

**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): **March 6, 2018**

AEROVIRONMENT, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

001-33261
(Commission File Number)

95-2705790
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

800 Royal Oaks Drive, Suite 210
Monrovia, CA
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

91016
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(626) 357-9983**

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))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

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

Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition

On March 6, 2018, AeroVironment, Inc. issued a press release announcing third quarter financial results for the period ended January 27, 2018, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

The information in this Current Report on Form 8-K, including the exhibit, is furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 and shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing of AeroVironment, Inc. under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, whether made before or after the date hereof, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

In addition to historic information, this report, including the exhibit, contains forward-looking statements regarding events, performance and financial trends. Various factors could affect future results and could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in or implied by the forward-looking statements. Some of those factors are identified in the exhibit, and in our periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits.

| Exhibit Number | Description |
|---------------------------|---|
| 99.1 | Press release issued by AeroVironment, Inc., dated March 6, 2018. |

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.

AEROVIRONMENT, INC.

Date: March 6, 2018

By: /s/ Wahid Nawabi
Wahid Nawabi
President and Chief Executive Officer



PROCEED
WITH
CERTAINTY

PRESS RELEASE

AeroVironment, Inc. Announces Fiscal 2018 Third Quarter Results

MONROVIA, Calif., March 6, 2018 — AeroVironment, Inc. (NASDAQ: AVAV) today reported financial results for its third quarter ended January 27, 2018.

“The AeroVironment team continued to execute our fiscal 2018 plan effectively, increasing third quarter revenue by 20 percent year-over-year and generating funded backlog of \$123.5 million, which gives us full visibility to the midpoint of our annual revenue guidance range of \$290 million. The Tax Relief and Jobs Act of 2017 reduced our federal income tax rate and the value of deferred tax credits, resulting in an estimated \$0.13 reduction in third quarter earnings per share to a loss of \$0.04,” said Wahid Nawabi, AeroVironment chief executive officer. “In the third quarter we entered into a \$100 million joint venture with SoftBank Corp. to launch our global, stratospheric broadband communication business. Our joint venture has signed a \$65 million contract with AeroVironment to demonstrate the next generation solar High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellite, or HAPS. Our core unmanned aircraft systems business secured its largest-ever international contract, valued at \$44.5 million, reflecting continued strong international demand for our market-leading small UAS family of systems. We remain committed to delivering transformational innovations to our customers and creating significant value for our stockholders.”

FISCAL 2018 THIRD QUARTER RESULTS

Revenue for the third quarter of fiscal 2018 was \$63.9 million, an increase of 20% from third quarter fiscal 2017 revenue of \$53.2 million. The increase in revenue resulted from an increase in sales in our Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) segment of \$11.5 million, partially offset by a decrease in sales in our Efficient Energy Systems (EES) segment of \$0.8 million.

Gross margin for the third quarter of fiscal 2018 was \$20.6 million, an increase of 6% from third quarter fiscal 2017 gross margin of \$19.4 million. The increase in gross margin was primarily due to an increase in product margin of \$4.2 million, partially offset by a decrease in service margin of \$3.0 million. As a percentage of revenue, gross margin decreased to 32% from 36%. The decrease in gross margin percentage was primarily due to a decrease in service gross margin resulting from a lower service margin on a UAS program due to unfavorable cost adjustments and an unfavorable sales mix.

Loss from operations for the third quarter of fiscal 2018 was \$0.2 million, a decrease from third quarter fiscal 2017 loss from operations of \$1.4 million. The decrease in the loss from operations was primarily a result of an increase in gross margin of \$1.2 million and a decrease in research and development (R&D) expense of \$0.7 million, partially offset by an increase in selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expense of \$0.7 million.

Other income, net, for the third quarter of fiscal 2018 was \$0.4 million compared to other income, net of \$0.4 million for the third quarter of fiscal 2017.

Provision for income taxes for the third quarter of fiscal 2018 was \$0.6 million compared to a provision for income taxes of \$1.1 million for the third quarter of fiscal 2017. The provision for income taxes for the third quarter of fiscal 2018 included the impact of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017, inclusive of a reduction in the blended fiscal year 2018 federal statutory tax rate from 35% to 30.4% and an estimated \$3.1 million one-time expense resulting from the remeasurement of our deferred tax assets and liabilities.

Equity method investment activity, net of tax, for the third quarter of fiscal 2018 was a loss of \$0.4 million compared to equity method investment activity, net of tax loss of \$8,000 for the third quarter of fiscal 2017. The increase was due to the equity method loss associated with our investment in HAPSMobile, Inc. joint venture formed in December 2017.

Net loss attributable to AeroVironment for the third quarter of fiscal 2018 was \$0.8 million, a decrease from third quarter fiscal 2017 net loss of \$2.2 million.

Loss per share for the third quarter of fiscal 2018 was \$0.04 compared to loss per share for the third quarter fiscal 2017 of \$0.09.

FISCAL 2018 YEAR-TO-DATE RESULTS

Revenue for the first nine months of fiscal 2018 was \$181.5 million, an increase of 30% from the first nine months' fiscal 2017 revenue of \$139.5 million. The increase in revenue resulted from an increase in sales in our UAS segment of \$40.5 million and an increase in our EES segment of \$1.6 million.

Gross margin for the first nine months of fiscal 2018 was \$63.2 million, an increase of 46% from the first nine months' fiscal 2017 gross margin of \$43.5 million. The increase in gross margin was due to an increase in product margin of \$23.3 million, partially offset by a decrease in service margin of \$3.5 million. As a percentage of revenue, gross margin increased to 35% from 31%. The increase in gross margin percentage was primarily due to an increase in revenue and an increase in the proportion of product sales to total revenue.

Income from operations for the first nine months of fiscal 2018 was \$0.9 million, an increase from the first nine months' of fiscal 2017 loss from operations of \$21.5 million. The increase in income from operations was the result of an increase in gross margin of \$19.8 million and a decrease in R&D expense of \$4.1 million, partially offset by an increase in SG&A expense of \$1.5 million. During the second quarter of fiscal 2018, we recorded impairment charges totaling \$1.0 million to the identifiable intangible assets and goodwill of Altoy, our Turkish majority-owned subsidiary.

Other income, net, for the first nine months of fiscal 2018 was \$1.3 million compared to other income, net, for the first nine months of fiscal 2017 of \$0.8 million.

Provision for income taxes for the first nine months of fiscal 2018 was \$0.3 million compared to a benefit for income taxes of \$2.8 million for the first nine months of fiscal 2017. The provision for income taxes for the first nine months of fiscal 2018 included the impact of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017, including a reduction in the blended fiscal year 2018 federal statutory tax rate from 35% to 30.4% and an estimated \$3.1 million one-time expense resulting from the remeasurement of our deferred tax assets and liabilities.

Equity method investment activity, net of tax, for the first nine months of fiscal 2018 was a loss of \$0.4 million compared to equity method investment activity, net of tax loss of \$0.1 million for the first nine months of fiscal 2017. The increase was due to the equity method loss associated with our investment in HAPSMobile, Inc. joint venture formed in December 2017.

Net income attributable to AeroVironment for the first nine months of fiscal 2018 was \$1.7 million, an increase from the first nine months of fiscal 2017 net loss of \$18.0 million.

Earnings per diluted share for the first nine months of fiscal 2018 was \$0.07 compared to loss per share for the first nine months of fiscal 2017 of \$0.78.

BACKLOG

As of January 27, 2018, funded backlog (unfilled firm orders for which funding is currently appropriated to us under a customer contract) was \$123.5 million compared to \$78.0 million as of April 30, 2017.

FISCAL 2018 — OUTLOOK FOR THE FULL YEAR

For fiscal 2018, the company continues to expect to generate revenue of between \$280 million and \$300 million, and earnings per diluted share of between \$0.45 and \$0.65.

The foregoing estimates are forward looking and reflect management's view of current and future market conditions, including certain assumptions with respect to our ability to obtain and retain government contracts, changes in the timing and/or amount of government spending, changes in the demand for our products and services, activities of competitors, changes in the regulatory environment, and general economic and business conditions in the United States and elsewhere in the world. Investors are reminded that actual results may differ materially from these estimates.

CONFERENCE CALL

In conjunction with this release, AeroVironment, Inc. will host a conference call today, Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at 1:30 pm Pacific Time that will be broadcast live over the Internet. Wahid Nawabi, president and chief executive officer, Teresa P. Covington, chief financial officer and Steven A. Gitlin, vice president of investor relations, will host the call.

4:30 PM ET
3:30 PM CT
2:30 PM MT
1:30 PM PT

Investors may dial into the call at (800) 708-4540 (U.S.) and enter the passcode 46503973 or (847) 619-6397 (international) five to ten minutes prior to the start time to allow for registration.

Investors with Internet access may listen to the live audio webcast via the Investor Relations page of the AeroVironment, Inc. website, <http://investor.avinc.com>. Please allow 15 minutes prior to the call to download and install any necessary audio software.

Audio Replay Options

An audio replay of the event will be archived on the Investor Relations page of the company's website, at <http://investor.avinc.com>. The audio replay will also be available via telephone from Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at approximately 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time through Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time. Dial (888) 843-7419 and enter the passcode 46503973. International callers should dial (630) 652-3042 and enter the same passcode number to access the audio replay.

ABOUT AEROVIRONMENT, INC.

AeroVironment (NASDAQ: AVAV) provides customers with more actionable intelligence so they can proceed with certainty. Based in California, AeroVironment is a global leader in unmanned aircraft systems, tactical missile systems and electric vehicle charging and test systems, and serves militaries, government agencies, businesses and consumers. For more information visit www.avinc.com.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements include, without limitation, any statement that may predict, forecast, indicate or imply future results, performance or achievements, and may contain words such as "believe," "anticipate," "expect," "estimate," "intend," "project," "plan," or words or phrases with similar meaning. Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations, forecasts and assumptions that involve risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, economic, competitive, governmental and

technological factors outside of our control, that may cause our business, strategy or actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, reliance on sales to the U.S. government; availability of U.S. government funding for defense procurement and R&D programs; changes in the timing and/or amount of government spending; risks related to our international business, including compliance with export control laws; potential need for changes in our long-term strategy in response to future developments; unexpected technical and marketing difficulties inherent in major research and product development efforts; the impact of potential security and cyber threats; changes in the supply and/or demand and/or prices for our products and services; the activities of competitors and increased competition; failure of the markets in which we operate to grow; uncertainty in the customer adoption rate of commercial use unmanned aircraft systems and electric vehicles; failure to remain a market innovator and create new market opportunities; changes in significant operating expenses, including components and raw materials; failure to develop new products; the extensive regulatory requirements governing our contracts with the U.S. government; product liability, infringement and other claims; changes in the regulatory environment; and general economic and business conditions in the United States and elsewhere in the world. For a further list and description of such risks and uncertainties, see the reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We do not intend, and undertake no obligation, to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

- Financial Tables Follow -

AeroVironment, Inc.
Consolidated Statements of Operations (Unaudited)
(In thousands except share and per share data)

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | January 27, 2018 | January 28, 2017 | January 27, 2018 | January 28, 2017 |
| Revenue: | | | | |
| Product sales | \$ 49,204 | \$ 36,746 | \$ 133,228 | \$ 81,833 |
| Contract services | 14,731 | 16,417 | 48,298 | 57,664 |
| | <u>63,935</u> | <u>53,163</u> | <u>181,526</u> | <u>139,497</u> |
| Cost of sales: | | | | |
| Product sales | 31,911 | 23,641 | 86,142 | 58,060 |
| Contract services | 11,438 | 10,171 | 32,168 | 37,986 |
| | <u>43,349</u> | <u>33,812</u> | <u>118,310</u> | <u>96,046</u> |
| Gross margin: | | | | |
| Product sales | 17,293 | 13,105 | 47,086 | 23,773 |
| Contract services | 3,293 | 6,246 | 16,130 | 19,678 |
| | <u>20,586</u> | <u>19,351</u> | <u>63,216</u> | <u>43,451</u> |
| Selling, general and administrative | 13,500 | 12,788 | 41,295 | 39,838 |
| Research and development | 7,314 | 7,988 | 21,047 | 25,105 |
| (Loss) income from operations | <u>(228)</u> | <u>(1,425)</u> | <u>874</u> | <u>(21,492)</u> |
| Other income (expense): | | | | |
| Interest income, net | 545 | 390 | 1,489 | 1,162 |
| Other expense, net | (108) | (38) | (159) | (357) |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | 209 | (1,073) | 2,204 | (20,687) |
| Provision (benefit) for income taxes | 628 | 1,102 | 277 | (2,809) |
| Equity method investment activity, net of tax | (418) | (8) | (418) | (119) |
| Net (loss) income | <u>(837)</u> | <u>\$ (2,183)</u> | <u>1,509</u> | <u>(17,997)</u> |
| Net loss attributable to noncontrolling interest | 9 | — | 238 | — |
| Net (loss) income attributable to AeroVironment | <u>\$ (828)</u> | <u>\$ (2,183)</u> | <u>\$ 1,747</u> | <u>\$ (17,997)</u> |
| Net (loss) income per share attributable to AeroVironment: | | | | |
| Basic | \$ (0.04) | \$ (0.09) | \$ 0.07 | \$ (0.78) |
| Diluted | \$ (0.04) | \$ (0.09) | \$ 0.07 | \$ (0.78) |
| Weighted-average shares outstanding: | | | | |
| Basic | 23,515,622 | 23,082,974 | 23,443,673 | 23,029,546 |
| Diluted | 23,515,622 | 23,082,974 | 23,774,946 | 23,029,546 |

AeroVironment, Inc.
Consolidated Balance Sheets
(In thousands except share data)

| | January 27, 2018 (Unaudited) | April 30, 2017 |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 112,304 | \$ 79,904 |
| Short-term investments | 109,543 | 119,971 |
| Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$1,360 at January 27, 2018 and \$291 at April 30, 2017 | 25,690 | 74,361 |
| Unbilled receivables and retentions | 24,961 | 14,120 |
| Inventories, net | 77,327 | 60,076 |
| Income taxes receivable | 292 | — |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 5,138 | 5,653 |
| Total current assets | 355,255 | 354,085 |
| Long-term investments | 38,822 | 42,096 |
| Property and equipment, net | 21,626 | 19,220 |
| Deferred income taxes | 14,837 | 15,089 |
| Other assets | 2,305 | 2,010 |
| Total assets | <u>\$ 432,845</u> | <u>\$ 432,500</u> |
| Liabilities and stockholders' equity | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 13,249 | \$ 20,283 |
| Wages and related accruals | 15,090 | 12,966 |
| Income taxes payable | — | 1,418 |
| Customer advances | 3,555 | 3,317 |
| Other current liabilities | 8,651 | 10,079 |
| Total current liabilities | 40,545 | 48,063 |
| Deferred rent | 1,589 | 1,719 |
| Capital lease obligations - net of current portion | 7 | 161 |
| Other non-current liabilities | 184 | 184 |
| Deferred tax liability | 67 | 116 |
| Liability for uncertain tax positions | 64 | 64 |
| Commitments and contingencies | | |
| Stockholders' equity: | | |
| Preferred stock, \$0.0001 par value: | | |
| Authorized shares—10,000,000; none issued or outstanding at January 27, 2018 and April 30, 2017 | — | — |
| Common stock, \$0.0001 par value: | | |
| Authorized shares—100,000,000 | | |
| Issued and outstanding shares—23,906,043 shares at January 27, 2018 and 23,630,419 at April 30, 2017 | 2 | 2 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 168,735 | 162,150 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (25) | (127) |
| Retained earnings | 221,676 | 219,929 |
| Total AeroVironment stockholders' equity | 390,388 | 381,954 |
| Noncontrolling interest | 1 | 239 |
| Total equity | 390,389 | 382,193 |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | <u>\$ 432,845</u> | <u>\$ 432,500</u> |

AeroVironment, Inc.
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)
(In thousands)

| | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| | January 27, 2018 | January 28, 2017 |
| Operating activities | | |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 1,509 | \$ (17,997) |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to cash provided by (used in) operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 5,605 | 5,188 |
| Loss from equity method investments | 418 | 119 |
| Impairment of long-lived assets | 255 | — |
| Provision for doubtful accounts | 1,102 | 115 |
| Impairment of intangible assets and goodwill | 1,021 | — |
| (Gains) losses on foreign currency transactions | (36) | 272 |
| Deferred income taxes | 175 | (698) |
| Stock-based compensation | 3,899 | 2,736 |
| Tax benefit from exercise of stock options | — | 22 |
| Loss on disposition of property and equipment | 15 | 37 |
| Amortization of held-to-maturity investments | 1,250 | 1,827 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | |
| Accounts receivable | 47,652 | 32,553 |
| Unbilled receivables and retentions | (10,841) | 4,079 |
| Inventories | (17,251) | (31,320) |
| Income tax receivable | (292) | (2,487) |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets | 472 | (1,190) |
| Accounts payable | (6,684) | (3,170) |
| Other liabilities | (153) | (4,510) |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | 28,116 | (14,424) |
| Investing activities | | |
| Acquisition of property and equipment | (8,450) | (7,586) |
| Equity method investments | (1,860) | — |
| Redemptions of held-to-maturity investments | 163,813 | 93,208 |
| Purchases of held-to-maturity investments | (151,740) | (122,978) |
| Proceeds from the sale of property and equipment | — | 7 |
| Redemptions of available-for-sale investments | 450 | 400 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities | 2,213 | (36,949) |
| Financing activities | | |
| Principal payments of capital lease obligations | (231) | (291) |
| Tax withholding payment related to net settlement of equity awards | (389) | — |
| Exercise of stock options | 2,691 | 655 |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 2,071 | 364 |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 32,400 | (51,009) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | 79,904 | 124,287 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | \$ 112,304 | \$ 73,278 |
| Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information | | |
| Cash paid, net during the period for: | | |
| Income taxes | \$ 1,812 | \$ 1,786 |
| Non-cash activities | | |
| Unrealized gain on investments, net of deferred tax expense of \$29 and \$6, respectively | \$ 42 | \$ 32 |
| Reclassification from share-based liability compensation to equity | \$ 384 | \$ 307 |
| Change in foreign currency translation adjustments | \$ 62 | \$ — |
| Acquisitions of property and equipment included in accounts payable | \$ 332 | \$ 408 |

AeroVironment, Inc.
Reportable Segment Results are as Follows (Unaudited)
(In thousands)

| | <u>Three Months Ended</u> | | <u>Nine Months Ended</u> | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | <u>January 27, 2018</u> | <u>January 28, 2017</u> | <u>January 27, 2018</u> | <u>January 28, 2017</u> |
| Revenue: | | | | |
| UAS | \$ 53,433 | \$ 41,894 | \$ 153,671 | \$ 113,220 |
| EES | 10,502 | 11,269 | 27,855 | 26,277 |
| Total | 63,935 | 53,163 | 181,526 | 139,497 |
| Cost of sales: | | | | |
| UAS | 36,130 | 25,530 | 98,355 | 76,549 |
| EES | 7,219 | 8,282 | 19,955 | 19,497 |
| Total | 43,349 | 33,812 | 118,310 | 96,046 |
| Gross margin: | | | | |
| UAS | 17,303 | 16,364 | 55,316 | 36,671 |
| EES | 3,283 | 2,987 | 7,900 | 6,780 |
| Total | 20,586 | 19,351 | 63,216 | 43,451 |
| Selling, general and administrative | 13,500 | 12,788 | 41,295 | 39,838 |
| Research and development | 7,314 | 7,988 | 21,047 | 25,105 |
| (Loss) income from operations | (228) | (1,425) | 874 | (21,492) |
| Other income (expense): | | | | |
| Interest income, net | 545 | 390 | 1,489 | 1,162 |
| Other expense, net | (108) | (38) | (159) | (357) |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | <u>\$ 209</u> | <u>\$ (1,073)</u> | <u>\$ 2,204</u> | <u>\$ (20,687)</u> |

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