

QUALSTAR CORP  
Form 10-K  
September 09, 2015  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 10-K**

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF  
1934 FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM TO

\_\_\_\_\_

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 000-30083

**QUALSTAR CORPORATION**

CALIFORNIA 95-3927330  
(STATE OF INCORPORATION) (I.R.S. ID NO.)

31248 Oak Crest Drive, Suite 120; Westlake Village, CA 91361

(805) 583-7744

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class: Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered:  
Common Stock The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

Edgar Filing: QUALSTAR CORP - Form 10-K

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is not required to file reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports); and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of *delinquent* filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of "accelerated filer," "large accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 12b-2). Yes No

As of December 31, 2014 (the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter), the aggregate market value of the common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant was approximately \$6,508,041 based on the closing sales price as reported on the NASDAQ Stock Market. As of September 2, 2015, there were 12,253,117 shares of common stock without par value outstanding.



**QUALSTAR CORPORATION**

**FORM 10-K**

**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

**INDEX**

**PART I**

Item 1. Business	3
Item 1A. Risk Factors	9
Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments	14
Item 2. Properties	14
Item 3. Legal Proceedings	15
Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures	15

**PART II**

Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters, and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities	16
Item 6. Selected Financial Data	17
Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	18
Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk	25
Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	25
Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	48
Item 9A. Controls and Procedures	48
Item 9B. Other Information	48

**PART III**

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance	49
Item 11. Executive Compensation	54
Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	61
Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence	63
Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services	64

**PART IV**

Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules	65
Signatures	66
Exhibit Index	67

## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements inherently are subject to risks and uncertainties, some of which we cannot predict or quantify. Our actual results may differ materially from the results projected in the forward-looking statements. Factors that might cause such a difference include, but are not limited to, those discussed in “ITEM 1A — Risk Factors,” and in “ITEM 7 — Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.” You generally can identify forward-looking statements by the use of forward-looking terminology such as “believes,” “may,” “will,” “expects,” “intends,” “estimates,” “anticipates,” “plans,” “seeks,” or “continues,” or the negative thereof or variations thereon or similar terminology. Forward-looking statements also include the assumptions underlying or relating to any such statements. Forward-looking statements contained within this document represent a good-faith assessment of Qualstar’s future performance for which management believes there is a reasonable basis. Qualstar disclaims any obligation to update the forward looking statements contained herein, except as may be required by law.

## **PART I**

### **ITEM 1. BUSINESS**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Qualstar Corporation and its Subsidiary (“Qualstar”, the “Company”, “we”, “us” or “our”) is a leading provider of high efficiency and high density power solutions marketed under the N2Power brand, and of data storage systems marketed under the Qualstar brand. Qualstar was incorporated in California in 1984. Qualstar is organized into two strategic business units, power solutions and data storage systems. Power solutions products include ultra-small high efficiency switching power supplies that provide unique power solutions to original equipment manufacturers for a wide range of markets: communications networking, industrial, gaming, test equipment, LED/lighting, medical as well as other market applications. Data storage system products include highly scalable automated magnetic tape storage solutions used to store, retrieve and manage electronic data primarily in the network computing environment and to provide solutions for organizations requiring backup, recovery and archival storage of critical electronic information.

Our N2Power products provide high-efficiency and high density AC/DC and DC/DC power solutions for a variety of applications including data center technologies such as switches, routers, data storage, servers and networking communications equipment. With a wide variety of feature-rich standard products and the ability to create custom and semi-custom products, we offer a very comprehensive product line to OEMs that require high-value, high-efficiency power supplies to meet specific applications. The N2Power brand is one of the industry leaders in delivering high power density/high efficiency ratios.

The storage products provide data protection and archive storage systems which are used to record, retrieve and manage electronic data, primarily in networked computing environments. Our storage products are compatible with a wide range of storage management software solutions such as those offered by QStar, Xendata, IBM, EMC, CommVault and Symantec. We offer products spanning the storage needs of the small and medium-size business market to the enterprise market. In addition to storage products we offer service and support programs for our customers.

We design our products at our location in California, and we sell our products globally through authorized resellers and directly to original equipment manufacturers (“OEMs”). N2Power utilizes contract manufacturers in Asia to produce our power solutions products. Our storage products are manufactured by us at our factory in Simi Valley, California and by our OEM supplier in other parts of the world. Our research, development and engineering facility is located in Simi Valley, California.

On June 30, 2014, Qualstar established a Singapore subsidiary, Qualstar Corporation Singapore Private Limited (“QC Singapore”), in furtherance of its plan to establish an engineering footprint in Singapore. QC Singapore has allowed us to hire strategic engineering personnel for sustaining current products and new product development. Having a presence in Singapore allows the Company to be closer to our Asian distribution partners and customers, as we continue to grow our business in that region.

## **POWER SUPPLY INDUSTRY**

### **Background**

The power supply industry is comprised of a few large suppliers and a vast number of smaller companies that focus on specialized products and markets. Currently, the power solutions market for our N2 Power brand products includes the Servers, Storage and Network (“SSN”), Industrial and Transportation (“IND”), Network Power Systems (“NPS”), Medical and LED/Lighting markets.

We believe the following key trends will continue to drive demand for our power solutions products:

**Increasing amounts of power required by the communications infrastructure industry.** The proliferation of data centers and their related infrastructures, the internet, wireless communications, broadband applications, server and storage farms and other new technologies, have increased exponentially the amount of information transmitted. As a result, the push for higher bandwidth and more efficient and effective power solutions has been driving a faster replacement cycle for telecommunications equipment as well as strong infrastructure expansion.

**Increasing demand for high conversion efficiencies, high power density and digital power management.**

Efforts in the EU, the United States and Asia to reduce energy consumption are increasing the demand for high conversion efficiencies and digital power control. In addition, groups such as the Climate Savers Computing Initiative, consisting of a consortium of companies including Google and Intel and other eco-conscious businesses and conservation organizations are promoting the development, deployment and adoption of smart technologies that can both improve the efficiency of a computer's power utilization and reduce the energy consumed when the computer is in an inactive state. Because a large portion of electrical energy waste occurs during the power conversion process, power companies have an opportunity to improve the conversion efficiency to reduce the operating costs for the end user. Our AC/DC power supplies have led the markets we serve with conversion efficiency ratings up to 93%. Our digital power control technologies allow us to achieve high levels of power conversion efficiency and control that are not possible with analog designs. Higher conversion efficiencies help reduce overall power usage and therefore cut greenhouse gas emissions and total cost of infrastructure ownership.

**Strategy**

Our primary objective in our power supply business is to be a global leader in high-efficiency, high-density power solutions for the medical, gaming, test equipment, transportation, industrial and telecommunications network power markets. To achieve this objective we plan to:

**Continue to expand our sales channels and geographies.** We promote the N2Power brand on a global basis and are targeting larger OEMs, and distributors who have a presence in markets and geographies that we do not currently serve.

**Continue to drive deeper in our current OEM customers.** Our OEM customers are constantly changing their products and introducing new products. We are driving to become the supplier of choice within our OEM customer base to leverage our existing relationships and drive volume growth within the same sales channel.

**Continue to expand our footprint in the current markets we serve.** We are currently supporting the data center equipment, gaming, networking and communications systems markets. We have secured several sizable OEM customers in these markets and are driving to add new OEM customers in these markets.

**Expand our product line while continuing to drive for higher power levels and greater conversion efficiencies in a smaller footprint.** Minimizing space requirements within our customers' products is critical, and as a result there is a continuing need for smaller packaging while delivering additional power. Our product roadmap addresses these needs and our objective is to lead the industry with the greatest efficiency in the smallest footprint with the highest power available. In this way, we can deliver advantages to our OEM customers as they leverage our technology in their product designs.



**Expand our product line through private label offerings.** We have identified a need for utilizing other manufacturers' core products to complement our own, where we lack products in development in specific markets or power levels. To achieve this we will utilize our relationships with other power solutions manufacturers.

**Organize our technology resources for fast time to market on derivative products.** Our customers continually request derivative configurations to our existing products. In order to serve this market effectively, we are organizing our engineering resources for fast turnaround on these designs to shorten our OEM customers' design cycle, leading to faster time to market.

### **Our Power Solution Products**

We design, develop, manufacture and market our power solution products, whose purpose is to convert, regulate, purify, manage or distribute electrical power for electronic equipment. Our products generally convert AC current from the grid to DC current for use in computer based products, or modify the voltage being delivered (DC to DC). We typically target markets where high efficiency and power density are important to our customers.

We sell standard, modified-standard and custom designed products. Standard products are sold unmodified to our customers. Modified-standard products are based on lightly modified versions of standard products. Custom products are designed specifically to the customer's specification and are not generally sold to other customers. Custom products may require non-recurring engineering and tooling costs to bring the product to production.

## **DATA STORAGE INDUSTRY**

### **Background**

The data protection and archival storage markets are comprised of a few large suppliers and a number of medium and smaller companies that offer specialized products and capacity ranges. Solutions include both disk based and tape library based systems and related software.

The proliferation of digital data, e-commerce, digital media streaming, and advanced software applications has driven exponential growth in the production of electronic information. As regulators and companies require the longer retention of and access to archived data, the market for products to store that data cost-effectively is needed. We believe this trend will drive continued demand for tape libraries.

### **Strategy**

Our primary objective in our storage business is to be a global leader in highly scalable, cost effective data protection and archival storage for the information technology markets. To achieve this objective we plan to:

**Continue to expand our sales channels and geographies.** We have begun to accelerate the promotion of Qualstar storage solutions on a global basis and will continue to add resellers outside the US in addition to adding new US resellers. We are also exploring OEM and private label opportunities to market our products.

**Launch effective marketing campaigns which will increase market awareness of the Qualstar brand as well as reinforce tape's role within the storage arena.** We plan on expanding our advertising presence in select industry vertical markets highlighting the storage solutions Qualstar provides for those sectors. We also plan on attending more trade shows with our partners leveraging both their coverage of their markets and their branding in the marketplace.

**Produce expandable storage solutions that deliver scalability within the data center and more effective capital spending for our customers.** Expandability is a key requirement for many customers who are dealing with rapidly growing capacity needs on a regular basis. Expandability enables them to easily and quickly add more storage while providing a cost-effective solution that can be readily budgeted during their planning cycles.

**Expand our product line through private label offerings.** We will continue to partner with other designers and manufacturers to offer private label products. In this way, we can provide customers with a broad product offering that expands beyond the product choices they have today.

**Explore adjacent technologies to expand our functionality and footprint in the IT market.** Historically we have been focused on products using magnetic tape as the media in our systems and on automating the loading, unloading and storage of the media. We will explore partnerships with software and disk manufacturers where reasonable to offer a complete data storage solution.

**Continue to expand our cost effective, service and support programs that enable our customers to keep their products running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.** We will investigate enhancing this service in international markets as we expand product sales in those regions.

## **Our Storage Solutions**

We design, develop, manufacture and market storage products which deliver cost effective data protection and archival storage to small and medium businesses, and to more complex small and medium enterprise environments with stringent performance and data availability requirements. We provide a wide range of storage solutions that span data storage capacities from 75 Terabytes to over 33 Petabytes (1,000 Terabytes = 1 Petabyte).

The RLS-8350 and RLS-8500 Series Expandable Rack Mount Tape Libraries deliver both high density to maximize rack space utilization and easy customer expandability to keep pace with exploding archive storage and data protection requirements. RLS base models house 50, 60, 108 or 114 tape slots and up to seven LTO format tape drives. Up to three customer installable expansion modules can be installed on every base unit using Qualstar's unique FastPass™ elevator assembly to quickly move tapes between modules as needed. Each module adds 120 more tape storage slots and five additional tape drive slots. RLS configurations can scale capacity to over 2.9 Petabytes in a single 19-inch rack. Advanced features include library-enabled data encryption to protect the data on tapes, dual AC input power to allow operation to continue if one power source drops off line and Q-Link, our easy to use remote library manager.

Qualstar's XLS Enterprise Library System ("XLS") provides the widest range of capacity and performance available to enterprise-class data protection and archive storage customers. Several Library Resource Modules (LRM) and two Memory Expansion Modules (MEM) can be combined in numerous configurations to cost-effectively deliver capacities from 300 Terabytes to over 33 Petabytes. Over 125 LTO tape drives can be configured in a single system to deliver throughput exceeding 63 Terabytes per hour to meet the performance needs of the most demanding environments. XLS' exclusive Compass Architecture™ design delivers storage density exceeding 180 Terabytes per square foot to minimize costly IT floor space requirements. Tape libraries are the most energy efficient data storage technology on the market, often using 1/20th the power of a similarly sized disk-based system. Advanced design has reduced the XLS power and cooling requirements to industry-leading levels.

Qualstar announced the new Q24 Rack Mount Tape Library in April of 2014. This 2U high by 24-slot tape library enhances the breadth of Qualstar tape library portfolio by adding an entry-level offering to complete the family - extending from entry- to mid-range to enterprise-level tape libraries. The Q24 is one of the highest density 2U libraries on the market supporting up to 24 tape cartridge slots and one or two half-height LTO tape drives. Using LTO 6 tape technology, as an example, this new offering can provide up to 60 terabytes of uncompressed data in a single unit.

On June 24, 2015, Qualstar announced the new Q1 compact portable single-cartridge LTFS appliance. Targeting primarily the Media & Entertainment industry for use in off-site, remote, or mobile filming environments, the integrated LTO 6 tape drive, internal hard disk, and computer coupled with the custom utility software create a flexible field deployable storage system. Data may be copied from memory cards inserted into the unit, external storage attached to the unit via USB 3.0 or eSATA, and over network attachment from PC's or Mac's to LTFS tape. The included utilities automate the process and provide options for verification of data and user scripting of additional operations. The system has built-in media players and optional asset management software to support

media workflow requirements.

6

---

## CUSTOMERS

Our solution-focused product offerings are designed specifically for OEMs, information technology departments, and small and medium businesses. We sell our storage products through our worldwide authorized distributor and reseller network. All of our products and services are designed and manufactured to address our customers' stringent requirements and reliability standards. The following provides additional detail on our channels:

**Storage Reseller channel.** Our reseller channel includes systems integrators, value added resellers ("VARs") and value added distributors (VADs). Our resellers frequently package our products as part of a comprehensive data processing system or with other storage devices to deliver a complete storage subsystem. Our resellers frequently recommend our products as replacement solutions when backup and archive systems are upgraded or bundle our products with storage management software specific to the end user's system. We support the reseller channel through our dedicated field sales representatives and technical support technicians.

**Storage OEM channel.** OEM customers incorporate our storage products with their application software and other components to deliver a focused solution. Our products may or may not carry our label.

**N2Power OEM channel.** We have supply agreements with our major power supply customers who incorporate our products into their server, telephony, network and industrial product offerings.

We divide our worldwide sales into three geographical regions:

Americas, consisting of Mexico, United States, Canada and South America;

EMEA, consisting of Europe, the Middle East and Africa; and

APAC, consisting of Asia Pacific countries.

We support our customers in the Americas primarily through a network of trained distribution partners and representatives located throughout the Americas. We support our EMEA, APAC and other foreign customers through our distributors and resellers located throughout the regions.

Sales to customers outside the United States represent a significant and growing portion of our sales and international sales are subject to various risks and uncertainties. See "Risk Factors" in Part I, Item 1A of this report. The following table sets forth foreign revenue by geographic area (\$ in thousands):

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Foreign revenue:		
EMEA	\$2,195	\$1,992
APAC	4,169	2,641
Other foreign revenue	609	204
	<b>\$6,973</b>	<b>\$4,837</b>
Foreign revenue as a percentage of total net revenue	54.0 %	44.2 %

We provide a full range of marketing materials for branded products, including product specifications, sales literature and application notes. We also offer lead generation opportunities to key channel partners. Our sales management and engineering personnel provide support to the channel partners and visit potential customer sites to demonstrate the technical advantages of our products. We maintain press relations in the United States, and we participate in trade shows worldwide.

## **CUSTOMER SERVICE AND SUPPORT**

Customer service and support are key elements of our company strategy and critical components of our commitment to making enterprise-class support and services available to companies of all sizes. Our technical support staff is trained to assist our customers with deployment and compatibility for any combination of hardware platforms, operating systems and backup, data protection and storage management software. Our application engineers assist with complex customer issues. We maintain global toll-free service and support phone lines and we also provide self-service and support through our website and email.

Standard warranties include:

Three-year standard limited warranty on our RLS and XLS tape library products;

Two-year standard limited warranty on our “Q-Series” products;

Optional 24x7 or next business day onsite service on our products in many countries throughout the world; and

Three-year return to factory warranty on our N2Power products.

## **ENGINEERING**

In fiscal 2015, our data storage team introduced the Q1 series of all-in-one, easy-to-carry, camera memory to tape LTFS (L Tape File System) appliance. We continue to perform sustaining engineering work on our current products as well as investigate future design opportunities.

Our engineering efforts have expanded to encompass both a USA and a newly established Singapore office. We have also formed strategic partnerships for supplementary engineering resources with third party companies in Europe and Asia to capture additional state-of-the-art technology driven power designs. Growing our engineering both internally and externally will allow us to increase our product breadth in releasing more standard and modified standard power solution products in the future.



We incurred engineering costs of \$1.3 million in fiscal 2015, \$2.5 million in fiscal 2014 and \$3.3 million in 2013, representing 10.1%, 22.5% and 26.0% of net revenues, respectively.

## **MANUFACTURING AND SUPPLIERS**

We perform product assembly, integration and testing for our storage products at our factory in Simi Valley, California. Our private label storage products are manufactured in various geographical locations by a select group of suppliers. Our N2Power branded products are manufactured in China at specifically qualified contract manufacturers. We purchase tape drives, chassis, printed circuit boards, integrated circuits, and all other major components from outside suppliers. We carefully select suppliers based on their ability to provide quality parts and components which meet technical specifications and volume requirements. We actively monitor these suppliers but we are subject to substantial risks associated with the performance of our suppliers. For certain components, we qualify a single source, which magnifies the risk of shortages and decreases our ability to negotiate with that supplier. See "If our suppliers fail to meet our component and manufacturing needs, it would delay our production and our product shipments to customers and negatively affect our operations" under the heading "Risk Factors" in Part I, Section 1A of this report.

## **COMPETITION**

The worldwide storage market is highly competitive. Competitors vary in size from small start-ups to large multi-national corporations which may have substantially greater financial, engineering and marketing resources than us. In the tape automation market, we believe our primary competitors are International Business Machines Corporation ("IBM"), Oracle/StorageTek, Dell Inc., Hewlett Packard, Sphere 3D (formally Overland Storage), BDT, Spectra Logic and Quantum Corporation. Key competitive factors include product features, reliability, durability, scalability and price. Barriers to entry in tape automation are relatively high.

Our primary power supply competitors are Artesyn, TDK Lambda, XP Power and Bel Power (Power One). Key competitive factors in these markets include price, performance, functionality, availability, interoperability, connectivity, time to market, enhancements and total value of ownership. Barriers to entry for power supply products are high.

The markets for all of our products are characterized by significant price competition and we anticipate that our products will continue to face substantial pricing pressure.

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

We rely on copyright protection of our firmware, as well as patent protection for some of our designs and products. We also rely on a combination of trademark, trade secret and other intellectual property laws to protect our proprietary rights. Despite our efforts to protect our proprietary rights however, competition in our businesses is significant. We believe that, because of the rapid pace of technological change in the tape storage and power supply industries, patent, copyright, trademark and trade secret protection are less significant than factors such as market responsiveness, knowledge, ability and the experience of our personnel as well as timely new product introductions.

We enter into Employee Proprietary Information and Inventions Agreements with all employees and consultants to protect our technology and designs. However, we do not believe that such protection can preclude competitors from developing substantially equivalent products.

## **EMPLOYEES**

As of June 30, 2015, we had 38 employees worldwide, including 11 in operations and manufacturing, 7 in engineering, 2 in technical support, 9 in sales and marketing, and 9 in administration and finance. We also employ a small number of consultants and temporary employees as needed. We are not a party to any collective bargaining agreement or other similar agreement. We believe that we have a good relationship with our employees. During the year ended June 30, 2015, we continued to adjust our staffing by eliminating certain positions and creating new positions that were more suited to the strategy of the Company.

## **AVAILABILITY OF SEC FILINGS**

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You can read our SEC filings over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. We also make our SEC filings available free of charge through our Internet website as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file them with, or furnish them to, the SEC. Our website addresses are [www.qualstar.com](http://www.qualstar.com) and [www.n2power.com](http://www.n2power.com). The reference to our website addresses does not constitute incorporation by reference into this report of the information contained at those sites.

## **ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

Our future results of operations are subject to risks and uncertainties over which we have limited control, and which could cause our actual results to differ materially from our expectations. We are subject to all of the business risks facing manufacturing companies, including business cycles and trends in the general economy, financial market conditions, unpredicted cost variances in raw materials and purchased components, demand variations and volatility, potential loss of key personnel, supply chain disruptions, government legislation and regulation, and natural causes. The following list of risk factors is not all-inclusive. Other factors and unanticipated events could adversely affect our financial position or results of operations. We believe that the most significant potential risk factors that could adversely impact us are the following:

### **We have had a history of operating losses and we may not achieve profitability.**

The Company has had a history of operating losses over the last 12 years, losing \$41 million in that period. There is no assurance that management can reverse this trend and if profitability is not achieved, the Company may require additional financing.

**We face intense industry competition, price erosion and product obsolescence, which, in turn, could reduce our operating results.**

We operate in an industry that is generally characterized by intense competition and rapid technological change. We believe that the principal bases of competition in our markets are breadth of product line, quality of products, stability, reliability and reputation of the provider, along with cost. Quantity discounts, price erosion, and rapid product obsolescence due to technological improvements are therefore common in our industry as competitors strive to retain or expand market share. Product obsolescence can lead to increases in unsellable inventory that may need to be written off and therefore could reduce our operating results. Similarly, price erosion can reduce our operating results by decreasing our revenues and our gross margins.

Our long-term operating results depend substantially upon our ability to continually develop, introduce, and market new and innovative products, to modify existing products, to respond to technological change, and to customize certain products to meet customer requirements. There are numerous risks inherent in this process, including the risks that we will be unable to anticipate the direction of technological change or that we will be unable to develop and market new products and applications in a timely fashion to satisfy customer demands, which could result in a decrease in our net sales and a loss of market share to our competitors. Historically, we have had write-offs of excess and obsolete inventory which negatively impacted our results of operations. In the future, excess or obsolete inventory may need to be written off, and this in turn could reduce our operating results.

**Changes in demand or downturns in the markets we serve could affect our business and operating results.**

The industries into which we market and sell our products are cyclical and may experience downturns. These industries also experience volatility, and future volatility as well as downturns, or any failure of these industries to recover from downturns, could materially harm our business and operating results. Likewise, if we have difficulty managing growth in this business, it could materially and adversely affect us. In addition, our business and financial position may be adversely affected by current and future economic conditions that cause a decline in business and consumer spending in the markets served by our or our customers' products.

**Our revenues are approximately an equal percentage for each business segment, data storage and power supplies. Our operating results may be impaired if demand for either technology declines or fails to develop as we expect.**

We will continue to be subject to the risk of a decrease in revenues if demand for tape-based storage products declines or if rising prices make it more difficult to sell them. If products incorporating other technologies gain comparable or superior market acceptance and competitive price advantage, our business, financial condition and operating results

could be adversely and materially affected unless we successfully develop and market products incorporating the new technology.

**Our principal competitors devote greater financial resources to developing, marketing and selling their products. Consequently, we may be unable to maintain or increase our market share.**

We face significant competition in developing and selling our products. Rapid and ongoing changes in technology and product standards could quickly render our products less competitive, or even obsolete. We have significantly fewer financial, technical, manufacturing, marketing and other resources than many of our competitors and these limited resources may impair the operating results of our business in many ways. For example, in the past our competitors have offered wider ranges of products, expanded the geographic scope of their markets, acquired other companies, and developed or acquired proprietary technologies that operate in conjunction with their products.

In the future, our competitors may leverage their greater resources to:

develop, manufacture and market products that are less expensive or technologically superior to ours;

reach a wider array of potential customers through a broader range of marketing and distribution channels;

respond more quickly to new or changing technologies, customer requirements and standards; or

reduce prices in order to preserve or gain market share.

We believe competitive pressures are likely to continue. We cannot guarantee that our resources will be sufficient to address this competition or that we will manage costs and adopt strategies capable of effectively utilizing our resources. If we are unable to respond to competitive pressures successfully, our prices and profit margins may fall and our market share may decrease.

**We rely on indirect sales channels to market and sell our branded storage products and both direct and indirect sales channels to market and sell our branded power solutions products. A loss of or deterioration in our relationship with one or more of our resellers or distributors, or our inability to establish new indirect sales channels to drive growth of our products could negatively affect our operating results.**

We sell the majority of our branded storage products to value-added resellers, who in turn sell our products to end users. In some cases, resellers integrate our tape libraries with products of other manufacturers and sell the combined products to their own customers. We sell our branded power solution products both direct to OEM customers (or their contract manufacturer's) and to our distribution channel who in turn sell our products to OEM customers. The success of these sales channels is hard to predict, particularly over time, and we have no purchase commitments or long-term orders from them that assure us of any baseline sales through these channels. Several of our resellers and distributors carry competing product lines that they may promote over our products, which may negatively impact our sales. A reseller or distributor might not continue to purchase our products or market them effectively, and each reseller or distributor determines the type and amount of our products that it will purchase from us and the pricing of the products that it sells to their customers. Establishing new indirect sales channels globally is an important part of our strategy to drive growth of our revenue.

Our operating results could be adversely affected by any number of factors including:

A change in competitive strategy that adversely affects a reseller's or distributor's willingness or ability to distribute our products;

Reaching fewer customers or losing sales due to ineffective efforts of resellers and distributors;

Reduced margins and increased costs associated with channel sales;

An inability to gain traction in developing new indirect sales channels for our branded products;

Any financial difficulties of our resellers, authorized distributors or direct OEM customers that result in their inability to pay amounts owed to us;

Changes in requirements or programs that allow our products to be sold by third parties to government customers; or

Changes in product requirements or certification programs that limit our ability for our products to be sold in our established current markets.

We do not have any exclusive agreements with our VARs or distributors who purchase our products on an individual purchase order basis. If we lose important VARs or distributors, or if they reduce their focus on our products or if we are unable to obtain additional VARs, our business could be negatively affected.

**If our suppliers fail to meet our component and manufacturing needs, it could delay our production and our product shipments to customers and negatively affect our operations.**

Our products comprise many components and subassemblies produced by outside suppliers. We depend greatly on these suppliers for items that are essential to the manufacture of our products, including tape drives, printed circuit boards and integrated circuits. For certain items, we qualify only a single source, which magnifies the risk of shortages and decreases our ability to negotiate with that supplier on the basis of price. From time to time, we have been unable to obtain sufficient components that we have needed due to shortages or quality issues from some of our suppliers. If our suppliers fail to meet our manufacturing needs, it would delay our production and our product shipments to customers and negatively affect our operations.

We also rely on software vendors to develop and support software needed for operation of our automated tape library products and their integration into the user's computing environment. Accordingly, the continued development and future growth of the market for our tape library products will depend partly upon the ability of these vendors to meet the overall data storage and management needs of tape library purchasers and our ability to maintain relationships with these firms.

The primary suppliers of our N2Power power supplies are located in China. If a manufacturer should be unable to deliver products to us on a timely basis or at all, our power supply business could be adversely affected. Though we have had many years of favorable experience with these suppliers, there can be no assurance that circumstances might not change and compel one or more of these suppliers to curtail or terminate deliveries to us. Moreover, the use of contract manufacturers to provide our power supplies typically requires that we place production orders several months in advance of our expected need for the products. This in turn leads to risks that we may lack sufficient inventory to sell to our customers where our expectations were conservative, or that we may order excess product inventory where our expectations were optimistic. We have in the past, experienced shortages of some parts needed to manufacture our power supplies.

**If we fail to develop and introduce new products on a timely and cost-effective basis, or if our products do not contain the features required by the marketplace, we may eventually lose market share and sales to competitors.**

The market for our products is characterized by changing technology and evolving industry standards. Our future results will depend on our ability to anticipate changes in technology, to develop new and enhanced products on a timely and cost-effective basis, and to introduce, manufacture and achieve market acceptance of these new and enhanced products. With respect to our tape library products in particular, the introduction of new storage technologies or the adoption of an industry standard different from our current product standards could render our existing products obsolete.

Development schedules for high technology products are inherently subject to uncertainty and there can be no assurance that we will be able to meet our product development schedules or that our development costs will be within budgeted amounts. If the products or product enhancements developed are not deliverable due to technical problems, quality issues or component shortages, or if such products or product enhancements are not accepted by the marketplace or are unreliable, then our business, financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected.

**If we fail to protect our intellectual property or if others use our proprietary technology without authorization, our competitive position may suffer.**

We rely on copyright protection of our software, firmware and electronic circuits, as well as patent protection for some of our products and product features. We also rely on a combination of trademark, trade secret, and other intellectual property laws and various contract rights to protect our proprietary rights. Despite our efforts to protect our proprietary rights, however, unauthorized parties may attempt to copy or otherwise obtain or use our products or technology. As a consequence, these rights may not preclude competitors from developing products that are substantially equivalent or superior to our products. In addition, many aspects of our products are not subject to intellectual property protection and therefore can be reproduced by others.



**Undetected manufacturing flaws could increase our costs, reduce our revenues and divert resources from our core business needs.**

Despite our efforts to revise and update our manufacturing and test processes to address engineering and component changes, we may not be able to control and eliminate manufacturing flaws adequately. These flaws may include undetected software or hardware defects associated with a newly introduced product, a new version of an existing product, or a product that has been integrated into a system or apparatus with the products of other vendors. If we fail to adequately monitor, develop and implement appropriate test and manufacturing processes we could experience a rate of product failure that results in substantial shipment delays, warranty costs or damage to our reputation. Product flaws may also consume our limited engineering resources and interrupt our development efforts. Significant product failures would increase our costs and result in the loss of future sales and be harmful to our business.

**Much of our business is subject to risks associated with operations in foreign countries.**

We generate a significant percentage of our revenue internationally, and we believe that international sales will continue to represent a substantial portion of our revenues. In addition, our manufacturing of power supply products is performed by contract manufacturers in Asia. We face risks that the countries in which we conduct business, or in which we have customers, suppliers, or contract manufacturers could:

Experience financial, economic or political instability;

Adopt laws that make the enforcement of our contractual or other legal rights and remedies difficult or uncertain;

Provide inadequate intellectual property protection for our technology;

Impose restrictions on the export or import of technology that would affect our ability to obtain supplies from, or sell products into, such countries;

Impose tariffs, quotas, taxes, other market barriers; or

Impose other laws, regulations or policies adversely affecting trade, investment or taxes, including those relating to the repatriation of funds and to withholding taxes.

Other risks and costs associated with international operations include:

Currency exchange risk, to the extent that exchange rate fluctuations could make our products unaffordable to foreign purchasers or more expensive compared to those of foreign manufacturers;

Compliance with laws and regulations in various regions in which we operate;

Greater difficulty and longer delays in collecting accounts receivable from international customers;

Increased risk of shipping disruptions particularly in foreign countries experiencing political instability.

**Change of board and senior management, and retention of key personnel.**

Turnover in key management positions could temporarily harm our financial performance and results of operations. Loss of certain members of our senior management may disrupt operations and relations with key customers and distributors and our operating results could be adversely affected. Our capacity to develop and implement new technologies depends on our ability to employ personnel with highly technical skills. If we cannot attract and retain key technical personnel, our technical expertise may suffer, and our operating results could be adversely affected. In addition, it could be difficult, time consuming and expensive to replace any key management member or other critical personnel and no guarantee exists that we will be able to recruit suitable replacements or assimilate new key management personnel into our organization to achieve our operating objectives.

**Intellectual property infringement claims brought against us could result in substantial liability and significant costs, and as a result, our business, financial condition and operating results may be materially and adversely affected.**

From time to time, we may become subject to claims or inquiries regarding an alleged unauthorized use by us of another party's intellectual property. While we currently believe the amount of ultimate liability, if any, with respect to any such actions will not materially affect our financial position, results of operations or liquidity, the ultimate outcome of any license discussion or litigation is uncertain. Adverse resolution of any infringement claim could subject us to substantial liabilities and require us to refrain from manufacturing and selling certain products. In addition, the costs incurred in intellectual property litigation can be substantial, regardless of the outcome. As a result, our business, financial condition and operating results could be materially and adversely affected.

**Our revenues and operating results may fluctuate unexpectedly from quarter to quarter, which may in turn affect our stock price.**

Our quarterly revenues and operating results have fluctuated in the past, and are likely to vary in the future due to the various factors discussed above and others, including:

General economic conditions affecting spending and the rates of growth or decline in the markets we serve;

Variations in product order backlogs, and reductions in the size, delays in the timing, or cancellation of significant customer orders;

The timing of introductions and marketplace acceptance of new or enhanced products by us or our competitors;

Expansions or reductions in our relationships with distributors, VARs or OEM customers;

Unprofitable investments in engineering activities, or sales evaluation, testing, and acceptance processes;

Unforeseen warranty costs that exceed established reserves;

Timing and levels of our operating expenses; or

Emerging new technologies that change the nature of or need for our products.

We believe that period-to-period comparisons of our operating results may not necessarily be reliable indicators of our future performance. It is likely that in some future period our operating results will not meet your expectations or those of public market analysts. Any unanticipated change in revenues or operating results is likely to cause our stock price to fluctuate since such changes reflect new information available to investors and analysts. New information may cause investors and analysts to revalue our stock and this, in the aggregate, may cause fluctuations in our stock price.

**Trading in our stock has historically been limited and our stock price has been volatile, which may affect your ability to sell your shares.**

The average trading volume in our stock has been historically low, with little or no trading at all on some days. This, as well as the factors listed below, has caused the price of our stock to be volatile. Consequently, it may be difficult to sell your shares of our stock at the price you paid for them or at a price equal to that quoted on the NASDAQ Stock Market. Factors that may cause our stock price to fluctuate in the future include:

Quarterly variations in operating results, especially if they differ from our previously announced forecasts or forecasts made by analysts;

Announcements by us of anticipated future revenues or operating results, or by others concerning us, our competitors, our customers, or our industry;

The introduction of new technology or products by us or our competitors;

Comments about us and the data storage market made by industry analysts or on Internet comment sites;

Changes in earnings estimates by analysts or changes in accounting policies; in product pricing policies by us or our competitors; or in general economic conditions.

In addition, stock markets have experienced extreme price and volume volatility in recent years. This volatility has had a substantial effect on the market prices of securities of many smaller public companies for reasons frequently unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of the specific companies. These market fluctuations may

adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

**Certain provisions in our charter documents and California law may hinder or prevent a change in control of our company.**

Certain provisions of our charter documents could make it difficult for a third party to obtain control of the Company. For example, our articles of incorporation and bylaws require that stockholders must timely inform our corporate secretary before a stockholders' meeting if they wish to nominate directors or submit proposals for shareholder approval, and contain provisions that eliminate cumulative voting in the election of directors. In addition, subject to the rules of the NASDAQ Stock Market, our board of directors has the authority, without any action by the shareholders, to issue up to 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock and to fix the rights and preferences of such shares. These provisions may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control, may discourage bids for our common stock at a premium over its market price and may adversely affect the market price, and the voting and other rights of the holders of our common stock.

**ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

**ITEM 2. PROPERTIES**

Our headquarters, located in Westlake Village, California, consists of 5,400 square feet of rentable space, housing our sales, finance and administration staff. Our lease on this space expires January 31, 2020. Rent on this facility is \$10,000 per month.

Our manufacturing and engineering staffs are located in Simi Valley, California, in a building occupying 15,160 rentable square feet of space. Our lease on this facility expires February 28, 2018. Rent on this facility is \$10,000 per month.

Our engineering staff in Singapore lease approximately 900 square feet for an average of \$1,000 per month, in a month to month lease agreement with BDT Automation Pte. Ltd.

### ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

#### Overland Storage, Inc.

On June 28, 2012, Overland Storage, Inc. (“Overland”) filed a patent infringement lawsuit against Qualstar Corporation (and others, including Spectra Logic Corporation (“Spectra Logic”)) in the U.S. District Court in the Southern District of California (the “District Court”), alleging that certain of Qualstar’s automated tape libraries infringe claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,328,766 (the “’766 Patent”). The lawsuit is entitled: *Overland Storage, Inc. (Plaintiff/Counterclaim Defendant) v. Qualstar Corporation (Defendant/ Counterclaim Plaintiff)*, and assigned Case No.: 12-cv-1605-JLS-BLM (the “Patent Litigation”). Overland sought injunctive relief as well as the recovery of unspecified monetary damages. Qualstar denied that it infringed the Overland patent and filed a counterclaim against Overland. The litigation was stayed pending *Inter Partes Review* (“IPR”) before the Patent Trial and Appeals Board (“PTAB”) (Case IPR 2013-00357). On November 7, 2014, the PTAB issued its final written decision finding that all eleven claims by Overland related to the ‘766 Patent were “unpatentable.” The PTAB denied Overland’s request for leave to amend its claims. Overland moved for reconsideration of the PTAB’s decision, but the request was denied by the PTAB on January 8, 2015. On March 9, 2015, Overland filed an appeal of the PTAB’s decision with the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. On or about August 13, 2015, Overland and Spectra Logic settled the dispute which gave rise to the PTAB case and the related appeal to the Federal Circuit, which appeal was subsequently withdrawn by Overland. As a result, Overland and Qualstar agreed to voluntarily dismiss their respective claims in the Patent Litigation, which dismissal was effectuated by District Court on August 17, 2015. Thus, this matter has now been fully settled.

#### Needham & Company, LLC

On March 11, 2014, Qualstar filed a complaint against Needham & Company, LLC (“Needham”) entitled: *Qualstar Corporation v. Needham & Company, LLC*, pending in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County and assigned index number 650773/14. Qualstar asserted claims against Needham for breach of contract, breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing, unjust enrichment and negligence based on Needham’s provision of financial advisory services to Qualstar, between January 2013 and February 2013, in connection with the unsolicited partial tender offer for Qualstar submitted by BKF Capital Group, Inc. Needham moved to dismiss the complaint, and on January 5, 2015, the court granted Needham’s motion, thereby dismissing the entirety of the complaint. Qualstar filed a notice of appeal of the court’s ruling dismissing the complaint; and, on or about July 16, 2015, Qualstar withdrew the appeal.

**Other legal matters**

Qualstar is also subject to a variety of other claims and legal proceedings that arise from time to time in the ordinary course of our business. Although management currently believes that resolving claims against us, individually or in the aggregate, will not have a material adverse impact on our financial statements, these matters are subject to inherent uncertainties and management's view of these matters may change in the future. We accrue loss contingencies in connection with our commitments and contingencies, including litigation, when it is probable that a loss has occurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. As of June 30, 2015, we had accrued aggregate current liabilities of \$27,000 in probable fees and costs related to these legal matters.

**ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES**

Not applicable.

**PART II****ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS, AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES****Market Information**

Qualstar's common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Stock Market (NASDAQ Symbol — QBAK). The following table sets forth the high and low closing sale prices of our common stock as reported by NASDAQ, during the periods indicated:

<b>Period</b>	<b>Date Range</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Fiscal 2015:</b>			
First Quarter	July 1 —September 30, 2014	\$1.69	\$1.04
Second Quarter	October 1 —December 31, 2014	\$1.54	\$1.11
Third Quarter	January 1 —March 31, 2015	\$1.60	\$1.32
Fourth Quarter	April 1 —June 30, 2015	\$1.54	\$1.12
<b>Fiscal 2014:</b>			
First Quarter	July 1 —September 30, 2013	\$1.51	\$1.30
Second Quarter	October 1 —December 31, 2013	\$1.41	\$0.91
Third Quarter	January 1 —March 31, 2014	\$2.05	\$1.14
Fourth Quarter	April 1 —June 30, 2014	\$1.63	\$1.15

 **Holders**

There were approximately 29 owners of record of Qualstar's common stock as of September 2, 2015, not including beneficial owners who own their stock in street name through Cede & Co. and others.

**Dividend Policy**



No dividends were declared in fiscal years 2015 and 2014. Any future determination to pay dividends will be at the discretion of the Company's Board of Directors and will depend upon, among many other factors, the Company's results of operations, financial condition, capital requirements and any contractual restrictions.

**Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities**

None

**Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers**

None

16

---

**ADDITIONAL EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION**

The following table provides additional information regarding Qualstar's equity compensation plans as of June 30, 2015:

<b>Plan category</b>	<b>(a)</b> <b>Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (1)</b>	<b>(b)</b> <b>Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (1)</b>	<b>(c)</b> <b>Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a) (2))</b>
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	258,000	\$ 1.57	242,000
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	—	—	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>258,000</b>	<b>\$ 1.57</b>	<b>242,000</b>

Includes shares subject to stock options granted under the 1998 Stock Incentive Plan and the 2008 Stock (1)Incentive Plan as of June 30, 2015. The 1998 Stock Incentive Plan expired in 2008 and no further options may be granted under that plan.

(2) Includes shares available for additional option grants under the 2008 Stock Incentive Plan as of June 30, 2015.

## ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following selected financial data is qualified in its entirety by and should be read in conjunction with “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included elsewhere in this 10-K. Our historical financial results are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for any future period.

	<b>Years Ended June 30,</b>				
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
	<b>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</b>				
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data:					
Net revenues	\$12,902	\$10,941	\$12,642	\$17,081	\$18,302
Cost of goods sold	8,530	8,350	9,187	13,390	11,573
Gross profit	4,372	2,591	3,455	3,691	6,729
Operating expenses:					
Engineering	1,351	2,461	3,290	2,657	2,744
Sales and marketing	2,077	2,200	3,035	1,908	2,327
General and administrative	2,478	3,780	4,875	3,241	2,534
Restructuring expense (income)	(245 )	(202)	2,666	-	-
Total operating expenses	5,661	8,239	13,866	7,806	7,605
Loss from operations	(1,289 )	(5,648 )	(10,411)	(4,115 )	(876 )
Other income (loss)	(19 )	24	48	24	191
Loss before income taxes	(1,308 )	(5,624 )	(10,363)	(4,091 )	(685 )
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	-	-	-	16	(5)
Net loss	\$(1,308 )	\$(5,624 )	\$(10,363)	\$(4,107 )	\$(680 )
Loss per share:					
Basic and Diluted	\$(0.11 )	\$(0.46 )	\$(0.85 )	\$(0.34 )	\$(0.06 )
Shares used to compute loss per share:					
Basic and Diluted	12,253	12,253	12,253	12,253	12,253

	<b>Years Ended June 30,</b>				
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>				
Consolidated Balance Sheet Data:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$4,696	\$5,462	\$1,966	\$7,381	\$4,970
Marketable securities	-	1,763	11,851	13,504	17,694
Working capital	7,573	8,653	8,601	18,392	21,940
Total assets	10,684	12,785	20,207	28,824	31,935
Shareholders' equity	7,910	9,123	14,745	25,053	29,180

## **ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto.

### **OVERVIEW**

Qualstar Corporation was incorporated in California in 1984. Qualstar focuses its efforts on designing, developing, manufacturing and selling high efficiency AC-DC and DC-DC power supplies under its N2Power brand, and automated tape libraries used to store, retrieve and manage electronic data under its Qualstar brand. Tape libraries consist of cartridge tape drives, tape cartridges and robotics to move the tape cartridges from their storage locations to the tape drives under software control. Qualstar's tape libraries provide storage solutions for organizations requiring backup, recovery and archival storage of critical electronic information.

Qualstar has developed a business plan to establish worldwide partnerships with other power supply and data storage related companies that will increase our engineering capabilities to develop new products and where we can 'private label' and sell already established strategic products that fit within our portfolio of products.

On June 30, 2014, Qualstar established a Singapore subsidiary, Qualstar Corporation Singapore Private Limited ("QC Singapore"), in furtherance of its plan to establish an engineering footprint in Singapore. QC Singapore has allowed us to hire strategic engineering personnel to assist in sustaining our current products and for new product development. QC Singapore has helped us in servicing our Asian customers and we believe will benefit us entering into relationships with various Singapore technical schools that have a strong history of working with local businesses in development of new breakthrough technologies.

In fiscal year 2015, the Company took substantial action to reduce overhead spending. The Company reduced its leased space by 63.8% to 20,560 square feet from 56,845 square feet. The Company's base rent payments reduced to \$20,000 compared to \$44,000 per month, a 54.5% reduction. In addition to rent, overall operating expenses related to facilities costs were reduced. Also, in December 2014, litigation costs were reduced following the litigation settlement reached with the Company's former CEO, Lawrence Firestone.

## **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES**

Our discussion and analysis of our consolidated financial condition and results of operations is based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these consolidated financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. On an on-going basis, we evaluate our estimates, including those related to customer promotional offers, sales returns, bad debts, inventories, warranty costs, investments, and income taxes. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

We believe the following critical accounting policies affect our more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements.

## Revenue Recognition

We recognize revenue in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) 605, “Revenue Recognition,” when there is persuasive evidence that an arrangement exists, title and risk of loss have passed, delivery has occurred or the services have been rendered, the sales price is fixed or determinable and collection of the related receivable is reasonably assured. Title and risk of loss generally pass to our customers upon shipment. In limited circumstances where either title or risk of loss pass upon destination or acceptance or when collection is not reasonably assured, we defer revenue recognition until such events occur.

In general, customers are allowed to return the product, free of penalty, within thirty days of shipment, if the product does not conform to its specifications. We record an allowance for estimated sales returns based on past experience and current knowledge of our customer base. Our experience has been such that only a very small percentage of products are returned. Should our experience change, however, we may require additional allowances for sales returns.

Revenue for established products that have previously satisfied a customer’s acceptance requirements and provide for full payment tied to shipment is generally recognized upon shipment and passage of title. In limited cases where a prior history of customer acceptance cannot be demonstrated or sales where customer payment dates are not determinable or when collection is not reasonably assured, revenue is deferred until customer acceptance occurs or payment has been received. On the limited shipments where sales are not recognized, gross profit is generally recorded as deferred profit in our balance sheet representing the difference between the receivable recorded and the inventory shipped.

Service contracts are sold by Qualstar to customers for a period of time to provide product support after the warranty expires. The service contracts allow customers to call Qualstar for technical support, replace defective parts and to have onsite service provided by Qualstar’s third party contract service provider.

In January 2013, Qualstar’s third party service contract provider changed the terms of its agreement with the Company that triggered a change in revenue recognition policy from the gross method to the net method for contract services. The terms of the agreement changed from a fixed fee coverage per library model over the customer’s entire contractual service period to a fee per incident model.

As a result, beginning in the quarter ended March 31, 2013, the Company adopted the gross method of revenue recognition to better match revenues and expenses. Prior to the change in the service contract, revenue for service was recorded by the Company net of the expense of the third party billing. The Company recognized a liability for the contractual maintenance cost from the service provider upfront at the time of the revenue recognition; the service

revenue was recognized on a net basis. Following the change in the service contract, the Company records revenues for contract services at the amount of the service contract, but such amount is deferred at the beginning of the service term and amortized ratably over the life of the contract. Related expenses for fulfilling the service contract are expensed when incurred and recorded in cost of sales. These costs include the repair or replacement of the parts, the cost of any onsite service on a per incident cost and technical support. This change in revenue recognition was applied prospectively.

The Company's modification of the revenue recognition method for contract services, was due to a change in the terms of the agreement with the Company's services provider, thus it is not considered to be a change in accounting principle and was applied prospectively, in the quarter ended March 31, 2013. The Company recorded a one-time, non-cash increase to deferred revenues of approximately \$454,000 with an equal offset to revenues and net loss, for the quarter ended March 31, 2013.

At June 30, 2015, we had deferred revenue of approximately \$1,055,000 and no deferred profit. At June 30, 2014 we had deferred revenue of approximately \$1,197,000 and deferred profit of approximately \$8,000.

#### **Marketable Securities**

Marketable securities consist primarily of high-quality U.S. corporate securities and U.S. federal government debt securities. Our marketable securities portfolio consists of short-term securities with original maturities of greater than three months from the date of purchase and remaining maturities of less than one year. Marketable securities are classified as available for sale and are recorded at fair value using the specific identification method; unrealized gains and losses are reflected in other comprehensive income until realized; realized gains and losses are included in earnings when the underlying securities are sold and are derived using the specific identification method for determining the cost of securities sold.

### **Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

We measure fair value on all financial assets and liabilities and nonfinancial assets and liabilities that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the consolidated financial statements on a recurring basis (at least quarterly). See “Note 1 – Accounting Policies” in the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

### **Allowance for Doubtful Accounts**

We estimate our allowance for doubtful accounts based on an assessment of the collectability of specific accounts and the overall condition of accounts receivable. In evaluating the adequacy of the allowance for doubtful accounts, we analyze specific trade receivables, historical bad debts, customer credits, customer credit-worthiness and changes in customers’ payment terms and patterns. If the financial condition of our customers were to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment of their ability to make additional payments, then we may need to make additional allowances. Likewise, if we determine that we could realize more of our receivables in the future than previously estimated, we would adjust the allowance to increase income in the period we made this determination.

### **Inventory Valuation**

We record inventories at the lower of cost or market value on a FIFO basis. We assess the value of our inventories periodically based upon numerous factors including expected product or material demand, current market conditions, technological obsolescence, current cost and net realizable value. If necessary, we write down our inventory for estimated obsolescence, potential shrinkage, or unmarketable inventory equal to the difference between the cost of inventory and the estimated market value based upon assumptions about future demand and market conditions. If technology changes more rapidly than expected, or market conditions become less favorable than those projected by management, additional inventory write-downs may be required.

### **Warranty Obligations**

We provide for the estimated cost of product warranties at the time revenue is recognized. We engage in extensive product quality programs and processes, including active monitoring and evaluation of product failure rates, material usage and estimation of service delivery costs incurred in correcting a product failure. However, should actual product failure rates, material usage, or service delivery costs differ from our estimate, revisions to the estimated warranty liability would be required. Historically our warranty costs have not been significant.



## **Legal and Other Contingencies**

The outcomes of legal proceedings and claims brought against us are subject to significant uncertainty. An estimated loss from a loss contingency such as a legal proceeding or claim is accrued by a charge to income if it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. When legal costs that the entity expects to incur in defending itself in connection with a loss contingency accrual are expected to be material, the loss should factor in all costs and, if the legal costs are reasonably estimable, they should be accrued in accordance with ASC 450, regardless of whether a liability can be estimated for the contingency itself. Disclosure of a contingency is required if there is at least a reasonable possibility that a loss has been incurred. Changes in these factors could materially impact our financial statements.

## **Share-Based Compensation**

Share-based compensation is accounted for in accordance with ASC 718, "Compensation – Stock Compensation." We use the Black-Scholes option-pricing model to determine fair value of the award at the date of grant and recognize compensation expense over the vesting period. The inputs we use for the model require the use of judgment, estimates and assumptions regarding the expected volatility of the stock, the expected term the average employee will hold the option prior to the date of exercise, expected future dividends, and the amount of share-based awards that are expected to be forfeited. Changes in these inputs and assumptions could occur and actual results could differ from these estimates, and our results of operations could be materially impacted.

## Accounting for Income Taxes

We estimate our tax liability based on current tax laws in the statutory jurisdictions in which we operate in accordance with ASC 740, "Income Taxes." These estimates include judgments about deferred tax assets and liabilities resulting from temporary differences between assets and liabilities recognized for financial reporting purposes and such amounts recognized for tax purposes, as well as about the realization of deferred tax assets. We may recognize the tax benefit from an uncertain tax position only if it is more likely than not that the tax position will be sustained upon examination by the taxing authorities, based on the technical merits of the position. The tax benefits recognized in the financial statements from such a position should be measured based on the largest benefit that has a greater than 50% likelihood of being realized upon ultimate settlement. ASC 740 also provides guidance on de-recognition of income tax assets and liabilities, classification of current and deferred income tax assets and liabilities, accounting for interest and penalties associated with tax positions, and income tax disclosures.

We maintain a valuation allowance to reduce our deferred tax assets due to the uncertainty surrounding the timing of realizing the benefits of net deferred tax assets in future years. We have considered future taxable income and ongoing prudent and feasible tax planning strategies in assessing the need for such a valuation allowance. In the event we were to determine that we would be able to realize all or part of our net deferred tax asset in the future, the valuation allowance would be decreased accordingly.

We may periodically undergo examinations by the federal and state regulatory authorities and the Internal Revenue Service. We may be assessed additional taxes and or penalties contingent on the outcome of these examinations. Our previous examinations have not resulted in any unfavorable or significant assessments.

The Company has net operating loss carry-forwards for federal income tax purposes of approximately \$29.5 million and net operating loss carry-forwards for state income tax purposes of approximately \$20.6 million. The Company had engineering and other credits for tax purposes of \$2.7 million. If not utilized, the federal net operating loss and other tax credit carry-forwards will expire beginning in 2026. If not utilized, the state net operating loss carry-forward will expire beginning in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. The state engineering credit has no limit on the carry-forward period.

## Recent Accounting Pronouncements

See Recent Accounting Guidance in "Note 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies" in the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements for a full description of recent accounting pronouncements including the respective expected dates of adoption and effects on our results of operations and financial condition.

**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following table reflects, as a percentage of net revenues, consolidated statements of operations data for the periods indicated:

	<b>Years Ended June 30,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Net revenues	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Cost of goods sold	65.9	76.3	72.7
Gross margin	34.1	23.7	27.3
Operating expenses:			
Engineering	10.1	22.5	26.0
Sales and marketing	16.3	20.1	24.0
General and administrative	19.4	34.5	38.6
Restructuring expense (income)	(1.6 )	(1.8 )	21.1
Loss from operations	(10.1 )	(51.6 )	(82.4 )
Other income	(0.0 )	0.2	0.4
Loss before provision for income taxes	(10.1 )	(51.4 )	(82.0 )
Provision for income taxes	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net loss	(10.1 )%	(51.4 )%	(82.0 )%

As discussed in Note 11 to our consolidated financial statements, the Company has two operating segments for financial disclosure purposes, data storage and power supplies. The following table summarizes our revenue by operating segment:

	<b>Years Ended June 30,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Power Supply revenues	48.8 %	54.1 %	51.3 %
Data Storage revenues:			
Product	34.9 %	26.6 %	34.3 %
Service	16.3 %	19.3 %	14.4 %
Total Data Storage revenues	51.2 %	45.9 %	48.7 %
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### **Fiscal 2015 Compared to Fiscal 2014**

**Net Revenues.** Net revenues were \$12.9 million in fiscal 2015 as compared to \$10.9 million in fiscal 2014. The increase of approximately \$2.0 million, or 18.3%, is primarily due to an increase of \$1.5 million in sales of RLS, XLS and the new Q24 tape libraries and drives and a \$0.5 million increase in sales of power supplies. Each segment is discussed below.

#### Segment Revenue

##### Power Supply Segment

Revenues attributed to our power supply segment were \$6.3 million, or 48.8% of revenues, in fiscal 2015 as compared to \$5.9 million, or 54.1% of revenues, in fiscal 2014. The increase of \$0.4 million, or 6.8%, was partially due to increased sales of our new products introduced in this fiscal year. The Company added the XL and PL Series of high wattage power supplies to its N2Power brand product portfolio. We also saw an increase in our standard product sales to distributors and to original equipment manufacturers (“OEM”).

##### Data Storage Segment

Revenues attributed to our data storage segment were \$6.6 million or 51.2% of revenues in fiscal 2015, as compared to \$5.0 million or 45.9% of revenues in fiscal 2014, an increase of \$1.6 million or 32%. The Company has increased its product offerings in order to be more competitive in the data storage market place. The Company introduced the Q24 model to target buyers with smaller storage capacity needs, and an enhanced RLS model that provides more flexibility in our system to allow additional storage without having to advance to a larger, more expensive system. The

revenue generated from these models contributed the majority of the revenue increase, approximately, \$0.9 million. The Company also saw an increase in sales of the XLS enterprise model of \$0.6 million, to customers in South America and Mexico.

**Gross Profit.** Gross profit was \$4.4 million in fiscal 2015 as compared to \$2.6 million in fiscal 2014, an increase of approximately \$1.8 million, or 69.2%. The increase was due to a \$2.6 million change in the inventory reserve expense. In fiscal 2015 the provision for inventory reserve was a \$0.3 million recovery compared to a \$2.2 million expense taken in fiscal 2014 for the excess inventory purchased from the former contract manufacturer. These benefits were offset by the reduction in gross profit as we reduced selling prices required to be competitive in the market.

The inventory reserve in fiscal 2014 was a result of the termination of our contract manufacturer relationship with CTS Electronics Manufacturing Solutions, Inc. (“CTS”). On December 20, 2012, Qualstar Corporation entered into a contract manufacturing agreement with CTS Electronics Manufacturing Solutions, Inc. (“CTS”), to have CTS manufacture Qualstar’s RLS and XLS tape libraries. At the commencement of the contract, Qualstar’s prior management provided CTS with an overly aggressive forecast of Qualstar requirements for RLS tape libraries. Accordingly, CTS purchased more parts than were required to satisfy Qualstar’s actual sales. In July 2013, the new management team revised the forecast for the RLS tape libraries. The lower forecast provided for a level of business that was not economically beneficial to CTS and management realized CTS was not the right manufacturer. Shortly thereafter, Qualstar began to look for alternatives to the contract manufacturing relationship with CTS, including bringing the manufacturing of the RLS and XLS tape libraries in house at Qualstar. On December 20, 2013, Qualstar and Benchmark Electronics Manufacturing Solutions, Inc. (“Benchmark”) (the successor to CTS) entered into a settlement agreement (“Settlement Agreement”), whereby the contract manufacturing relationship was terminated and the parties agreed that Qualstar would purchase from Benchmark all Qualstar specific inventory on hand. Qualstar completed the purchase of this inventory at cost plus storage and handling fees, in January 2014 for a total of \$1.9 million. Qualstar is currently manufacturing its own RLS tape libraries in house, and will continue to do so until an alternative is found. As a result of the Settlement Agreement, Qualstar had excess inventory. A detailed review was completed of the tape library inventory and a reserve of \$2.2 million was recorded for excess and obsolete inventory for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014.

**Engineering.** Engineering expenses were \$1.3 million in fiscal 2015 as compared to \$2.5 million in fiscal 2014. The decrease of approximately \$1.2 million, or 48.0%, is primarily attributed to a decrease in compensation expenses related to a reduction in headcount and consultant fees, as we continue to align our headcount with our corporate strategy of introducing new products through partnerships on an OEM basis.

**Sales and Marketing.** Sales and marketing expenses were \$2.1 million in fiscal 2015, as compared to \$2.2 million in fiscal 2014. The decrease of approximately \$0.1 million, or 4.5%, is attributed to decreased compensation and commission expenses related to headcount reductions.

**General and Administrative.** General and administrative expenses were \$2.5 million in fiscal 2015 as compared to \$3.8 million in fiscal 2014. The decrease of approximately \$1.3 million, or 34.2%, is primarily attributed to a \$0.8 decrease in legal expenses incurred in 2014 as opposition to an unsolicited partial tender offer, the proxy contest and Annual Shareholder meeting, and the complaint filed against the former CEO and others, which was resolved in fiscal 2015. Additionally, a reduction of \$0.5 million was a change in the facilities allocation to other departments based on the new in leased facilities.

**Restructuring Expense.** Restructuring recovery of \$0.2 million in fiscal 2015 and in fiscal 2014, is attributed to the lease abandonment restructuring charge initially taken in fiscal 2013 for the lease abandonment when all manufacturing went to an outside contract manufacturer. During fiscal 2014, the Company moved the manufacturing back in-house and a portion of the abandonment charge was recovered. During fiscal 2015, the Company moved out of the facility and relocated to a smaller facility and the remaining abandonment charge was recovered.

**Other Income and Expenses.** Other expenses in fiscal 2015 were \$19,000, primarily related to the loss on fixed assets attributed to the facility move offset by investment income. Other income in fiscal 2014 was \$24,000, primarily investment income, a decrease of \$43,000, or 179%. The Company has converted all marketable securities to cash or cash equivalents, reducing the investment income for 2015.

**Provision for Income Taxes.** We had no provision for income taxes for fiscal 2015 and 2014.

### **Fiscal 2014 Compared to Fiscal 2013**

**Net Revenues.** Net revenues were \$10.9 million in fiscal 2014 as compared to \$12.6 million in fiscal 2013. The decrease of approximately \$1.7 million, or 13.5%, was primarily due to a decrease of \$1.5 million in sales of TLS, XLS tape libraries and miscellaneous media sales, and a \$0.6 million decrease in sales of power supplies, partially

offset by an increase of \$0.1 million in sales of our RLS tape libraries and \$0.3 million increase in service.

#### Power Supply Segment

Revenues attributed to our power supply segment were \$5.9 million, or 54.1% of revenues, in fiscal 2014 as compared to \$6.5 million, or 51.3% of revenues, in fiscal 2013. The decrease of \$0.6 million, or 9.5%, was due to decreased sales to original equipment manufacturers and distributors.

#### Tape Library Segment

Revenues attributed to our tape library segment were \$5.0 million or 45.9% of revenues in fiscal 2014, as compared to \$6.2 million or 48.7% of revenues in fiscal 2013. The decrease of \$1.1 million or 17.6% in tape library revenues was due to decreased sales of our tape library products in the TLS and XLS product lines and miscellaneous revenues offset by increased revenues from our RLS product line and service.

**Gross Profit.** Gross profit was \$2.6 million in fiscal 2014 as compared to \$3.5 million in fiscal 2013. The decrease of approximately \$0.9 million, or 25.0%, is primarily attributed to the inventory reserve of \$2.2 million the majority of which was based on the buyback of excess and obsolete inventory from our contract manufacturer, CTS. See the “Fiscal 2015 Compared to Fiscal 2014 – Gross Profit section.”

**Engineering.** Engineering expenses were \$2.5 million in fiscal 2014 as compared to \$3.3 million in fiscal 2013. The decrease of approximately \$0.8 million, or 25.2%, was primarily attributed to a decrease in compensation expenses related to reduction in headcount and consultant fees.

**Sales and Marketing.** Sales and marketing expenses were \$2.2 million in fiscal 2014, as compared to \$3.0 million in fiscal 2013. The decrease of approximately \$0.8 million, or 27.5%, was attributed to decreased compensation and commission expenses related to headcount reductions and decreased advertising and promotion expenses.

**General and Administrative.** General and administrative expenses were \$3.8 million in fiscal 2014 as compared to \$4.9 million in fiscal 2013. The decrease of approximately \$1.1 million, or 22.4%, is primarily attributed to a decrease in legal expenses incurred in opposition to an unsolicited partial tender offer, the proxy contest and Annual Shareholder meeting, and decreased investor relation expenses, and decreased compensation in executive salaries and consultant fees.

**Restructuring Expense.** Restructuring income of \$0.2 million in fiscal 2014 compared to an expense of \$2.7 million in fiscal 2013, is primarily attributed to a \$0.2 million adjustment to the lease abandonment cost relating to the remaining contractual lease payments from April 2014 through December 2015 as we increased the use of the Simi Valley building by returning manufacturing in-house. Offsetting the income was a restructuring charge of \$26,000, as we vacated the facility in Boulder, Colorado. In fiscal 2013, the restructuring charge was primarily for the lease abandonment and severance as all manufacturing went to an outside contract manufacturer.

**Other Income and Expenses.** Other income and expense in fiscal 2014 was \$24,000, comprised of \$22,000 investment income and \$2,000 of other income. Other income and expense in fiscal 2013 was \$48,000, comprised of \$105,000 investment income, offset by \$57,000 in litigation fees.

**Provision for Income Taxes.** We had no provision for income taxes for fiscal 2014 and 2013.

## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Cash used in operating activities was \$2.4 million in fiscal 2015, \$6.3 million in fiscal 2014 and \$6.5 million in fiscal 2013.

Throughout fiscal 2015, the Company focused on reducing operating expenses, increasing revenues and striving to attain profitability and improved cash flow. We downsized our facilities from a lease of \$44,000 per month to \$20,000 per month, plus other related cost savings associated with the smaller space of approximately \$34,000 per month. By introducing private label products, we were able to get similar or greater margins without developing new products ourselves, allowing for less headcount and product risk.

Cash provided by investing activities was \$1.6 million in fiscal 2015, \$9.8 million in fiscal 2014 and \$1.1 million in fiscal 2013. Cash provided by investing activities in all three fiscal years relates primarily to proceeds from the sale of marketable securities, partially offset by purchases of marketable securities and equipment.



Cash was not used in financing activities in fiscal years 2015, 2014 and 2013.

As of June 30, 2015, we had \$4.7 million in cash and cash equivalents, of which \$100,000 is used as collateral for our corporate credit cards. We believe that our existing cash and cash equivalents will be sufficient to fund our working capital and capital expenditure needs for at least the next 12 months. We may utilize cash to invest in businesses, products or technologies that we believe are strategic. We periodically evaluate other companies and technologies for possible investment. In addition, we have made and may in the future make investments in companies with whom we have identified potential synergies.

## SUMMARY OF CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS

The following is a summary of our future payments due under contractual obligations as of June 30, 2015:

<b>Year Ended June 30,</b>	<b>Operating Leases (in thousands)</b>
2016	\$ 231
2017	248
2018	212
2019	133
2020	79
	\$ 903

## OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

We do not have any off-balance sheet arrangements.

## ITEM 7A. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We are exposed to foreign currency and interest rate risks. Our financial results could be affected by changes in foreign currency exchange rates or weak economic conditions in foreign markets. As all sales are currently made in U.S. dollars, a strengthening of the dollar could make our products less competitive in foreign markets. Our interest income is sensitive to changes in the general level of U.S. interest rates, particularly since the majority of our investments are in shorter duration fixed income securities. We have no outstanding debt nor do we utilize derivative financial instruments. Therefore, no quantitative tabular disclosures are required.

## ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

	<b>Page</b>
Financial Statements	
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	26
Consolidated Balance Sheets	27
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Loss	28
Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity	29
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows	30
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	31

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of Qualstar Corporation and Subsidiary

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Qualstar Corporation and Subsidiary (collectively, the “Company”) as of June 30, 2015, and 2014, and the related consolidated statements of comprehensive loss, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended June 30, 2015. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Qualstar Corporation and Subsidiary as of June 30, 2015 and 2014, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended June 30, 2015, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

/s/ SingerLewak LLP

Los Angeles, California

September 8, 2015



**QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****(In thousands)**

	<b>June 30,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$4,696	\$5,462
Marketable securities, short-term	—	1,763
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$15 at June 30, 2015 and \$92 at June 30, 2014	2,321	1,412
Inventories, net	2,948	3,177
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	140	241
Total current assets	10,105	12,055
Property and equipment, net	538	663
Other assets	41	67
Total assets	\$10,684	\$12,785
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$913	\$952
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	396	322
Deferred service revenue	830	954
Other accrued liabilities	393	1,174
Total current liabilities	2,532	3,402
Other long-term liabilities	17	17
Deferred service revenue, long term	225	243
Total long term liabilities	242	260
Commitments and contingencies		
Shareholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, no par value; 5,000 shares authorized; no shares issued	—	—
Common stock, no par value; 50,000 shares authorized, 12,253 shares issued and outstanding as of June 30, 2015 and June 30, 2014	19,039	18,943
Accumulated other comprehensive income	—	1
Accumulated deficit	(11,129)	(9,821)
Total shareholders' equity	7,910	9,123
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$10,684	\$12,785

See accompanying notes



**QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE LOSS****(In thousands, except per share amounts)**

	<b>Year Ended June 30,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Net revenues	\$12,902	\$10,941	\$12,642
Cost of goods sold	8,530	8,350	9,187
Gross profit	4,372	2,591	3,455
Operating expenses:			
Engineering	1,351	2,461	3,290
Sales and marketing	2,077	2,200	3,035
General and administrative	2,478	3,780	4,875
Restructuring expense (income)	(245 )	(202 )	2,666
Total operating expenses	5,661	8,239	13,866
Loss from operations	(1,289 )	(5,648 )	(10,411)
Other income	(19 )	24	48
Loss before income taxes	(1,308 )	(5,624 )	(10,363)
Provision for income taxes	-	-	-
Net loss	\$(1,308 )	\$(5,624 )	\$(10,363)
Change in unrealized losses on investments	(1 )	(3 )	(5 )
Comprehensive loss	\$(1,309 )	\$(5,627 )	\$(10,368)
Loss per share:			
Basic and Diluted	\$(0.11 )	\$(0.46 )	\$(0.85 )
Shares used to compute loss per share:			
Basic and Diluted	12,253	12,253	12,253
Cash dividends declared per common share	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

See accompanying notes

## QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

(In thousands)

	Common Stock		Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Accumulated Deficit	Accumulated Total
	Shares	Amount			
<b>Balances at June 30, 2013</b>	<b>12,253</b>	<b>\$ 18,938</b>	<b>\$ 4</b>	<b>\$ (4,197)</b>	<b>) \$ 14,745</b>
Share-based compensation	—	5	—	—	5
Comprehensive loss:					
Net loss	—	—	—	(5,624)	) (5,624)
Change in unrealized loss on investments	—	—	(3)	—	(3)
Comprehensive loss	—	—	—	—	(5,627)
<b>Balances at June 30, 2014</b>	<b>12,253</b>	<b>18,943</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(9,821)</b>	<b>) 9,123</b>
Share-based compensation	—	96	—	—	96
Comprehensive loss:					
Net loss	—	—	—	(1,308)	) (1,308)
Change in unrealized loss on investments	—	—	(1)	—	(1)
Comprehensive loss	—	—	—	—	(1,309)
<b>Balances at June 30, 2015</b>	<b>12,253</b>	<b>19,039</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(11,129)</b>	<b>) 7,910</b>

See accompanying notes



**QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

(In thousands)

	<b>Year Ended June 30,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Net loss	\$(1,308)	\$(5,624)	\$(10,363)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	220	183	176
Loss (gain) of disposal of assets	57	(5)	—
Provision for bad debts and returns, net	(77)	24	31
Provision for inventory reserve	(343)	2,203	640
Share-based compensation	96	5	60
(Gain)/loss on sale of securities	11	(2)	54
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable	(831)	2,347	(820)
Inventories	572	(3,752)	2,207
Prepaid expenses and other assets	127	125	(170)
Accounts payable	(39)	(1,137)	50
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	74	(102)	92
Deferred service revenue	(142)	244	797
Other accrued liabilities	(781)	(804)	761
Net cash used in operating activities	(2,364)	(6,295)	(6,485)
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Purchases of equipment	(217)	(299)	(453)
Purchases of marketable securities	—	—	(9,488)
Proceeds from the sale of equipment	62	—	—
Proceeds from the sale of marketable securities	1,753	10,090	11,011
Net cash provided by investing activities	1,598	9,791	1,070
<b>NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>(766)</b>	<b>3,496</b>	<b>(5,415)</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD</b>	<b>5,462</b>	<b>1,966</b>	<b>7,381</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF PERIOD</b>	<b>\$4,696</b>	<b>\$5,462</b>	<b>\$1,966</b>
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW DISCLOSURES:</b>			
Income taxes paid	\$3	\$2	\$9

See accompanying notes



## **QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY**

### **NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

#### **Note 1 – Accounting Policies**

##### **Business**

Qualstar Corporation and Subsidiary (collectively, “Qualstar”, the “Company”, “we”, “us” or “our”), was incorporated in California in 1984. Qualstar is a leading provider of high efficiency and high density power solutions marketed under the N2Power brand, and of data storage systems marketed under the Qualstar brand. Originally Qualstar was formed to develop and manufacture tape drives for the personal computer and workstation marketplaces. Commencing in 1995, Qualstar focused its efforts on designing, developing, manufacturing and selling data storage systems used to store, retrieve and manage electronic data primarily in the network computing environment. Tape libraries consist of cartridge tape drives, tape cartridges and robotics to move the tape cartridges from their storage locations to the tape drives under software control. Qualstar’s libraries provide storage solutions for organizations requiring backup, recovery, and archival storage of critical electronic information. Qualstar’s data storage systems are compatible with commonly used operating systems, including UNIX, Windows and Linux and a wide range of storage management software. In July 2002, Qualstar purchased the assets of N2Power, Incorporated, a supplier of ultra-small high efficiency open frame switching power supplies. Power supplies are sold with the N2Power brand name as well as under a private label brand name to original equipment manufacturers.

We design our products at our location in California, and we sell our products globally through authorized resellers and directly to original equipment manufacturers (“OEMs”). N2Power utilizes contract manufacturers in Asia to produce our power solutions products. Our storage products are manufactured by us at our factory in Simi Valley, California and by our OEM supplier in other parts of the world. Our research, development and engineering facility is located in Simi Valley, California. On June 30, 2014, Qualstar formed Qualstar Corporation Singapore Private Limited, a Singapore corporation to enable us to hire and expand our engineering and product development staff in Singapore and to support Qualstar’s overall product expansion.

The consolidated financial statements include our accounts and the accounts of our wholly-owned subsidiary in Singapore. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

##### **Accounting Principles**

The consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) in the United States of America.

### **Estimates and Assumptions**

Preparing financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue, and expenses. Examples include estimates of loss contingencies, product life cycles and inventory obsolescence, bad debts, sales returns, share-based compensation forfeiture rates, the potential outcome of future tax consequences of events that have been recognized in our consolidated financial statements or tax returns, and determining when investment impairments are other-than-temporary. Actual results and outcomes may differ from management’s estimates and assumptions.

### **Revenue Recognition**

We recognize revenue in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) 605, “Revenue Recognition,” when there is persuasive evidence that an arrangement exists, title and risk of loss have passed, delivery has occurred or the services have been rendered, the sales price is fixed or determinable and collection of the related receivable is reasonably assured. Title and risk of loss generally pass to our customers upon shipment. In limited circumstances where either title or risk of loss pass upon destination or acceptance or when collection is not reasonably assured, we defer revenue recognition until such events occur. In general, customers are allowed to return the product, free of penalty, within thirty days of shipment, if the product does not conform to its specifications.

We record an allowance for estimated sales returns based on past experience and current knowledge of our customer base. Our experience has been such that only a very small percentage of products are returned. Should our experience change, however, we may require additional allowances for sales returns.

Revenue for established products that have previously satisfied a customer's acceptance requirements and provide for full payment tied to shipment is generally recognized upon shipment and passage of title. In limited cases where a prior history of customer acceptance cannot be demonstrated or sales where customer payment dates are not determinable or when collection is not reasonably assured, revenue is deferred until customer acceptance occurs or payment has been received. On the limited shipments where sales are not recognized, gross profit is generally recorded as deferred profit in our balance sheet representing the difference between the receivable recorded and the inventory shipped.

In January 2013, Qualstar's third party service contract provider changed the terms of the agreement with the Company that triggered a change in revenue recognition policy for contract services. The terms of the agreement changed from coverage over the customer's entire contractual service period to a fee per incident model. As a result, beginning in the quarter ended March 31, 2013, the Company changed its revenue recognition policy regarding the treatment of service revenue received from customers and serviced by the third party service provider from net to gross recording. Revenues for contract services are now deferred at the beginning of the service term and amortized ratably over the life of the contract. Expenses incurred related to fulfilling the service contract are expensed when incurred. This change in revenue recognition is recognized prospectively.

As a result of this change in accounting policy, the Company recorded a one-time, non-cash increase to deferred revenues of approximately \$454,000 with an equal offset to revenues and net loss.

At June 30, 2015, we had deferred revenue of approximately \$1,055,000 and no deferred profit. At June 30, 2014, we had deferred revenue of approximately \$1,197,000 and deferred profit of approximately \$8,000.

### **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Qualstar classifies as cash equivalents only cash and those investments that are highly-liquid, interest-earning investments with maturities of three months or less from the date of purchase. \$100,000 is restricted for use as collateral for the corporate credit cards.

### **Marketable Securities**

Marketable securities consist primarily of high-quality U.S. corporate securities and U.S. federal government debt securities. Our marketable securities portfolio consists of short-term securities with original maturities of greater than three months from the date of purchase and remaining maturities of less than one year and longer term securities with original maturities of greater than one year and less than five years. Marketable securities are classified as available for sale and are recorded at fair value using the specific identification method; unrealized gains and losses are reflected in other comprehensive income until realized; realized gains and losses are included in earnings when the underlying securities are sold and are derived using the specific identification method for determining the cost of securities sold. An \$11,000 loss, \$2,000 gain and \$54,000 loss from the sale of marketable securities were recorded in fiscal 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. All of Qualstar's marketable securities were classified as available-for-sale at June 30, 2014 and 2013. Qualstar did not have any marketable securities as of June 30, 2015.

The Company reviews its marketable securities for any potential investment impairments in accordance with ASC 320, "Investments – Debt and Equity Securities," in order to determine if impairment exists and if so, the classification of the impairment as "temporary" or "other-than-temporary." A temporary impairment charge results in an unrealized loss being recorded in the other comprehensive income (loss) component of shareholders' equity. An other-than-temporary impairment charge is recorded as a realized loss in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Loss and reduces net income (loss) for the applicable accounting period. The differentiating factors between temporary and other-than-temporary impairment are primarily the length of time and the extent to which the market value has been less than cost, the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer and the intent and ability of the Company to retain its investment in the issuer for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in market value.

We believe that our existing cash and short-term investments will be sufficient to fund our working capital requirements, capital expenditures and other obligations for the foreseeable future and will not affect our ability to execute our current business plans. If the credit ratings of the security issuers deteriorate or if normal market conditions do not return in the near future, we may be required to reduce the value of our investments through an impairment charge and reflect them as long-term investments.

### **Concentration of Credit Risk, Other Concentration Risks and Significant Customers**

Qualstar sells its products primarily through value added resellers located worldwide. Ongoing credit evaluations of customers' financial condition are performed by Qualstar, and generally, collateral is not required. Potential uncollectible accounts have been provided for in the financial statements.

We are exposed to foreign currency and interest rate risks. Our interest income is sensitive to changes in the general level of U.S. interest rates, particularly since all of our investments are in US fixed income securities. We have no outstanding debt nor do we utilize auction rate securities or derivative financial instruments in our investment portfolio. Cash and other investments may be in excess of FDIC insurance limits.

Our financial results could be affected by changes in foreign currency exchange rates or weak economic conditions in foreign markets. As all sales are currently made in U.S. dollars, a strengthening of the dollar could make our products less competitive in foreign markets. Sales outside North America represented approximately 54.0% of net revenues in fiscal 2015, 44.2% of net revenues in fiscal 2014, and 49.7% of net revenues in fiscal 2013.

Revenues from Qualstar's largest customer totaled approximately 11.1% of revenues for the year ended June 30, 2015. Revenues from Qualstar's largest customer totaled approximately 10.6% of revenues for the year ended June 30, 2014, and revenues from Qualstar's largest customer totaled approximately 9.8% of revenues for the year ended June 30, 2013. At June 30, 2015, the largest customer's accounts receivable balance, net of specific allowances, totaled approximately 10.0% of net accounts receivable. At June 30, 2014, the largest customer's accounts receivable balance, net of specific allowances, totaled approximately 13.2% of net accounts receivable. At June 30, 2013, the largest customer's accounts receivable balance, net of specific allowances, totaled approximately 8.9% of net accounts receivable.

### **Suppliers**

The primary suppliers of our power supplies segment, N2Power, are located in China. The primary supplier of our tape storage products is located in California. If a manufacturer should be unable to deliver products to us in a timely basis or at all, our power supply or data storage business could be adversely affected. Though we have many years of favorable experience with these suppliers, there can be no assurance that circumstances might not change and compel a supplier to curtail or terminate deliveries to us.

### **Allowance for Doubtful Accounts**

The allowance for doubtful accounts reflects our best estimate of probable losses inherent in the accounts receivable balance. We determine the allowance based on known troubled accounts, historical experience, and other currently available evidence. Activity in the allowance for doubtful accounts was as follows (in thousands):

Description	Balance at Beginning of Period	Charged to Costs and Expenses	Charged to Other Accounts	Deductions (1)	Balance at End of Period
Year Ended June 30, 2015	\$ 92	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (77)	) \$ 15
Year Ended June 30, 2014	\$ 68	\$ 49	\$ —	\$ (25)	) \$ 92
Year Ended June 30, 2013	\$ 38	\$ 31	\$ —	\$ (1)	) \$ 68

---

(1)Uncollectible accounts written off, net of recoveries.



## **Inventories**

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost (first-in, first-out basis) or market. Cost includes materials, labor, and manufacturing overhead related to the purchase and production of inventories. We regularly review inventory quantities on hand, future purchase commitments with our suppliers, and the estimated utility of our inventory. If our review indicates a reduction in utility below carrying value, we reduce our inventory to a new cost basis.

## **Property and Equipment**

Property and equipment are recorded at cost. Depreciation expense is computed using the straight-line method. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the shorter of the estimated useful life of the asset or the term of the lease. Estimated useful lives are as follows:

Machinery and equipment (in years)	5-7
Furniture and fixtures (in years)	5-7
Computer equipment (in years)	3-5

Expenditures for normal maintenance and repair are charged to expense as incurred, and improvements are capitalized. Upon the sale or retirement of property or equipment, the asset cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the respective accounts and any gain or loss is included in the results of operations.

## **Long-Lived Assets**

Qualstar reviews the impairment of long-lived assets whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying amount of any asset may not be recoverable, in accordance with ASC 360, "Property, Plant and Equipment." An impairment loss would be recognized when the estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to result from the use of the asset and its eventual disposition are less than the carrying amount. If impairment is indicated, the amount of the loss to be recorded is based upon an estimate of the difference between the carrying amount and the fair value of the asset. Fair value is based upon discounted cash flows expected to result from the use of the asset and its eventual disposition and other valuation methods. There were no impairment losses of long-lived assets recognized during the periods presented.

## **Shipping and Handling Costs**

Qualstar records all customer charges for outbound shipping and handling to freight revenue. All inbound and outbound shipping and fulfillment costs are classified as costs of goods sold.

## Warranty Obligations

We provide a three year replacement warranty on all XLS and RLS models that includes replacement of components, or if necessary, complete libraries. XLS libraries sold in North America also include one year of onsite service. Customers may purchase extended replacement service coverage and on-site service if they are located in the United States, Canada and most countries within Europe. All customers may purchase extended replacement service coverage after the three year warranty has ended.

We provide a three year warranty on all power supplies that includes repair or if necessary, replacement of the power supply.

A provision for costs related to warranty expense is recorded when revenue is recognized, which is estimated based on historical warranty costs incurred. Customers may purchase extended advance replacement service coverage and on-site service if they are located in the United States, Canada and most countries within Europe.

Activity in the liability for product warranty (included in other accrued liabilities) for the periods presented is as follows (in thousands):

	<b>June 30,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Beginning balance	\$ 159	\$ 190
Cost of warranty claims	( 55 )	( 45 )
Accruals for product warranties	50	14
Ending balance	\$ 154	\$ 159

## **Engineering**

All engineering costs are charged to expense as incurred. These costs consist primarily of engineering salaries, benefits, outside consultant fees, purchased parts and supplies directly involved in the design and development of new products, and facilities and other internal costs.

## **Advertising**

Advertising and promotion expenses include costs associated with direct and indirect marketing, trade shows and public relations. Qualstar expenses all costs of advertising and promotion as incurred. Advertising and promotion expenses for the years ended June 30, 2015, 2014 and 2013 were approximately \$150,000, \$232,000, and \$575,000, respectively.

## **Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

We adopted ASC 820, "Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures" on July 1, 2008 for all financial assets and liabilities and nonfinancial assets and liabilities that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the consolidated financial statements on a recurring basis (at least annually). ASC 820 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements.

ASC 820 defines fair value as the price that would be received upon sale of an asset or paid upon transfer of a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date and in the principal or most advantageous market for that asset or liability. The fair value should be calculated based on assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, not on assumptions specific to the entity. In addition, the fair value of liabilities should include consideration of non-performance risk including our own credit risk.

In addition to defining fair value, ASC 820 expands the disclosure requirements around fair value and establishes a fair value hierarchy for valuation inputs. The hierarchy prioritizes the inputs into three levels based on the extent to which inputs used in measuring fair value is observable in the market. Each fair value measurement is reported in one of the three levels that are determined by the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. These levels are:

- Level 1 – inputs are based upon unadjusted quoted prices for identical instruments traded in active markets.

- Level 2 – inputs are based upon quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active, and model-based valuation techniques for which all significant assumptions are observable in the market or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.

- Level 3 – inputs are generally unobservable and typically reflect management’s estimates of assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. The fair values are therefore determined using model-based techniques that include option pricing models, discounted cash flow models, and similar techniques.

In general, and where applicable, we use quoted prices in active markets for identical assets to determine fair value. This pricing methodology applies to our Level 1 investments such as U.S. treasuries and agency securities and exchange-traded mutual funds. If quoted prices in active markets for identical assets are not available to determine fair value, then we use quoted prices for similar assets or inputs other than the quoted prices that are observable either directly or indirectly. These investments are included in Level 2 and consist primarily of corporate bonds, mortgage-backed securities, and certain agency securities.

**Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis**

The following table presents our assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis at June 30, 2015 and 2014 (in thousands):

**June 30, 2015**

	<b>Adjusted Cost</b>	<b>Unrealized Gains</b>	<b>Unrealized Losses</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>Short-term Marketable Securities</b>	<b>Long-term Marketable Securities</b>
Level 1:							
Cash	663	-	-	633	633	-	-
Money Market Funds	4,033	-	-	4,033	4,033	-	-
Total	\$4,696	\$ -	\$ -	\$4,696	\$ 4,696	\$ -	\$ -

**June 30, 2014**

	<b>Adjusted Cost</b>	<b>Unrealized Gains</b>	<b>Unrealized Losses</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>Short-term Marketable Securities</b>	<b>Long-term Marketable Securities</b>
Level 1:							
Cash	617	-	-	617	617	-	-
Money Market Funds	4,845	-	-	4,845	4,845	-	-
Subtotal	\$5,462	\$ -	\$ -	\$5,462	\$ 5,462	\$ -	\$ -
Level 2:							
U.S. Agency Securities	332	-	-	332	-	332	-
Corporate securities	1,354	1	-	1,355	-	1,355	-
Municipal securities	76	-	-	76	-	76	-
Subtotal	\$1,762	\$ 1	\$ -	\$1,763	-	\$ 1,763	\$ -
Total	\$7,224	\$ 1	\$ -	\$7,225	\$ 5,462	\$ 1,763	\$ -

The carrying amounts reported in the consolidated balance sheets for cash and cash equivalents, short-term marketable securities, accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate their fair values due to the short term nature of these financial instruments.

**Share-Based Compensation**

We account for share-based compensation in accordance with ASC 718, “Compensation – Stock Compensation.” In accordance with the provisions of ASC 718, share-based compensation cost is measured at the grant date based on fair value of the award and is recognized as expense over the applicable vesting period of the stock award (generally four years) using the straight-line method.

### **Income Taxes**

Income taxes are accounted for using the liability method in accordance with ASC 740, “Income Taxes.” Under this method, deferred tax liabilities and assets are recognized for the expected future tax consequences of temporary differences between the financial statement and tax bases of assets and liabilities, and for the expected future tax benefit to be derived from tax credits and loss carry forwards. Current income tax expense or benefit represents the amount of income taxes expected to be payable or refundable for the current year. A valuation allowance is established when, in the opinion of management, it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized.

## Comprehensive Loss

Comprehensive loss includes unrealized gains and losses on debt and equity securities classified as available-for-sale and included as a component of shareholders' equity.

## Loss per Share

Basic loss per share has been computed by dividing net loss by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding. Diluted loss per share has been computed by dividing net loss by the weighted average common shares outstanding plus dilutive securities or other contracts to issue common stock as if these securities were exercised or converted to common stock.

The following table sets forth the calculation for basic and diluted loss per share for the periods indicated:

	<b>Year Ended June 30,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>		
Loss:			
Net loss	\$(1,308 )	\$(5,624 )	\$(10,363 )
Shares:			
Weighted average shares for basic and diluted loss per share	12,253	12,253	12,253
Loss per share	(0.11 )	(0.46 )	(0.85 )

Shares issuable under stock options of 258,000, 74,000 and 628,000 for the years ended June 30, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively, have been excluded from the computation of diluted loss per share as the effect would be antidilutive.

## Reclassifications

Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

## **Recent Accounting Guidance**

### ***Recently adopted accounting guidance***

In July 2013, the FASB issued ASU 2013-11, which provides guidance on the financial statement presentation of an unrecognized tax benefit when a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss, or a tax credit carryforward exists. Adoption of this guidance did not materially impact our consolidated financial statements.

In March 2013, the FASB issued ASU 2013-05, which applies to the release of the cumulative translation adjustment into net income when a parent either sells a part or all of its investment in a foreign entity or no longer holds a controlling financial interest in a subsidiary or group of assets that is a nonprofit activity or a business (other than a sale of in substance real estate or conveyance of oil and gas mineral rights) within a foreign entity. Adoption of this guidance did not materially impact our consolidated financial statements.

### ***Recent accounting guidance not yet adopted***

In August 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-14 issued this as an update of ASU 2014-09. The purpose is to allow more time to implement the guidance in Update 2014-09. This Update defers the effective date of Update 2014-09 to annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, and is not expected to impact our consolidated financial statements.

In July 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-11 to simplify the measurement of inventory. The objective is to identify, evaluate, and improve areas of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for which cost and complexity can be reduced while maintaining or improving the usefulness of the information provided to users of financial statements. The standard is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016, and is not expected to impact our consolidated financial statements.



In June 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-10 to cover a wide range of topics in the codification and are generally categorized as follows: amendments related to differences between original guidance and the codification; guidance clarification and reference corrections; and minor improvements. The standard is effective for fiscal and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2015, and is not expected to impact our consolidated financial statements.

In April 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-03 to reduce complexity in the balance sheet presentation of debt issuance costs, discounts and premiums. The standard is effective for fiscal and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2015, and is not expected to impact our consolidated financial statements.

In February 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-02 to change the analysis that a reporting entity must perform to determine whether it should consolidate certain types of legal entities. The standard is effective for fiscal and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2015. We are currently evaluating this new standard and after adoption, we will incorporate this guidance in our analysis for consolidations. This new standard is not expected to impact our consolidated financial statements.

In January 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-01 to eliminate the concept of extraordinary and unusual items, simplifying the income statement presentation. The standard is effective for fiscal and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2015, and is not expected to impact our consolidated financial statements.

In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-15. This standard sets forth management's responsibility to evaluate, each reporting period, whether there is substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern, and if so, to provide related footnote disclosures. The standard is effective for annual reporting periods ending after March 15, 2016 and interim periods within annual periods beginning after March 15, 2016. We are currently evaluating this new standard and after adoption, we will incorporate this guidance in our assessment of going concern. This new standard is not expected to impact our consolidated financial statements.

In June 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-12 to resolve the diverse accounting treatment of share-based payment awards that require specific performance target to be achieved in order for employees to become eligible to vest in the awards. The new guidance will be effective for us beginning December 15, 2017, and is not expected to impact our consolidated financial statements.

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09 to clarify the principles for recognizing revenue and to develop a common revenue standard for U.S. GAAP and IFRS that will remove inconsistencies and weaknesses in revenue requirements, provide a more robust framework for addressing revenue issues, improve comparability of revenue recognition practices across entities, industries, jurisdictions, and capital markets, provide more useful information to

users of financial statements through improved disclosure requirements, and simplify the preparation of financial statements by reducing the number of requirements to which an entity must refer. The new guidance will be effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, and is not expected to impact our consolidated financial statements.

In August 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-14 issued this as an update of ASU 2014-09. The purpose is to allow more time to implement the guidance in Update 2014-09. This Update defers the effective date of Update 2014-09 to annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, and is not expected to impact our consolidated financial statements.

In July 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-11 to simplify the measurement of inventory. The objective is to identify, evaluate, and improve areas of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for which cost and complexity can be reduced while maintaining or improving the usefulness of the information provided to users of financial statements. The standard is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016, and is not expected to impact our consolidated financial statements.

## Note 2 – Marketable Securities

The following table summarizes marketable securities by security type at June 30, 2014. There were no securities held by the Company at June 30, 2015.

June 30, 2014 (in thousands)	Amortized	Unrealized	Unrealized	Fair
	Cost	Gain	Loss	Value
U.S. Agency securities	\$ 332	\$ —	\$ —	\$332
Municipal securities	76	—	—	76
Corporate securities	1,354	1	—	1,355
Total	\$ 1,762	\$ 1	\$ —	\$1,763

All contractual maturities of the Company's fixed maturity securities and GSE collateralized mortgage obligations based on cash flows as of June 30, 2014 were due in less than one year.



**Note 3 – Inventories**

Inventories consist of the following:

	<b>June 30,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>	
Raw materials	\$2,830	\$3,116
Finished goods	3,061	3,347
Subtotal	5,891	6,463
Less: Inventory reserve	(2,943)	(3,286)
	\$2,948	\$3,177

**Note 4 – Property and Equipment**

The components of property and equipment are as follows:

	<b>June 30,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>	
Leasehold improvements	\$105	\$596
Furniture and fixtures	373	628
Machinery and equipment	1,329	1,365
Assets in progress	—	116
	1,807	2,705
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(1,269)	(2,042)
	\$538	\$663

Depreciation expense for the years ended June 30, 2015, 2014, and 2013, was \$220,000, \$183,000 and \$176,000 respectively.

**Note 5 – Accrued Payroll and Related Liabilities**

The components of accrued payroll and related liabilities are as follows:

	<b>June 30,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>(In</b>	
	<b>thousands)</b>	
Accrued salaries and payroll taxes	\$93	\$95
Accrued vacation	171	116
Accrued other	132	111
	\$396	\$322

**Note 6 – Other Accrued Liabilities**

The components of other liabilities are as follows:

	<b>June 30,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>(In</b>	
	<b>thousands)</b>	
Accrued audit	\$88	\$87
Accrued outside commissions	47	30
Accrued contingent legal fees	8	251
Accrued deferred rent	31	84
Accrued warranty	154	159
Lease abandonment	—	445
Other accrued liabilities	65	118
	\$393	\$1,174

**Note 7 – Income Taxes**

The provision for (benefit from) income taxes is comprised of the following:

	<b>Year Ended</b>		
	<b>June 30,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>		
Current:			
Federal	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
State	—	—	—
	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Deferred:			
Federal	—	—	—
State	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —

The following is a reconciliation of the statutory federal income tax rate to Qualstar's effective income tax rate:

	<b>Year Ended June 30,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Statutory federal income tax benefit	(34.0)%	(34.0)%	(34.0)%
State income taxes, net of federal income tax benefit	(4.3 )	(28.8)	(3.7 )
Foreign income taxes, net of federal income tax benefit	1.8	—	—
Engineering credits	(8.2 )	(1.5 )	(1.1 )
Valuation allowance	43.3	65.2	39.2
Other	1.7	(0.9 )	(0.4 )
	0.3 %	0.0 %	0.0 %

The tax effect of temporary differences resulted in deferred income tax assets (liabilities) as follows:

	<b>June 30,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>		
Deferred tax assets:			

Edgar Filing: QUALSTAR CORP - Form 10-K

Net operating loss carry forwards	\$11,207	\$10,502	\$8,888
Capital loss and other credit carry forwards	62	151	57
Engineering credit carry forwards	1,804	1,611	1,412
Allowance for bad debts and returns	10	40	105
Inventory reserves	1,106	1,280	408
Capitalized inventory costs	41	7	—
Stock Compensation	247	—	—
Other accruals	152	513	849
Total gross deferred tax assets	14,629	14,104	11,719
Less valuation allowance on deferred tax assets	(14,550)	(14,090)	(11,717)
Net deferred tax assets	79	14	2
Deferred tax liabilities:			
Marketable securities	—	(1 )	(1 )
Depreciation and other	(79 )	(13 )	(1 )
Total deferred tax liabilities	(79 )	(14 )	(2 )
Net deferred taxes	\$—	\$—	\$—

The Company records a valuation allowance against its net deferred income tax assets in accordance with ASC 740 “Income Taxes” when in management’s judgment, it is more likely than not that the deferred income tax assets will not be realized in the foreseeable future. For the fiscal years ended June 30, 2015, 2014, and 2013, the Company placed a valuation allowance on net deferred tax assets. The Company has net operating loss carry-forwards for federal income tax purposes of approximately \$29.5 million as of June 30, 2015, \$27.5 million as of June 30, 2014 and \$23.6 million as of June 30, 2013. The Company has net operating loss carry-forwards for state income tax purposes of approximately \$20.6 million as of June 30, 2015, \$20.9 million as of June 30, 2014 and \$16.3 million as of June 30, 2013. The Company had engineering and other credits for tax purposes of \$2.7 million as of June 30, 2015, \$1.9 million as of June 30, 2014 and \$2.0 million at June 30, 2013. If not utilized, the federal net operating loss and other tax credit carry-forwards will expire beginning in 2025. If not utilized, the state net operating loss carry-forward will expire beginning in 2016. The state engineering credit has no limit on the carry-forward period.

The following table summarizes the activity related to the Company’s uncertain tax positions (in thousands):

	<b>June 30,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Balance at July 1	\$17	\$ 17	\$26
Increases related to tax positions taken in prior year	—	3	3
Decreases due to lapse of statute of limitations	—	(2 )	(11)
Related interest and penalties, net of federal tax benefit	—	(1 )	(1 )
Balance at June 30	\$17	\$ 17	\$ 17

The deferred tax asset amounts related to NOL and credit carryforwards have been reduced by approximately \$532,000 of uncertain tax positions. While the Company expects that the amount of its uncertain tax positions will change in the next twelve months, the Company does not expect this change to have a significant impact on its results of operations or financial position. In addition, future changes in the unrecognized tax benefit will have no impact on the Company’s effective tax rate due to the existence of the valuation allowance.

The Company’s policy is to include interest and penalties on uncertain tax positions in income tax expense, but they are not significant at June 30, 2015. The Company files its tax returns by the laws of the jurisdictions in which it operates. The Company’s federal tax returns for fiscal years June 30, 2012 and subsequent and California tax returns for fiscal years June 30, 2011 and subsequent, are still subject to examination. Various state jurisdictions’ tax years remain open to examination as well, though the Company believes any additional assessment will be immaterial to its consolidated financial statements.

## Note 8 – Preferred Stock



Qualstar's capital structure allows for the Board of Directors to authorize up to 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock. The Board of Directors has authority to fix the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions, including voting rights, of these shares of preferred stock without any future vote or action by the shareholders. At June 30, 2015 and 2014, there were no outstanding shares of preferred stock.

**Note 9 –Stock Based Compensation**

The Company recorded share-based compensation associated with outstanding stock options and restricted stock grants during fiscal 2015, 2014 and 2013 of approximately \$96,000, \$5,000 and \$60,000, respectively. No income tax benefit was recognized in the statements of comprehensive loss for share-based arrangements in any period presented.

## Stock Option Plan

The Company has two share-based compensation plans as described below.

Qualstar adopted the 1998 Stock Incentive Plan, (the “1998 Plan”) under which incentive and nonqualified stock options and restricted stock could be granted for an aggregate of no more than 1,215,000 shares of common stock. Under the terms of the 1998 Plan, options could be issued at an exercise price of not less than 100% of the fair market value of common stock on the date of grant. These option awards typically vest based on four years of continuous service at a rate of 25% per year and terminate as specified in each option agreement, but terminate no later than ten years after the date of grant. The 1998 Plan expired in 2008 and no additional options may be granted under that plan. However, options previously granted under the 1998 Plan will continue under their terms.

Qualstar adopted the 2008 Stock Incentive Plan (the “2008 Plan”) under which incentive and nonqualified stock options and restricted stock may be granted for an aggregate of no more than 500,000 shares of common stock. Under the terms of the 2008 Plan, options may be issued at an exercise price of not less than 100% of the fair market value of common stock on the date of grant, or in the case of incentive stock options granted to a person who owns 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of Qualstar stock, the exercise price must be at least equal to 110% of the fair market value of common stock on the date of grant. These option awards typically vest based on 4 years of continuous service at a rate of 25% per year and terminate as specified in each option agreement, but terminate no later than ten years after the date of grant. Under the 2008 Plan, 200,000 options were granted during 2015, there were no options granted during 2014, and 212,000 options were granted during fiscal year 2013.

The fair value of each option award is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option valuation model that uses the assumptions, such as volatility, expected term and risk-free interest rate. Expected volatilities are based on the historical volatility of the Company’s stock. The Company uses historical data to estimate option exercise and employee termination in determining forfeiture rates and evaluates separate groups of employees by functional area that have similar historical exercise behavior. The expected term of options granted is estimated based on the vesting term of the award, historical employee exercise behavior, expected volatility of the Company’s stock and an employee’s average length of service. The risk-free interest rate used in this model correlates to a U.S. constant rate Treasury security with a contractual life that approximates the expected term of the option award. There were 200,000 options granted in fiscal year 2015.

The following table summarizes all stock option activity:

<b>Options</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Weighted</b>	<b>Weighted</b>	<b>Aggregate</b>
----------------	---------------	-----------------	-----------------	------------------

		<b>Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Intrinsic</b>	
		<b>Exercise</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Value</b>	
		<b>Price per</b>	<b>Contractual</b>		
		<b>Share</b>	<b>Term</b>		
			<b>(years)</b>		
Outstanding at June 30, 2014	74,000	\$ 2.89	4.31	\$	—
Granted	200,000	1.25	—		—
Exercised	—	—	—		—
Forfeited or expired	(16,000 )	3.71	—		—
Outstanding at June 30, 2015	258,000	1.57	8.09		—
Exercisable at June 30, 2015	253,000	\$ 1.56	8.12	\$	—

At June 30, 2015, the unrecognized compensation cost related to non-vested share-based compensation awards granted under the 2008 Plan, is \$2,800. The total fair value of shares vested for fiscal years 2015, 2014, and 2013 was \$56,900, \$2,900, and \$120,000, respectively.

**Restricted Stock Awards**

The following table summarizes all restricted stock awards activity:

<b>Restricted Stock Awards</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Weighted Average Fair Value Price per Share</b>
Nonvested at June 30, 2014	100,000	\$ 1.61
Granted (1)	—	
Vested	—	
Forfeited or expired	—	
Nonvested at June 30, 2015	100,000	\$ 1.61

(1) Restricted stock was granted on April 1, 2014 to Daniel K. Jan of 100,000 shares to vest 33,333 on April 1, 2017; 33,333 to vest April 1, 2018 and 33,334 to vest April 1, 2019. The award is part of his employment agreement and the grant price is the closing price of the stock on April 1, 2014 of \$1.61. The unvested shares are forfeited upon termination of his employment.

At June 30, 2015 the unrecognized compensation cost related to the non-vested share based compensation for restricted stock is \$108,000.

**Note 10 – Commitments**

Qualstar's lease agreement for its 15,160 square foot facility located in Simi Valley, California, expires on February 28, 2018. Rent on this facility is \$10,000 per month with a step-up of 3% annually. The Company provides for rent expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. We also lease approximately 5,400 square feet of office space in Westlake Village, California. Our lease on this facility expires on January 31, 2020. Rent on this facility is \$10,000 per month, with a step-up of 3% annually.

Future minimum lease payments under these leases are as follows:

<b>Year Ending June 30,</b>	<b>Minimum Lease Payment (in thousands)</b>
2016	\$ 231
2017	248
2018	212
2019	133
2020	79
Total Commitment	\$ 903

Rent expense (including equipment rental) for the years ended June 30, 2015, 2014, and 2013, was \$402,000, \$561,000, and \$448,000, respectively.

**Note 11 – Segment Information**

Based on the provisions of ASC 280, “Segment Reporting,” and the manner in which the Chief Operating Decision Maker analyzes the business, Qualstar has determined that it has two separate operating segments. Segment revenue, loss before income taxes and total assets were as follows:

	<b>Year Ended June 30,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<b>(in thousands)</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>			
Power Supplies	\$6,330	\$5,874	\$6,489
Data Storage:			
Product	4,478	2,922	4,337
Service	2,094	2,145	1,816
Total Data Storage	6,572	5,067	6,153
Total Revenue	\$12,902	\$10,941	\$12,642

	<b>Year Ended June 30,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<b>(in thousands)</b>		
<b>(Loss) before Taxes</b>			
Power Supplies	\$(714 )	\$(865 )	\$(1,239 )
Data Storage	(594 )	(4,759)	(9,124 )
Total Loss before Income Taxes	\$(1,308)	\$(5,624)	\$(10,363)

	<b>June 30,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>(in thousands)</b>	
Total Assets		
Cash and Marketable Securities:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$4,696	\$5,462
Marketable Securities	—	1,763
Total Cash and Marketable Securities	\$4,696	\$7,225
Power Supplies and Data Storage :		
Power Supplies	2,435	2,329
Data Storage	3,553	3,231
Total Power Supplies and Data Storage	\$5,988	\$5,560
Total Assets	\$10,684	\$12,785

**June 30,**  
**2015    2014**  
**(in thousands)**

**Property and Equipment**

Power Supplies:

Gross fixed assets	\$568	624
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization	(510 )	(491 )
Net power supply fixed assets	\$58	\$133

Data Storage:

Gross fixed assets	1,240	2,081
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization	(760 )	(1,551)
Net data storage fixed assets	\$480	\$530

In its operation of the business, management reviews certain financial information, including segmented internal profit and loss statements prepared on a basis consistent with U.S. GAAP. Our two segments are power supplies and data storage. The two segments discussed in this analysis are presented in the way we internally managed and monitored performance for the years ended June 30, 2015, 2014, and 2013. Allocations for internal resources were made for the years ended June 30, 2015, 2014, and 2013. The power supplies segment tracks certain assets separately, and all others are recorded in the data storage segment for internal reporting presentations.

The types of products and services provided by each segment are summarized below:

**Power Supplies** — We design, manufacture, and sell small, open frame, high efficiency switching power supplies. These power supplies are used to convert AC line voltage to DC voltages, or DC voltages to other DC voltages for use in a wide variety of electronic equipment such as telecommunications equipment, machine tools, routers, switches, wireless systems and gaming devices.

**Data Storage** — We design, develop, manufacture and sell automated magnetic tape libraries used to store, retrieve and manage electronic data primarily in network computing environments. Tape libraries consist of cartridge tape drives, tape cartridges and robotics to move the cartridges from their storage locations to the tape drives under software control. Our tape libraries provide data storage solutions for organizations requiring backup, recovery and archival storage of critical data.

### Geographic Information

Information regarding revenues attributable to the Qualstar's primary geographic operating regions is as follows:

	<b>Year Ended June 30,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>		
<b>Total Revenue:</b>			
North America	\$5,929	\$6,104	\$6,357
Europe	2,195	1,992	3,195
Asia Pacific	4,169	2,641	2,936
Other	609	204	154
	\$12,902	\$10,941	\$12,642



**Year Ended June 30,**  
**2015 2014 2013**  
**(In thousands)**

**Power Supply Revenue:**

North America	\$2,185	\$2,122	\$2,564
Europe	1,333	1,232	1,218
Asia Pacific	2,812	2,520	2,707
Other	—	—	—
	\$6,330	\$5,874	\$6,489

**Year Ended June 30,**  
**2015 2014 2013**  
**(In thousands)**

**Data Storage Revenue:**

North America	\$3,744	\$3,982	\$3,793
Europe	862	760	1,977
Asia Pacific	1,357	121	229
Other	609	204	154
	\$6,572	\$5,067	\$6,153

The geographic classification of revenues is based upon the location to which the product is shipped. Qualstar does not have any significant long-lived assets outside of the United States.

## Note 12 – Legal Proceedings

### Overland Storage, Inc.

On June 28, 2012, Overland Storage, Inc. (“Overland”) filed a patent infringement lawsuit against Qualstar Corporation (and others, including Spectra Logic Corporation (“Spectra Logic”)) in the U.S. District Court in the Southern District of California (the “District Court”), alleging that certain of Qualstar’s automated tape libraries infringe claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,328,766 (the “’766 Patent”). The lawsuit is entitled: *Overland Storage, Inc. (Plaintiff/Counterclaim Defendant) v. Qualstar Corporation (Defendant/ Counterclaim Plaintiff)*, and assigned Case No.: 12-cv-1605-JLS-BLM (the “Patent Litigation”). Overland sought injunctive relief as well as the recovery of unspecified monetary damages. Qualstar denied that it infringed the Overland patent and filed a counterclaim against Overland. The litigation was stayed pending *Inter Partes Review* (“IPR”) before the Patent Trial and Appeals Board (“PTAB”) (Case IPR 2013-00357). On November 7, 2014, the PTAB issued its final written decision finding that all eleven claims by Overland related to the ‘766 Patent were “unpatentable.” The PTAB denied Overland’s request for leave to amend its claims. Overland moved for reconsideration of the PTAB’s decision, but the request was denied by the PTAB on January 8, 2015. On March 9, 2015, Overland filed an appeal of the PTAB’s decision with the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. On or about August 13, 2015, Overland and Spectra Logic settled the dispute which gave rise to the PTAB case and the related appeal to the Federal Circuit, which appeal was subsequently withdrawn by Overland. As a result, Overland and Qualstar agreed to voluntarily dismiss their respective claims in the Patent Litigation, which dismissal was effectuated by District Court on August 17, 2015. Thus, this matter has now been fully settled.

### Needham & Company, LLC

On March 11, 2014, Qualstar filed a complaint against Needham & Company, LLC (“Needham”) entitled: *Qualstar Corporation v. Needham & Company, LLC*, pending in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County and assigned index number 650773/14. Qualstar asserted claims against Needham for breach of contract, breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing, unjust enrichment and negligence based on Needham’s provision of financial advisory services to Qualstar, between January 2013 and February 2013, in connection with the unsolicited partial tender offer for Qualstar submitted by BKF Capital Group, Inc. Needham moved to dismiss the complaint, and on January 5, 2015, the court granted Needham’s motion, thereby dismissing the entirety of the complaint. Qualstar filed a notice of appeal of the court’s ruling dismissing the complaint; and, on or about July 16, 2015, Qualstar withdrew the appeal.

### Other legal matters

Qualstar is also subject to a variety of other claims and legal proceedings that arise from time to time in the ordinary course of our business. Although management currently believes that resolving claims against us, individually or in the aggregate, will not have a material adverse impact on our financial statements, these matters are subject to inherent uncertainties and management's view of these matters may change in the future. We accrue loss contingencies in connection with our commitments and contingencies, including litigation, when it is probable that a loss has occurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. As of June 30, 2015, we had accrued aggregate current liabilities of \$27,000 in probable fees and costs related to these legal matters.

### **Note 13 – Benefit Plans**

Qualstar has a voluntary deferred compensation plan (the "Plan") qualifying for treatment under Internal Revenue Code Section 401(k). All employees are eligible to participate in the Plan following three months of service of employment and may contribute up to 100% of their compensation on a pre-tax basis, not to exceed the annual IRS maximum. Qualstar, at the discretion of management, may make matching contributions in an amount equal to 25% of the first 6% of compensation contributed by eligible participants. Qualstar suspended the discretionary matching contribution effective August 2009.

**Note 14 – Related Party Transactions**

Steven N. Bronson is the Company's CEO and is also the President and CEO and a majority shareholder of Interlink Electronics, Inc. ("Interlink"). Interlink purchases certain administrative and marketing services from Qualstar. The Company believes that the amounts charged to Interlink are no greater than the fair market value of the services. The total amount charged to Interlink for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, was \$43,000.

The Company reimburses Interlink for expenses paid on the Company's behalf. Interlink, occasionally, pays travel, insurance and other expenses incurred by Qualstar. The Company reimbursed Interlink \$56,000 and \$147,000 for the year ended 2015 and 2014, respectively.

The Company entered into a license agreement, dated May 1, 2014 (the "License Agreement") with BKF Capital Group, Inc. ("BKF"). Pursuant to the License Agreement, commencing on May 1, 2014, BKF shall have a license to occupy and use one furnished office, telephone and other services, located at Qualstar's executive offices. Pursuant to the License Agreement, BKF shall pay to Qualstar a license fee \$1,200 per month. For fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, BKF paid \$9,600 to Qualstar as license fees, respectively. The License Agreement is no longer effective after the move to the new facilities in February 2015. Steven N. Bronson, the Company's President and CEO, is also the Chairman, CEO and majority shareholder of BKF.

**Note 15 - Quarterly Results of Operations (Unaudited)**

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>			
	<b>June 30,</b>	<b>March 31,</b>	<b>December 31,</b>	<b>September 30,</b>
	<b>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</b>			
Fiscal 2015:				
Net sales	\$3,249	2,805	3,528	3,320
Gross profit (loss)	1,129	917	1,100	1,226
Net (loss)	\$(254 )	(487 )	(245 )	(322 )
Net (loss) per share:				
Basic and diluted	\$(0.02 )	(0.04 )	(0.02 )	(0.03 )
Fiscal 2014:				
Net sales	\$2,748	\$2,562	\$ 3,440	\$ 2,191
Gross profit (loss)	820	(199 )	1,509	461
Net (loss)	\$(677 )	\$(2,169 )	\$ (251 )	\$ (2,527 )

Net (loss) per share:

Basic and diluted     \$(0.06 ) \$(0.18 ) \$ (0.02     ) \$ (0.21     )

**Note 16 - Restructuring Charges**

In fiscal 2013, the Company recorded a restructuring charge for its operations and overhead structure related to the storage division by reducing the size of its facilities and headcount as part of its strategic initiative to outsource manufacturing. In fiscal 2014, the Company brought manufacturing in-house and recovered \$228,000 of the restructuring charge. In fiscal 2015, the Company expensed \$200,000 in operating charges and recovered the remaining charge of \$245,000 upon termination of the lease.

Our restructuring actions are strategic management decisions and until the Company achieves consistent and sustainable levels of profitability, we may incur restructuring charges in the future from additional cost reduction efforts.

Lease Abandonment Obligation	
Balance as of June 30, 2014	\$445
Expensed	(200)
Added	-
Recovered	(245)
Balance as of June 30, 2015	\$-

## Note 17 – Subsequent Events

July 1, 2015, Qualstar Corporation entered into a one year sublease agreement with Interlink Electronics, Inc. The sublease agreement is for 608 square feet of space in the Qualstar building located at 130 West Cochran Street, Unit C; Simi Valley, 91361. Qualstar will receive rent of \$1,000 per month which is equal to the base rent per square foot in the master lease, plus additional rent for common area services, utilities and other shared expenses. The space will be used for engineering and light manufacturing. As described in Note 14, Interlink is a related party. The sublease agreement is attached as Exhibit 10.14.

## ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

## ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

### Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of Qualstar's disclosure controls and procedures as of June 30, 2015, pursuant to Rule 13a-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Based upon that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Commission's rules and forms, and to ensure that the information required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

### Changes in Internal Control over financial reporting

We did not make any changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015 that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. Our internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate. Our management assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of June 30, 2015. In making this assessment, it used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in "Internal Control – Integrated Framework" in 2013. Based on our assessment, we have concluded that, as of June 30, 2015, our internal control over financial reporting was effective based on those criteria.

This Annual Report on Form 10-K does not include an attestation report of the Company's registered public accounting firm regarding internal control over financial reporting. Management's report was not subject to attestation by the Company's registered public accounting firm pursuant to the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission that permit the Company to provide only management's report in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

**ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION**

None.

**PART III****ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE****DIRECTORS**

The following table sets forth certain information about the current directors of our Company. Directors are elected annually and hold office until the next annual meeting of shareholders or until their successors are elected and qualified. There are no family relationships among any of our directors and executive officers. For biographical information regarding our directors, see the discussion under “Biographical Information — Directors,” below.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Position</b>
Steven N. Bronson	49	Chief Executive Officer
David J. Wolenski	54	Director and Chairman
Sean M. Leder	44	Director
Dale E. Wallis	65	Director
Nicholas A. Yarymovych	51	Director

---

Each of these Directors were re-elected to serve on the Board at the annual meeting of Shareholders held on May 15, 2015.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND OTHER KEY OFFICERS**

The following table sets forth certain information about the current executive officers and other key officers of our Company. There are no family relationships among any of our directors and executive officers. For biographical information regarding our executive officers, see the discussion under “Biographical Information — Executive Officers and other Key Officers,” below.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Position</b>
Steven N. Bronson	49	Chief Executive Officer
Louann L. Negrete	55	Chief Financial Officer
Daniel K. Jan	60	President



Randy D. Johnson 57 Vice President and General Manager of N2Power

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

### **Background on Director Qualifications**

All Board members are expected to possess certain personal characteristics necessary to creating a functional Board: high personal and professional ethics, integrity and values; practical wisdom and mature judgment; an inquisitive and objective perspective; professional experience at a policy-making level in business; time availability for in-person participation at Board and committee meetings; and a commitment to representing the long-term interests of our shareholders. Directors are elected annually and hold office until the next annual meeting of shareholders or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

## Directors

Steven N. Bronson was appointed CEO on July 3, 2013. He may be deemed to beneficially own 27.4% of Qualstar stock. Mr. Bronson has been Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of BKF Capital Group Inc., since September 2008. In July 2010 he became Chairman and Chief Executive of Interlink Electronics, Inc., a global leader in the design of patented Force-Sensing Resistor™ (FSR™) technology and a pioneer in printed electronics. Since 1996, Mr. Bronson has served as the Chairman of Bronson & Co., LLC, an investment banking firm that advises private and public, emerging growth and middle market companies. In addition, Mr. Bronson served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ridgefield Acquisition Corp. and 4net Software, Inc., both publicly traded companies.

David J. Wolenski is the President of Electro-Mechanical Products, Inc. (“EMP”), a privately-held company engaged in the manufacture of precision-machined components and thermal management systems for the Semiconductor, Laser, and Medical Device industries. He has been a director on EMP’s board since August 2000, and has served as an officer of the Company since November 2002. From 1996 to 2000, Mr. Wolenski was Chief Executive Officer of OZO Automation, Inc. (OTCBB:OZOA), a publicly-traded company that produced robotic workstations for the electronics industry. As Chief Executive Officer he also managed the sale of OZO’s assets to JOT Automation of Olunsalo, Finland, and served as President of their Depaneling subsidiary from 2000 to 2001. From 1983 to 1996, Mr. Wolenski held various positions with Johns Manville Corporation, a worldwide leader in fiberglass insulations and engineered products, which included managerial assignments in manufacturing, business development, and quality assurance. His past board affiliations have included OZO Automation, Inc. where he was a director from 1996-1999, and Bio-Medical Automation, Inc., where he was a director from 1999-2000. Mr. Wolenski holds a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder (1983), and an MBA from the University of Colorado at Denver (1990).

Sean M. Leder is currently serving as Chief Executive Officer of Leder Holdings, LLC, Chief Executive Officer of The Leder Group and President of Leder Realty & Management, Inc. He has held the posts of CEO of The Leder Group and President of Leder Realty & Management for the past twenty years. Mr. Leder started his career on Wall Street where, at Chase Manhattan Bank, he worked in mergers and acquisitions. Later, as a Merrill Lynch investment banker, he worked on the real estate investment banking team, raising capital for and advising real estate investment trusts. Mr. Leder received his B.A. in Political Science from Brandeis University in 1993.

Dale E. Wallis has over 40 years of business and entrepreneurial experience. In the last 15 years, Mr. Wallis has been Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of The Aerospace Corporation, a \$900 million revenue defense contractor that manages much of the US Government’s satellite communications programs. Prior to Aerospace, Mr. Wallis was Chief Financial Officer for a privately held company and in senior financial management for an SEC reporting company. Earlier in his career Mr. Wallis was a Senior Manager with Ernst & Young and an auditor with KPMG. Mr. Wallis currently is on the board and serves as audit committee chair for Financial Executives International, a professional organization of over 12,000 CFOs in the US, Canada, Japan and the UK. Mr. Wallis has recently served as an adjunct professor of accounting at major universities.

Nicholas A. Yarymovych is currently the Senior Vice President of Global Consulting & Operations at NTT Data, Cloud Services Inc. and previously served as NTT Centerstance Managing Partner. Mr. Yarymovych founded Ventus Technology Solutions, Inc. (Ventus) in 2001, one of the first Salesforce.com consulting partners and served as President and Chief Executive Officer. In early 2011, he merged Ventus with Centerstance, Inc. and was then acquired by NTT in late 2012. Throughout his 28-year professional consulting career, he has launched new business units, established professional services practices, developed core business strategies and led numerous operational turnarounds. Prior, Mr. Yarymovych served as Vice President of e-Business Solutions with QuickStart Technologies where he led the companies' e-business consulting services division. Prior to QuickStart, Mr. Yarymovych served as a Client Partner with Cambridge Technology Partners in their Strategy and Management Consulting Group. Currently, he serves as an advisor for several private equity firms. Mr. Yarymovych earned an M.B.A. in Management and Operations from Pepperdine University, a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Southern California, and majored in a Bachelor of Science degree in Astronautical Engineering while attending the U.S. Air Force Academy.

## **Executive Officers and Other Key Officers**

Steven N. Bronson. See the discussion under “Biographical Information – Directors,” above.

Louann L. Negrete was appointed Chief Financial Officer on December 2, 2013. Ms. Negrete has more than 15 years of experience in public company accounting. Prior to joining Qualstar, Ms. Negrete was the Director of Corporate Accounting for LINE 6, Inc. Prior to Line 6 she was the Corporate Controller and CFO for 6 years at Interlink Electronics, Inc., a publicly traded company. She also served for 6 years as the Corporate Controller for publicly traded Biosource International, Inc. BioSource acquired two companies while she was controller and eventually the entire company was sold. She also held positions of controller, at US Stamp and assistant controller, at Patagonia, two other manufacturing companies. Additionally, she has over 6 years in public accounting. Ms. Negrete holds a CPA license from the State of California. She graduated from California State University, Northridge with a BS degree in Business Administration, Accounting.

Daniel K. Jan was appointed President on May 15, 2015. Mr. Jan joined Qualstar April 1, 2014 from BDT Products, Inc., a subsidiary of Germany’s BDT Media Automation GmbH, the recognized world leader in OEM tape automation. Mr. Jan served as president at BDT, spearheading growth in BDT’s worldwide sales for its tape and storage business. With over 25 years of industry experience spanning semiconductor memory to hard disks, optical, and tape storage technologies, he’s held leadership roles at startups in Silicon Valley, where he spent 12 years, and medium and large companies including IBM.

Randy D. Johnson has been Vice President and General Manager of N2Power since March 25, 2010. Mr. Johnson joined Qualstar in 2002 as Business Unit Manager for N2Power. From 2000 to 2002, Mr. Johnson held the position of Vice President and Business Unit Manager for Flightware Ltd., a business solutions software company. From 1983 to 2000, Mr. Johnson was employed by Integrated Business Computers, a business computer manufacturer, where he held the position of Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Mr. Johnson graduated with a B.A. degree in Business and Political Science from Westmont College in 1980, and earned his MBA in Technology Management from the University of Phoenix in 1999.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

### **Director Independence**

Qualstar's current Board members consist of Mr. Bronson, Mr. Wolenski, Mr. Wallis, Mr. Leder and Mr. Yarymovych. The Board of Directors has determined that Messrs. Wolenski, Wallis, Leder and Yarymovych are independent applying the definition of independence under the listing standards of the NASDAQ and SEC regulations.

### **Board Leadership Structure and Role in Risk Oversight**

On June 27, 2014, the Board elected David J. Wolenski, an independent director, to serve as Chairman of the Board.

### **Committees**

Our Board of Directors oversees our risk management. This oversight is administered primarily through the following committees: (i) an Audit Committee, (ii) a Compensation Committee and (iii) a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Each Committee has only independent directors as members.

### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee consists of three directors: Messrs. Wallis (chairman), Leder and Wolenski. Each member of the committee is independent applying the definition of independence under the listing standards of NASDAQ and SEC regulations. The Audit Committee meets at least four times during the year. The Board has determined that Mr. Wallis qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by Item 407(d)(5)(ii) of Regulation S-K.

Pursuant to the terms of the Audit Committee charter, our Audit Committee is required to consist of “independent” directors and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. An “independent” director is defined as an individual who (a) is not an officer or salaried employee or an affiliate, (b) does not have any relationship that, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, would interfere with his or her exercise of independent judgment as an Audit Committee member, (c) meets the independence requirements of the SEC and NASDAQ or such other securities exchange or market on which our securities are traded and (d) except as permitted by the SEC and NASDAQ or such other securities exchange or market on which our securities are traded, does not accept any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from us.

The Audit Committee has a charter that requires the committee to oversee our accounting and financial reporting process, our system of internal controls regarding finance, accounting, legal compliance and ethics, and the audits of our financial statements, a current copy of which is available to stockholders on our website, [www.qualstar.com](http://www.qualstar.com). The primary duties of the Audit Committee consist of, among other things:

- serving as an independent and objective party to monitor our financial reporting process, internal control system and disclosure control system;

- reviewing and appraising the audit efforts of our independent accountants;

- assuming direct responsibility for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of the outside auditors and for the resolution of disputes between the outside auditors and our management regarding financial reporting issues;

- providing an open avenue of communication among the independent accountants, financial and senior management and the Board; and

- reviewing and approving all related party transactions.

### **Compensation Committee**

Our Compensation Committee consists of three directors: Messrs. Leder (chairman), Yarymovych and Wolenski. Each such member of the Compensation Committee is independent applying the definition of independence under the listing standards of NASDAQ and SEC regulations. The Compensation Committee meets at least two times during each year.

Each member of our Compensation Committee must (i) be one of our independent directors satisfying the independence requirements of NASDAQ and other applicable regulatory requirements; (ii) qualify as an “outside director” under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended; and (iii) meet the requirements of a “non-employee director” for purposes of Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Except as permitted by NASDAQ, members of the Compensation Committee must not accept any consulting, advisory or the other compensatory fee from us or any our subsidiaries.

The Compensation Committee oversees the determination of all matters relating to employee compensation and benefits and specifically determines and approves salaries, bonuses and equity-based compensation for our executive officers.

We have adopted a Compensation Committee charter which outlines the Compensation Committee's primary duties which are to:

- evaluate the performance of the Chief Executive Officer in light of our goals and objectives and determine the Chief Executive Officer's compensation based on this evaluation and such other factors as the Committee shall deem appropriate;

- determine and approve all executive officer compensation;

- approve the aggregate amounts and methodology for determination of all salary, bonus, and long-term incentive awards for all employees other than executive officers;

• review and recommend equity-based compensation plans to the full Board of Directors and approve all grants and awards thereunder;

• review and approve changes to our equity-based compensation plans other than those changes that require stockholder approval under the plans, the requirements of NASDAQ or any exchange on which our securities may be listed and/or any applicable law;

• review and recommend to the full Board changes to our equity-based compensation plans that require stockholder approval under the plans, the requirements of NASDAQ or any exchange on which our securities may be listed and/or any applicable law;

• review and approve changes in our retirement, health, welfare and other benefit programs that result in a material change in costs or the benefit levels provided;

- administer our equity-based compensation plans; and

• approve, as required by applicable law, the annual Committee report on executive compensation for inclusion in our proxy statement.

The Compensation committee has the authority, in its sole discretion, to retain or obtain advice from compensation consultants, independent legal counsel and other advisers, and is directly responsible for the retention, termination, compensation and oversight of the work of any such consultant, counsel or other adviser. In selecting a consultant, counsel or other adviser, the Compensation Committee must, as required by NASDAQ rules, take into consideration all factors relevant to such person's independence from management, including all factors that NASDAQ identifies in its listing standards.

A current copy of the Compensation Committee charter is available to shareholders on our website, [www.qualstar.com](http://www.qualstar.com). The Compensation Committee may form and delegate its authority to subcommittees as appropriate. Additionally, the Chief Executive Officer may make recommendations to the Compensation Committee relating to executive and director compensation, but consistent with NASDAQ rules, he may not be present during deliberations or voting regarding his own compensation.

## **Nominating and Governance Committee**



Our Nominating and Governance Committee consists of three directors: Messrs. Wolenski (chairman), Leder and Wallis. The Nominating and Governance Committee is empowered by the Board of Directors to recommend qualified individuals to serve on our Board and to identify the manner in which the Nominating and Governance Committee evaluates nominees recommended for membership on the Board. All members of the Nominating and Governance Committee of the Board of Directors have been determined to be “independent directors” pursuant to the definition contained in the rules of NASDAQ and SEC regulations.

### **Shareholder Communications**

Our Board of Directors has established a procedure that enables shareholders to communicate in writing with members of the Board of Directors. Any such communication should be addressed to our Secretary and should be sent to such individual c/o Qualstar Corporation. Any such communication must state, in a conspicuous manner, that it is intended for distribution to the entire Board of Directors. Under the procedures established by the Board of Directors, upon our Secretary's receipt of such a communication, a copy of such communication will be sent to each member of the Board of Directors, identifying it as a communication received from a shareholder. Absent unusual circumstances, at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors held more than two days after such communication has been distributed, the Board of Directors will consider the substance of any such communication.

### **Board and Committee Meeting Attendance**

During the year ended June 30, 2015, our Board of Directors held ten meetings, our Audit Committee held four meetings; our Compensation Committee held two meetings and our Nominating and Governance Committee held one meeting. Each director attended (or participated by telephone in) 100% of the total number of meetings of the Board and committees on which he served.

### **Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance**

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires Qualstar's directors and executive officers, and persons who own more than ten percent of Qualstar's common stock, to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership of our common stock. Officers, directors and greater than ten percent shareholders are required by SEC regulations to furnish Qualstar with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file.

To our knowledge, based solely on a review of the copies of Section 16(a) reports furnished to us and a review of the shareholders register, during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, our officers, directors and greater than ten percent beneficial owners complied with all Section 16(a) filing requirements, except Steven N. Bronson, who inadvertently filed three Form 4s several days late, Nicholas Yarymovch, Daniel Jan and Louann Negrete, who each filed their Form 3 late, and Daniel Jan who inadvertently filed one Form 4 one day late.

### **Code of Ethics**

Qualstar has adopted a written Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, which complies with the requirements for a code of ethics pursuant to Item 406(b) of Regulation S-K under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which applies to our chief executive officer, chief financial officer and persons performing similar functions. A copy of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics has been filed as an exhibit to this report. A copy of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is also posted on our website at [www.qualstar.com](http://www.qualstar.com). A copy of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics will be provided, without charge, to any shareholder who sends a written request to the Chief Financial Officer of Qualstar at 31248 Oak Crest Drive, Suite 120; Westlake Village, California 91361.

## **ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

## COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This section contains a discussion of the material elements of compensation awarded to, earned by, or paid to our principal executive officer, our principal financial officer, and our other executive officers who were serving as executive officers of Qualstar at June 30, 2015. These individuals are identified in the Summary Compensation Table and other compensation tables that follow this section, and are referred to throughout this report as our “named executive officers.”

Our Board of Directors has a standing Compensation Committee, which is comprised solely of non-employee directors who satisfy current NASDAQ standards with respect to independence.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, the members of the Compensation Committee were: Sean M. Leder, as Chairman, David J. Wolenski and Nicholas A. Yarymovych.

The Compensation Discussion and Analysis below is a discussion of the material elements of compensation awarded to, earned by, or paid to our principal executive officer, our principal financial officer, and our other executive officers who were serving as executive officers of Qualstar at June 30, 2015.

## **Executive Summary and Overview of Fiscal 2015 Compensation**

Our Company's long-term success depends on our ability to fulfill the expectations of our customers in a competitive environment and deliver value to shareholders. To achieve these goals, it is critical that we are able to attract, motivate, and retain highly talented individuals at all levels of the organization who are committed to the Company's values and objectives.

The Company strives to provide compensation that is (a) linked to shareholder value creation, (b) reflective of the overall performance of the Company and each individual executive, and (c) considerate of the competitive market levels of compensation needed to recruit, retain and motivate top executive talent, while remaining consistent with the other objectives.

### **Compensation Philosophy and Objectives**

The Company's executive compensation program is based on the same objectives that guide the Company in establishing all of its compensation programs:

Compensation fosters the long-term focus required for the Company's success. In general, the compensation of Company executives includes longer-term incentives because they are in a greater position to influence longer-term results.

Compensation reflects the level of job responsibility, individual performance, and Company performance. As employees progress to higher levels in the organization, an increasing proportion of their pay should be linked to Company performance and stockholder returns because those employees are more able to affect the Company's results.

Compensation reflects the value of the job in the marketplace. To attract and retain a highly skilled workforce, we must remain competitive with the pay of other premier employers who compete with us for talent.

While compensation programs and individual pay levels will always reflect differences in job responsibilities, geographies and marketplace considerations, the overall structure of the compensation and benefit programs should be broadly similar and equitable across the organization.

### **Overview of Executive Compensation Program**

*The Compensation Committee*

The Compensation Committee has responsibility for establishing, implementing and monitoring the Company's compensation philosophy. Accordingly, the Compensation Committee strives to develop and maintain competitive, progressive programs that attract, retain and motivate high-caliber employees, foster teamwork, and maximize the long-term success of the Company by appropriately rewarding our employees for their achievements. The Compensation Committee evaluates risk and rewards associated with the Company's overall compensation philosophy and structure.

*Role of Executive Officers in Compensation Decisions*

The Compensation Committee meets with the Company's Chief Executive Officer and other senior executives in order to obtain recommendations with respect to the Company's compensation programs and practices for executives and other employees. Management discusses with the Compensation Committee the practices that have been put in place to identify and mitigate, as necessary, potential risks. The Chief Executive Officer annually reviews the performance of each executive officer, other than himself. The Chief Executive Officer's performance is reviewed by the Compensation Committee which makes recommendations to the full Board.

With support from market compensation data, performance reviews and other information, management makes recommendations to the Compensation Committee on the base salaries, bonus targets and equity compensation for the executive officers and other employees. The Compensation Committee takes management's recommendations into consideration, but is not bound by management's recommendations with respect to executive compensation.

While management attends certain meetings of the Compensation Committee, the Compensation Committee also holds executive sessions not attended by any members of management or by non-independent directors. The Compensation Committee makes all compensation decisions with respect to the executive officers and approves recommendations regarding equity awards to all employees of the Company.

## Components of Executive Compensation

For fiscal year 2015, the principal components of compensation for named executive officers were: (1) Base Salary, (2) Performance-Based Incentive Compensation, (3) Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation, (4) Personal Benefits, and (5) Other Compensation. In determining the amount and relative allocation among each component of compensation for each named executive officer, the Compensation Committee considered, among other factors, the Company's and each executive officer's experience level and historical performance, compensation paid by companies comparable in size to Qualstar, data obtained from management's recruitment activities, historical rates of executive compensation, Company revenues and profitability, and alignment with the Company's overall compensation philosophy.

### *Base Salary*

Base salaries are set at levels that the Compensation Committee deems to be sufficient to attract and retain highly talented executive officers capable of fulfilling the Company's key objectives. Base salaries are also set with the goal of rewarding executive officers on a day-to-day basis for their time and services while encouraging them to strive for performance-based and long-term incentives.

The table below shows the base salary established by the Compensation Committee for each of our named executive officers for fiscal year 2015, and the percentage change compared to the prior fiscal year. Salary adjustments typically do not coincide with the beginning of the fiscal year, so the amounts shown below may differ from those shown in the Fiscal 2015 Summary Compensation Table.

<b>Name and Principal Position</b>	<b>Fiscal</b>	<b>Percent</b>
	<b>2015</b>	<b>Change versus</b>
	<b>Base</b>	<b>Fiscal 2014</b>
	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Base Salary</b>
Steven N. Bronson Chief Executive Officer	\$200,000(1)	
Louann Negrete Chief Financial Officer	\$135,000(2)	
Daniel K. Jan President	\$250,000(3)	25%

Randy D. Johnson \$200,000  
Vice President and General Manager, N2Power

---

- (1) Mr. Bronson was hired as the Company's Chief Executive Officer and President on July 3, 2013. Mr. Bronson stepped down as president of the Company effective May 15, 2015.
- (2) Ms. Negrete was hired as the Company's Chief Financial Officer on December 2, 2013.
- (3) Mr. Jan was hired by the Company on April 1, 2014 on May 11, 2015 the Compensation Committee increased his salary to \$250,000. Mr. Jan was appointed the president of the Company effective May 15, 2015.

#### *Performance-Based Incentive Compensation*

The Company utilizes an annual cash bonus program, which is intended to reward executive officers based on the Company's overall performance and the individual named executive officer's contributions to that performance ("Performance Based Plan"). In determining an annual bonus for each named executive officer, we evaluate performance as measured against certain objective financial metrics as well as individual performance goals. We believe that the Performance Based Plan provides incentives that are necessary to retain executives and reward them for our short-term performance in the pursuit of our larger business objectives and is designed to provide for a portion of our cash compensation for named executive officers to be variable based upon Company and individual performance.

Mr. Bronson was paid a bonus of \$100,000 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. This was equal to fifty percent (50%) of Mr. Bronson's base salary, rather than the maximum 75% of base salary he could have earned pursuant to his Employment Agreement. While the Compensation Committee agreed that the accomplishments made by Mr. Bronson in fiscal 2015 were significant, not all performance metrics had been addressed to the Compensation Committee's complete satisfaction. As such, the members unanimously agreed that Mr. Bronson's bonus compensation should reflect this fact, and that the award should be less than the maximum amount allowed under the Employment Agreement.

Ms. Negrete and Mr. Johnson each received an annual cash bonus of \$10,000, respectively, reflective of their contributions to the Company for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. Ms. Negrete also received a bonus December 2, 2014 of \$10,000 as agreed in her letter of employment.

#### *Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation*

The Company has a long term equity incentive plan, which is intended to retain executive officers and reward executive officers based on the Company's performance ("Equity Incentive Plan"). Equity incentives, like stock options and restricted stock awards are granted to executive officers as long-term incentives in order to align executives' performance with the interests of the Company's shareholders and also encourage retention. For the fiscal year 2015, the Compensation Committee determined an equity incentive compensation target for each executive officer after consideration of individual performance and accomplishments, future Company performance, performance goals, and other elements of the executives' compensation.

Our 2008 Stock Incentive Plan authorizes the Company to grant stock options to purchase, in the aggregate, up to 500,000 shares of our common stock. This plan was adopted by the Board of Directors in November 2008 and approved by our shareholders in March 2009. Under the plan, the exercise price of stock options must be no less than the closing price of our common stock on the date of grant or in the case of incentive stock option the exercise price must be no less than 110% of the closing price of our common stock on the date of grant. It is our policy to grant stock options only at duly held meetings of our Board of Directors, with an exercise price equal to the closing price of our common stock on the date of the Board meeting.

Stock options and restricted stock awarded to executive officers during fiscal year 2015 are set forth in the table below entitled "Outstanding Equity Awards at 2015 Fiscal Year End."

#### *Personal Benefits*

As employees, the executives are eligible to participate in health and welfare benefits, as offered to our general workforce, designed to attract and retain a skilled workforce in a competitive marketplace. These benefits help ensure that the Company has a healthy and focused workforce through reliable and competitive health and other personal benefits. These benefits were considered in relation to the total compensation package, but did not materially impact decisions regarding other elements of executive officer compensation.

#### *Other Compensation*



The Company was party to an employment agreement with Mr. Bronson that provided that Mr. Bronson would be employed by the Company for a one year term beginning on July 3, 2014 (the “Start Date”) through June 30, 2015. Mr. Bronson’s employment agreement specified his base salary at the rate of \$200,000 per year, as well as a potential target incentive bonus of 75% of his base salary as described above under the caption entitled “Performance-Based Incentive Compensation.”

Mr. Bronson’s employment agreement provided further that if he was terminated by the Company without cause or if he resigned for good reason, he would receive (1) a severance payment equal to six (6) months of his base salary; (2) payment of insurance benefits for six (6) months; and (3) accelerated vesting of all his then unvested stock options. “Cause” includes, among other acts, any act of fraud, embezzlement or dishonesty which materially adversely affects the business of the Company or any successor entity, any unauthorized use or disclosure of confidential information or trade secrets of the Company, any material act or omission involving malfeasance or gross negligence in the performance of the executive’s duties and any material deviation from any of the Company’s or a successor entity’s policies. “Good reason” includes, among other acts, a demotion or material reduction in responsibility level, a decrease in level of his compensation by more than ten percent (10%), and a relocation of more than 30 miles from the executive’s current work place.

#### *Tax and Accounting Implications*

Under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, we generally receive a federal income tax deduction for compensation paid to any of our named executive officers only to the extent total compensation does not exceed \$1.0 million during any fiscal year or if it is “performance-based” under Section 162(m). During fiscal year 2015, none of the executive officers of the Company had non-performance-based compensation in excess of \$1,000,000.

## **COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Compensation Committee has reviewed the foregoing Compensation Discussion and Analysis and has discussed its contents with Qualstar's management and the Board of Directors. Based on the review and discussions, the Compensation Committee has recommended to the Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this report.

### *Submitted by the members of the Compensation Committee*

Sean M. Leder (Chairman)  
David J. Wolenski  
Nicholas A. Yarymovych

## **RISKS RELATED TO COMPENSATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES**

We believe that our compensation programs have been appropriately designed to attract and retain talent and properly incentivize our employees. To the extent our compensation programs provide for incentive-based compensation, these programs are designed to pay for performance and, thus, encourage only appropriate risk-taking. These programs are also subject to funding caps and oversight of the Compensation Committee and various functional departments of the Company to ensure that our employees, including our executive officers, are not encouraged to take excessive or unnecessary risks in managing our business. As a result, we believe that our compensation programs are not likely to create excessive risks that would have a material adverse effect on the Company.

## **COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION**

Our Board of Directors has a standing Compensation Committee. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, the members of the Compensation Committee were: Sean M. Leder, David J. Wolenski and Nicholas A. Yarymovych, with Mr. Leder serving as Chairman. No member of the Compensation Committee is, or was during fiscal year 2015, an employee or officer of Qualstar.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, none of our executive officers:

served as a member of the Compensation Committee (or other Board committee performing equivalent functions or, in the absence of any such committee, the entire the Board of Directors) of another entity, one of whose executive officers served as a member of our Board of Directors;

served as a director of another entity, one of whose executive officers served as a member of our Board of Directors;

## **COMPENSATION TABLES**

### **Summary Compensation Table**

The following tables show information about the compensation earned by our principal executive officer, our principal financial officer, and our other executive officers who were serving as executive officers at June 30, 2015. These officers are referred to in this report as the “named executive officers.”

**Fiscal Year 2015 Summary Compensation Table**

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (1) (\$)	Bonus (1) (\$)	Grant Date	All Other Compensation (3) (\$)	Total (\$)
				Fair Value of Equity Awards (2) (\$)		
Steven N. Bronson Chief Executive Officer	2015	\$200,780	\$100,000	54,000	\$ 21,897	\$376,677
	2014	199,231	100,000	—	10,463	309,694
	2013	—	—	—	—	—
Louann Negrete Chief Financial Officer	2015	135,519	20,000	—	1,105	156,624
	2014	78,403	—	—	129	78,532
	2013	—	—	—	—	—
Daniel K. Jan (4) President	2015	202,692	—	—	46,163	(5) 248,855
	2014	50,769	—	161,000	426	212,195
	2013	—	—	—	—	—
Randy Johnson Vice President and General Manager N2Power	2015	200,782	10,000	—	3,375	214,157
	2014	204,628	—	—	1,947	206,575
	2013	210,428	10,000	—	1,705	222,133

(1) The amounts shown in these columns reflect salary and bonuses paid to the named executive officers for each of the fiscal years indicated.

(2) The amounts shown in this column represent the fair value of stock options and/or restricted stock awards at the date of grant.

(3) The amounts shown above under “All Other Compensation” represent premiums for disability and life insurance, health insurance and temporary housing payments.

(4) On April 1, 2014, Mr. Jan was granted 100,000 restricted shares of Qualstar common stock (the “Restricted Stock”) pursuant to his employment agreement with Qualstar. Mr. Jan’s employment agreement specifies that the Restricted Stock will vest as follows: 33,333 on April 1, 2017; 33,333 on April 1, 2018 and 33,334 on April 1, 2019, and all unvested shares of Restricted Stock shall be forfeited upon termination of his employment. The fair value of the Restricted Stock is \$1.61 per share, which was the closing price per share of Qualstar common stock on the grant date.

- (5) Other compensation provided to Daniel K. Jan was for one year temporary housing, health, life and disability insurance.

### **Grants of Equity Awards**

On March 25, 2014, in connection with the employment of Daniel K. Jan, the Board of Directors authorized and approved the issuance of 100,000 unregistered restricted shares of the Company's common stock (the "Restricted Shares") to Mr. Jan. The Restricted Shares will vest on the following dates, provided Mr. Jan remains an employee of the Company: (a) 33,333 Restricted Shares will vest on April 1, 2017; (b) 33,333 Restricted Shares will vest on April 1, 2018; and (c) 33,334 Restricted Shares will vest on April 1, 2019.

On August 20, 2014, pursuant to Steven N. Bronson's employment agreement for the year ended June 30, 2014, the Company granted Steven N. Bronson 100,000 stock options. (the "2014 Options"). The 2014 Options are exercisable for a period of five years, at a price of \$1.23 per share and they vested and were exercisable at issuance.

On October 8, 2014, pursuant to Steven N. Bronson's employment agreement for the year ended June 30, 2015, the Company granted Steven N. Bronson 100,000 stock options (the "2015 Options"). The 2015 Options are exercisable for a period of five years, at a price of \$1.27 per share and they vested on June 30, 2015.

## Outstanding Equity Awards

The following table provides information regarding outstanding equity awards held by each named executive officer as of June 30, 2015, including the number of unexercised vested and unvested stock options. The vesting schedule for each grant is shown following this table.

### Outstanding Equity Awards at 2015 Fiscal Year End

Name	Restricted Stock		Option Awards		Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date
	Restricted Stock Grant (1)	Unvested Vested	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options			
			Exercisable	Unexercisable		
Randy Johnson (2)	—	—	12,000	—	\$ 3.10	3/24/2018
Randy Johnson (2)	—	—	15,000	5,000	\$ 1.89	6/18/2022
Daniel K. Jan	100,000	—	—	—	—	—
Steven N. Bronson	—	—	100,000	—	\$ 1.23	8/20/2019
Steven N. Bronson	—	—	100,000	—	\$ 1.27	6/30/2020

(1) Restricted Stock was granted to Daniel K. Jan on April 1, 2014, and such restricted stock will vest as follows: 33,333 on April 1, 2017; 33,333 on April 1, 2018 and 33,334 on April 1, 2019.

(2) Stock options granted to the named executive officers vested over four years at the rate of 25% of the options as of each anniversary of the date of grant, provided that the executive is still employed by Qualstar on the vesting date.

### Option Exercises

No executive officer exercised any stock options during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

### Director Compensation

Each of our non-employee directors receives cash fees as compensation for their service on the Board of Directors and the committees of the Board on which they are a member. The table below sets forth cash compensation earned by each non-employee director during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

### Fiscal Year 2015 Director Compensation Table

Name	Fees Earned or	Total
	Paid in Cash (1)	(\$)
Steven N. Bronson	\$—	\$—
Dale E. Wallis	20,000	20,000
Sean M. Leder	18,000	18,000
David J. Wolenski	25,500	25,500
Nicholas A. Yarymovych	15,000	15,000

---

The amounts shown in this column represent the amount of cash compensation earned in fiscal year 2015 for (1) service on the Board of Directors and any committees of the Board on which the director was a member in fiscal 2015.

During the fiscal year ended on June 30, 2015, each of our non-employee directors received a stipend of \$15,000 per year, paid quarterly. The Chairman of the Audit Committee received an additional stipend of \$5,000 per year paid quarterly, the Chairman of the Compensation Committee received an additional stipend of \$3,000 per year paid quarterly, the Chairman of the Nominating and Governance Committee received an additional stipend of \$3,000 per year paid quarterly and the Chairman of the Board received an additional stipend of \$7,500 per year paid quarterly. No fees were paid for service on the Board to directors who were employees of Qualstar.

### **Potential Benefits Upon Termination or Following a Change in Control**

Stock options granted under our 2008 Stock Incentive Plan and our 1998 Stock Incentive Plan provide that upon certain circumstances in the event of or following a change in control of Qualstar, the unvested portion of such stock options will accelerate and become immediately vested in full. In general, a change in control is deemed to occur if the Company sells substantially all of its assets or if Qualstar merges into, consolidate with or enters into reorganization with another entity in a transaction in which Qualstar is not the surviving corporation.

If a change in control occurs and the acquiring entity does not assume and continue the employee's rights under the unvested stock options, then all unvested stock options will accelerate and vest in full upon the occurrence of the change in control. If the acquiring entity does assume the employee's rights under the unvested stock options, but the employee's employment subsequently is terminated without cause, or if the employee resigns for good reason after the change in control, then all unvested stock options held by the employee would accelerate and vest in full as of the date of termination.

The reasons for which an employee may voluntarily resign and trigger acceleration of vesting include a change in the employee's position which materially reduces his or her duties and responsibilities or the level of management to which the employee reports, a reduction in the employee's level of compensation and benefits by more than 15 percent, or a relocation of employee's principal place of employment by more than 30 miles without his or her consent.

### **ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS**

The following table sets forth information with respect to the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of September 2, 2015 for:

each person (or group of affiliated persons) who we know beneficially owns more than 5% of our common stock;

each of our directors;

each of the named executive officers; and

all of our directors and executive officers as a group.



Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission and includes voting and investment power with respect to shares. Except as indicated by footnote, the persons named in the table have sole voting and sole investment control with respect to all shares beneficially owned, subject to community property laws where applicable. The percentage of shares beneficially owned is based on 12,253,117 shares of common stock outstanding as of September 2, 2015. Shares of common stock subject to options currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of September 2, 2015, are deemed outstanding for computing the percentage of the person holding such options, but are not deemed outstanding for computing the percentage of any other person. The address for those individuals for which an address is not otherwise indicated is: c/o Qualstar Corporation, 31248 Oak Crest Drive, Suite 120, Westlake Village, CA 91361.

Name	Options			
	Common Shares Owned	Exercisable Within 60 Days (1)	Beneficial Ownership	
			Number	Percent
BKF Asset Holdings, Inc. (2)	3,095,875	—	3,095,875	25.3 %
Steven N. Bronson (3)	57,700	200,000	3,353,575	27.4 %
Sean M. Leder (4)	94,110	—	94,110	*
Lloyd Miller, III (5) 222 Lakeview Avenue, Suite 160-365 West Palm Beach, FL 33401	1,587,534	—	1,587,534	13 %
Randy Johnson (6)	—	27,000	27,000	*
William J. Gervais 1925 Angus Avenue, Unit B Simi Valley, California 93063	2,443,564	—	2,443,864	19.9 %
Dimensional Fund Advisors, LP (7) 6300 Bee Cave Road, Austin, TX 78746	929,028	—	929,028	7.6 %
Daniel K. Jan (8)	4,000		4,000	*
Nicholas A. Yarymovych (9)	40,000		40,000	*
All directors and officers as a group (3 persons)	3,291,685	227,000	3,518,685	28.7 %

\*Less than 1.0%

(1) Represents shares that may be acquired upon exercise of stock options which are either currently vested or will vest within 60 days of September 19, 2015.

(2) Based on information contained in reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, BKF Asset Holdings, Inc. is the owner of 3,095,875 shares of Qualstar common stock.

(3) Based on information contained in reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Mr. Bronson, is the beneficial owner of 57,700 shares of Qualstar. Additionally, Mr. Bronson, as the Chairman and President and majority shareholder of BKF Asset Holdings, Inc., may be deemed to beneficially own the 3,095,875 shares of Qualstar held by BKF Asset Holdings, Inc.

(4) Based on information contained in reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Sean M. Leder, beneficially owns 94,110 shares as of March 16, 2015.

(5) Based on information contained in reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Lloyd Miller, III, beneficially owns 1,587,534 shares as of May 14, 2014.

(6) Randy Johnson is our Vice President and General Manager of N2 Power.

(7)

Based on information contained in reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Dimensional Fund Advisors, LP, an investment adviser, beneficially owns 929,028 shares as of December 31, 2013.

(8) Based on information contained in reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Daniel K. Jan beneficially owns 4,000 shares as of January 16, 2015.

(9) Based on information contained in reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Nicholas A. Yarymovych beneficially owns 40,000 shares as of November 19, 2014.

**Additional Equity Compensation Plan Information**

Information regarding Qualstar's equity compensation plans as of June 30, 2015 is included in Item 5 of this report and is incorporated herein by reference.

## **ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE**

### **Transactions with Related Persons**

In accordance with the charter of the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors, the Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing any proposed transaction with any related person which involves a potential conflict of interest or for which approval is required under applicable Securities and Exchange Commission and NASDAQ rules. Currently, this review and approval requirement applies to any transaction to which Qualstar will be a party, in which the amount involved exceeds \$120,000, and in which any of the following persons will have a direct or indirect material interest: (a) any of our directors or executive officers, (b) any nominee for election as a director, (c) any security holder who is known to us to own of record or beneficially more than five percent of our common stock, or (d) any member of the immediate family of any of the persons described in the foregoing clauses (a) through (c).

In the event that management becomes aware of any related person transaction, management will present information regarding the proposed transaction to the Audit Committee for review. Approval of a transaction with a related person requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Audit Committee or of a majority of the members of the full Board of Directors. If the related person transaction involves a member or members of the Board, approval requires a majority vote of the directors who do not have a financial interest in the transaction.

On May 1, 2014, Qualstar entered into a license agreement (the "License Agreement") with BKF Capital Group, Inc. ("BKF") pursuant to which, BKF shall have a license to occupy and use one furnished office located at Qualstar's executive offices located at 3990-B Heritage Oak Court, Simi Valley, California 93063 (the "Premises"). Pursuant to the License Agreement, BKF paid Qualstar a license fee equal to \$14,400 per year, or \$1,200 per month, for use of the Premises. For fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, BKF paid \$9,600 to Qualstar as license fees. The License Agreement is no longer effective after the move to the new facilities in February 2015. Steven N. Bronson, Qualstar's CEO, is also the Chairman, CEO and majority shareholder of BKF.

Steven N. Bronson is the Company's CEO and is also the President and CEO and a majority shareholder of Interlink Electronics, Inc. ("Interlink"). Interlink purchases certain administrative and marketing services from Qualstar. The Company believes that the amounts charged to Interlink are no greater than the fair market value of the services. The total amount charged to Interlink for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, was \$43,000.

The Company reimburses Interlink for expenses paid on the Company's behalf. Interlink, occasionally, pays travel, insurance and other expenses incurred by Qualstar. The Company reimbursed Interlink \$56,000 and \$147,000 for the year ended 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Subsequent Event.

On July 1, 2015, Qualstar Corporation entered into a one year sublease agreement with Interlink Electronics, Inc. The sublease agreement is for 608 square feet of space in the Qualstar building located at 130 West Cochran Street, Unit C; Simi Valley, California 91361. Qualstar will receive rent of \$1,000 per month which is equal to the base rent per square foot in the master lease, plus additional rent for common area services, utilities and other shared expenses. The space will be used for engineering and light manufacturing. As described in Note 14, Interlink is a related party. The sublease agreement is attached to this Annual Report on Form 10-K as Exhibit 10.14.

**Director Independence**

Our Board has determined that all of our directors satisfy the current “independent director” standards established by rules of The NASDAQ Stock Market, Inc. (“NASDAQ”), except for Steven N. Bronson. Each director serving on the Audit Committee of our Board also meets the more stringent independence requirements established by Securities and Exchange Commission rules applicable to audit committees. Our Board has determined that no director has a relationship that would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out his responsibilities as a director. There are no family relationships among any of the directors or executive officers of the Company.

**ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES****Fees Paid to Independent Registered Public Accountants**

The aggregate fees billed by SingerLewak LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2015 and 2014 for professional services rendered to Qualstar during the fiscal years ended June 30, 2015 and June 30, 2014, respectively, were comprised of the following:

	<b>Fiscal</b>	<b>Fiscal</b>
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Audit Fees	\$ 105,000	\$ 110,000
Audit-related fees	—	—
Tax fees	17,500	17,000
All other fees	5,000	—
Total fees	\$ 127,500	\$ 127,000

Audit fees include fees for professional services rendered in connection with the audit of our consolidated financial statements for each year and reviews of our unaudited consolidated quarterly financial statements, as well as fees related to consents and reports in connection with regulatory filings for those fiscal years.

SingerLewak LLP was our principal accountant for tax compliance review during fiscal years 2015 and 2014.

**Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures**

Our Audit Committee's policy is to pre-approve all audit and permissible non-audit services provided by our independent registered public accountants in accordance with applicable Securities and Exchange Commission rules. The Audit Committee adopted a written pre-approval policy on June 25, 2003, and all services performed by SingerLewak LLP have been pre-approved in accordance with the Audit Committee's pre-approval policy. The Audit Committee generally pre-approves particular services or categories of services on a case-by-case basis. The independent registered public accountants and management periodically report to the Audit Committee regarding the extent of services provided by the independent registered public accountants in accordance with these pre-approvals, and the fees for the services performed to date.



**PART IV**

**ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES**

(a) The financial statements are set forth under Item 8 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

All other schedules have been omitted since the required information is not present in amounts sufficient to require submission of the schedule, or because the required information is included in the financial statements or notes thereto.

(b) Exhibits:

**Exhibit**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
3.1	Restated Articles of Incorporation, incorporated by reference to the designated exhibit to Qualstar's registration statement on Form S-1 (Commission File No. 333-96009), declared effective by the Commission on June 22, 2000.
3.1	Bylaws, as amended and restated as of March 24, 2011, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Qualstar's Report on Form 8-K dated March 30, 2011.
4.1	Rights Agreement, dated February 5, 2013, between Qualstar Corporation and Corporate Stock Transfer, Inc., as rights agent, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Qualstar's Report on Form 8-K dated February 6, 2013.
4.2	Amendment No. 1 to the Rights Agreement, dated February 5, 2013, between Qualstar Corporation and Corporate Stock Transfer, Inc., as rights agent, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to Qualstar's Report on Form 8-K dated July 12, 2013.
10.1	1998 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended and restated, incorporated by reference to the designated exhibit to Qualstar's registration statement on Form S-1 (Commission File No. 333-96009), declared effective by the Commission on June 22, 2000.
10.2	Form of Indemnification Agreement, incorporated by reference to the designated exhibit to Qualstar's registration statement on Form S-1 (Commission File No. 333-96009), declared effective by the Commission on June 22, 2000.
10.3	Lease agreement between Strategic Performance Fund-II, Inc. and Qualstar Corporation, dated September 20, 2000, incorporated by reference to the designated exhibit to Qualstar's Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2000.
10.4	Amendment to Lease agreement between Strategic Performance Fund-II, Inc. and Qualstar Corporation, dated June 30, 2009, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Qualstar's Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009.



Edgar Filing: QUALSTAR CORP - Form 10-K

- 10.1 2008 Stock Incentive Plan, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Qualstar's Report on Form 10-Q/A for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2009
- 10.6 Consulting Agreement with William Gervais, dated June 22, 2012, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to Qualstar's Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012.
- 10.7 Employment Agreement with Lawrence D. Firestone, dated May 8, 2012, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to Qualstar's Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012.
- 10.8 Employment Agreement with Steven N. Bronson, dated March 6, 2014, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to Qualstar's report on Form 8-K dated March 11, 2014...
- 10.9 License Agreement between Qualstar Corporation and BKF Capital Group, Inc., dated May 1, 2014, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to Qualstar's report on Form 8-K dated May 2, 2014.
- 10.10 Employment Agreement with Steven N. Bronson, dated October 8, 2014, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to Qualstar's report on Form 8-K dated October 15, 2014.
- 10.11 Lease Termination Agreement between Liberty Property Limited Partnership and Qualstar Corporation, dated December 15, 2014, concerning the property located at 3990B Heritage Oak Ct., Simi Valley, CA 93063, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to Qualstar's report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2014.
- 10.12 Standard Multi-Tenant Offices Lease between K-Swiss, Inc. and Qualstar Corporation, dated December 8, 2014, concerning the property located at 31248 Oak Crest Dr, Westlake Village, CA 91361, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to Qualstar's report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2014.
- 10.13 Industrial Real Estate Lease between Cypress Pointe Simi Valley, LLC and Qualstar Corporation, dated December 15, 2014 concerning the property located at 130 West Chochran St., Simi Valley, CA 93065, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to Qualstar's report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2014.
- 10.14\* Sublease Agreement between Interlink Electronics, Inc and Qualstar Corporation, dated July 1, 2015, concerning space at 130 West Cochran Street, Unit C; Simi Valley, CA 93065
- 14.1 Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, incorporated by reference to the designated exhibit to Qualstar's Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004
- 23.1\* Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm (SingerLewak LLP).
- 31.1\* Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2\* Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1\* Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.2\* Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 101.INS\* XBRL Instance Document
- 101.SCH\* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
- 101.CAL\* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
- 101.DEF\* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
- 101.LAB\* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
- 101.PRE\* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

\*Filed  
herewith

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

QUALSTAR  
CORPORATION

Date: September 8, 2015 By: /s/ STEVEN N.  
BRONSON  
Steven N.  
Bronson,  
*Chief Executive  
Officer*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated have signed this report below.

<b><u>Signature</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
/s/ STEVEN N. BRONSON Steven N. Bronson	Chief Executive Officer  (Principal executive officer)	September 8, 2015
/s/ LOUANN NEGRETE Louann Negrete	Chief Financial Officer (Principal financial officer)	September 8, 2015
/s/ DAVID J. WOLENSKI David J. Wolenski	Director	September 8, 2015
/s/ SEAN M. LEDER Sean M. Leder	Director	September 8, 2015
/s/ DALE E. WALLIS Dale E. Wallis	Director	September 8, 2015

/s/ NICHOLAS A. YARYMOVYCH Director  
Nicholas A. Yarymovych

September 8, 2015

66

---

## EXHIBIT INDEX

### Exhibit

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.14	Sublease Agreement, Interlink Electronics, Inc and Qualstar Corporation, dated July 1, 2015; concerning space at 130 West Cochran Street, Unit C; Simi Valley, CA 93065.
23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm (SingerLewak LLP).
31.1	Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1	Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.2	Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document.
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document.
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document.
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document.
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document.