

CELLSTAR CORP
Form 10-K
February 28, 2003
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

x ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1934

OR

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

For the Fiscal Year
Ended November 30, 2002

Commission File Number
0-22972

CELLSTAR CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State of Incorporation)

75-2479727
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1730 Briercroft Court
Carrollton, Texas 75006
Telephone (972) 466-5000

Edgar Filing: CELLSTAR CORP - Form 10-K

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number,

including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act: None

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

Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share

(Title of Class)

Rights to Purchase Series A Preferred Stock

(Title of Class)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all report 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 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 an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of May 31, 2002, the last business day of the Company's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, based on the closing sale price of \$4.07 as reported by the Nasdaq National Market, was approximately \$32,590,562. The aggregate market value of the registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of February 20, 2003, based on the closing sale price of \$5.54 as reported by the Nasdaq National Market, was approximately \$59,476,742. (For purposes of determination of the above stated amounts, only directors, executive officers and 10% or greater stockholders have been deemed affiliates).

On February 20, 2003, there were 20,354,365 outstanding shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Edgar Filing: CELLSTAR CORP - Form 10-K

Portions of the Proxy Statement for the annual meeting of stockholders of the Company to be held during 2003 are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

Table of Contents

CELLSTAR CORPORATION

INDEX TO FORM 10-K

	<u>Page Number</u>
PART I.	
Item 1.	<u>Business</u> 3
Item 2.	<u>Properties</u> 16
Item 3.	<u>Legal Proceedings</u> 16
Item 4.	<u>Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders</u> 16
PART II.	
Item 5.	<u>Market for Registrant's Common Equity and Related Stockholder Matters</u> 17
Item 6.	<u>Selected Consolidated Financial Data</u> 18
Item 7.	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> 19
Item 7(A).	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u> 40
Item 8.	<u>Consolidated Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u> 41
Item 9.	<u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u> 41
PART III.	
Item 10.	<u>Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant</u> 42
Item 11.	<u>Executive Compensation</u> 42
Item 12.	<u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u> 42
Item 13.	<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions</u> 42
Item 14.	<u>Controls and Procedures</u> 42
PART IV.	
Item 15.	<u>Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules and Reports on Form 8-K</u> 44
Signatures	49
<u>Certification of Chief Executive Officer</u>	50
<u>Certification of Chief Financial Officer</u>	51

Table of Contents

PART I.

Item 1. Business

General

CellStar Corporation (the Company or CellStar) is a leading global provider of distribution and value-added logistics services to the wireless communications industry, with operations in the Asia-Pacific, North America, Latin America and European regions. The Company facilitates the effective and efficient distribution of handsets, related accessories, and other wireless products from leading manufacturers to network operators, agents, resellers, dealers and retailers. The Company also provides activation services in some of its markets that generate new subscribers for wireless carriers.

The Company's Asia-Pacific Region consists of the People's Republic of China (the PRC), Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, The Philippines, and Korea. Malaysia was included in the Asia-Pacific Region until the Company fully divested its ownership interests in the third quarter of 2002. The Company's North American Region consists of the United States. The Company's Latin American Region consists of Mexico, Chile, Colombia, and the Company's Miami, Florida operations. The Company's European Region consists of Sweden and The Netherlands.

In the second quarter of 2002, the Company decided as part of its plan to reposition its operations that it would exit the United Kingdom (the U.K.), Peru and Argentina as soon as practicable, as well as address the balance of its European and Latin American markets, excluding Mexico and Miami. (See Business Latin American Region and Business European Region). During the third quarter of 2002, the Company completed the divestiture of its operations in Peru and Argentina. As of August 31, 2002, the Company's operations in the U.K were closed, except for certain administrative matters. In January, 2003, the Company signed a letter of intent with local management for the sale of its Netherlands operations. There can be no assurance that the sale will be completed due to a number of contingencies contained in the letter of intent. In addition, the Company has completed the evaluations of the balance of its Latin American markets, excluding Mexico and Miami, as well as its Sweden operations. The Company has decided to keep its operations in Chile, to negotiate with its major carrier customer in Colombia to shift its business from CellStar's operation in Colombia to Miami, and to explore sale opportunities for its operations in Sweden.

The Company believes that the intrinsic value of its Asia-Pacific Region is not currently reflected in the market price of the Company's common stock. As a result, the Company engaged UBS Warburg to assist it in evaluating transactions that could result in recognizing the value that it believes is locked up in the Asia-Pacific Region. Those evaluations have focused on a number of possible transactions including a possible initial public offering of all or a portion of the Asia-Pacific Region operations, a sale to outside investors or a management buyout. Based on these evaluations, the Company has decided to pursue an initial public offering of its operations in the PRC, Hong Kong and Taiwan (the Greater China Operations) on an exchange in Asia. Although the Company intends to pursue the transaction that it believes will be most favorable to the Company, there are a number of steps to be completed before there is such a transaction. Accordingly, there can be no assurance of the timing of the transaction or that any transaction will occur.

As a result of such evaluation process, however, the Company is now required by generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) to effect a change in its historical accounting treatment for the undistributed earnings of its Asia-Pacific Region subsidiaries. Prior to the fourth quarter of 2002, the Company did not accrue for U.S. Federal income taxes or tax benefits on the undistributed earnings and/or losses of its international subsidiaries because earnings have been reinvested and, in the opinion of management, would continue to be reinvested indefinitely. (See Note

Edgar Filing: CELLSTAR CORP - Form 10-K

(7) of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for CellStar Corporation contained in the Form 10-K for fiscal year ended November 30, 2001, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 28, 2002.) Accordingly, there was no liability recorded for such potential U.S. Federal income taxes. As a result of the progress in the fourth quarter of 2002 in evaluating the strategic options with regard to its Asia-Pacific Region, it was determined that the Company is now required by GAAP to account for

Table of Contents

the earnings in its Asia-Pacific Region as not being permanently reinvested since the Company has manifested its intent to pursue possible transactions designed to allow the Company to withdraw and return to the U.S. some or all of the value of those operations. Accordingly, in the quarter ended November 30, 2002, the Company was required to accrue U.S. Federal income taxes on the undistributed earnings of the Asia-Pacific Region of approximately \$42.2 million.

No U.S. Federal income taxes on the undistributed earnings will be payable until such earnings are actually remitted back to the U.S. in the form of dividends or, in the case of a completed transaction such as those discussed above, sale proceeds. As of November 30, 2002, the Company has net operating loss carryforwards in the U.S. of approximately \$70.4 million, a significant portion of which the Company believes it will be able to utilize to offset the taxes payable in the event that a transaction is completed. The Company therefore does not expect that the impact of the payment of any taxes associated with any such transaction will significantly impact the cash position of the Company at the time of such payment. Furthermore, the Company will have cash proceeds from any such transaction to fund the actual payment of such taxes. As a result of the accrual in the quarter ended November 30, 2002 of U.S. Federal income taxes on the undistributed earnings of the Asia-Pacific Region, the Company will not recognize tax expense in future periods for financial statement purposes on any such future transaction up to the amount of the tax recognized on the undistributed earnings.

Consistent with the change in historical accounting treatment for undistributed earnings discussed above, the Company recorded U.S. Federal income taxes of approximately \$2.0 million in the fourth quarter of 2002 for previously undistributed earnings from Sweden, The Netherlands and Colombia. These previously undistributed earnings are no longer considered permanently reinvested following the completion of the Company's evaluations of these markets.

The Company's distribution services include purchasing, selling, warehousing, picking, packing, shipping and just-in-time delivery of wireless handsets and accessories. In addition, the Company offers its customers value-added services, including Internet-based supply chain services via its OrderStar® system (patent pending), Internet-based tracking and reporting, inventory management, marketing, prepaid wireless products, product fulfillment, kitting and customized packaging, private labeling, light assembly, accounts receivable management and end-user support services. The Company also provides wireless activation services and operates retail locations in certain markets from which wireless communications products and accessories are marketed to the public.

The Company markets its products to wholesale purchasers using, among other methods, direct sales strategies, the Internet, strategic account management, trade shows and trade journal advertising. The Company offers advertising allowances, ready-to-use advertising materials and displays, access to hard-to-find products, credit terms, a variety of name brand products and highly-responsive customer service.

The Company, a Delaware corporation, was formed in 1993 to hold the stock of National Auto Center, Inc. (National Auto Center), a company that is now an operating subsidiary. National Auto Center was originally formed in 1981 to distribute and install automotive aftermarket products. In 1984, National Auto Center began offering wireless communications products and services. In 1989, National Auto Center became an authorized distributor of Motorola, Inc. (Motorola) wireless handsets in certain portions of the United States. National Auto Center entered into similar arrangements with Motorola in the Latin American Region in 1991, and the Company entered into similar arrangements with Motorola in the Asia-Pacific Region in 1994 and the European Region in 1996. The Company has also entered into similar distributor agreements with other manufacturers, including Nokia Inc. (Nokia), Sony Ericsson (USA) Inc. (Sony Ericsson), Samsung Electronics LatinoAmerica Miami, Inc. (Samsung), Kyocera Wireless Corp. (Kyocera) and Wuhan NEC Mobile Communication Co., Ltd. (NEC).

Wireless communications technology encompasses wireless communications devices such as handsets, personal digital assistants, satellite dishes, instant messaging devices, pagers and two-way radios. The Company believes that handsets with color screens, picture messaging, polyphonic speakers and digital camera capabilities should increase consumer demand for new and replacement handsets. In addition, the emergence of new

Table of Contents

technologies, including data products and services, should create opportunities in the wireless market as users continually strive to stay connected while remaining mobile.

From its inception in 1983, the wireless handset market grew rapidly until 2001, when overall growth in the industry slowed. In 2002, the Company was faced with a difficult economic environment in the wireless industry in general. Despite recent slowdowns, the Company believes that future growth in the worldwide subscriber base and the convergence of existing and emerging technologies into a single multifunction handset enabling the user to connect to a wireless web and take and send digital photographs should create significant new opportunities for growth. The Company believes that the wireless communications industry should continue to grow, although at a slower rate than in prior years, for a number of reasons, including increased service availability, the lower cost of wireless service compared to conventional landline telephone systems, and the availability of handsets with emerging technologies. The Company also believes that advanced digital technologies have led to increases in the number of network operators and resellers, which have promoted greater competition for subscribers and will continue to result in increased demand for wireless communications products.

CellStar's revenues grew at a 8.2% compound annual rate for the five fiscal years ended November 30, 2002, and decreased 9.7% for the year ended November 30, 2002, compared to the prior fiscal year. The Company generated 74.6% of its revenues in 2002 from operations conducted outside the United States.

Cautionary Statements

The Company's success will depend upon, among other things, economic conditions, wireless market conditions, the financial health of its largest customers, its ability to improve its operating margins, continue to secure an adequate supply of competitive products on a timely basis and on commercially reasonable terms, service its indebtedness and meet covenant requirements, secure adequate financial resources, continually turn its inventories and accounts receivable, successfully manage changes in the size of its operations (including monitoring operations, controlling costs, maintaining adequate information systems and effective inventory and credit controls), manage operations that are geographically dispersed, achieve significant penetration in existing and new geographic markets, hire, train and retain qualified employees who can effectively manage and operate its business, and successfully manage the repositioning of its operations.

The Company's foreign operations are subject to various political and economic risks including, but not limited to, the following: political instability, economic instability, currency controls, currency devaluations, exchange rate fluctuations, potentially unstable channels of distribution, increased credit risks, export control laws that might limit the markets the Company can enter, inflation, changes in laws and enforcement policies related to foreign ownership of businesses abroad, foreign tax laws, trade disputes among nations, changes in cost of and access to capital, changes in import/export regulations, including enforcement policies, gray market resales, and tariff and freight rates.

In addition to the factors listed above, threats of terrorist attacks in the United States, the U.S. retaliation for these attacks, possible U.S. military action in Iraq, the related decline in consumer confidence and continued economic weakness in the U.S. and throughout the countries in which the Company does business could have a material adverse impact on our business.

The Company's consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes, which include certain business segment and geographic information for the last three fiscal years, can be found in Part IV of this Form 10-K.

Asia-Pacific Region

The Company believes that in the Asia-Pacific Region, primarily in China, demand for wireless communications services has been and should continue to be driven by an unsatisfied demand for basic phone service due to the lack of adequate landline service and limited wireless penetration. The Company believes that wireless systems in this region offer a more attractive alternative to landline systems because wireless systems do not require the substantial amount of time and investment in infrastructure (in the form of buried or overhead

Table of Contents

cables) associated with landline systems. In addition, declining tariffs and low-end handsets are expected to increase penetration in the future, as a larger proportion of the population will be able to afford to use wireless communication services. According to UBS Warburg, LLC, for the Pacific Rim, total subscribers are estimated to grow from approximately 328 million in 2001 to 676 million by 2005.

In China, according to data provided by the Ministry of Information and Industry of the PRC (the MII), the number of subscribers in recent years has increased at a compound annual growth rate of 111%, from approximately 177,000 at the end of 1992 to approximately 145 million at the end of 2001. According to the MII, the number of mobile telephone subscribers in China as of December 31, 2002 was 206.6 million. This growth is expected to continue, with the number of subscribers in China predicted to expand to 285 million by the year 2006, according to Datamonitor. As of December 2002, China had a penetration rate of approximately 16%. Based on these and other factors, as well as the large population base and economic growth in this region, the Company believes that phone users should increasingly use wireless systems, which should continue to create growth opportunities in the region.

In the Asia-Pacific Region, the Company offers wireless handsets and accessories manufactured by Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), such as Nokia, Motorola, Sony Ericsson and NEC and aftermarket accessories manufactured by a variety of suppliers. Throughout the region, the Company acts as a wholesale distributor of wireless handsets to large and small volume purchasers.

CellStar (Asia) Corporation Limited (CellStar Asia), the oldest of the Company's wholly-owned business units in the region, derives its revenue principally from wholesale sales of wireless handsets to Hong Kong-based companies that export these products.

Shanghai CellStar International Trading Co., Ltd. (CellStar Shanghai), a wholly-owned, limited liability foreign trade company established in Shanghai, China, commenced operations in China in 1997 in the Shanghai Waigaiqiao Bonded Zone. CellStar Shanghai purchases wireless handsets locally manufactured by Nokia, Motorola, Sony Ericsson and NEC and wholesales those products to distributors and retailers located throughout China. CellStar Shanghai has also entered into cooperative arrangements with certain local distributors that allow them to establish wholesale and retail operations using CellStar's trademarks. Under the terms of these arrangements, CellStar Shanghai provides services, sales support, training and access to promotional materials for use in these distributors' operations. As a result of these cooperative arrangements, approximately 1,700 retail points of sale in China display the CellStar name and trademarks. In exchange, those distributors agree to purchase only from CellStar Shanghai those products sold by CellStar Shanghai.

CellStar Shanghai currently deals with numerous local distributors, including distributors located in the ten largest metropolitan areas in China. The Company has an extensive distribution network through its sales of products to 26 wholesale distributors located throughout China. The Company has a total of 67 wholesale customers in China. CellStar Shanghai's largest customer, Beijing Fengxing Shi Da, constituted approximately 10% of consolidated revenues for fiscal 2002. CellStar Shanghai is the major supplier for this customer, a wholesale distributor located in northern China. CellStar Shanghai also provides marketing support to this customer in the form of marketing managers and other assistance.

CellStar Shanghai leases warehouse, showroom and office space in the Pudong district of Shanghai, as well as office and warehouse space in both Beijing and Guangzhou.

A substantial amount of revenues in the Asia-Pacific Region are generated in the China market. China is the largest cellular phone market in the world, and the Company anticipates that the China market will continue to expand. However, there can be no assurance that growth in demand in China for mobile communications products will continue at the current pace.

Additionally, carriers in China historically have not subsidized the sale of handsets in connection with activations as is frequently done in the U.S. market. As a result, the China market has begun to shift toward a preference for less expensive handsets as the market begins to mature. Accordingly, the Company's sales of

Table of Contents

higher-end handsets manufactured by Nokia and Motorola, the Company's largest suppliers for that market, have been negatively impacted by increased competition from manufacturers of low-end handsets. The Company does not currently have supply agreements with manufacturers of low-end handsets; however, the Company is working to increase its product offerings to include such low-end handsets. There can be no assurance that the Company will be able to procure such low-end handsets on favorable terms such that it can effectively compete in this area.

For the year ended November 30, 2002, the five largest customers of the Asia-Pacific Region accounted for approximately 46.6% of the total revenues of the region. The Company's customers in the Asia-Pacific Region are not obligated, pursuant to any contractual commitments or otherwise, to purchase any minimum amount of the products distributed by its subsidiaries in the region. The region's principal competitors are other agents who distribute the same brands of mobile telephones as the Company, and increased sales by these competitors may directly decrease the sales of products carried by the Company's subsidiaries in the Asia-Pacific Region. Further, the Company expects competition to remain strong in the future, especially given the easing of restrictions on foreign entities engaging in wholesale distribution, which is anticipated in connection with China's entry into the World Trade Organization.

In China, operation of the business is materially affected by regulations that limit its methods of operation. A wholly foreign owned trading company such as CellStar Shanghai is not permitted by current laws and regulations to operate as a wholesaler or a retailer in the domestic China market. As a result, the Company's trading activities are currently carried out via government authorized commodities exchanges in the Waigaoqiao Bonded Zone which possess the requisite government licenses to conduct trading activities between enterprises located in the Waigaoqiao Bonded Zone and enterprises located outside that zone. The Company's operations in the PRC are dependent upon the continuation of these trading practices in the Waigaoqiao Bonded Zone. If the central or local PRC governmental authorities decide to reverse this practice, the Company's operations in the PRC may be adversely affected. The telecommunications industry in China is a heavily regulated industry. Under current regulations, foreign investors are restricted from participating in the operation and management of a telecommunications services business in China. Further, the Renminbi, (the RMB) the currency used in the PRC, is not a freely convertible currency. PRC legal requirements, and the interpretation thereof, are subject to change from time to time. Any failure of the Company to comply with such requirements could harm its business and adversely affect its financial condition and results of operations.

The other countries in the Asia-Pacific Region in which the Company operates include Singapore, Taiwan, The Philippines and Korea. Although the Company's business in the Asia-Pacific Region is predominantly wholesale, retail operations are also conducted in Taiwan. Revenues in Singapore and The Philippines are derived solely from wholesale customers. The Company's operations in Korea consist of a majority-owned (80%) subsidiary set up to locate and purchase product and to develop relationships with local handset manufacturers in the area. In the third quarter of 2002, due to the continuing deterioration in the Malaysia market, the Company completed the divestiture of its ownership interest in CellStar Amtel Sdn Bhd (CellStar Amtel), a Malaysian joint venture in which the Company was a minority partner.

The following table outlines CellStar's entry into the Asia-Pacific Region for countries in which operations were conducted in fiscal 2002:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Year Entered</u>	<u>Type of Operation (as of November 30, 2002)</u>
Hong Kong	1993	Wholesale
Singapore	1995	Wholesale
The Philippines	1995	Wholesale
Malaysia	1995	Wholesale and Retail
		(ownership divested in third quarter of 2002)
Taiwan	1995	Wholesale and Retail
People's Republic of China	1997	Wholesale
Korea	2000	Purchasing

Table of Contents

At November 30, 2002, the Company sold its products to over 250 wholesale customers in the Asia-Pacific Region, the ten largest of which accounted for approximately 31% of consolidated revenues. The Company offers a broad product mix compatible with digital systems in the Asia-Pacific Region and anticipates that its product offerings will continue to expand with the evolution of new technologies as they become commercially viable.

The Company markets its products to a variety of wholesale purchasers, including retailers, exporters and wireless carriers, through its direct sales force, trade shows, direct advertising, and incentives to retail and wholesale customers. To penetrate local markets in certain countries, the Company has made use of subagent and license relationships.

The Company believes that the intrinsic value of its Asia-Pacific Region is not currently reflected in the market price of the Company's common stock. As a result, the Company engaged UBS Warburg to assist it in evaluating transactions that could result in recognizing the value that it believes is locked up in the Asia-Pacific Region. Those evaluations have focused on a number of possible transactions including a possible initial public offering of all or a portion of the Asia-Pacific Region operations, a sale to outside investors or a management buyout. Based on these evaluations, the Company has decided to pursue an initial public offering of its Greater China Operations on an exchange in Asia. Although the Company intends to pursue the transaction that it believes will be most favorable to the Company, there are a number of steps to be completed before there is such a transaction. Accordingly, there can be no assurance of the timing of the transaction or that any transaction will occur.

As a result of such evaluation process, however, the Company is now required by GAAP to effect a change in its historical accounting treatment for the undistributed earnings of its Asia-Pacific Region subsidiaries. Prior to the fourth quarter of 2002, the Company did not accrue for U.S. Federal income taxes or tax benefits on the undistributed earnings and/or losses of its international subsidiaries because earnings have been reinvested and, in the opinion of management, would continue to be reinvested indefinitely. (See Note (7) of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for CellStar Corporation contained in the Form 10-K for fiscal year ended November 30, 2001, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 28, 2002.) Accordingly, there was no liability recorded for such potential U.S. Federal income taxes. As a result of the progress in the fourth quarter of 2002 in evaluating the strategic options with regard to its Asia-Pacific Region, it was determined that the Company is now required by GAAP to account for the earnings in its Asia-Pacific Region as not being permanently reinvested since the Company has manifested its intent to pursue possible transactions designed to allow the Company to withdraw and return to the U.S. some or all of the value of those operations. Accordingly, in the quarter ended November 30, 2002, the Company was required to accrue U.S. Federal income taxes on the undistributed earnings of the Asia-Pacific Region of approximately \$42.2 million.

No U.S. Federal income taxes on the undistributed earnings will be payable until such earnings are actually remitted back to the U.S. in the form of dividends or, in the case of a completed transaction such as those discussed above, sale proceeds. As of November 30, 2002, the Company has net operating loss carryforwards in the U.S. of approximately \$70.4 million, a significant portion of which the Company believes it will be able to utilize to offset the taxes payable in the event that a transaction is completed. The Company therefore does not expect that the impact of the payment of any taxes associated with any such transaction will significantly impact the cash position of the Company at the time of such payment. Furthermore, the Company will have cash proceeds from any such transaction to fund the actual payment of such taxes. As a result of the accrual in the quarter ended November 30, 2002, of U.S. Federal income taxes on the undistributed earnings of the Asia-Pacific Region, the Company will not recognize tax expense in future periods for financial statement purposes on any such future transaction up to the amount of the tax recognized on the undistributed earnings.

North American Region

Edgar Filing: CELLSTAR CORP - Form 10-K

Wireless communications services in the United States were developed as an alternative to conventional landline systems and were among the fastest growing market segments in the communications industry. Growth

Table of Contents

in subscribers in the United States decreased during 2002 due to the economic slow down and, more generally, due to declining rates of subscriber growth as overall rates of penetration in the wireless industry approach 50%.

The Company offers a broad product mix in the United States, and anticipates that the Company's product offerings will continue to expand with the evolution of new technologies as they become commercially viable. The Company distributes products through direct-to-retailer fulfillment, direct-to-distributor fulfillment and direct-to-consumer fulfillment of both handsets and accessories. The Company also offers value-added fulfillment services such as kitting, programming, one-off shipping, inventory purchasing and warehousing to its customers. In addition, the Company provides private labeling services for handsets and accessories to several major carriers.

The Company offers wireless handsets and accessories manufactured by OEMs, such as Motorola, Nokia, Kyocera and Sony Ericsson, and aftermarket accessories manufactured by a variety of suppliers. The Company's revenues in the North American Region are generated primarily from handset sales. The Company also offers satellite dish technology. The Company's distribution operations and value-added services complement the manufacturer distribution channels by allowing the manufacturers to distribute their products to smaller volume purchasers and retailers.

At November 30, 2002, the Company sold its products to approximately 2,400 customers in the North American Region, the ten largest of which accounted for approximately 14.6% of consolidated revenues.

In the fourth quarter of 2002, the parent of one of the Company's largest customers announced that some of the customer's lenders under its vendor credit facilities had ceased funding new loan requests, that it was in default on certain credit facilities and that it was seeking new sources of financing and a restructuring of its outstanding indebtedness. These events of default provided the customer's credit facility lenders with certain rights under their credit agreements, including the right to declare their existing loans due and payable. Revenues from this customer were less than 10% of the Company's consolidated revenues for fiscal 2002.

In October 2002, the Company entered into an agreement with the customer to convert its current business relationship to a primarily consignment relationship. Although the new business model did not have a significant impact on fiscal 2002 revenues, the Company anticipates that revenues in future periods will decrease as the Company receives fulfillment fees for the services provided pursuant to the agreement instead of product revenues. The future impact on net income is dependent upon the volume of fulfillment activity and the amount of fulfillment fees received compared to the historical gross margin on product sales. There can be no assurance that fulfillment fees under the new agreement will equal historical gross margin. By converting to a primarily consignment relationship, the Company has reduced its accounts receivable exposure. The Company has also reduced working capital requirements since the Company will not be required to purchase and hold inventory for that segment of the business relationship. The agreement expired on January 31, 2003 but has been extended through February 28, 2003. The Company expects to extend the current agreement, with certain modifications, until March 31, 2003. During this extension, the Company intends to negotiate a new agreement with this customer. There can be no assurance the agreement will be renewed or that the customer will maintain similar volumes of business in the future. The Company expects a decline in volume for fiscal 2003 which could have a material adverse impact on the Company's financial results.

The Company continues to develop and enhance the functionality of its OrderStar[®] and netXtreme(SM) programs. These programs are proprietary, Internet-based order entry and supply-chain services software and systems designed to assist customers in the submission and tracking of orders and to allow customers to analyze their business activities with CellStar through the creation of customized reports. The OrderStar[®] system was officially launched in March of 2002 and replaced the existing AOS On-Line system. New and existing customers began migrating to the OrderStar[®] system thereafter, and the migration was completed in the fourth quarter of 2002. The OrderStar[®] system enhances the CellStar customer experience by offering faster product navigation and streamlined checkout procedures, private labeling capabilities, and marketing and advertising opportunities. Together, the OrderStar[®] and netXtreme systems greatly enhance a customer's ability to actively

Edgar Filing: CELLSTAR CORP - Form 10-K

manage inventories and reduce supply-chain delays while reducing the cost to CellStar of fulfilling their orders. Today, nearly 80% of all orders CellStar receives in the U.S. are in electronic form via the OrderStar[®] or

Table of Contents

netXtreme systems or electronic data interchange (EDI). In addition, the Company assists customers in developing e-commerce platforms and solutions designed to enhance sales and reduce product delivery and activation delays.

Although the Company's business in the North American Region is primarily generated from wholesale revenues, as of November 30, 2002, the Company operated two retail locations in the United States—one in Austin, Texas, and one in Houston, Texas. The Company's activation agreements with wireless carriers for these locations expire in the third quarter of 2003. There can be no assurance that these agreements will be renewed. The Company uses several marketing strategies throughout the North American Region, including trade shows, trade magazine advertising, direct mail, e-marketing, and distributing product catalogs and service and program brochures.

Latin American Region

As in the Asia-Pacific Region, the Company believes that demand for wireless communications services in the Latin American Region has been and should continue to be driven by an unsatisfied demand for basic phone service due to the lack of adequate landline service and limited wireless penetration. The Company believes that wireless systems in this region offer a more attractive alternative to landline systems because wireless systems do not require the substantial amount of time and investment in infrastructure (in the form of buried or overhead cables) associated with landline systems. However, political and economic instability in the region in recent years in certain of the countries in which the Company operates has caused the Company to formulate a strategy to reposition its operations in those areas.

In the second quarter of 2002, as a result of economic instability and continued economic decline, the Company decided as part of its plan to reposition its operations that it would exit Peru and Argentina as soon as practicable. The economic climate in Peru and Argentina, coupled with the small scale of the Company's operations in those countries, provided little upside and significant risk. During the third quarter of 2002, the Company completed its divestitures of its Peru and Argentina operations to local management. In addition, the Company has completed the evaluation of the balance of its Latin American markets, excluding Mexico and Miami. The Company has decided to continue its operation in Chile as this operation is expected to continue to be profitable and to generate cash. To reduce its in-country exposure in Colombia, the Company is negotiating with its major carrier customer in Colombia to shift the carrier customer's business to the Company's Miami export operations.

In the Latin American Region, CellStar offers wireless communications handsets, related accessories and other wireless products manufactured by OEMs, such as Motorola, Samsung, Kyocera, Nokia and Sony Ericsson, and aftermarket accessories manufactured by a variety of suppliers to carriers, mass merchandisers and other retailers. The Company, through its Miami, Florida operations, acts as a wholesale distributor of wireless communications products in the Latin American Region to large volume purchasers, such as wireless carriers, as well as to smaller volume purchasers. As a result, the Company's Miami operations are included in the Latin American Region.

Consistent with the change in historical accounting treatment for undistributed earnings in the Asia-Pacific Region, the Company recorded U.S. Federal income taxes of approximately \$2.0 million in the fourth quarter of 2002 for previously undistributed earnings from Sweden, The Netherlands and Colombia. These previously undistributed earnings are no longer considered permanently reinvested following the completion of the Company's evaluations of these markets.

Although the Company's business in the Latin American Region is predominantly wholesale and value-added fulfillment services, the Company conducts retail operations in all countries in which it operates in this region, with the exception of the Miami operations. At November 30, 2002, CellStar operated 94 retail locations (including kiosks) in the Latin American Region, 36 of which are located in Chile, 36 of which are located in Colombia, and 22 of which are located in Mexico. Historically, the Company has acted primarily through wholly-owned subsidiaries in each

of the countries in this region.

Table of Contents

The following table outlines CellStar's entry into the Latin American Region for countries in which operations were conducted in fiscal 2002:

Country	Year Entered	Type of Operation (as of November 30, 2002)
Mexico	1991	Wholesale and Retail
Chile	1993	Wholesale and Retail
Colombia	1994	Wholesale and Retail
Argentina	1995	Wholesale and Retail
		(Divested in third quarter of 2002)
Peru	1998	Wholesale and Retail
		(Divested in third quarter of 2002)

The Company's Mexico operations derive their revenues primarily from wholesale purchasers and activation of handsets. The Company's operations in Mexico account for approximately 60%, 61%, and 54% of the Latin America Region's revenues in 2000, 2001, and 2002, respectively. Over the last three years, the operations in Mexico have recognized operating gains (losses) of \$15.4 million, (\$9.8) million, and (\$11.5) million in 2000, 2001, and 2002, respectively. The Company believes growth and profit potential exist in the Mexico market due to the size of this market as well as the relationships being built between the carriers and the Company.

As of November 30, 2002, the Company sold its products to over 700 wholesale customers, including subagents, in the Latin American Region, excluding Argentina and Peru. The ten largest customers accounted for approximately 9.3% of the Company's consolidated revenues in fiscal 2002. The Company offers a broad product mix in the Latin American Region, including products that are compatible with both digital and analog systems, and anticipates that its product offerings will continue to expand in the countries in which the Company continues to operate with the evolution of new technologies as such products become commercially viable.

The Company markets its products through trade shows, trade magazines, direct sales and advertising. The Company uses direct mailings and newspapers to promote its retail operations. To penetrate local markets, the Company has made use of subagent relationships in certain countries.

European Region

The Company acts as a wholesale distributor of wireless communications products in the European Region to large volume purchasers, such as wireless carriers and retailers, as well as to smaller volume purchasers. The Company uses distribution facilities in Stockholm, Sweden and s Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands, to serve customers in the European Region. In the European Region, the Company offers wireless communications handsets, related accessories and other wireless products manufactured by its primary suppliers, Nokia and Sony Ericsson, and aftermarket accessories manufactured by a variety of suppliers to carriers, mass merchandisers and other retailers.

In April 2000, the Company curtailed a significant portion of its U.K. international trading operations following third party theft and fraud losses. Trading in wireless handsets involves the purchase of wireless handsets from sources other than the manufacturers or network operators (i.e., trading companies) and the sale of those handsets to other trading companies. The curtailment in the Company's trading activities had a

Edgar Filing: CELLSTAR CORP - Form 10-K

significant impact on revenues and profit for its U.K. operations and on the European Region as a whole for fiscal 2001. The Company decided, in the second quarter of 2002, to exit the U.K. as soon as practicable. The Company determined that improving its position in the U.K. would require substantial investment in that market, which the Company was not willing to make. As of August 31, 2002, the Company's operations in the U.K. were closed except for certain administrative matters.

In January 2003, the Company signed a letter of intent with local management for the sale of its Netherlands operations. There can be no assurance that the sale will be completed due to a number of contingencies contained in the letter of intent. In addition, as part of the Company's overall plan to reposition its operations, the Company has completed the evaluation of its operations in Sweden and will explore opportunities to sell these operations.

Table of Contents

Consistent with the change in historical accounting treatment for undistributed earnings in the Asia-Pacific Region, the Company recorded U.S. Federal income taxes of approximately \$2.0 million in the fourth quarter of 2002 for previously undistributed earnings from Sweden, The Netherlands and Colombia. These previously undistributed earnings are no longer considered permanently reinvested following the completion of the Company's evaluations of these markets.

Although the Company's business in the European Region is predominantly wholesale, the Company has one retail location in The Netherlands. The Company has historically acted through wholly-owned subsidiaries in each of the countries in this region. The following table outlines the Company's entry into the European Region for countries in which operations were conducted in fiscal 2002:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Year Entered</u>	<u>Type of Operation</u> (as of November 30, 2002)
United Kingdom	1996	Wholesale (Closed as of August 31, 2002)
Sweden	1998	Wholesale
The Netherlands	1999	Wholesale and Retail

As of November 30, 2002, the Company sold its products to over 1,700 wholesale customers in the European Region, excluding the U.K., the ten largest of which accounted for approximately 2.5% of consolidated revenues. The Company offers a broad product mix compatible with digital systems in the European Region. The Company markets its products through direct sales, trade shows, custom catalogues and advertising.

Industry Relationships

The Company has established strong relationships with leading wireless equipment manufacturers and wireless service carriers. Although the Company purchased its products from more than 20 suppliers in fiscal 2002, the majority of the Company's purchases were from Nokia, Motorola, Sony Ericsson, Samsung and Kyocera. For the year ended November 30, 2002, Nokia and Motorola accounted for approximately 74% of the Company's product purchases.

The Company has distribution agreements with many of its suppliers, including Motorola, Nokia, Sony Ericsson, Kyocera, NEC, and Samsung, or their foreign affiliates, that specify territories, pricing and payment terms. These contracts typically provide the Company with price protection, or the right to receive the benefit of price decreases on products currently in the Company's inventory if such products were purchased by the Company within a specified period of time prior to the effective date of the price decrease. The Company also has established supply relationships with other manufacturers on a purchase order basis, such as LG and Panasonic.

In the past, the Company's expansion has been due to several factors, one of which is its relationship with Motorola, historically one of the largest manufacturers of wireless products in the world and the Company's largest supplier in the North American Region. In July 1995, Motorola purchased a split-adjusted 417,862 shares of the outstanding common stock of the Company, currently approximately 2% of the Company's total shares outstanding. The Company believes that its relationship with Motorola and its other suppliers should enable it to continue to offer a wide variety of wireless communications products in all markets in which it operates. In addition, strong relationships with Nokia, the Company's largest supplier in fiscal 2002, have helped to solidify the Company's position in domestic and foreign markets. While the Company

Edgar Filing: CELLSTAR CORP - Form 10-K

believes that its relationship with Motorola, Nokia and other significant vendors is satisfactory, there can be no assurance that these relationships will continue.

The loss of Motorola, Nokia or any other significant vendor, a substantial price increase imposed by any vendor or a shortage or oversupply of product available from its vendors could have a material adverse impact on the Company. No assurance can be given that product shortages or product surpluses will not occur in the future.

Table of Contents

Asset Management

The Company continues to invest in and focus on technology to improve financial and information control systems. The Company expanded and extended its technology tools to improve financial and information control systems during 2002 in the following areas: (i) completion of the implementation of virtual private network capabilities in the PRC and Taiwan, greatly increasing wide area network performance; (ii) expansion of customer usage of the Company's netXtreme tools; (iii) further expansion of EDI processing for both customer and vendor relationships; (iv) streamlining processes in the PRC through infrastructure and applications for multiple level distribution operations; and (v) expansion of the Company's supply chain management system. One result of the Company's technology investment is that e-commerce tools process over 80% of all U.S. orders and virtually all orders in the PRC. The Company believes these initiatives will continue to position the Company to take advantage of the market trends with Internet-based commerce and further provide opportunities to integrate its systems with those of its customers.

The Company's suppliers ship directly to the Company's warehouse or distribution facilities or drop ship directly to the Company's customers. Inventory purchases are based on quality, price, service, market demand, product availability and brand recognition. Some of the Company's major vendors provide favorable purchasing terms to the Company, including price protection credits, stock balancing, increased product availability and cooperative advertising and marketing allowances.

Inventory control is important to the Company's ability to maintain its margins while offering its customers competitive prices and rapid delivery of a wide variety of products. The Company uses its integrated management information technology systems, specifically its inventory management, electronic purchase order and sales modules (consisting of its OrderStar[®] and netXtreme systems) to help manage inventory and sales margins.

Accounts receivable management is important to the Company's ability to control its bad debt expense and working capital. The Company uses a variety of credit management tools, including credit scoring services and, in certain of its markets, credit insurance to manage its accounts receivable exposure.

The Company has converted certain of its customer accounts to a consignment model. Under this model, the customer owns the inventory and the Company provides fulfillment services for those products. Consignment offers certain advantages, including lower working capital requirements, reduced accounts receivable exposure and reduced exposure to inventory obsolescence. Although overall revenues may be lowered as a result of operating on a consignment model, the Company believes that net income is not significantly impacted as fulfillment fees are being generated. Ultimately the impact on net income is dependent upon the volume of fulfillment activity and the amount of fulfillment fees received compared to the historical gross margin on product sales. There can be no assurance that fulfillment fees will equal historical gross margins.

The market for wireless products is characterized by rapidly changing technology and frequent new product introductions, often resulting in product obsolescence or short product life cycles. The Company's success depends in large part upon its ability to anticipate and adapt its business to such technological changes. There can be no assurance that the Company will be able to identify, obtain and offer products necessary to remain competitive or that competitors or manufacturers of wireless communications products will not market products that have perceived advantages over the Company's products or that render the products sold by the Company obsolete or less marketable. The Company maintains a significant investment in its product inventory and, therefore, is subject to the risks of inventory obsolescence and excessive inventory levels. The Company attempts to limit these risks by managing inventory turns and by entering into arrangements with its vendors, including price protection credits and return privileges for slow-moving products. The Company's significant inventory investment in its international operations exposes it to certain political and economic risks. See *Business Cautionary Statements* and *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - International Operations*. Typically, the Company ships its products within one business day of receipt of

customer orders and, therefore, backlog is not considered material to the Company's business.

Table of Contents

Significant Trademarks

The Company markets certain of its products under the trade name CellStar. The Company has registered the trade name CellStar on the Principal Register of the United States Patent and Trademark Office and has registered or applied for registration of its trade name in certain foreign jurisdictions. The Company has also filed for registrations of its other trade names in the United States and other jurisdictions in which it does business.

Competition

The Company operates in a highly competitive environment and believes that such competition will intensify in the future. The Company competes primarily on the basis of inventory availability and selection, delivery time, service and price. Many of the Company's competitors are larger and have greater capital and management resources than the Company. In addition, potential users of wireless systems may find their communications needs satisfied by other current and developing technologies. The Company's ability to remain competitive will therefore depend upon its ability to anticipate and adapt its business to such technological changes. There can be no assurance that the Company will be successful in anticipating and adapting to such technological changes.

In the current U.S. wireless communications products market, the Company's primary competitors are manufacturers, wireless carriers and other independent distributors such as Brightpoint, Inc. The Company also competes with logistics companies who provide similar distribution and inventory management services. Competitors of the Company in the Asia-Pacific, Latin American and European Regions include manufacturers, national carriers that have retail outlets with direct end-user access, and U.S. and foreign-based exporters and distributors. The Company is also subject to competition from gray market activities by third parties that are legal, but are not authorized by manufacturers, or that are illegal (e.g., activities that avoid applicable duties or taxes). In addition, the Company competes for activation fees and residual fees with agents and subagents for wireless carriers.

Seasonality and Cyclicity

The Company's sales are influenced by a number of seasonal factors in the different countries and markets in which it operates, including the purchasing patterns of customers in different markets, product promotions of competitors and suppliers, availability of distribution channels, and product supply and pricing. The Company's sales are also influenced by cyclical economic conditions in the different countries and markets in which it operates. An economic downturn in one of the Company's principal markets could have a materially adverse effect on the Company's operating results.

Employees

As of November 30, 2002, the Company had approximately 1,100 employees worldwide. In Mexico, certain of the Company's employees are subject to labor agreements. The Company has never experienced any material labor disruption and is unaware of any efforts or plans to organize additional employees. Management believes that its labor relations are satisfactory.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

The following table sets forth certain information concerning the executive officers of the Company:

Terry S. Parker	57	Chief Executive Officer
A.S. Horng	45	Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of CellStar (Asia) Corporation Limited
Robert A. Kaiser	49	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
Elaine Flud Rodriguez	46	Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Raymond L. Durham	41	Vice President and Corporate Controller

Table of Contents

Terry S. Parker has served as Chief Executive Officer of the Company since July 2001, as a director of the Company since March 1995 and as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company from March 1995 through July 1996. Mr. Parker served as Senior Vice President of GTE Corporation and President of GTE's Personal Communications Services, GTE's wireless division, from October 1993 until he joined the Company. From 1991 to 1993, Mr. Parker served as President of GTE Telecommunications Products and Services. Before 1991, Mr. Parker served as President of GTE Mobile Communications. Mr. Parker serves as an officer of the Company pursuant to his employment agreement.

A.S. Horng has served as Chairman of CellStar Asia since January 1998 and has also served as Chief Executive Officer of CellStar Asia since April 1997 and General Manager since 1993. From April 1997 until January 1998, Mr. Horng served as Vice Chairman of CellStar Asia, and from April 1997 until October 1997, Mr. Horng served as President of CellStar Asia. From 1991 to 1993, Mr. Horng was President of C-Mart USA Corporation, a distributor and manufacturer of aftermarket wireless phone accessory products. Mr. Horng serves the Company pursuant to his employment agreement.

Robert A. Kaiser has served as Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer since December 2001. Prior to joining CellStar, Mr. Kaiser served as President and Chief Executive Officer of MobileStar Network Corporation, a provider of broadband wireless Internet access, from May 2001 to December 2001. Prior to joining MobileStar, Mr. Kaiser served as Chief Executive Officer of WorldCom Broadband Solutions Group from August 2000 to May 2001. Mr. Kaiser served as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of SkyTel from January 2000 to August 2000 and as Chief Financial Officer from August 1996 to December 1999. Mr. Kaiser served as Chief Financial Officer of Southwestern Bell's Mobile Systems from March 1987 to August 1996. Mr. Kaiser serves as an officer of the Company pursuant to his employment agreement.

Elaine Flud Rodriguez has been Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary since January 2000. Previously, Ms. Rodriguez served as Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary since joining the Company in October 1993. From October 1991 to August 1993, she was General Counsel and Secretary of Zoecon Corporation, a pesticide manufacturer and distributor owned by Sandoz Ltd. Prior thereto, she was engaged in the private practice of law with Atlas & Hall and Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld. Ms. Rodriguez is licensed to practice law in the states of Texas and Louisiana. Ms. Rodriguez serves as an officer of the Company pursuant to her employment agreement.

Raymond L. Durham has served as Vice President and Corporate Controller since February 2001, Corporate Controller from November 1999 until January 2001, and acting Corporate Controller from July 1999 until November 1999. From March 1997 until July 1999, Mr. Durham served as Director of Audit Services for the Company. Prior to joining the Company, he was with KPMG LLP, an international independent accounting firm, from 1986 until 1997 where he held several positions including Audit Senior Manager from 1990 until 1997. Mr. Durham is a certified public accountant.

The Company's success is dependent on the efforts of its executive officers and key employees including Terry S. Parker, Chief Executive Officer, and A.S. Horng, the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of the CellStar Asia. The Asia-Pacific Region was responsible for approximately 51% of the Company's revenues for fiscal 2002. If Mr. Horng were to depart as Chief Executive Officer of CellStar Asia, the Company's operations in the Asia-Pacific Region could be materially adversely affected. Although the Company has entered into employment agreements with these officers and several other officers and key employees, there can be no assurance that the Company will be able to retain their services.

The Company does not maintain key man insurance on the life of any officer of the Company. The loss or interruption of the continued full-time service of the Company's executive officers and key employees could have a material adverse impact on the Company's business. To support its continued growth, the Company must effectively recruit, develop and retain additional qualified management. The inability of the Company to

attract and retain such necessary personnel could also have a material adverse effect on the Company.

Table of Contents

Item 2. Properties

As of November 30, 2002, the Company had a total of 25 operating facilities in the Asia-Pacific Region, 23 of which were leased; a total of 109 operating facilities in the Latin American Region (including kiosks), all but one of which were leased; and a total of 6 operating facilities in the European Region, all of which were leased. These facilities serve as offices, warehouses, distribution centers or retail locations.

The Company's corporate headquarters is located at 1730 Briercroft Court, and its principal North American Region distribution facility is located at 1728 Briercroft Court, each in Carrollton, Texas. Both facilities are owned by the Company. As of November 30, 2002, the Company had three other operating facilities in the North American Region, all of which were leased.

The Company believes that suitable additional space will be available, if necessary, to accommodate future expansion of its operations.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

On October 15, 2001, the Company announced that the results for the three and six months ended May 31, 2001 would be restated to reflect certain accounting adjustments. In October 2001, the Company received an inquiry from the SEC requesting information concerning the restatement of earnings for the quarter ended May 31, 2001. The Company believes that it has fully responded to such request.

The Company is a party to various other claims, legal actions and complaints arising in the ordinary course of business.

Management believes that the disposition of these matters will not have a materially adverse effect on the consolidated financial condition or results of operations of the Company.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

There were no matters submitted to a vote of the Company's security holders during the fiscal quarter ended November 30, 2002.

Table of Contents**PART II.****Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity and Related Stockholder Matters**

The Company's common stock is quoted on the Nasdaq National Market (Nasdaq) under the symbol CLST. The following table sets forth, on a per share basis for the periods indicated, the high and low closing sale prices for the common stock as reported by Nasdaq (adjusted for the effect of the one-for-five reverse stock split effective on February 22, 2002).

	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
Fiscal Year ended November 30, 2002		
Quarter Ended:		
February 28, 2002	\$ 4.80	3.00
May 31, 2002	4.90	3.23
August 31, 2002	4.22	3.05
November 30, 2002	4.80	2.62
Fiscal Year ended November 30, 2001		
Quarter Ended:		
February 28, 2001	\$ 10.63	5.63
May 31, 2001	10.60	4.69
August 31, 2001	12.90	6.50
November 30, 2001	6.65	3.80

As of February 20, 2003, there were 148 stockholders of record, although the Company believes that the number of beneficial owners is significantly greater because a large number of shares are held of record by CEDE & Co.

The Company has never declared or paid cash dividends on its common stock. The Company currently intends to retain all earnings to finance its business and does not anticipate paying cash dividends on the common stock in the foreseeable future. Any future determination as to the payment of cash dividends will depend on a number of factors, including future earnings, capital requirements, the financial condition and prospects of the Company and any restrictions under the Company's credit agreements existing from time to time, as well as other factors the Board of Directors may deem relevant. The Company's current revolving credit facility and 12% senior subordinated notes restrict the payment of dividends by the Company to its stockholders. There can be no assurance that the Company will pay any dividends in the future.

Table of Contents**Item 6. Selected Consolidated Financial Data**

The financial data presented below, as of and for each of the years in the five-year period ended November 30, 2002, were derived from the Company's audited financial statements. The selected consolidated financial data should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, and the Company's consolidated financial statements and notes thereto, included elsewhere herein.

	Year Ended November 30,				
	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
(In thousands, except per share data and operating data)					
Statements of Operations Data:					
Revenues	\$ 2,196,614	2,433,803	2,475,682	2,333,805	1,995,850
Cost of sales	2,065,806	2,297,977	2,364,197	2,140,375	1,823,075
Gross profit	130,808	135,826	111,485	193,430	172,775
Operating expenses:					
Selling, general and administrative expenses	112,652	113,785	169,232	111,613	116,747
Impairment of assets	3,655		12,339	5,480	
Severance and exit charges	2,566				
Lawsuit settlement					7,577
Separation agreement		5,680			
Restructuring charge (credit)		750	(157)	3,639	
Operating income (loss):	11,935	15,611	(69,929)	72,698	48,451
Other income (expense):					
Interest expense	(7,564)	(15,383)	(19,113)	(19,027)	(14,446)
Equity in income (loss) of affiliated companies, net		(858)	(1,805)	31,933	(28,448)
Gain on sale of assets		933	6,200	8,774	
Impairment of investment	(125)	(2,215)			
Other, net	1,947	5,288	932	(1,876)	1,389
Total other income (expense)	(5,742)	(12,235)	(13,786)	19,804	(41,505)
Income (loss) before income taxes and extraordinary gain (loss)	6,193	3,376	(83,715)	92,502	6,946
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	47,131	2,200	(20,756)	23,415	(7,418)
Income (loss) before extraordinary gain (loss)	(40,938)	1,176	(62,959)	69,087	14,364
Extraordinary gain (loss) on early extinguishment of debt, net of tax	11,014	(626)			
Net income (loss)	\$ (29,924)	550	(62,959)	69,087	14,364
Net income (loss) per share:					
Basic:					
Income (loss) before extraordinary gain (loss)	\$ (3.34)	0.10	(5.24)	5.78	1.22
Extraordinary gain (loss) on early extinguishment of debt, net of tax	0.90	(0.05)			

Edgar Filing: CELLSTAR CORP - Form 10-K

Net income (loss)	\$ (2.44)	0.05	(5.24)	5.78	1.22
Diluted:					
Income (loss) before extraordinary gain (loss)	\$ (3.34)	0.10	(5.24)	5.61	1.18
Extraordinary gain (loss) on early extinguishment of debt, net of tax	0.90	(0.05)			
Net income (loss)	\$ (2.44)	0.05	(5.24)	5.61	1.18
Weighted average number of shares:(1)(2)					
Basic	12,268	12,028	12,026	11,952	11,773
Diluted	12,268	12,029	12,026	13,118	12,131
Operating Data:					
International revenues, including export sales, as a percentage of revenue	74.6%	76.2	79.8	83.8	76.3

Table of Contents

	At November 30,				
	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
	(In thousands)				
Balance Sheet Data:					
Working capital	\$ 141,854	116,892	264,380	332,841	259,923
Total assets	515,591	646,070	858,824	706,438	775,525
Notes payable and current portion of long-term debt	53,347	202,644	127,128	50,609	85,023