2010 exclude \$4.0 million that was transferred on October 1, 2010 from cash and investments segregated in compliance with federal regulations. Cash and cash equivalents as of December 31, 2009 include \$7.7 million that was transferred on January 4, 2010 to cash and investments segregated in compliance with federal regulations.