

HUNGARIAN TELEPHONE & CABLE CORP
Form DEF 14A
April 10, 2006
Table of Contents

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

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the

Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, For Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material under Rule 14a-12

HUNGARIAN TELEPHONE AND CABLE CORP.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

- (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

- (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

- (5) Total fee paid:

- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials:
- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
- (1) Amount previously paid:

- (2) Form, Schedule or Registration No.

- (3) Filing party:

- (4) Date filed:

Table of Contents

HUNGARIAN TELEPHONE

1201 Third Avenue, Suite 3400

AND CABLE CORP.

Seattle, WA 98101-3034

Dear Stockholder:

April 7, 2006

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I cordially invite you to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Hungarian Telephone and Cable Corp. (the Company) to be held at 10:00 a.m. local time, on May 17, 2006 at the New York Marriott East Side Hotel, 525 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10017.

At the Annual Meeting the holders of Common Stock of the Company will consider and vote upon the election of directors and the ratification of the appointment of auditors. **Your Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR the election of each of the nominees named herein as directors and the ratification of the appointment of auditors.**

The attached Proxy Statement more fully describes the matters to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting and also includes information concerning the Company. I urge you to read carefully the information contained in the Proxy Statement.

I hope that you will be able to attend the Annual Meeting. If you cannot attend, your shares of Common Stock can be represented by completing, signing and dating the enclosed proxy, and returning it in the envelope provided (which requires no postage if mailed in the United States). You may, of course, withdraw your proxy if you attend the Annual Meeting and choose to vote in person.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kim Frimer
Kim Frimer
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Table of Contents

HUNGARIAN TELEPHONE AND CABLE CORP.

1201 Third Avenue, Suite 3400

Seattle, Washington 98101-3034

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON MAY 17, 2006

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Meeting) of Hungarian Telephone and Cable Corp., a Delaware corporation (the Company), will be held at the New York Marriott East Side Hotel, 525 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10017 on May 17, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., local time, for the following purposes:

1. To elect seven directors of the Company to serve until the 2007 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until their successors have been duly elected and qualified; and
2. To ratify the appointment of KPMG Hungaria Kft. as auditors of the Company for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2006; and to transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof. The Board of Directors is not aware of any other business to come before the Meeting.

The Board of Directors has fixed April 3, 2006 as the record date for determining the stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof. For ten days prior to the Meeting, a complete list of stockholders of record entitled to vote at the Meeting will be maintained for inspection by an eligible stockholder (for any purpose germane to the Meeting) during normal business hours at the U.S. office of the Company which is located at 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 3400, Seattle, WA 98101-3034, phone 206-654-0204.

Whether or not you plan to attend the Meeting in person, please mark, execute, date and return the enclosed proxy promptly in the envelope provided. Should you attend the Meeting in person you may, if you wish, withdraw your proxy and vote your shares in person.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Peter T. Noone
Peter T. Noone
Secretary

Seattle, Washington

April 7, 2006

IMPORTANT: THE PROMPT RETURN OF PROXIES WILL SAVE THE COMPANY THE EXPENSE OF FURTHER REQUESTS FOR PROXIES TO ENSURE A QUORUM AT THE MEETING. A PRE-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE. NO POSTAGE IS REQUIRED IF MAILED WITHIN THE UNITED STATES.

Table of Contents

HUNGARIAN TELEPHONE AND CABLE CORP.

PROXY STATEMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	1
<u>Voting Rights and Proxy Information</u>	1
<u>Vote Required for Approval</u>	2
<u>Voting Securities</u>	2
<u>Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners</u>	2
<u>Change in Control</u>	3
<u>Stock Ownership of Management</u>	4
<u>I. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u>	5
<u>General</u>	5
<u>Current Directors and Nominees for Director</u>	6
<u>Committees and Meetings of the Board of Directors</u>	8
<u>Report of the Audit Committee</u>	10
<u>Reports on Executive Compensation</u>	10
<u>Compensation Committee Report on Executive Compensation</u>	10
<u>Board of Directors Report on Executive Compensation</u>	12
<u>Standard Remuneration of Directors and Other Arrangements</u>	13
<u>Executive Compensation</u>	13
<u>Executive Officers</u>	16
<u>Employment Agreements</u>	17
<u>Secondment Arrangements</u>	18
<u>Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation</u>	19
<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions</u>	19
<u>Indebtedness of Management</u>	20
<u>Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance</u>	20
<u>Stock Performance Graph</u>	20
<u>II. RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS</u>	21
<u>Fees to Independent Auditors for 2004 and 2005</u>	22
<u>STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS</u>	23
<u>STOCKHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u>	23
<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	23
<u>EXPENSES OF SOLICITATION</u>	23

Table of Contents

HUNGARIAN TELEPHONE AND CABLE CORP.

1201 Third Avenue, Suite 3400

Seattle, Washington 98101-3034

April 7, 2006

PROXY STATEMENT

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held May 17, 2006

INTRODUCTION

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies on behalf of the Board of Directors of Hungarian Telephone and Cable Corp. (the Company) to be used at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company, to be held at 10:00 a.m. local time, on May 17, 2006 at the New York Marriott East Side Hotel, 525 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10017, or at any adjournment or postponement thereof (the Meeting). This Proxy Statement and the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and form of proxy are first being sent or given to stockholders on or about April 17, 2006.

At the Meeting, the stockholders of the Company are being asked to consider and vote upon: (i) the election of seven directors of the Company to serve until the 2007 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until their successors are duly elected and qualified; and (ii) the ratification of the appointment of KPMG Hungaria Kft. as auditors of the Company for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2006.

Voting Rights and Proxy Information

All shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, of the Company (the Common Stock), represented at the Meeting by properly executed proxies received prior to or at the Meeting, and not revoked, will be voted at the Meeting in accordance with the instructions thereon. If no instructions are indicated, properly executed proxies will be voted for election of all nominees for director named below and for the ratification of the appointment of auditors. The Company does not know of any matters, other than as described in the Notice of Annual Meeting, that are to come before the Meeting. If any other matters are properly presented at the Meeting for action, the persons named in the enclosed form of proxy and acting thereunder will have the discretion to vote on such matters in accordance with their best judgment. Proxies should not be sent by the stockholder to the Company, but to Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, the Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent, at 17 Battery Place South, 8th Floor, New York, New York 10004. A pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope is provided for this purpose.

A proxy delivered pursuant to this solicitation may be revoked at any time before it is voted. Proxies may be revoked by (i) filing with the Secretary of the Company at or before the Meeting a written notice of revocation bearing a later date than the proxy, (ii) duly executing a subsequent proxy relating to the same shares and delivering it to the Secretary of the Company at or before the Meeting, or (iii) attending the Meeting and voting in person (although attendance at the Meeting will not in and of itself constitute revocation of a proxy). Any written notice revoking a proxy should be delivered to Peter T. Noone, Secretary, Hungarian Telephone and Cable Corp., 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 3400, Seattle, Washington 98101-3034.

Table of Contents**Vote Required for Approval**

The presence, in person or by proxy, of a majority of the shares of Common Stock entitled to vote is required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Meeting. The election of directors requires the affirmative vote of a plurality of the shares of Common Stock voting in person or by proxy at the Meeting. Thus, abstentions and proxies returned by brokers as non-votes on behalf of shares held in street name will have no effect on the outcome of the election of directors. For the vote with respect to the ratification of the appointment of auditors, abstentions will have the same effect as a vote against such matter and proxies returned by brokers as non-votes will not affect the outcome of such vote. Proxies submitted which contain abstentions or broker non-votes will be deemed present at the Meeting in determining the presence of a quorum.

Your Board of Directors has unanimously approved the nomination of the persons named herein for election as directors and the Board's audit committee has unanimously approved the appointment of KPMG Hungaria Kft. Accordingly, the Board recommends a vote FOR the election of the nominees named herein as directors and the ratification of the appointment of KPMG Hungaria Kft. as auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2006.

Voting Securities

April 3, 2006 has been set as the record date (the Record Date) for determining stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Meeting. As of the close of business on the Record Date, there were outstanding 12,806,665 shares of Common Stock. Each holder thereof is entitled to one vote per share.

Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners

The following table sets forth, as of April 7, 2006, certain information as to those persons who were known by management to be beneficial owners of more than 5% of the Common Stock.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Shares Beneficially Owned ⁽¹⁾	Percent of Class ⁽¹⁾
TDC A/S		
Noerregade 21		
0900 Copenhagen C, Denmark	10,799,782 ⁽²⁾	69.2%

- (1) Shares Beneficially Owned includes shares held directly as well as shares which such entity may have the right to acquire within 60 days of April 7, 2006. Percent of Class is calculated by dividing the Shares Beneficially Owned by such entity by the shares of Common Stock outstanding as of April 7, 2006 plus only those shares which such entity may have the right to acquire within 60 days of April 7, 2006.
- (2) Includes 300,000 shares of Common Stock which are issuable upon the conversion by TDC of its 30,000 shares of the Company's Series A Preferred Stock and 2,500,000 shares of Common Stock which are issuable upon the exercise of warrants held by TDC with an exercise price of \$10.00 per share. See - Change in Control.

Table of Contents

Change in Control

On April 12, 2005 TDC A/S (TDC), a large shareholder of the Company, increased its investment in the Company by purchasing the entire equity holdings in the Company held by Ashmore Investment Management (Ashmore) for \$79.9 million. Ashmore owned 2,750,936 shares of Common Stock (purchase price \$53.6 million); warrants to purchase 2,500,000 shares of Common Stock at \$10 per share with an expiration date of March 31, 2007 (purchase price \$23.8 million); and 12,000 shares of the Company s preferred stock which are convertible into 120,000 shares of Common Stock (purchase price \$2.5 million). TDC used its general investment funds for the purchase from Ashmore. TDC now owns 62.5% of the Company s outstanding Common Stock and 65.8% of the Company s outstanding Common Stock on a fully diluted basis.

TDC also purchased from Ashmore notes issued by the Company in the principal amount of \$25 million. TDC purchased the notes at face value. TDC used its general investment funds for the transaction.

In February 2006, Nordic Telephone Company ApS, a Danish entity owned by 5 private equity firms (Nordic Telephone), completed its tender offer for the outstanding shares of TDC. Nordic Telephone now owns 88.2% of TDC.

Table of Contents**Stock Ownership of Management**

The following table sets forth, as of April 7, 2006, certain information as to the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by certain executive officers of the Company, the Company's former Chief Executive Officer (Ole Bertram who remains a director) and as to the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by all directors and executive officers of the Company as a group.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Shares Beneficially	
	Owned ⁽¹⁾	Percent of Class ⁽¹⁾
<i>Current/Former Executive Officers</i>		
Ole Bertram	522,491 ⁽²⁾	4.0
Torben V. Holm	20,000 ⁽³⁾	*
William T. McGann	156,947 ⁽⁴⁾	1.2
Peter T. Noone	109,610 ⁽⁵⁾	*
Tamas Vagany	0	*
Alex Wurtz	0 ⁽⁶⁾	*
Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (12 persons)	897,048 ⁽⁶⁾	6.6

* Less than one percent

- (1) Shares Beneficially Owned includes shares held directly, as well as shares which such persons have the right to acquire within 60 days of April 7, 2006 and shares held by certain members of such persons' families, over which such persons may be deemed to have sole or shared voting power or investment power. Percent of Class is calculated by dividing the Shares Beneficially Owned by the individual (or group) by the shares of Common Stock outstanding as of April 7, 2006 plus only those shares which the individual (or group) has the right to acquire within 60 days of April 7, 2006.
- (2) Includes 100,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$4.72 per share, 100,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$7.46 per share, 100,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$9.39 per share and 100,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$13.01 per share, granted pursuant to Mr. Bertram's now terminated employment agreement. See Election of Directors - Employment Agreements.
- (3) Does not include shares reported to be beneficially owned by TDC A/S. See - Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and - Change in Control. Mr. Holm, who serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, is an employee of TDC A/S. Mr. Holm's shares consist of 5,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$6.21 per share, 5,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$6.49 per share, 5,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$5.78 per share, and 5,000 shares subject to options presently at \$10.89 per share granted from the Company's Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan.
- (4) Includes 20,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$4.72 per share, 20,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$7.46 per share, 40,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$9.39 per share, 35,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$13.01 per share, and 35,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$15.62 per share, granted pursuant to Mr. McGann's employment agreement. See Election of Directors - Employment Agreements.
- (5) Includes 20,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$4.72 per share, 20,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$7.46 per share, 20,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$9.39 per share, 20,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$13.01 per share and 20,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$15.62 per share, granted pursuant to Mr. Noone's employment agreement. See Election of Directors - Employment Agreements.

Edgar Filing: HUNGARIAN TELEPHONE & CABLE CORP - Form DEF 14A

- (6) Does not include shares reported to be beneficially owned by TDC A/S. Kim Frimer, Jesper Helmuth Larsen, Christian Eyde Moeller and Peter Thomsen, directors of the Company, serve as officers of TDC A/S. Messrs. Holm and Wurtz, who serve as Executive Officers of the Company, are employees of TDC A/S. See - Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and - Change in Control.

-4-

Table of Contents

I. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

General

Pursuant to the Company's By-laws, directors are elected to serve for a one-year term or until their respective successors have been elected and qualified. Six nominees are incumbent directors who were elected at the last annual meeting of stockholders. One nominee was elected by the Board during the current board term. It is intended that the proxies solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors (other than proxies in which the vote is withheld as to one or more nominees) will be voted at the Meeting for the election of the nominees identified below. If any nominee is unable to serve, the shares represented by all valid proxies will be voted for the election of such substitute as the Board of Directors may recommend. At this time, the Board of Directors knows of no reason why any of the nominees might be unable to serve, if elected. Except as described below, there are no arrangements or understandings between any director or nominee and any other person pursuant to which such director or nominee was selected.

Table of Contents**Current Directors and Nominees for Director**

The table below sets forth certain information, as of April 7, 2006, regarding the Company's current Board of Directors and nominees for election to the Board of Directors, including beneficial ownership of Common Stock.

Name	Age	Position(s) Held in the Company	Director Since	Shares	Percent
				Beneficially Owned ⁽¹⁾	of Class ⁽¹⁾
<i>Current Directors who are Nominees for Election</i>					
Ole Bertram	70	Director, Former President and Chief Executive Officer	1997	522,491 ⁽²⁾	4.0
Kim Frimer	46	Director	2005	0 ⁽³⁾	*
Jesper Helmuth Larsen	39	Director	2004	0 ⁽³⁾	*
Christian Eyde Moeller	42	Director	2005	0 ⁽³⁾	*
John B. Ryan	75	Director	1992	44,000 ⁽⁴⁾	*
William E. Starkey	70	Director	1996	44,000 ⁽⁴⁾	*
Peter Thomsen	32	Director	2006	0 ⁽³⁾	*

* Less than one percent

- (1) Shares Beneficially Owned includes shares held directly, as well as shares which such persons have the right to acquire within 60 days of April 7, 2006 and shares held by certain members of such persons' families, over which such persons may be deemed to have sole or shared voting power or investment power. Percent of Class is calculated by dividing the Shares Beneficially Owned by the individual by the shares of Common Stock outstanding as of April 7, 2006 plus only those shares which the individual has the right to acquire within 60 days of April 7, 2006.
- (2) Includes 100,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$4.72 per share, 100,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$7.46 per share, 100,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$9.39 per share and 100,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$13.01, granted pursuant to Mr. Bertram's now terminated employment agreement. See - Employment Agreements.
- (3) Does not include shares reported to be beneficially owned by TDC A/S. See Introduction - Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Introduction - Change in Control. Messrs. Frimer, Larsen, Moeller and Thomsen are currently officers of TDC A/S.
- (4) Includes 10,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$9.44 per share, 5,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$6.78 per share, 5,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$6.00 per share, 5,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$6.21 per share, 5,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$6.49 per share, 5,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$5.78 per share, and 5,000 shares subject to options presently exercisable at \$10.89 per share granted from the Company's Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan. Also includes 2,000 shares granted from the Company's 2004 Long-Term Incentive Plan which vest in May 2006.

Ole Bertram. Mr. Bertram has been a director of the Company since 1997 and served as the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer from 1999 until his retirement in May 2005. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Bertram was the Senior Vice President of Tele Danmark International (part of TDC) since 1997. Prior to that, Mr. Bertram was Technical Director of Tele Danmark International from 1995 to 1997, and Technical Director and Vice President of the Copenhagen Telephone Company from 1988 to 1995.

Kim Frimer. Mr. Frimer has been with TDC since 1992. He is currently the President of TDC Solutions. TDC Solutions is TDC's business unit that provides communications services primarily in

Table of Contents

Denmark and the Nordic countries. Its services include landline telephony services, convergence products (combined landline and mobile telephony), broadband solutions, data communications services and Internet services. From 2001 to 2004, Mr. Frimer was the Chief Executive Officer of TDC's Swiss telecommunications subsidiary, TDC Switzerland. He was the President of TDC's German subsidiary Talkline AG from 1999 to 2001. TDC owns 62.5% of the Company's outstanding Common Stock. Mr. Frimer is one of four representatives of TDC currently on the Company's Board of Directors. Pursuant to an agreement with TDC, the Company is required, under certain conditions, to nominate for election to the Board one person designated by TDC. See Introduction - Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Introduction - Change in Control.

Jesper Helmuth Larsen. Mr. Larsen has been the Chief Financial Officer of TDC Solutions since 2002. Prior to that Mr. Larsen was the chief financial officer from 2000 to 2002 of Polkomtel, a Polish cellular phone provider owned by TDC and others. Prior to that, Mr. Larsen held various financial positions within TDC. TDC owns 62.5% of the Company's outstanding Common Stock. Mr. Larsen is one of four representatives of TDC currently on the Company's Board of Directors. Pursuant to an agreement with TDC, the Company is required, under certain conditions, to nominate for election to the Board one person designated by TDC. See Introduction - Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Introduction - Change in Control.

Christian Eyde Moeller. In March 2005, Mr. Moeller was appointed as the head of international operations for TDC Solutions, where he is responsible for the expansion of TDC's existing wireline operations in Europe. Prior to joining TDC, Mr. Moeller was Sprint's regional President responsible for all of Sprint's operations within Europe, Asia Pacific and Australia. Mr. Moeller was with Sprint from 2002 to 2005. Prior to Sprint, Mr. Moeller was with Ebone (GTS), a European broadband IP and optical networking company, where he served as the regional Vice President responsible for operations in Northern Europe. TDC owns 62.5% of the Company's outstanding Common Stock. Mr. Moeller is one of four representatives of TDC currently on the Company's Board of Directors. Pursuant to an agreement with TDC, the Company is required, under certain conditions, to nominate for election to the Board one person designated by TDC. See Introduction - Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Introduction - Change in Control.

John B. Ryan. Mr. Ryan has been a financial consultant since 1988. From 1984 through 1987 he was a Senior Vice President and member of the Executive Committee of Josephthal & Co., Inc., a member of the New York Stock Exchange. From 1967 to 1984, he was a General Partner, Director of Compliance and a member of the Executive Committee of Herzfeld & Stern, a member of the New York Stock Exchange. He is a member of the Arbitration Panel of the New York Stock Exchange, the National Association of Securities Dealers and the American Arbitration Association.

William E. Starkey. Mr. Starkey is currently a consultant. He was with GTE Corporation from 1964 to 1993, when he retired as a Senior Executive. While at GTE, he held various posts involving operations, marketing and customer service, regulatory, human resources, information systems, management and planning. He was the President of GTE Florida and GTE Information Services. He was the Chairman of the Tampa Chamber of Commerce in 1990 and the Chairman of Enterprise Corporation from 1994 to 1996 (a private non-profit organization, with over 60 employees providing management, technical and financial assistance to small- and medium-sized companies). Mr. Starkey also served as the interim Director of the Port of Tampa from 2004 to 2005.

Peter Thomsen. Mr. Thomsen has been an international project manager for TDC since 2005. From 2003 to 2005 Mr. Thomsen was a financial analyst for TDC. In 2003, Mr. Thomsen was an independent business consultant. In 2002, he earned a degree in economics from the University of Copenhagen and the University of Grenoble. He was an equity analyst for Handelsbanken Securities from 2000 to 2001. Mr. Thomsen is one of four representatives of TDC currently on the Company's

Table of Contents

Board of Directors. Pursuant to an agreement with TDC, the Company is required, under certain conditions, to nominate for election to the Board one person designated by TDC. See Introduction - Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Introduction - Change in Control.

Committees and Meetings of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors held ten meetings during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005. Each of the incumbent directors attended at least 75% of the meetings of the Board of Directors and Board committees that were held during the 2005 fiscal year while he was a member of the Board or committee. While the Board of Directors does not have a formal policy regarding attendance at annual stockholders meetings, the Board encourages the directors to attend the annual meeting of stockholders. Four of the directors attended the 2005 annual meeting of stockholders.

The Board of Directors does not have a nominating committee. The Company does not have a nominating committee charter. It is the position of the Board of Directors that it is appropriate for the Company not to have a separate nominating committee because the size and composition of the Board of Directors enables it to adequately fulfill the functions of a standing nominating committee. Each of the directors participates in the consideration of director nominees. The American Stock Exchange does not require the Company to have a separate nominating committee but does require that board nominees be selected by either a nominating committee comprised solely of independent directors or by a majority of the independent directors. Messrs. Frimer, Larsen, Moeller, and Thomsen are not considered independent, within the meaning of such term in the listing standards of the American Stock Exchange, because they are officers of TDC, which owns 62.5% of the Company's outstanding Common Stock. See Introduction - Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Introduction - Change in Control. Mr. Bertram is not considered independent because he is the Company's former President and Chief Executive Officer. Since the Company is majority-owned by TDC, the Company is currently utilizing the controlled company exception provided by the American Stock Exchange with respect to the independent director requirements regarding board nominations.

The Board of Directors will consider nominees recommended by stockholders although, to date, it has not actively solicited such nominations. Such recommendations about nominees should be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Company at the principal U.S. office of the Company not later than the close of business on the 90th day nor earlier than the close of business on the 120th day prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual stockholders meeting (provided, however, that in the event that the date of the annual stockholders meeting is more than 30 days before or more than 70 days after such anniversary date, notice by the stockholder must be so delivered not earlier than the close of business on the 120th day prior to such annual stockholders meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of the 90th day prior to such annual stockholders meeting or the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such stockholders meeting is first made by the Company). The written recommendation must include: (1) the name and address of the stockholder making the recommendation and the beneficial owner, if any, on whose behalf the nomination is made; (2) the number of shares of Common Stock which are owned of record and beneficially by such stockholder and such beneficial owner; (3) a representation that the stockholder is a holder of record of Common Stock entitled to vote at such meeting and intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to propose such nomination; (4) a representation whether the stockholder or beneficial owner, if any, intends or is part of a group which intends (a) to deliver a proxy statement and/or form of proxy to stockholders owning at least the percentage of the Company's outstanding Common Stock required to elect the nominee and/or (b) otherwise to solicit proxies from stockholders in support of such nomination; (5) all information regarding the director candidate that would be required to be included in a proxy statement filed under the proxy rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission; and (6) the written consent of the director candidate to being named in the proxy as a nominee and to serving as a director if

Table of Contents

ected. The Board of Directors may refuse to consider the recommendation of any person not made in compliance with this procedure.

In 2004, the Board of Directors established a policy regarding the director nomination process (Nomination Policy). The Nomination Policy contains both specific minimum qualifications for Board recommended nominees as well as specific qualities or skills that the Board believes are necessary for one or more of its directors to possess. The specific, minimum qualifications a Board recommended nominee must possess are: the highest ethical character; the ability to read and understand financial statements; be over 21 years of age; no significant and material conflicts; the necessary time to devote to board duties; and the ability to represent the interests of all the Company s shareholders. The specific qualities or skills that the Board believes are necessary for one or more of its directors to possess are: the relevant expertise and experience and the ability to offer advice and guidance to the Company s Chief Executive Officer; the ability to evaluate management performance objectively; the necessary independence or financial expertise that may be required; the skills, experience and background to complement the other directors; and the likelihood of a constructive working relationship with the rest of the Board. The Nomination Policy contains a process for identifying Board candidates which includes using the network of Board contacts, engaging a search firm and considering independent candidates recommended by the Company s stockholders. The Nomination Policy also contains a procedure for evaluating nominees. All nominees are evaluated by the Board using the criteria summarized above. At its discretion, the Board can use questionnaires, interviews, and additional background and reference checks. Incumbent directors will be evaluated based on their participation and performance. Messrs. Frimer, Larsen, Moeller and Thomsen are officers of TDC, and were designated for election by TDC. TDC owns 62.5% of the Company s outstanding Common Stock.

The Board of Directors does not currently have a Compensation Committee. The Board of Directors disbanded the Compensation Committee in May 2005. The members of the disbanded Compensation Committee were Michael Fortier, John B. Ryan and William E. Starkey (Chairman). Mr. Fortier resigned from the Board of Directors in April 2005. The Compensation Committee held three meetings during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005 prior to its disbandment. The functions of the Compensation Committee included: administering the 2004 Long-Term Incentive Plan; negotiating and determining the compensation of executive officers; and determining the compensation of all other officers. See - Reports on Executive Compensation - Compensation Committee Report on Executive Compensation.

The Board of Directors has an Audit Committee. The members of the Audit Committee are Jesper Helmuth Larsen, John B. Ryan (Chairman), and William E. Starkey. The Board has determined that Mr. Larsen is an audit committee financial expert , within the meaning of Securities and Exchange Commission regulations. The Board has determined that Messrs. Ryan and Starkey are independent within the meaning of such term in the Securities and Exchange Commission regulations and the listing standards of the American Stock Exchange. The Board has determined that although Mr. Larsen meets the independence standards of the Securities and Exchange Commission regulations, he does not meet the independence standards of the American Stock Exchange since he is an officer of TDC, which owns 62.5% of the Company s outstanding Common Stock. See Introduction - Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Introduction - Change in Control. Mr. Larsen is serving on the Audit Committee pursuant to an exception provided by the American Stock Exchange pursuant to which the Board has determined that Mr. Larsen s service on the Audit Committee is in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders. The Board made this determination because of TDC s significant ownership interest in the Company and TDC s desire to have representation on the Audit Committee since it consolidates the Company s financial results into TDC s results. The Audit Committee has adopted a written charter which was included as an attachment to the Company s proxy statement for its 2004 annual meeting of stockholders. The Audit Committee s duties include, among other duties: the appointment, retention, compensation and oversight of the independent auditors; reviewing the

Table of Contents

independence, experience, qualifications and performance of the independent auditors; the pre-approval of all audit and non-audit services to be performed by the independent auditors; reviewing and discussing with management and the independent auditors the audited annual financial statements and quarterly unaudited financial statements; reviewing the scope and results of the audits performed; reviewing the adequacy and operation of the Company's financial reporting and internal controls, as well as the disclosure controls and procedures; reviewing and approving related party transactions; monitoring compliance with the Company's Code of Ethics; and performing such other duties or functions with respect to the Company's accounting, financial and operating controls as deemed appropriate by it or the Board of Directors. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005 the Audit Committee held five meetings. See - Report of the Audit Committee.

Report of the Audit Committee

The following Report of the Audit Committee does not constitute soliciting material and should not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any other Company filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent the Company specifically incorporates this Report by reference therein.

February 27, 2006

To the Board of Directors of Hungarian Telephone and Cable Corp.:

We have reviewed and discussed with management the Company's audited consolidated financial statements as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005.

We have discussed with the independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by the Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, *Communication with Audit Committees*, as amended, by the Auditing Standards Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

We have received and reviewed the written disclosures and the letter from the independent auditors required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1, *Independence Discussions with Audit Committees*, as amended, by the Independence Standards Board, and have discussed with the auditors the auditors' independence.

Based on the reviews and discussions referred to above, we recommend to the Board of Directors that the audited consolidated financial statements referred to above be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005.

Members of the Audit Committee

Jesper Helmuth Larsen

John B. Ryan, Chairman

William E. Starkey

Reports on Executive Compensation

Compensation Committee Report on Executive Compensation

The following Report of the Compensation Committee and the performance graph included elsewhere in this proxy statement do not constitute soliciting material and should not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any other Company filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the

Table of Contents

Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent the Company specifically incorporates this Report or the performance graph by reference therein.

Introduction: The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of Hungarian Telephone and Cable Corp. was disbanded on May 19, 2005. Therefore, this report is limited to activities through May 19, 2005.

General. The Compensation Committee's compensation policy was designed to motivate, reward and retain the managerial and technical talent needed to achieve the Company's business objectives. This policy provided for incentives to achieve short- and long-term objectives and reward exceptional performance and accomplishments that contributed to the Company's business. Compensation arrangements for the Company's officers have been designed to align such compensation with the achievement of the Company's business objectives and growth strategy. The Compensation Committee determined the compensation of the Company's officers. The Compensation Committee directly determined the Chief Executive Officer's compensation and, with input from the Chief Executive Officer, determined the compensation of the other high ranking officers. The Chief Executive Officer was given authority, within certain limits, to determine the compensation of the rest of the Company's employees

Employment Contracts. On behalf of the Company, the Compensation Committee secured the services of two of its long serving officers, the Chief Financial Officer and the General Counsel, with employment agreements which have indefinite terms. Ole Bertram, the Company's former President and Chief Executive Officer had a similar agreement. Such agreements can be terminated by either party following required notice periods. These employment agreements have fixed based salaries that are adjusted annually, option grants to provide incentive to build shareholder value and, in the case of the Chief Executive Officer, an annual target cash bonus. The agreements also have protection in the event of termination of employment without cause, which provisions are intended to retain such officers so that they can focus on the Company and its goals. Each of the agreements also addresses the possibility of a change in control of the Company so that the officers can focus on the Company and its goals without the distraction of concern about the future ownership of the Company. In determining bonuses, the Compensation Committee, on occasion, took into account the weakened value of the U.S. dollar. In order to avoid the problems associated with currency fluctuations, the Compensation Committee transitioned the Company from U.S. dollar-based employment agreements for its Hungarian-based officers and top employees to euro-based employment agreements since the value of the Hungarian forint is more closely associated with the euro than the U.S. dollar.

Chief Executive Officer's 2005 Compensation. During 2005, the Compensation Committee provided Mr. Bertram with a base salary based on comparable industry standards and an annual grant of options also based on comparable industry standards. The options were intended to provide Mr. Bertram with incentive to increase the Company's value. The Company also changed Mr. Bertram's cash compensation for 2005 from U.S. dollars to euros and set his 2005 base cash compensation amount at EUR 310,000 (including a housing allowance). The employment agreement with Mr. Bertram also provided for a potential annual cash bonus tied to certain Company objectives established by the Compensation Committee. In March 2005, the Compensation Committee awarded Mr. Bertram an annual cash bonus of \$100,000, which was based on the achievement of Company objectives set for 2004 relating to revenues, operating income, line connections, revenue per subscriber and other strategic goals.

In 2004 the Compensation Committee agreed to award Mr. Bertram a special cash bonus of \$600,000 for his efforts in securing the PanTel acquisition and the related financing. The Compensation Committee recognized the transforming nature of this transaction for the Company and wanted to reward Mr. Bertram for his efforts and sacrifices in bringing the transaction to a close. Following the completion of the PanTel acquisition in February 2005, the Company paid the bonus to Mr. Bertram.

Table of Contents

In 2004 the Compensation Committee reviewed Mr. Bertram's employment agreement and his service to the Company since 1997. Following such review, the Company agreed to award Mr. Bertram with a one-time lump sum cash payment payable at his retirement equal to six months salary at the monthly rate in effect upon his retirement (EUR 140,570 (\$170,959)). This payment was made to Mr. Bertram following his retirement in May 2005.

In 2005 in connection with the termination of Mr. Bertram's employment agreement upon his retirement, the Compensation Committee awarded Mr. Bertram a one-time lump sum payment equal to 12 months compensation (EUR 310,000 (\$377,018)).

In 1993, Section 162(m) was added to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, the effect of which is to eliminate the deductibility of compensation of over \$1 million, with certain exceptions, paid to each of certain highly compensated executive officers of publicly held corporations, such as the Company. Section 162(m) applies to all remuneration (both cash and non-cash) that would otherwise be deductible for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1994, unless expressly excluded. To date, the annual compensation of the Company's current officers has been below the \$1 million threshold. The Company's equity compensation plan has certain rewards which would qualify for certain performance-based exceptions to the limitations on deductibility.

Members of the Compensation Committee (through May 19, 2005)

John B. Ryan

William E. Starkey

Board of Directors Report on Executive Compensation

The following Report of the Board of Directors and the performance graph included elsewhere in this proxy statement do not constitute soliciting material and should not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any other Company filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent the Company specifically incorporates this Report or the performance graph by reference therein.

Introduction: The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of Hungarian Telephone and Cable Corp. was disbanded on May 19, 2005. The Board of Directors assumed the duties of the Compensation Committee following the disbandment of the Compensation Committee. Therefore, this report is limited to Board compensation activities since May 19, 2005.

Secondment Arrangements for Messrs. Holm and Wurtz. In connection with Ole Bertram's retirement announcement in April 2005 and at the request of TDC, the Board of Directors approved the appointment of Torben V. Holm to succeed Mr. Bertram as the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer beginning in May 2005. Mr. Holm was the Chairman of the Company's Board of Directors and served on the Company's Board of Directors from 1999 through May 2005. Mr. Holm, an officer of TDC, was designated by TDC to serve on the Company's Board of Directors. Mr. Holm's tenure as a director ceased upon his becoming the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer. After becoming the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Holm appointed Alex Wurtz, an employee of TDC, as the Company's head of Business Development and a member of management's Executive Committee. Messrs. Holm and Wurtz are still employees of TDC but seconded to the Company to serve in their respective offices.

As employees of TDC, the executive compensation packages of Messrs. Holm and Wurtz were negotiated and agreed to by TDC and based upon current compensation market conditions. The Company has reached an agreement-in-principle with TDC to reimburse TDC on a month-to-month basis through

Table of Contents

May 2006 for costs incurred by TDC in employing Messrs. Holm and Wurtz. No definitive agreement with specific amounts has been executed. Such costs are not expected to exceed approximately EUR 580,000 (\$696,000) on an annual basis for Mr. Holm and EUR 420,000 (\$504,000) on an annual basis for Mr. Wurtz. The costs incurred by TDC which the Company has agreed to reimburse TDC for include after-tax salary guarantees, performance bonuses, certain income tax liabilities incurred by Messrs. Holm and Wurtz which are to be reimbursed by TDC, certain pension contributions and, in the case of Mr. Holm, a travel allowance for the costs associated with travel between Hungary and Mr. Holm's residence in Denmark. Included in the costs that the Company has agreed to reimburse TDC for was a 2005 performance cash bonus paid by TDC to Mr. Holm of approximately \$40,000 (pre-tax). The bonus was based upon the Company's revenue and EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) and certain strategic and management accomplishments. In 2005, the Company directly paid Messrs. Holm's and Wurtz's housing expenses in Budapest, Hungary, which amounted to approximately \$19,000, in the case of Mr. Holm, and \$26,000, in the case of Mr. Wurtz. The Company also paid certain travel costs in 2005 in the amount of approximately \$6,000 for Mr. Holm to commute back to his home in Denmark as per his employment agreement with TDC. Such direct housing and travel costs paid by the Company will be offset against the amount payable by the Company to TDC for Messrs. Holm's and Wurtz's services. The Company also provides an automobile in Budapest for each of Mr. Holm and Mr. Wurtz.

Other Officer Compensation. The Board of Directors determines the compensation for the Company's other executive officers. For compensation of certain of the Company's other officers, Mr. Holm makes a recommendation for the Board of Directors' consideration. In certain instances, the Board has delegated its compensation authority, within limits, to Mr. Frimer, the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Ole Bertram

Kim Frimer

Jesper Helmuth Larsen

Christian Eyde Moeller

John B. Ryan

William E. Starkey

Standard Remuneration of Directors and Other Arrangements

The Company has a compensation structure for the Company's non-employee directors who are not representatives of TDC (Messrs. Frimer, Larsen, Moeller and Thomsen, as employees of TDC, are prohibited by TDC policy from accepting compensation for their board service). The eligible directors are compensated with a fixed quarterly fee of \$2,500, a per meeting fee of \$800 for meetings held in-person and a per meeting fee of \$400 for meetings held via telephonic conference call. The eligible directors also received 2,000 shares of Common Stock for their 2005 to 2006 Board service. Such shares vest upon the completion of the one-year board term in May 2006. For Audit Committee meetings, the directors are paid a per meeting fee of \$1,000 (\$2,000 for the Chairman) for meetings held in-person and a per meeting fee of \$500 (\$1,000 for the Chairman) for meetings held via telephonic conference call. The Chairman of the Audit Committee also receives a \$2,500 fixed quarterly fee. The Company also reimburses the directors for out-of-pocket expenses.

Executive Compensation

The following table sets forth certain information, for each of the Company's last three fiscal years, with respect to compensation awarded to Ole Bertram, the Company's former President and Chief Executive Officer; Torben V. Holm, the Company's current Chief Executive Officer; and certain other executive officers of the Company whose total annual salary and bonus exceeded \$100,000 during the

Table of Contents

fiscal year ended December 31, 2005 (collectively, the Named Executives). Certain compensation amounts reported in this table were paid in euros, Hungarian forints (HUF) or Danish kroner (DKK) and have been converted into U.S. dollars. The majority of the amounts reported for Messrs. Holm and Wurtz have been paid, or are payable, by TDC for the services of Messrs. Holm and Wurtz as Executive Officers of the Company. Messrs. Holm and Wurtz are employees of TDC. The option grant reported for Mr. Holm represents an option granted in April 2005 by TDC to purchase shares of TDC stock. The Company has paid some of Messrs. Holm's and Wurtz's Budapest-based expenses. See - Secondment Arrangements and - Certain Relationships and Related Transactions.

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

Name and Principal Position	Year	Long-Term Compensation						
		Annual Compensation			Awards			
		Salary	Bonus	Other	Annual	Restricted	Securities	All Other
					Stock Award	Underlying	Compen-sation	
(\$) ⁽¹⁾	(\$) ⁽²⁾	(\$) ⁽³⁾	(\$) ⁽⁴⁾	Options (#)	(\$) ⁽⁵⁾			
Ole Bertram former President and Chief Executive Officer	2005	142,207	700,000	19,014				
	2004	280,000	125,000					
	2003	270,000	127,340					