

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP  
Form 10-Q  
November 09, 2012  
Table of Contents

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

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE  
ACT OF 1934

For the Quarterly Period Ended September 30, 2012

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 1-13317

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 13-3460176  
(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer  
incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

1351 S. Sunset Street, Longmont, CO 80501  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(303) 845-3200  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)  
(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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 corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T 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 whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer   
Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

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

The registrant had 58,357,111 shares of common stock, \$0.001 par value, outstanding as of October 31, 2012.

---

Table of Contents

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP.  
 FORM 10-Q  
 For the Quarter Ended September 30, 2012  
 INDEX

<u>Part I. Financial Information</u>	<u>3</u>
Item 1. <u>Financial Statements</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2011 and September 30, 2012</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Loss for the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011 and 2012</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011 and 2012</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	<u>6</u>
Item 2. <u>Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	<u>17</u>
Item 3. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	<u>31</u>
Item 4. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>Part II. Other Information</u>	<u>32</u>
Item 1. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	<u>32</u>
Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>33</u>
Item 6. <u>Exhibits</u>	<u>47</u>
Signatures	<u>48</u>
EXHIBIT 10.1	
EXHIBIT 31.1	
EXHIBIT 31.2	
EXHIBIT 32.1	

Table of Contents

## Part I. Financial Information

## Item 1. Financial Statements

## DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP.

## UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(In thousands, except par value data)

	December 31, 2011	September 30, 2012
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$46,168	\$40,542
Accounts receivable, net	31,697	28,333
Inventories	5,251	5,407
Prepaid expenses and other assets	7,896	6,725
Total current assets	91,012	81,007
Property and equipment, net	4,972	6,182
Intangible assets, net	2,601	—
Other assets	294	399
Total assets	\$98,879	\$87,588
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$31,434	\$27,196
Accrued compensation	5,049	3,184
Accrued expenses	10,860	9,073
Deferred revenue	883	1,263
Restructuring accrual	1,328	549
Credit facility borrowings	—	1,800
Current portion of long-term note payable	71	—
Total current liabilities	49,625	43,065
Other long-term liabilities	552	1,571
Total liabilities	50,177	44,636
Commitments and Contingencies		
Stockholders' Equity:		
Preferred stock, \$.001 par value, 10,000 shares authorized, zero shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2011 and September 30, 2012, respectively	—	—
Common stock, \$.001 par value, 100,000 shares authorized, 57,699 and 58,366 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2011 and September 30, 2012, respectively	58	58
Additional paid-in capital	321,681	325,870
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(3,662	) (3,671 )
Accumulated deficit	(269,375	) (279,305 )
Total stockholders' equity	48,702	42,952
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$98,879	\$87,588
See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.		

Table of Contents

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP.  
 UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF  
 COMPREHENSIVE LOSS

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
NET REVENUE	\$47,805	\$48,223	\$148,806	\$150,529
COST OF GOODS SOLD	36,364	35,955	112,322	110,035
GROSS PROFIT	11,441	12,268	36,484	40,494
OPERATING EXPENSES:				
Research and development	8,384	9,368	23,125	28,226
Sales and marketing	3,623	3,558	9,889	10,415
General and administrative	1,922	2,101	6,267	7,146
Restructuring charge (recovery)	659	(183)	655	(228)
Total operating expenses	14,588	14,844	39,936	45,559
OPERATING LOSS	(3,147)	(2,576)	(3,452)	(5,065)
OTHER INCOME:				
Interest expense, net	(18)	(4)	(29)	(4)
Other income (expense), net	3	(1)	7	12
Total other income (expense), net	(15)	(5)	(22)	8
LOSS BEFORE INCOME TAXES AND DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS	(3,162)	(2,581)	(3,474)	(5,057)
INCOME TAX EXPENSE	75	153	190	462
LOSS FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	(3,237)	(2,734)	(3,664)	(5,519)
LOSS FROM DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS (See Note 3)	(8,945)	(280)	(11,734)	(4,411)
NET LOSS	\$(12,182)	\$(3,014)	\$(15,398)	\$(9,930)
NET LOSS PER SHARE:				
Loss per share from continuing operations	\$(0.06)	\$(0.05)	\$(0.07)	\$(0.10)
Loss per share from discontinued operations	(0.16)	—	(0.21)	(0.07)
Basic and diluted	\$(0.22)	\$(0.05)	\$(0.28)	\$(0.17)
WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES USED TO CALCULATE NET LOSS PER SHARE:				
Basic and diluted	55,186	57,327	54,755	56,768
COMPREHENSIVE LOSS:				
Net loss	\$(12,182)	\$(3,014)	\$(15,398)	\$(9,930)
Foreign currency translation adjustment	(65)	(49)	(93)	(10)
Comprehensive loss	\$(12,247)	\$(3,063)	\$(15,491)	\$(9,940)

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP.  
 UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
 (In thousands)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2012
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Net loss	\$(15,398	) \$(9,930
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	3,910	2,828
Provision for bad debt expense	203	12
Stock-based compensation expense	3,995	2,973
Goodwill impairment charge	4,140	—
Long-lived assets impairment charge	2,928	1,647
Write-off of property and equipment	—	312
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	10,057	3,352
Inventories	2,148	(156
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(1,751	) 1,067
Accounts payable	(9,916	) (4,748
Accrued compensation and other expenses	1,799	(2,649
Deferred revenue	(466	) 380
Restructuring accrual	(98	) (779
Other long-term liabilities	(462	) 1,019
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	1,089	(4,672
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment	(2,079	) (2,914
Net cash used in investing activities	(2,079	) (2,914
Cash Flows From Financing Activities:		
Principal payment on note payable	(205	) (71
Proceeds from bank borrowings	—	1,800
Shares withheld for tax purposes	(344	) (543
Proceeds from sale of stock to employees	1,422	754
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	873	1,940
Effect of Exchange Rate Changes on Cash and Cash Equivalents	57	20
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(60	) (5,626
Cash and Cash Equivalents, beginning of period	45,732	46,168
Cash and Cash Equivalents, end of period	\$45,672	\$40,542
Supplemental Disclosures of Non-Cash Investing Activities:		
Property and equipment acquired but not yet paid	\$793	\$507
Stock payment for employee bonus plan	\$—	\$1,005
See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.		

Table of Contents

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP.

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The financial statements of Dot Hill Systems Corp. (referred to herein as Dot Hill, we, our or us) contained herein are unaudited and in the opinion of management contain all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring adjustments and certain write offs in the carrying value of our long-term assets) necessary for a fair presentation of financial position, results of operations and cash flows for the periods presented. The interim unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, or GAAP, for interim financial information and with the instructions to Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, Form 10-Q and Article 10 of SEC Regulation S-X. They do not include all of the information and disclosures required by GAAP for complete financial statements. The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011. Operating results for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for future quarters or the year ending December 31, 2012.

Certain 2011 amounts in our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current presentation, including adjustments for discontinued operations.

Use of Accounting Estimates

The preparation of our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the dates of the financial statements and the reported amounts of net revenue and expenses in the reporting periods. The accounting estimates that require management's most significant and subjective judgments include revenue recognition, inventory valuation, recurring and specific issue warranty obligations (see Note 6), the valuation and recognition of stock-based compensation expense, and the valuation of long-lived assets, goodwill and other intangibles, as well as any other assets and liabilities acquired and accounted for under the purchase method of accounting for business combinations. In addition, we have other accounting policies that involve estimates such as the determination of useful lives of long-lived assets, accruals for restructuring and valuation allowance for deferred tax assets. Actual results may differ from these estimates and such differences could be material.

Concentration of Customers and Suppliers

A majority of our net revenue is derived from a limited number of customers. We currently have two customers that account for more than 10% of our total net revenue: Hewlett Packard, or HP, and Tektronix, Inc., or Tektronix. Our agreements with our original equipment manufacturers, or OEM, partners do not contain any minimum purchase commitments, do not obligate our OEM partners to purchase their storage solutions exclusively from us and may be terminated at any time upon notice from the applicable partner.

Net revenue by major customer is as follows (as a percentage of total net revenue):

Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
September 30,		September 30,	
2011	2012	2011	2012

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

HP	73	% 68	% 76	% 67	%
Tektronix	7	% 4	% 5	% 10	%
Other customers less than 10%	20	% 28	% 19	% 23	%
Total	100	% 100	% 100	% 100	%

HP continues to account for a significant percentage of our sales. If our relationship with HP were disrupted or declined significantly, we would lose a substantial portion of our anticipated net revenue and our business could be materially harmed. We cannot guarantee that our relationship with HP or our other customers will expand or not otherwise be disrupted.



## Table of Contents

We expect that the sale of our products to a limited number of customers will continue to account for a high percentage of net revenue for the foreseeable future. On October 31, 2011, we amended, or the Amendment, the Product Purchase Agreement originally entered into with HP on September 10, 2007. The Amendment extends the agreement with HP for a five year period through October 30, 2016. In addition, the Amendment provides that we will continue to comply with the contractually required cost reduction process and to support HP with respect to certain products or statements of work upon any assignment of the agreement for a specified period of time. The Amendment does not contain any minimum purchase commitments by HP. Simultaneously with the extension of the Product Purchase Agreement, we agreed to extend until October 30, 2016 the expiration date of the warrant previously issued to HP to purchase 1,602,489 shares of our common stock at the original exercise price of \$2.40 per share.

We currently rely on a limited number of contract manufacturing partners to produce substantially all of our products. As a result, should any of our current manufacturing partners, such as Foxconn Technology Group, or parts suppliers not produce and deliver inventory for us to sell on a timely basis, operating results may be adversely impacted.

### Long-lived asset impairment

We periodically review the recoverability of the carrying value of long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying value may not be recoverable. An impairment in the carrying value of an asset group is recognized whenever anticipated future undiscounted cash flows from an asset group are estimated to be less than its carrying value. The amount of impairment recognized is the difference between the carrying value of the asset group and its fair value. Fair value estimates are based on assumptions concerning the amount and timing of estimated future cash flows and assumed discount rates, reflecting varying degrees of perceived risk.

In September 2011, our primary AssuredUVS customer informed us that the AssuredUVS software would no longer be a component of its business strategy, resulting in significant declines in revenues for the Company. Our long-lived assets consisted of the intangible assets associated with our acquisition of certain identified Cloverleaf Communications, Inc., or Cloverleaf, assets acquired in January 2010. The impairment of these long-lived assets is now reported in discontinued operations (see Note 3), since we have ceased all ongoing operational activities as of September 30, 2012.

### Valuation of Goodwill

We review goodwill for impairment on an annual basis at November 30 and whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable.

Current accounting standards require that a two-step impairment test be performed on goodwill. In the first step, we compare the fair value of our reporting unit to its carrying value. We determine the fair value of our reporting unit using a combination of the income approach and market capitalization approach. If the fair value of the reporting unit exceeds the carrying value of the net assets, goodwill is not impaired, and we are not required to perform further testing. If the carrying value of the net assets exceeds the fair value of the reporting unit, then we must perform the second step in order to determine the implied fair value of the reporting unit's goodwill and compare it to the carrying value of the reporting unit's goodwill. If the carrying value of the reporting unit's goodwill exceeds its implied fair value, then we must record an impairment charge equal to the difference.

Under the income approach, we calculate the fair value of a reporting unit based on the present value of estimated future discounted cash flows. Under the market capitalization approach, valuation multiples are calculated based on operating data from publicly traded companies within our industry. Multiples derived from companies within our industry provide an indication of how much a knowledgeable investor in the marketplace would be willing to pay for a

company. These multiples are applied to the operating data for the reporting unit to arrive at an indicated fair value. Significant management judgment is required in the forecasts of future operating results that are used in the estimated future discounted cash flow method of valuation. The estimates we have used are consistent with the plans and estimates that we use to manage our business. We base our fair value estimates on forecasted revenue and operating costs along with business plans. Our forecasts consider the effect of a number of factors including, but not limited to, the current future projected competitiveness and market acceptance of the product, technological risk, the ease of use and ease of implementation of the product, the likely outcome of sales and marketing efforts and projected costs associated with product development, customer support and selling, general and administrative costs. It is possible, however, that the plans may change and that actual results may differ significantly from our estimates.

During September 2011, our primary AssuredUVS customer became delinquent on the settlement of its payables to us and upon our investigation it became evident that its financial resources were limited. It also informed us that they were

7

---

Table of Contents

changing their strategy which would result in a significant decline in revenue for the Company, and we determined it was “more-likely-than-not” that the reporting unit was less than its carrying value. The impairment of the goodwill related to the reporting unit is now reported in discontinued operations (see Note 3), since we have ceased all ongoing operational activities as of September 30, 2012.

## Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

We establish an allowance for doubtful accounts for accounts receivable amounts that may not be collectible. We determine the allowance for doubtful accounts based on the aging of our accounts receivable balances and an analysis of our historical experience of bad debt write-offs. Bad debt expense was \$0.2 million and \$0.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2012, respectively, including \$0.2 million and \$0.0 million in discontinued operations.

Balance sheet details are as follows, (in thousands):

	September 30, 2011	September 30, 2012
Balance, beginning of the year	\$—	\$203
Additions to allowance	203	12
Balance, quarter ended	\$203	\$215

## Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In May 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-04, Fair Value Measurement Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRSs. The pronouncement was issued to provide a uniform framework for fair value measurements and related disclosures between U.S. GAAP and IFRS. ASU 2011-04 changes certain fair value measurement principles and enhances the disclosure requirements particularly for Level 3 fair value measurements. This pronouncement is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2011. The adoption of ASU 2011-04 resulted in additional required disclosures within the Notes to the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, but did not have a material impact on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

In June 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-05, Comprehensive Income Presentation of Comprehensive Income. ASU 2011-05 allows an entity the option to present the total of comprehensive income, the components of net income, and the components of other comprehensive income either in a single continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements. In both choices, an entity is required to present each component of net income along with total net income, each component of other comprehensive income along with a total for other comprehensive income, and a total amount for comprehensive income. ASU 2011-05 eliminates the option to present the components of other comprehensive income as part of the statement of changes in stockholders' equity. The amendments to the Codification in the ASU do not change the items that must be reported in other comprehensive income or when an item of other comprehensive income must be reclassified to net income and are effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2011. In December 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-12, Deferral of the Effective Date for Amendments to the Presentation of Reclassifications of Items Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income in Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05. The provisions of ASU 2011-12 indefinitely defer portions of ASU 2011-05 related to the presentation of reclassifications of items out of accumulated other comprehensive income. The adoption of ASU 2011-05 and ASU 2011-12 did not have a material impact on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

## 2. Net Loss Per Share

Basic net loss per share, including continuing and discontinued operations, is calculated by dividing net loss for the period by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted net loss per share, including continuing and discontinued operations, is computed by dividing net loss for the period by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period and including the dilutive effect of common stock that would be issued assuming conversion or exercise of outstanding warrants, stock options, share based compensation awards and other dilutive securities. No such items were included in the computation of diluted loss per share in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 or 2012 because we incurred a net loss in each of these periods and the effect of inclusion would have been anti-dilutive.

Outstanding equity awards not included in the calculation of diluted net loss per share because their effect was anti-dilutive were as follows:

8

---

Table of Contents

	September 30, 2011		September 30, 2012	
	Number of Potential Shares	Range of Exercise Prices	Number of Potential Shares	Range of Exercise Prices
Stock options	7,426,052	\$0.47 - \$16.36	10,724,690	\$0.47 - \$16.36
Unvested stock awards	2,497,192	\$—	884,391	\$—
Warrants	1,602,489	\$2.40	1,602,489	\$2.40

## 3. Discontinued Operations

As of September 30, 2011, we identified a change in circumstances that indicated the carrying amount of our long-lived assets may not be recoverable, as our primary AssuredUVS customer informed us that the AssuredUVS software would no longer be a component of its business strategy, which would result in a significant decline in revenues for the Company. Our long-lived assets consisted of the intangible assets associated with our acquisition of certain identified Cloverleaf Communications, Inc., or Cloverleaf, assets acquired in January 2010 with an original carrying value of \$5.0 million and property and equipment of \$1.2 million.

Since we did not have an immediate replacement for our AssuredUVS customer, management's forecasted undiscounted cash flows indicated that the assets were potentially not recoverable, and proceeded to estimate the fair value of each long-lived asset. Property and equipment consisted of mostly machinery and equipment used for testing and development of our AssuredUVS technology. Management determined that carrying value approximated fair value, as property was either acquired in the 2010 acquisition of Cloverleaf, had been purchased subsequently, or could be re-deployed, establishing recent evidence of fair value. It was depreciated over a 3 – 5 year estimated useful life.

Intangible assets consisted primarily of acquired software of \$4.9 million and a trade name of \$0.1 million. We determined the fair value of the acquired software by estimating the replacement cost of the software, taking into account both the software as acquired and subsequent development work, as well as the business alternatives we were considering and the corresponding value of the software in these alternative approaches. We estimated the value of the software based on the probabilities of each of the business alternatives. We determined the fair value of the trade name using an income approach and considered the fact that the software's trade name at the time of acquisition was no longer being used. All estimates were based on management using appropriate assumptions and projections.

Our impairment analysis at September 30, 2011 identified \$2.9 million of impaired long-lived assets, consisting entirely of intangible assets recognized as part of the Cloverleaf acquisition in 2010. Long-lived asset impairment charges are recorded consistent with our treatment of related amortization expense specific to each acquired intangible assets. We recorded \$2.8 million of impaired acquired software and \$0.1 million of impaired acquired trade name as a component of cost of goods sold for the year ended December 31, 2011.

In February 2012, our Board of Directors approved a plan to exit our AssuredUVS business and close down our Israel Technology Development Center (see Note 7), at which time it was determined that the valuations at that date were appropriate. During the second quarter of 2012, we explored the potential sale of the AssuredUVS business, but were unsuccessful in locating a buyer and ended efforts to sell the business or its component assets as of June 30, 2012. Accordingly, we recognized an impairment of \$0.2 million of property, plant and equipment and \$1.6 million for the remaining value of acquired software as a component of cost of goods sold as of June 30, 2012. The AssuredUVS business is now recorded in discontinued operations, since we have ceased all ongoing operational activities as of September 30, 2012.

We also evaluated goodwill for impairment and determined it was “more-likely-than-not” that the reporting unit was less than its carrying value. Our valuation resulted in recognition of an impairment charge to goodwill of \$4.1 million during the year ended December 30, 2011.

The following is a summary of the components of loss from discontinued operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2012 (in thousands):

9

---

Table of Contents

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
Net revenue	\$266	\$26	\$1,618	\$232
Cost of goods sold	3,665	70	4,763	2,373
Gross profit	(3,399	) (44	) (3,145	) (2,141
Operating expenses:				
Research and development	1,122	(20	) 3,313	741
Sales and marketing	145	—	561	56
General and administrative	138	204	571	700
Restructuring charge	—	53	—	772
Goodwill impairment charge	4,140	—	4,140	—
Total operating expenses	5,545	237	8,585	2,269
Operating loss	(8,944	) (281	) (11,730	) (4,410
Other income (expense), net	(1	) 1	(4	) (1
Loss from discontinued operations	\$(8,945	) \$(280	) \$(11,734	) \$(4,411

## 4. Inventories

The components of inventories consist of the following (in thousands):

	December 31,	September 30,
	2011	2012
Purchased parts and materials	\$3,994	\$3,328
Finished goods	1,257	2,079
Total inventory	\$5,251	\$5,407

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost (first-in, first-out method) or market value. The valuation of production inventory requires us to estimate excess or obsolete inventory. The determination of excess or obsolete inventory requires us to estimate the future demand for our products. Our markets are volatile, subject to technological risks and price changes and inventory reduction programs by our customers. In addition, we are required to make last time buys of certain components on occasion. These factors result in a risk that we will forecast incorrectly and purchase excess inventories of particular products or have commitments to purchase excess inventory components from our suppliers. As a result, actual demand will differ from forecasts, and such a difference has in the past and may in the future have a material effect on our financial statements. Any write downs to inventory due to the existence of excess quantities, physical obsolescence, changes in pricing, damage, or other causes establish a new cost basis for the inventory. When we sell or dispose of reserved inventory the new cost basis is charged to cost of sales. Service inventory is amortized ratably over the estimated life of the related product series.

## 5. Intangible Assets

Identifiable intangible assets are as follows (in thousands):

	Estimated Useful Life	December 31, 2011		
		Gross	Accumulated Amortization	Net
RaidCore technology	4 years	\$4,256	\$(3,477	) \$779
NAS technology	3 years	214	(214	) —

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

Software	3 years	2,050	(228	) 1,822
Total intangible assets		\$6,520	\$(3,919	) \$2,601

10

---



Table of Contents

		September 30, 2012		
	Estimated Useful Life	Gross	Accumulated Amortization	Net
RaidCore technology	4 years	\$4,256	\$(4,256)	) \$—
Total intangible assets		\$4,256	\$(4,256)	) \$—

As of December 31, 2011, we recorded a \$2.8 million impairment of our acquired internally developed software and \$0.1 million impairment of our trade name (see Note 3). Effective with the February 6, 2012 announced restructuring plan, the AssuredUVS product family would no longer be marketed to customers and the underlying UVS technology would either be disposed of through a sale to a potential acquirer or, in the event a buyer could not be located, abandoned. Accordingly, the acquired software was temporarily idled, and no additional amortization expense incurred subsequent to the February 6, 2012 announcement of the 2012 restructuring plan. In accordance with ASC 350, we evaluated the software for impairment as of February 6, 2012. At the time of that evaluation we were actively marketing the software for sale and believed the cash flows from a potential sale would have recovered the recorded book value. We continued actively marketing the software through June 2012. However, we were unsuccessful and all efforts toward locating a potential acquirer ceased as of June 30, 2012. Accordingly, we recognized an impairment for the remaining \$1.6 million of acquired software as a component of cost of goods sold as of June 30, 2012.

Additionally we are now reporting the underlying business as discontinued operations, since we have ceased all ongoing operational activities as of September 30, 2012. Amortization expense related to intangible assets totaled \$0.5 million, \$0.2 million, \$1.6 million and \$1.0 million, for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2012, respectively, including \$0.2 million, \$0.0 million, \$0.7 million and \$0.2 million, for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2012, respectively, for discontinued operations.

## 6. Product Warranties

Our standard warranty provides that if our systems do not function to published specifications, we will repair or replace the defective component or system without charge generally for a period of approximately three years. We generally extend to our customers the warranties provided to us by our suppliers, and accordingly, the majority of our warranty obligations to customers are typically intended to be covered by corresponding supplier warranties. For warranty costs not covered by our suppliers, we provide for estimated warranty costs in the period the revenue is recognized. There can be no assurance that our suppliers will continue to provide such warranties to us in the future or that our warranty obligations to our customers will be covered by corresponding warranties from our suppliers, the absence of which could have a material effect on our financial statements. Estimated liabilities for product warranties are included in accrued expenses.

In October 2009, we discovered a quality issue associated with certain power supply devices provided by a long-term component supplier, which resulted in a higher than expected level of power supply failures to us and our customers. While we were able to promptly identify and resolve the cause of the failures, we are required to provide replacement products or make repairs to the affected power supply units that had been sold between March and October 2009. Through June 30, 2011, our component supplier had repaired all of the faulty power supplies at no cost to us and reimbursed us for our out-of-pocket costs, which has constituted a reimbursement to customers for certain out-of-pocket costs they incurred in connection with these power supply failures. The total amount reimbursed to us by our component supplier approximated \$1.0 million through June 30, 2011.

In the second and third quarters of 2011, a material customer provided us with a framework estimating the potential claims precipitated by the power supply failures. As previously disclosed, the customer's preliminary framework of potential claims provided to us included additional costs related to the customer's internal overhead for other internal indirect costs, in addition to third-party direct costs. Based on preliminary discussions for settlement and our analysis

of the framework provided by the customer, including future potential claims through the warranty period, we estimated that we had incurred a probable loss of approximately \$2.8 million. Consequently, in addition to the \$1.3 million previously recognized as of June 30, 2011, we recorded an estimated liability of \$1.5 million as of September 30, 2011 within "Accrued expenses" on our condensed consolidated balance sheet.

Negotiations continued with our customer throughout the fourth quarter of 2011 into the first half of 2012. Based on the results of ongoing negotiations with the material customer, we increased our estimated liability at December 31, 2011 to \$5.5 million, resulting in a charge of \$2.7 million during the fourth quarter of 2011 within "Accrued expenses" on our condensed consolidated balance sheet, gross of any third-party recoveries.

A final settlement with this material customer was reached during the second quarter of 2012. The terms of the agreement required an immediate payment of \$2.0 million, and an estimated remaining liability of approximately \$2.7 million as of

Table of Contents

September 30, 2012 related to a combination of future price concessions and rebates to be paid quarterly based on sales volumes through December 31, 2012. While our estimated liability relating to failed power supply units is subject to some uncertainty until final settlement, based on our current expectation of sales volumes with this material customer, we do not believe the incurrence of an additional loss is either probable or reasonably possible at this time.

During the second quarter of 2011, based on the advice of legal counsel, we established that our component supplier is contractually obligated to reimburse us for fair and reasonable costs we incur with our customers associated with these power supply failures. Our component supplier had continued to re-work and distribute to our customer the affected population of power supplies at no cost to us. In addition, at the time, our collection experience with similar amounts already reimbursed to us by our supplier and our belief that our component supplier and its parent companies had the financial ability to continue to reimburse us for any additional costs we may incur, we recorded a current asset within "Prepaid expenses and other assets" on our consolidated balance sheet of \$1.3 million as of June 30, 2011.

During the third quarter of 2011, as the claims from our customer became clearer, we commenced negotiations with our component supplier for fair and reasonable costs that we have and are likely to incur through the warranty period associated with this component failure. Originally, we determined that the supplier was unlikely to make an up-front cash payment for the original settlement amount of \$1.3 million, but it indicated a willingness to provide some form of reimbursement for costs incurred, in the form of cash and/or note receivable of \$0.5 million plus future product rebates. Based on our judgment at the time, we reduced the previously recorded current asset of \$1.3 million within "Prepaid expenses and other assets" to \$0.5 million as of September 30, 2011. We continued to negotiate this settlement with our supplier and during the second quarter of 2012, the supplier signed a final settlement agreement providing for additional reimbursements above what was recognized as of September 30, 2011. Pursuant to the settlement, the supplier agreed to cash consideration of \$1.2 million, of which we received \$0.7 million subsequent to the signing of the settlement agreement, with the remaining \$0.5 million to be received in installments over the next three quarters. Additionally, our supplier committed to product rebates and/or price concessions on product orders for a period of 39 months from the execution of the settlement agreement, in return for our agreement to release our supplier from all obligations relating to the power supply failures known by us to date. This agreement is not subject to any required future purchases.

In addition, we have commenced discussions with our General Liability and Errors and Omissions Insurance and underwriters and will continue to pursue our rights to cover any damages we incur and that are not reimbursed by our supplier. The insurance company has issued a reservation of rights letter to us and at this time, it is not possible to estimate to what extent the residual amounts, if any, we will be covered by our carrier. As of September 30, 2012 we have not assumed or recorded any insurance reimbursement.

To the extent our settlement agreements with our customer and our component supplier are not on mutually beneficial terms, or our component supplier does not continue to reimburse us for the expenses incurred by us or our customers, and we are unsuccessful in recovering such expenses from our insurance provider, we could incur additional expenses which could potentially have a material effect on our financial statements and liquidity.

During the third quarter of 2012 the charge of \$1.3 million is due to actual improvements in quality lower than previously forecasted estimates.

Our warranty accrual and cost activity is as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
Balance, beginning of period	\$2,156	\$4,779	\$982	\$6,871

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

Charges to operations	2,190	1,274	4,457	1,691
Deductions for costs incurred	(669	) (969	) (1,762	) (3,478
Balance, end of period	\$3,677	\$5,084	\$3,677	\$5,084

The table above does not include the corresponding \$1.2 million benefit recorded within cost of sales in 2011 related to the current asset established for the recovery of such costs incurred by our customer which are to be reimbursed to us by our component supplier. There were no additional charges recorded in 2012 related to the liability established for certain third-party material and service costs incurred by our customer related to replacing failed power supplies.

Table of Contents

## 7. Restructuring

## 2008 Plan

In December 2008, our management approved, committed to, and initiated a restructuring plan, or the 2008 Plan, to improve efficiencies in our operations, which was largely driven by our plan to consolidate our facility in Carlsbad, California into the Longmont, Colorado facility. As a result of this relocation, we terminated approximately 70 California employees whose positions were relocated to Colorado and incurred approximately \$1.5 million in severance-related costs, all of which was recognized and paid as of December 31, 2010.

As part of the 2008 Plan, we also incurred contract termination costs of \$3.6 million since the inception of the 2008 Plan through September 30, 2011. We record charges for contract termination and other associated costs as restructuring expense, which is presented as a separate component within operating expenses. Accrued contract termination and other associated costs are recorded in the restructuring accrual line on our consolidated balance sheets. We expect to pay these contract lease termination costs over the remainder of the lease term ending in April 2013. Based on our estimates, we do not expect to receive any material amounts of sublease income through the remainder of the lease term.

The following table summarizes our 2008 Plan activities (in thousands):

	Contract Termination and Other Associated Costs	
Accrued restructuring balance, beginning of period	\$1,212	
Restructuring plan expense	36	
Adjustments to restructuring plan	(247	)
Cash payments	(637	)
Accrued restructuring balance, end of period	\$364	

The adjustment to the 2008 Plan resulted from certain credits received in the first quarter 2012 for previously paid common area maintenance (CAM) charges relating to our lease of the Carlsbad, California facility. We recorded this benefit as a reduction of restructuring expense, which is presented as a separate component within operating expenses.

During July 2012, we signed an amendment to our lease of the Carlsbad facility abating approximately \$0.2 million in rent and other operating expenses in lieu of allowing the landlord to use the facility for the remainder of the lease term.

## 2010 Plan

In the second quarter of 2010, our management approved, committed to, and initiated a restructuring and cost reduction plan, or the 2010 Plan, to better align our resources in order to lower our breakeven point. The 2010 Plan included severance and related costs for the reduction of approximately 10% of our workforce, and fees associated with the acceleration of the closure of our Carlsbad, California facility. As a result of these actions, we intended to terminate approximately 26 employees located in the United States, of which 25 had been terminated as of September 30, 2011. We expected to incur approximately \$0.4 million in severance-related costs, all of which were recognized as of December 31, 2010. Accrued severance-related costs are recorded in the restructuring accrual line on our consolidated balance sheets. The remainder of the severance and related restructuring costs attributable to our

2010 Plan were paid out in the third quarter of 2011.

As part of the 2010 Plan, we also incurred contract termination costs of \$0.3 million since the inception of the 2010 Plan through September 30, 2011 for facility lease and other associated costs that we continued to incur without economic benefit, as we exited the remaining portion of our Carlsbad, California facility. We record charges for contract termination costs and other associated costs as restructuring expense, which is presented as a separate component within operating expenses. Accrued contract termination and other associated costs are recorded in the restructuring accrual line on our consolidated balance sheets. We expect to pay these contract lease termination costs over the remainder of the lease term ending in April 2013. Based on our estimates, we do not expect to receive any material amounts of sublease income through the remainder of the lease term.

The following table summarizes our 2010 Plan activities (in thousands):

13

---

Table of Contents

	Contract Termination and Other Associated Costs	
Accrued restructuring balance, beginning of period	\$116	
Restructuring plan expense	4	
Adjustments to restructuring plan	(21	)
Cash payments	(64	)
Accrued restructuring balance, end of period	\$35	

The adjustment to the 2010 Plan resulted from certain credits received in the first quarter 2012, for previously paid CAM charges relating to our lease of the Carlsbad, California facility. We recorded this benefit as a reduction of restructuring expense, which is presented as a separate component within operating expenses.

## 2012 Plan

In the first quarter 2012, our management approved, committed to, and initiated a restructuring and cost reduction plan, or the 2012 Plan, that is associated with the closure of our Israel Technology Development Center. The 2012 Plan is designed to re-align our software investments to focus on accelerating the development of embedded software features, in order to launch a competitive set of mid-range storage array products in 2012, and to provide more differentiated entry-level products for both OEM and channel customers. As a result of these actions, we terminated all employees located in our Israel Technology Development Center as of September 30, 2012. We incurred a total of \$0.4 million in severance-related costs as of September 30, 2012. Accrued severance-related costs are recorded in the restructuring accrual line on our unaudited consolidated balance sheets. The majority of severance related restructuring costs attributable to our 2012 Plan were paid out in the second quarter of 2012, with the remainder paid out in the third quarter of 2012. Substantially all of our 2012 Plan workforce reductions were completed by July 31, 2012.

As part of the 2012 Plan, we also expect to incur approximately \$0.4 million in contract termination costs for facility lease and other associated costs that we continue to incur without economic benefit, as we exited our Petah Tivka, Israel facility. We record charges for contract termination costs and other associated costs as restructuring expense, which is presented as a separate component within operating expenses. Accrued contract termination and other associated costs are recorded in the restructuring accrual line on our consolidated balance sheets. We expect to pay the majority of the contract lease termination costs over the remainder of the facility lease term ending in December 2012. Based on our estimates, we do not expect to receive any material amounts of sublease income through the remainder of the lease term. Approximately \$0.2 million of our contractual commitments are expected to remain obligations of the Company through December 2013.

The majority of the activities comprising the 2012 Plan are expected to be completed by the end of 2012.

The following table summarizes our 2012 Plan activities (in thousands):

	Severance and Related Costs	Contract Termination and Other Associated Costs	Total
Accrued restructuring balance, beginning of period	\$—	\$—	\$—

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

Restructuring plan charges	440	332	772
Reclass of customer deposits	—	150	150
Cash payments	(440	) (332	) (772
Accrued restructuring balance, end of period	\$—	\$150	\$150

As part of the 2012 Plan, the Company announced that it will no longer support the UVS product effective March 31, 2013. The adjustment to the 2012 Plan represents customer prepaid UVS maintenance agreements for terms covering periods after March 31, 2013, that we expect will require future refunds to those customers impacted by this decision. As these were previously recognized as a component of deferred revenue, there was no impact to earnings, but this adjustment reflects a reclass within the balance sheet as of September 30, 2012.

8. Credit Facilities



Table of Contents

We maintain a credit facility with Silicon Valley Bank for cash advances and letters of credit of up to an aggregate of \$30 million based upon an advance rate dependent on certain concentration limits within eligible accounts receivable. These limitations exclude certain eligible customer receivables if an individual customer account balance exceeds 25, 50 or 85 percent of the total eligible accounts receivable, depending on the customer, as defined by our Loan and Security Agreement with Silicon Valley Bank. Borrowings under the credit facility bear interest at the prime rate and are secured by substantially all of our accounts receivable, deposit and securities accounts. The agreement provides for a negative pledge on our inventory and intellectual property, subject to certain exceptions, and contains usual and customary covenants for an arrangement of its type, including an obligation that we maintain at all times a net worth, as defined in the agreement, of \$50 million (subject to certain increases). The agreement also includes provisions to increase the financing facility by \$20 million subject to our meeting certain requirements, including \$40 million in borrowing base for the immediately preceding 90 days, and Silicon Valley Bank locating a lender willing to finance the additional facility. In addition, if our cash and cash equivalents net of the total amount outstanding under the credit facility fall below \$20 million (measured on a rolling three-month basis), the interest rate will increase to prime plus 1% and additional restrictions will apply. Our credit facility also provides for a cash management services sublimit under the revolving credit line of up to \$300,000.

During the second quarter of 2012, we amended our credit agreement with Silicon Valley Bank. The amendment extends the maturity date to July 21, 2015 and amended certain other terms of the credit agreement, which we do not believe materially impacts our financial position. As of September 30, 2012 we had no outstanding letters of credit and there was \$1.8 million outstanding under the Silicon Valley Bank line of credit. We are currently in compliance with all covenant requirements.

## 9. Fair Value Measurements

## Assets Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

Description	December 31, 2011	Fair Value Measurements Using			Total (Losses)
		Quoted Prices for Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
	(in thousands)				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$46,168	\$46,168	\$—	\$—	\$—

Description	September 30, 2012	Fair Value Measurements Using			Total (Losses)
		Quoted Prices for Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
	(in thousands)				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$40,542	\$40,542	\$—	\$—	\$—

The short-term nature of our all of our financial instruments expose the Company to limited credit risk and have no stated maturities or have short-term maturities and carry interest rates that approximate market interest rates. There were no transfers between Level I and Level II inputs for any of our assets measured on a recurring basis during the

reporting period.

#### Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The Company's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable, notes payable and certain other long-term liabilities. The carrying values on our balance sheet of our cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable, notes payable and contingent consideration due to Ciprico, Inc., or Ciprico, in connection with the acquisition of certain intangible assets, approximate their fair values due to their short maturities.

The following disclosures relate to financial instruments for which the ending balances at December 31, 2011 and September 30, 2012, are not carried at fair value in their entirety on the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance

15

---

Table of Contents

Sheets. These tables present the carrying value and fair value, by fair value hierarchy, of our financial instruments, excluding cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2011 and September 30, 2012, respectively (in thousands).

Description	December 31, 2011	Fair Value Measurements Using			Total (Losses)
		Quoted Prices for Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
Accounts receivable	\$ 31,697	\$—	\$ 31,697	\$—	\$—
Accounts payable	\$ 31,434	\$—	\$ 31,434	\$—	\$—
Notes payable	\$ 71	\$—	\$ 71	\$—	\$—
Contingent consideration due to Ciprico	\$ 100	\$—	\$ 100	\$—	\$—

Description	September 30, 2012	Fair Value Measurements Using			Total (Losses)
		Quoted Prices for Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
Accounts receivable	\$ 28,333	\$—	\$ 28,333	\$—	\$—
Accounts payable	\$ 27,196	\$—	\$ 27,196	\$—	\$—
Credit facility borrowings	\$ 1,800	\$—	\$ 1,800	\$—	\$—

The short-term nature of our all of our financial instruments expose the Company to limited credit risk and have no stated maturities or have short-term maturities and carry interest rates that approximate market interest rates.

The note payable owed to the former owners of Ciprico was initially determined by discounting both principal and interest cash flows expected to be paid using a discount rate for similar instruments with adjustments we believe a market participant would consider in determining fair value. As the final installment of this note payable was settled in the first quarter 2012, the short-term nature is such that the carrying value approximates market value.

Our contingent consideration to the former owners of Ciprico included assumptions about estimated future sales of our AssuredVRA technology over the agreed-upon royalty term, of which approximately 6.67% was to be paid to Ciprico under the royalty agreement. This valuation is sensitive to changes in customer demand and forecasted sales of our AssuredVRA technology through March 31, 2012. The final installment of this obligation was settled in the second quarter of 2012 and the short-term nature is such that the carrying value approximates market value. There were no transfers between Level I and Level II inputs for any of our assets measured on a recurring basis during the reporting period.

## 10. Commitments and Contingencies

We are involved in certain legal actions and claims from time to time arising in the ordinary course of business. Management believes that the outcome of such litigation and claims could have a material effect on our financial statements. Historically, the outcome of such litigation and claims has not had a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

In July 2012, a technology partner notified us of a dispute regarding royalties paid to it for the right to include their technology in certain products sold by us under an intellectual property licensing agreement. This claim relates to certain sales during the period from June 2006 to August 2011. We are reviewing this claim, but cannot at this stage in the process determine the likelihood of the outcome. Our initial estimate of our potential exposure ranges between \$0.0 million and \$1.9 million.

#### 11. Segment Information

Operating segments, as defined Accounting Standard Codification, or ASC, 280 Segment Reporting, are components of an enterprise for which separate financial information is available and is evaluated regularly by the Chief Operating Decision Maker, or CODM, in deciding how to allocate resources and in assessing performance. ASC 280 also requires disclosures about products and services, geographic areas and significant customers.

Table of Contents

As a result of our decision to exit our AssuredUVS line of business, and close down our Israel Technology Development Center during the first quarter of 2012 (see Note 7), our CODM now operates our business in one reportable operating segment. Prior year information has been recast to conform to current year presentation, excluding discontinued operations.

## Geographic Revenues

Net revenue is recorded in the geographic area in which the sale is originated. Information concerning principal geographic areas in which we operate is as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30, 2011	2012	September 30, 2011	2012
Net revenue:				
United States	\$47,197	\$47,737	\$146,910	\$149,169
Europe	11	3	70	12
Asia	597	483	1,826	1,348
Total net revenue	\$47,805	\$48,223	\$148,806	\$150,529

## Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

## Cautionary Statement for Forward-Looking Information

Certain statements contained in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q, including, statements regarding the development, growth and expansion of our business, our intent, belief or current expectations, primarily with respect to our future operating performance and the products we expect to offer, and other statements regarding matters that are not historical facts, are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, and are subject to the "safe harbor" created by these sections. Because such forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Some of the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements can be found in Part II, Item 1A, "Risk Factors" and in our reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made, and we undertake no obligation to update such statements to reflect events that occur or circumstances that exist after the date on which they are made.

The following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in the preceding pages in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q and our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

## Overview

We design, manufacture and market a range of software and hardware storage systems for the entry and midrange storage markets. Beginning in the second half of 2009, we began placing more emphasis on selling higher gross margin products which includes appliance products and hardware products through indirect sales channels.

Typical customers for our storage systems products, which includes our AssuredSAN line of storage array products, include organizations requiring high reliability, high performance networked storage and data management solutions in an open systems architecture. Our storage solutions consist of integrated hardware, firmware and software products employing a modular system that allows end-users to add various protocol, performance, capacity or data protection schemes as needed. Our broad range of products, from small capacity direct attached to complete multi-hundred terabyte, or TB, storage area networks, or SANs, provide end-users with a cost-effective means of addressing increasing storage demands at compelling price-performance points. Our current product family based on our AssuredSAN architecture provides high performance and large disk array capacities for a broad variety of environments, employing Fibre Channel, Internet Small Computer Systems Interface, or iSCSI or Serial Attached SCSI, or SAS, interconnects to switches and/or hosts. In addition, our Assured family of data protection software products provides additional layers of data protection options to complement our line of storage disk

Table of Contents

arrays. Our current mainstream 2000 and 3000 series of entry-level storage products and Just a Bunch of Disks, or JBOD, arrays are targeted primarily at mainstream enterprise and small-to-medium business, or SMB, applications. Some of our AssuredSAN products have been distinguished by certification as Network Equipment Building System, or NEBS, Level 3 (a telecommunications standard for equipment used in central offices) and are MIL-STD-810F (a military standard created by the U.S. government) compliant based on their ruggedness and reliability. In February 2010, we launched the latest AssuredSAN 3000 series of storage arrays that provide high speed interface options including 8 gigabyte, or GB, Fibre Channel, 1GB and 10GB iSCSI over Ethernet and 6GB SAS connectivity.

On August 22, 2012, we introduced AssuredSANTM Pro 5000 Series with RealStorTM software that incorporates real-time data tiering. With RealStor, businesses gain the advantage of very high performance SSDs, using them to their maximum benefit, while storing less frequently accessed data on slower, but much less expensive hard disk drives. On that same day, we also introduced our AssuredSAN(TM) 4000 Series next-generation, high performance storage solution designed to deliver best-in-class price performance, 99.999 percent availability, and exceptional streaming throughput. The Series 4000 shares the same architecture as the Series 5000. Our Series 2000 and 3000 products are characterized by IDC as Band 2 and Band 3 products. With the announcement of our Series 4000 and 5000 products, we now have products characterized as Bands 4 and 5 products and we have thus increased our total available market as measured by end-user sales price from \$4.0 billion to \$10.6 billion.

In September 2008, we acquired certain assets, namely RAIDCore from Ciprico Inc., or Ciprico. These products are marketed to OEM accounts as the AssuredVRA product line. This acquisition opened up new markets for us in the enterprise server and workstation markets for data protection internal to the servers and workstations. In particular, the RAIDCore acquisition allows us to broaden our product portfolio in the redundant array of independent disks, or RAID, market while allowing us to sell into the Band 1 market, and to pursue opportunities at current and target OEM customers. We signed our first customer agreement relating to RAIDCore products in May 2009 and began selling to this customer during the third quarter of 2009. Sales of AssuredVRA products were not significant in 2011 or in 2012. Although sales of our AssuredVRA products increased in 2011, such sales do not represent a significant percentage of our total net revenue for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012.

We have decided to expand our routes to market beyond our focus on OEMs, and in October of 2009, we launched a Dot Hill channel program targeted at selling through distributors and open storage partners, or OSPs. We continued to expand our channel program in 2011 and we believe this will provide Dot Hill with additional sales channels for all of our products. The majority of sales to our channel partners were represented by our AssuredSAN line of products in 2011 and in the first nine months of 2012.

Our agreements with our customers do not contain any minimum purchase commitments and may be terminated at any time upon notice from the applicable customer. Our ability to achieve and maintain profitability will depend on, among other things, the level and mix of orders we actually receive from such customers, the actual amounts we spend on marketing support, the actual amounts we spend for inventory support and incremental internal investment, our ability to reduce product cost, our product lead time, our ability to meet delivery schedules required by our customers and the economic environment.

Our products and services are sold worldwide to facilitate server and SAN storage implementations, primarily through OEMs, and supplemented by system integrators, or SIs, distributors and value added resellers, or VARs. Our storage system products' OEM partners currently include, among others, Hewlett-Packard, or HP, Sony Ericsson, or Ericsson, Motorola, Inc., or Motorola, General Dynamics Government Systems Corporation, or General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin Corporation, or Lockheed Martin, NEC Corporation, or NEC, Tektronix Inc., or Tektronix, Samsung Electronics, or Samsung, Stratus Technologies, or Stratus, and Fujitsu Technology Solutions GmbH, or FTS, and Concurrent Computer Corporation, or Concurrent. Our standalone storage software products' OEM partners currently include, among others, Dell Inc., or Dell. Although our products and services are sold worldwide, the majority of our

net revenue is derived from our U.S. operations.

We began shipping products to HP in the fourth quarter of 2007. In January 2008, we amended our agreement with HP to allow for sales of additional products to additional divisions within HP. Our products are primarily sold as HP's MSA 2000/P2000 product family. Sales to HP increased significantly during 2008 and increased again in 2009 primarily as a result of the successful launch and market acceptance of the HP MSA 2000 products. HP launched its third generation product line, now called the P2000 product line, in February 2010. Sales to HP increased again in 2010 as we began selling our next generation host interfaces across the HP P2000 product line. The agreement with HP does not contain any minimum purchase commitments. In October 2011, we extended our supply agreement with HP by five years to expire in October 2016 and also extended the expiration of 1.6 million warrants granted to HP in March 2008 to expire concurrently with the supply agreement in October 2016. Net revenue from HP approximated 74% of our total net revenue in 2011 and 67% of our total net revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. We expect sales to HP to continue to represent a substantial percentage of our total



Table of Contents

net revenue in 2012. We expect to generate additional revenue from our indirect channel as well as new and potential new OEM customers.

In addition, the demand for our products has been affected in the past, and may continue to be affected in the future, by various factors, including, but not limited to, the following:

- our ability to maintain and enhance relationships with our customers, in particular our OEM customers, as well as our ability to win new business;
- our ability to source critical components such as integrated circuits, hard disk drives, memory and other components on a timely basis;
- the amount of field failures resulting in product replacements or recalls;
- our ability to launch new products in accordance with OEM specifications, schedules and milestones;
- our ability to sell Dot Hill branded products through Resellers;
- our ability to win new OEM customers;
- general economic and political conditions and specific conditions in the markets we address, including the continuing volatility in the technology sector, current general economic volatility and trends in the data storage markets in various geographic regions;
- the timing, rescheduling or cancellation of significant customer orders and our ability, as well as the ability of our customers, to manage inventory; and
- the inability of certain of our customers who depend on credit to have access to their traditional sources of credit to finance the purchase of products from us, particularly in the current global economic environment, which may lead them to reduce their level of purchases or to seek credit or other accommodations from us.

For these and other reasons, our net revenue and results of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and prior periods may not necessarily be indicative of future net revenue and results of operations.

Our manufacturing strategy includes outsourcing substantially all of our manufacturing to third-party manufacturers in order to reduce sales cycle times and manufacturing infrastructure, enhance working capital and improve margins by taking advantage of the third parties' manufacturing and procurement economies of scale. In September 2008, we entered into a manufacturing agreement with Foxconn Technology Group, or Foxconn. Under the terms of the agreement, Foxconn supplies us with manufacturing, assembly and test services from its facilities in China and final integration services including final assembly, testing and configure-to-order services, through its worldwide facilities. In November 2011, we amended our agreement with Foxconn to extend the manufacturing agreement for a period of three years. In addition, Foxconn agreed to waive the requirement for a letter of credit and improved our payment terms. Foxconn began manufacturing products for us in July 2009 and we began shipping products for general availability under the Foxconn agreement during the second half of 2009. The majority of our products sold in 2011 and in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 were manufactured by Foxconn. We expect Foxconn to manufacture substantially all of our products for the remainder of 2012.

We derive the majority of our net revenue primarily from sales of our Series 2000 and 3000 family of products, which are included in our AssuredSAN product line.

Cost of goods sold includes costs of materials, subcontractor costs, salary and related benefits for the production and service departments, depreciation and amortization of equipment and intangible assets used in the production and service departments, production facility rent and allocation of overhead as well as manufacturing variances and freight.

Research and development expenses consist primarily of project-related expenses, consulting charges and salaries for employees directly engaged in research and development.

Sales and marketing expenses consist primarily of salaries and commissions, marketing related costs, advertising, customer-related evaluation unit expenses, promotional costs and travel expenses.

General and administrative expenses consist primarily of compensation to officers and employees performing administrative functions, as well as expenditures for legal, accounting and other administrative services and fluctuations in currency valuations.

## Table of Contents

Other income (expense), net is comprised primarily of interest income earned on our cash and cash equivalents and other miscellaneous income and expense items.

In the first quarter of 2012, our management approved, committed to, and initiated a restructuring and cost reduction plan or the 2012 Plan that is associated with the closure of our Israel Technology Development Center. The 2012 Plan is designed to re-align our software investments to focus on accelerating the development of embedded software features, in order to launch a competitive set of mid-range storage array products in 2012, and to provide more differentiated entry-level products for both OEM and channel customers. Substantially all of our 2012 Plan workforce reductions were completed by July 31, 2012. The closure of our Israel Technology Development Center is now recorded in discontinued operations, since we have ceased all ongoing operational activities as of September 30, 2012.

## Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

An accounting policy is deemed to be critical if it requires an accounting estimate to be made based on assumptions about matters that are highly uncertain at the time the estimate is made, if different estimates reasonably could have been used, or if changes in the estimate that are reasonably likely to occur could materially impact the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements. Except as noted below, management believes that there have been no significant changes during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, to the items that we disclosed as our critical accounting policies and estimates in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011.

## Warranty and Related Obligations

Our standard warranty provides that if our systems do not function to published specifications, we will repair or replace the defective component or system without charge generally for a period of approximately three years. We generally extend to our customers the warranties provided to us by our suppliers, and accordingly, the majority of our warranty obligations to customers are typically intended to be covered by corresponding supplier warranties. For warranty costs not covered by our suppliers, we provide for estimated warranty costs in the period the revenue is recognized. There can be no assurance that our suppliers will continue to provide such warranties to us in the future or that our warranty obligations to our customers will be covered by corresponding warranties from our suppliers, the absence of which could have a material effect on our financial statements. Estimated liabilities for product warranties are included in accrued expenses.

In October 2009, we discovered a quality issue associated with certain power supply devices provided by a long-term component supplier, which resulted in a higher than expected level of power supply failures to us and our customers. While we were able to promptly identify and resolve the cause of the failures, we are required to provide replacement products or make repairs to the affected power supply units that had been sold between March and October 2009. Through June 30, 2011, our component supplier had repaired all of the faulty power supplies at no cost to us and reimbursed us for our out-of-pocket costs which has constituted a reimbursement to customers for certain out-of-pocket costs they incurred in connection with these power supply failures. The total amount reimbursed to us by our component supplier approximated \$1.0 million through June 30, 2011.

In the second and third quarters of 2011, a material customer provided us with a framework estimating the potential claims precipitated by the power supply failures. As previously disclosed, the customer's preliminary framework of potential claims provided to us included additional costs related to the customer's internal overhead for other internal indirect costs, in addition to third-party direct costs. Based on preliminary discussions for settlement and our analysis of the framework provided by the customer, including future potential claims through the warranty period, we estimated that we had incurred a probable loss of approximately \$2.8 million. Consequently, in addition to the \$1.3

million previously recognized as of June 30, 2011, we recorded an estimated liability of \$1.5 million as of September 30, 2011 within "Accrued expenses" on our condensed consolidated balance sheet.

Negotiations continued with our customer throughout the fourth quarter of 2011 into the first half of 2012. Based on the results of ongoing negotiations with the material customer, we increased our estimated liability at December 31, 2011 to \$5.5 million, resulting in a charge of \$2.7 million during the fourth quarter of 2011 within "Accrued expenses" on our condensed consolidated balance sheet, gross of any third-party recoveries.

A final settlement with this material customer was reached during the second quarter of 2012. The terms of the agreement required an immediate payment of \$2.0 million and an estimated remaining liability of approximately \$2.7 million as of September 30, 2012 related to a combination of future price concessions and rebates to be paid quarterly based on sales

## Table of Contents

volumes through December 31, 2012. While our estimated liability relating to failed power supply units is subject to some uncertainty until final settlement, based on our current expectation of sales volumes with this material customer, we do not believe the incurrence of an additional loss is either probable or reasonably possible at this time.

During the second quarter of 2011, based on the advice of legal counsel, we established that our component supplier is contractually obligated to reimburse us for fair and reasonable costs we incur with our customers associated with these power supply failures. Our component supplier had continued to re-work and distribute to our customer the affected population of power supplies at no cost to us. In addition, at the time, our collection experience with similar amounts already reimbursed to us by our supplier and our belief that our component supplier and its parent companies had the financial ability to continue to reimburse us for any additional costs we may incur, we recorded a current asset within "Prepaid expenses and other assets" on our consolidated balance sheet of \$1.3 million as of June 30, 2011.

During the third quarter of 2011, as the claims from our customer became clearer, we commenced negotiations with our component supplier for fair and reasonable costs that we have and are likely to incur through the warranty period associated with this component failure. Originally we determined that the supplier was unlikely to make an up-front cash payment for the original settlement amount of \$1.3 million, but it indicated a willingness to provide some form of reimbursement for costs incurred, in the form of cash and/or note receivable of \$0.5 million plus future product rebates. Based on our judgment at the time, we reduced the previously recorded current asset of \$1.3 million within "Prepaid expenses and other assets" to \$0.5 million as of September 30, 2011. We continued to negotiate this settlement with our supplier and during the second quarter of 2012, the supplier signed a final settlement agreement providing for additional reimbursements above what was recognized as of September 30, 2011. Pursuant to the settlement, the supplier agreed to cash consideration of \$1.2 million, of which we received \$0.7 million subsequent to the signing of the settlement agreement, with the remaining \$0.5 million to be received in installments over the next three quarters. Additionally, our supplier committed to product rebates and/or price concessions on product orders for a period of 39 months from the execution of the settlement agreement, in return for our agreement to release our supplier from all obligations relating to the power supply failures known by us to date. This agreement is not subject to any required future purchases.

In addition, we have commenced discussions with our General Liability and Errors and Omissions Insurance and underwriters and will continue to pursue our rights to cover any damages we incur and that are not reimbursed by our supplier. The insurance company has issued a reservation of rights letter to us and at this time, it is not possible to estimate to what extent the residual amounts, if any, we will be covered by our carrier. As of September 30, 2012 we have not assumed or recorded any insurance reimbursement.

To the extent our settlement agreements with our customer and our component supplier are not on mutually beneficial terms, or our component supplier does not continue to reimburse us for the expenses incurred by us or our customers, and we are unsuccessful in recovering such expenses from our insurance provider, we could incur additional expenses which could potentially have a material effect on our financial statements and liquidity.

## Long-lived Asset Impairment

We periodically review the recoverability of the carrying value of long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying value may not be recoverable. An impairment in the carrying value of an asset group is recognized whenever anticipated future undiscounted cash flows from an asset group are estimated to be less than its carrying value. The amount of impairment recognized is the difference between the carrying value of the asset group and its fair value. Fair value estimates are based on assumptions concerning the amount and timing of estimated future cash flows and assumed discount rates, reflecting varying degrees of perceived risk.

As of September 30, 2011, we identified a change in circumstances that indicated the carrying amount of our long-lived assets may not be recoverable, as our primary AssuredUVS customer informed us that the AssuredUVS software would no longer be a component of its business strategy, which would result in a significant decline in revenues for the Company. Our long-lived assets consisted of the intangible assets associated with our acquisition of certain identified Cloverleaf Communications, Inc., or Cloverleaf, assets acquired in January 2010 with an original carrying value of \$5.0 million and property and equipment of \$1.2 million.

Since we did not have an immediate replacement for our AssuredUVS customer, management's forecasted undiscounted cash flows indicated that the assets were potentially not recoverable, and proceeded to estimate the fair value of each long-lived asset. Property and equipment consisted of mostly machinery and equipment used for testing and development of our AssuredUVS technology. Management determined that carrying value approximated fair value, as property was either acquired

## Table of Contents

in the 2010 acquisition of Cloverleaf, had been purchased subsequently, or could be re-deployed, establishing recent evidence of fair value. It was depreciated over a 3 – 5 year estimated useful life.

Intangible assets consisted primarily of acquired software of \$4.9 million and a trade name of \$0.1 million. We determined the fair value of the acquired software by estimating the replacement cost of the software, taking into account both the software as acquired and subsequent development work, as well as the business alternatives we were considering and the corresponding value of the software in these alternative approaches. We estimated the value of the software based on the probabilities of each of the business alternatives. We determined the fair value of the trade name using an income approach and considered the fact that the software's trade name at the time of acquisition was no longer being used. All estimates were based on management using appropriate assumptions and projections.

Our impairment analysis at September 30, 2011 identified \$2.9 million of impaired long-lived assets, consisting entirely of intangible assets recognized as part of the Cloverleaf acquisition in 2010. Long-lived asset impairment charges are recorded consistent with our treatment of related amortization expense specific to each acquired intangible assets. We recorded \$2.8 million of impaired acquired software and \$0.1 million of impaired acquired trade name as a component of cost of goods sold for the year ended December 31, 2011.

In February 2012, our Board of Directors approved a plan to exit our AssuredUVS business and close down our Israel Technology Development Center (see Note 7), at which time it was determined that the valuations at that date were appropriate. During the second quarter of 2012, we explored the potential sale of the AssuredUVS business, but were unsuccessful in locating a buyer and ended efforts to sell the business or its component assets as of June 30, 2012. Accordingly, we recognized an impairment of \$0.2 million of property, plant and equipment and \$1.6 million for the remaining value of acquired software as a component of cost of goods sold as of June 30, 2012. The AssuredUVS business is now recorded in discontinued operations, since we have ceased all ongoing operational activities as of September 30, 2012.

### Valuation of Goodwill

We review goodwill for impairment on an annual basis at November 30 and whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable.

Current accounting standards require that a two-step impairment test be performed on goodwill. In the first step, we compare the fair value of our reporting unit to its carrying value. We determine the fair value of our reporting unit using a combination of the income approach and market capitalization approach. If the fair value of the reporting unit exceeds the carrying value of the net assets, goodwill is not impaired, and we are not required to perform further testing. If the carrying value of the net assets exceeds the fair value of the reporting unit, then we must perform the second step in order to determine the implied fair value of the reporting unit's goodwill and compare it to the carrying value of the reporting unit's goodwill. If the carrying value of the reporting unit's goodwill exceeds its implied fair value, then we must record an impairment charge equal to the difference.

Under the income approach, we calculate the fair value of a reporting unit based on the present value of estimated future discounted cash flows. Under the market capitalization approach, valuation multiples are calculated based on operating data from publicly traded companies within our industry. Multiples derived from companies within our industry provide an indication of how much a knowledgeable investor in the marketplace would be willing to pay for a company. These multiples are applied to the operating data for the reporting unit to arrive at an indicated fair value. Significant management judgment is required in the forecasts of future operating results that are used in the estimated future discounted cash flow method of valuation. The estimates we have used are consistent with the plans and estimates that we use to manage our business. We base our fair value estimates on forecasted revenue and operating costs along with business plans. Our forecasts consider the effect of a number of factors including, but not limited to,

the current future projected competitiveness and market acceptance of the product, technological risk, the ease of use and ease of implementation of the product, the likely outcome of sales and marketing efforts and projected costs associated with product development, customer support and selling, general and administrative costs. It is possible, however, that the plans may change and that actual results may differ significantly from our estimates.

During September 2011, our primary AssuredUVS customer became delinquent on the settlement of its payables to us and upon our investigation it became evident that its financial resources were limited. It also informed us that they were changing their strategy which would result in a significant decline in revenue for the Company, and we determined it was “more-likely-than-not” that the reporting unit was less than its carrying value. The impairment of the goodwill related to the reporting unit is now reported in discontinued operations (see Note 3), since we have ceased all ongoing operational activities as of September 30, 2012.



Table of Contents

## Results of Operations

The following table sets forth certain items from our statements of operations as a percentage of net revenue for the periods indicated (percentages may not aggregate due to rounding):

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended		
	September 30,		September 30,		
	2011	2012	2011	2012	
Net revenue	100.0	% 100.0	% 100.0	% 100.0	%
Cost of goods sold	76.1	74.6	75.5	73.1	
Gross profit	23.9	25.4	24.5	26.9	
Operating expenses:					
Research and development	17.5	19.4	15.5	18.8	
Sales and marketing	7.6	7.4	6.6	6.9	
General and administrative	4.0	4.4	4.2	4.7	
Restructuring charge	1.4	(0.4)	0.4	(0.2)	)
Total operating expenses	30.5	30.8	26.7	30.2	
Operating loss	(6.6)	) (5.4)	) (2.2)	) (3.3)	)
Other income (expense), net	—	—	—	—	
Loss before income taxes and discontinued operations	(6.6)	) (5.4)	) (2.2)	) (3.3)	)
Income tax (benefit) expense	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	
Loss from continuing operations	(6.8)	) (5.7)	) (2.3)	) (3.6)	)
Loss from discontinued operations	(18.7)	) (0.6)	) (7.9)	) (2.9)	)
Net loss	(25.5	)% (6.3	)% (10.2	)% (6.5	)%

Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011 Compared to the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012

## Net Revenue

	Three Months Ended September 30,			
	2011	2012	Increase	% Change
	(in thousands, except percentages)			
Net Revenue	\$47,805	\$48,223	\$418	0.9 %
	Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2011	2012	Increase	% Change
	(in thousands, except percentages)			
Net Revenue	\$148,806	\$150,529	\$1,723	1.2 %

Net revenues increased approximately \$0.4 million from \$47.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011 to \$48.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012. The increase in net revenue was primarily due to a \$2.5 million increase in sales to other OEM customers, offset by a \$2.1 million decrease in revenue from HP from \$35.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011 to \$32.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012. However, we expect sales to HP to continue to represent a substantial portion of our net revenue during 2012. Sales to HP approximated 73% of our net revenue for the three months ended September 30, 2011

compared to 68% of our net revenue for the three months ended September 30, 2012.

Net revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 to September 30, 2012 increased approximately \$1.7 million from \$148.8 million to \$150.5 million, respectively. However, there were significant customer fluctuations within this period. Revenues from HP decreased from \$113.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 compared to \$100.4 million

Table of Contents

for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, a decline of \$12.9 million. There were additional revenue changes which contributed to the fluctuation in the nine months ended September 30, 2012. Sales of our AssuredVRA products decreased from \$2.1 million to \$1.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and September 30, 2012. Other OEM revenue increased \$13.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and was a result of adding new OEM partners and increased sales as our OEM customers responded to the global hard drive supply constraints earlier in 2012. Sales to our channel partners increased from \$4.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 to \$6.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. This was due to an increase in resellers that were better qualified to resell our products.

## Cost of Goods Sold and Gross Profit

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2011		Three Months Ended September 30, 2012		Increase (Decrease)	% Change
	Amount	% of Net Revenue	Amount	% of Net Revenue		
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Cost of Goods Sold	\$36,364	76.1	% \$35,955	74.6	% \$(409)	(1.1)%
Gross Profit	\$11,441	23.9	% \$12,268	25.4	% \$827	7.2%

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012		Increase (Decrease)	% Change
	Amount	% of Net Revenue	Amount	% of Net Revenue		
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Cost of Goods Sold	\$112,322	75.5	% \$110,035	73.1	% \$(2,287)	(2.0)%
Gross Profit	\$36,484	24.5	% \$40,494	26.9	% \$4,010	11.0%

Cost of goods sold decreased for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 primarily as a result of a more favorable mix of sales revenue and cost reductions, which were partially offset by increased warranty related costs.

Gross profit margin increased from 23.9% for the three months ended September 30, 2011 to 25.4% for the three months ended September 30, 2012. Gross profit margin benefited from manufacturing cost reductions, component cost reductions and a more favorable product and customer mix, which were partially offset by increased warranty related costs. Gross profit and gross margins for the three months ended September 30, 2012 were also positively impacted by decreased manufacturing overhead costs which decreased from \$6.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011 to \$4.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012.

Gross profit margin increased from 24.5% for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 to 26.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. Gross profit margins benefited from manufacturing cost reductions, component cost reductions and a more favorable product and customer mix, which were partially offset by increased warranty related costs. Furthermore, gross profit and gross margins for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 were positively impacted by decreased manufacturing support costs which decreased from \$13.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 to \$9.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012.

## Research and Development Expenses

Three Months Ended	Three Months Ended	Increase	%
--------------------	--------------------	----------	---

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

	September 30, 2011		September 30, 2012		Change	
	Amount	% of Net Revenue	Amount	% of Net Revenue		
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Research and Development Expenses	\$8,384	17.5	% \$9,368	19.4	% \$984	11.7 %

Table of Contents

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012		Increase	% Change
	Amount	% of Net Revenue	Amount	% of Net Revenue		
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Research and Development Expenses	\$ 23,125	15.5	% \$ 28,226	18.8	% \$ 5,101	22.1 %

Research and development expense increased \$1.0 million to \$9.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012 compared to \$8.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011. The increase was primarily due to a \$0.7 million increase in salaries and payroll expense and a \$0.6 million increase in project materials expense. These increases were partially offset by a \$0.2 million decrease in depreciation expense and a \$0.1 million decrease in other miscellaneous expenses. The increase in salaries and payroll expense and project materials expense is the result of the acquisition of materials and additions to staff to support customizations for newer OEM customers, the launch of the company's Series 4000 and 5000 mid-range products and next generation product development. The net decrease in depreciation expense is due to \$0.4 million of depreciation expense on certain software licenses in 2011, versus an increase in 2012 of \$0.2 million in depreciation expense resulting from the acquisition of materials to support strategic development projects.

Research and development expense increased \$5.1 million to \$28.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared to \$23.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. This increase was due to an increase in salaries and payroll related expenses for research and development personnel of \$2.7 million, an increase in project materials and depreciation expense of \$1.4 million, an increase in allocated costs of \$0.6 million, and an increase in consulting expense of \$0.4 million. The increase in salaries and payroll related expense is the result of the 2012 reinstatement of salary reductions which were in effect throughout 2011. The increase in salaries expense is also the result of increased headcount focused on customizations for newer OEM customers, the launch of the company's Series 4000 and 5000 mid-range products and next generation product development. The increase in project materials expense and depreciation expense is the result of an increase in capital assets and project supplies required to support new customer wins, the launch of our mid-range products, and the development of our next generation storage products due to be released in 2013.

The increase in allocated costs is due to increased headcount and equipment necessary to support the research and development function. The increase in consulting expense is primarily the result of an increased reliance on domestic and foreign engineering consultants to assist certain engineering functions with strategic development projects.

We expect that the timing of our engineering material purchases and additional headcount requirements to support new product releases will affect the amount of research and development expenses in future periods.

## Sales and Marketing Expenses

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2011		Three Months Ended September 30, 2012		Decrease	% Change
	Amount	% of Net Revenue	Amount	% of Net Revenue		
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Sales and Marketing Expenses	\$ 3,623	7.6	% \$ 3,558	7.4	% \$(65 )	(1.8 )%

  

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012		Increase	% Change
	Amount	% of Net	Amount	% of Net		

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

	Revenue			Revenue					
	(in thousands, except percentages)								
Sales and Marketing Expenses	\$9,889	6.6	%	\$10,415	6.9	%	\$526	5.3	%

Sales and marketing expense decreased approximately \$0.1 million to \$3.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012 compared to \$3.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011. This decrease was primarily due to a decrease in salaries and payroll related expenses of \$0.1 million due to the timing of replacing an employee.

Sales and marketing expense increased approximately \$0.5 million to \$10.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared to \$9.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. This increase was primarily due to an increase in evaluation unit expenses of \$0.4 million and an increase in trade show expenses of \$0.1 million. The increase

Table of Contents

in evaluation unit expenses was due to an increase in customer interest in new products. The increase in trade show expenses is primarily due to promoting our new product offerings.

## General and Administrative Expenses

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2011		Three Months Ended September 30, 2012		Increase	% Change
	Amount	% of Net Revenue	Amount	% of Net Revenue		
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
General and Administrative Expenses	\$ 1,922	4.0	% \$ 2,101	4.4	% \$ 179	9.3 %
	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012		Increase	% Change
	Amount	% of Net Revenue	Amount	% of Net Revenue		
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
General and Administrative Expenses	\$ 6,267	4.2	% \$ 7,146	4.7	% \$ 879	14.0 %

General and administrative expenses increased approximately \$0.2 million to \$2.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012 compared to \$1.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011. The increase was primarily due to a \$0.2 million increase in salaries and payroll related expenses for the hiring of key administrative personnel.

General and administrative expenses increased approximately \$0.9 million to \$7.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared to \$6.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. This increase was due to \$0.6 million realized and unrealized foreign currency net losses, a \$0.4 million increase in salaries and payroll related expenses, and a \$0.3 million increase in recruiting and consultant fees. These increases were partially offset by a \$0.3 million decrease in stock-based compensation. The realized and unrealized foreign currency net losses resulted from an unfavorable change in unrealized foreign currency losses of \$1.1 million, partially offset by realized foreign currency gains of \$0.5 million related to transactions reflecting changes in the value of the Euro, British Pound, and Japanese Yen in relation to the United States Dollar. The increase in salaries and payroll related expense is the result of the 2012 reinstatement of salary reductions which were in effect throughout 2011 combined with the hiring of key administrative personnel. The decline in stock-based compensation was due to an increased emphasis on the use of stock options versus restricted stock awards, reducing the overall value of more recent grants.

## Restructuring Charge (Recovery)

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2011		Three Months Ended September 30, 2012		Decrease	% Change
	Amount	% of Net Revenue	Amount	% of Net Revenue		
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Restructuring Charge (Recovery)	\$ 659	1.4	% \$(183 )	(0.4 )	% \$(842 )	(127.8 )%
	Nine Months Ended		Nine Months Ended		Decrease	% Change

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

	September 30, 2011		September 30, 2012		Change
	Amount	% of Net Revenue	Amount	% of Net Revenue	
	(in thousands, except percentages)				
Restructuring Charge (Recovery)	\$ 655	0.4	% \$ (228 )	(0.2 )%	\$ (883 ) (134.8 )%

Restructuring expenses decreased to a recovery of \$0.2 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared to an expense of \$0.7 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011. These expenses relate to our 2008 and 2010 Restructuring Plans, for which there are no significant expenses remaining to be incurred in 2012. See Note 7 of Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for more details regarding our restructuring activities.



Table of Contents

## Other Income (Expense), net

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2011		Three Months Ended September 30, 2012		Decrease	% Change
	Amount	% of Net Revenue	Amount	% of Net Revenue		
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Other Income (Expense), net	\$ (15 )	— %	\$ (5 )	— %	\$ (10 )	(66.7 )%
	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012		Decrease	% Change
	Amount	% of Net Revenue	Amount	% of Net Revenue		
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Other Income (Expense), net	\$ (22 )	— %	\$ 8	— %	\$ (30 )	(136.4 )%

Other income (expense), net consists of interest income on our cash and cash equivalents, interest expense related to our note payable and other miscellaneous items. Other income (expense), was slightly lower for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011.

## Income Taxes

We recorded an income tax provision of \$0.2 million and \$0.5 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and an income tax provision of \$0.1 million and \$0.2 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011. Our provision primarily relates to estimated liabilities relating to certain tax positions involving our foreign subsidiaries that have not been concluded on with the relevant taxing authority.

## Loss From Discontinued Operations

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2011		Three Months Ended September 30, 2012		Decrease	% Change
	Amount	% of Net Revenue	Amount	% of Net Revenue		
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Loss From Discontinued Operations	\$ (8,945 )	(18.7 )%	\$ (280 )	(0.6 )%	\$ (8,665 )	(96.9 )%
	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012		Decrease	% Change
	Amount	% of Net Revenue	Amount	% of Net Revenue		
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Loss From Discontinued Operations	\$ (11,734 )	(7.9 )%	\$ (4,411 )	(2.9 )%	\$ (7,323 )	(62.4 )%

Loss from discontinued operations decreased \$8.7 million to \$0.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012 compared to \$8.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011. The decline in losses was primarily driven by the Company's decision in the first quarter of 2012 to close down our Israel Technology Center and exit out of our AssuredUVS business. This decrease was due to an increase in gross profit of \$3.4 million, primarily driven by a decrease of \$0.2 million in revenue and a decrease of \$3.6 million cost of goods sold. Additionally, there was a decline in operating expenses from discontinued operations of \$5.3 million. The decrease in cost of goods sold was

primarily a result of a \$2.9 million intangible impairment charge in 2011. The decrease in operating expenses primarily consisted of a decrease in research and development expense of \$1.1 million, a decrease in sales and marketing expense of \$0.2 million, an impairment of goodwill of \$4.1 million recorded in 2011, partially offset by an increase in general and administrative expense of \$0.1 million. Operating expenses from discontinued operations decreased primarily due to a \$0.9 million decrease in salaries and payroll related expenses, a \$0.2 million decrease in depreciation expense, a \$0.1 million decrease in stock-based compensation expense, a \$0.1 million decrease in facility expense and an impairment of goodwill of \$4.1 million recorded in 2011 and a \$0.2 million decrease in other operating expenses. These decreases were partially offset by an increase in professional service fees of \$0.3 million.

## Table of Contents

Loss from discontinued operations decreased \$7.3 million to \$4.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared to \$11.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The decline in losses was primarily driven by the Company's decision in the first quarter of 2012 to close down our Israel Technology Center and exit out of our AssuredUVS business. This decrease was due to an increase in gross profit of \$1.0 million, primarily driven by a decrease of \$1.4 million in revenue and a decrease of \$2.4 million cost of goods sold. Additionally, there was a decline in operating expenses from discontinued operations of \$6.3 million. The decrease in cost of goods sold was primarily a result of a \$2.9 million intangible impairment charge in 2011. The decrease in operating expenses from discontinued operations consisted of a decrease in research and development expense of \$2.6 million, a decrease in sales and marketing expense of \$0.5 million, and an impairment of goodwill of \$4.1 million recorded in 2011, partially offset by an increase in general and administrative expense of \$0.1 million, in addition to restructuring charges of \$0.8 million recorded in 2012. Operating expenses from discontinued operations decreased primarily due to a \$2.3 million decrease in salaries and payroll related expenses, a \$0.3 million decrease in depreciation expense, a \$0.3 million decrease in stock-based compensation expense, a \$0.2 million decrease in facility expense, an impairment of goodwill of \$4.1 million recorded in 2011 and a \$0.2 million decrease in insignificant other operating expenses, offset by an increase in restructuring charges of \$0.8 million. These decreases were offset by an increase in professional service fees of \$0.3 million.

All of the above are a result of activity related to our plan to exit our AssuredUVS business and close down our Israel Technology Development Center. See Note 3 of Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for more details regarding our discontinued operations.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

The primary drivers affecting cash and liquidity are net losses, working capital requirements and capital expenditures. Historically, the payment terms we have had to offer our customers have been relatively similar to the terms received from our creditors and suppliers. We typically bill customers on an open account basis subject to our standard credit quality and payment terms ranging between net 30 and net 45 days. If our net revenue increases, it is likely that our accounts receivable balance will also increase. Conversely, if our net revenue decreases, it is likely that our accounts receivable will also decrease. Our accounts receivable could increase if customers, such as large OEM customers, delay their payments or if we grant them extended payment terms. Our accounts payable also increase or decrease in connection with changes in volumes as well as our cash conservation strategies.

As of September 30, 2012, we had \$40.5 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$37.9 million of working capital compared to \$46.2 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$41.4 million of working capital as of December 31, 2011. The decrease in cash and cash equivalents is further described below.

Cash equivalents include highly liquid investments purchased with an original maturity of 90 days or less and consist principally of money market funds.

## Operating Activities

Net cash used by operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was \$4.7 million compared to \$1.1 million of cash provided by operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The operating activities that affected cash consisted primarily of a net loss, which totaled \$9.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared to a net loss of \$15.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The decrease in our net loss for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was primarily attributable to our exit from our AssuredUVS business, including the closing of our Israel Technology Center and we improved margins due to changes in product mix. These savings were offset by increased operating costs, the majority of which were due to increased engineering costs as we continue to invest in our next generation technologies and in our mid-range storage

array products launched in 2012, and to provide more differentiated entry-level products for both OEM and channel customers.

The adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used by operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 for items that did not affect cash consisted of depreciation and amortization of \$2.8 million, loss on the write-off of intangible assets of \$1.6 million, loss on the write-off of property and equipment of \$0.3 million, stock-based compensation expense of \$3.0 million and an insignificant provision for bad debt expense.

Cash flows from operations reflects the positive impact of \$3.4 million related to a decrease in accounts receivable, which was primarily due to a decrease in the number of days sales outstanding, which decreased from 62 days at the end of the fourth quarter of 2011 to 54 days at the end of the third quarter of 2012. Additionally, accounts receivable at December 31, 2011 increased due to seasonal year end demand. Cash flows from operations also reflects the positive impact of \$1.1 million

## Table of Contents

related to an overall decrease in prepaid expenses and other assets at September 30, 2012, which was primarily due to payments received from a material component supplier in relation to certain failed power supply units. Deferred revenue had a \$0.4 million positive impact to cash from operations due to an increase in prepaid maintenance agreements sold through our Channel partners. Cash flows from operations also reflect the impact of \$1.0 million related to an overall increase in other long-term liabilities, primarily due to increased deferred rents on our facility leases in Longmont, CO and Carlsbad, CA.

Cash flows from operations reflect a negative impact of \$0.2 million due to a slight increase in inventories from December 31, 2011 to September 30, 2012. Cash flows from operations also reflect a negative impact of \$4.7 million due to the pay down of our accounts payable balance, which is also reflected in our days payable outstanding which decreased from 75 days at the end of the fourth quarter 2011 to 69 days at the end of the third quarter of 2012. Accrued compensation and other expenses negatively impacted the cash from operations by \$2.6 million due to settling a large invoice for software licenses and payments on a settlement with a material customer related to failed power supply units. Cash flows from operations also include a decrease in our restructuring accrual of \$0.8 million which is due primarily to expense payments related to shutting down the Israel Technology Development Center and continued reductions in our 2008 Plan and 2010 Plan contractual commitments.

### Investing Activities

Cash used in investing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was approximately \$2.9 million compared to \$2.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. Cash used in investing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was due to purchases of property and equipment primarily associated with test and other equipment used by our contract manufacturing partners in the production of our products and for equipment used in our Longmont, Colorado engineering laboratories.

### Financing Activities

Cash provided by financing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was approximately \$1.9 million compared to \$0.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. Cash provided by financing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was primarily due to \$1.8 million of borrowings under the Silicon Valley Bank line of credit and the sale of stock to employees under our employee stock plans of approximately \$0.7 million, which was offset by tax liability payments of \$0.5 million made by Dot Hill associated with employee equity awards and \$0.1 million for the ongoing pay down of our note payable associated with our 2008 acquisition of certain intangible assets from Ciprico.

Based on current macro-economic conditions and conditions in the state of the data storage systems markets, our own organizational structure and our current outlook, we presently expect our cash and cash equivalents will be sufficient to fund our operations, working capital and capital requirements for at least the next 12 months. However, our capital resources could be negatively impacted by unforeseen future events.

Our standard warranty provides that if our systems do not function to published specifications, we will repair or replace the defective component or system without charge generally for a period of approximately three years. We generally extend to our customers the warranties provided to us by our suppliers, and accordingly, the majority of our warranty obligations to customers are intended to be covered by corresponding supplier warranties. For warranty costs not covered by our suppliers, we provide for estimated warranty costs in the period the revenue is recognized. There can be no assurance that our suppliers will continue to provide such warranties to us in the future or that our warranty obligations to our customers will be covered by corresponding warranties from our suppliers, the absence of which could have a material effect on our financial statements. Estimated liabilities for product warranties are included in accrued expenses.

In October 2009, we discovered a quality issue associated with certain power supply devices provided by a long-term component supplier, which resulted in a higher than expected level of power supply failures to us and our customers. While we were able to promptly identify and resolve the cause of the failures, we are required to provide replacement products or make repairs to the affected power supply units that had been sold between March and October 2009. Through June 30, 2011, our component supplier had repaired all of the faulty power supplies at no cost to us and reimbursed us for our out-of-pocket costs, which has constituted a reimbursement to customers for certain out-of-pocket costs they incurred in connection with these power supply failures. The total amount reimbursed to us by our component supplier approximated \$1.0 million through June 30, 2011.

In the second and third quarters of 2011, a material customer provided us with a framework estimating the potential claims precipitated by the power supply failures. As previously disclosed, the customer's preliminary framework of potential claims provided to us included additional costs related to the customer's internal overhead for other internal indirect costs, in

Table of Contents

addition to third-party direct costs. Based on preliminary discussions for settlement and our analysis of the framework provided by the customer, including future potential claims through the warranty period, we estimated that we had incurred a probable loss of approximately \$2.8 million. Consequently, in addition to the \$1.3 million previously recognized as of June 30, 2011, we recorded an estimated liability of \$1.5 million as of September 30, 2011 within “Accrued expenses” on our condensed consolidated balance sheet.

Negotiations continued with our customer throughout the fourth quarter of 2011 into the first half of 2012. Based on the results of ongoing negotiations with the material customer, we increased our estimated liability at December 31, 2011 to \$5.5 million, resulting in a charge of \$2.7 million during the fourth quarter of 2011 within “Accrued expenses” on our condensed consolidated balance sheet, gross of any third-party recoveries.

A final settlement with this material customer was reached during the second quarter of 2012. The terms of the agreement required an immediate payment of \$2.0 million, and an estimated remaining liability of approximately \$2.7 million as of September 30, 2012 related to a combination of future price concessions and rebates to be paid quarterly based on sales volumes through December 31, 2012. While our estimated liability relating to failed power supply units is subject to some uncertainty until final settlement, based on our current expectation of sales volumes with this material customer, we do not believe the incurrence of an additional loss is either probable or reasonably possible at this time.

During the second quarter of 2011, based on the advice of legal counsel, we established that our component supplier is contractually obligated to reimburse us for fair and reasonable costs we incur with our customers associated with these power supply failures. Our component supplier had continued to re-work and distribute to our customer the affected population of power supplies at no cost to us. In addition, at the time, our collection experience with similar amounts already reimbursed to us by our supplier and our belief that our component supplier and its parent companies had the financial ability to continue to reimburse us for any additional costs we may incur, we recorded a current asset within “Prepaid expenses and other assets” on our consolidated balance sheet of \$1.3 million as of June 30, 2011.

During the third quarter of 2011, as the claims from our customer became clearer, we commenced negotiations with our component supplier for fair and reasonable costs that we have and are likely to incur through the warranty period associated with this component failure. Originally we determined that the supplier was unlikely to make an up-front cash payment for the original settlement amount of \$1.3 million, but it indicated a willingness to provide some form of reimbursement for costs incurred, in the form of cash and/or note receivable of \$0.5 million plus future product rebates. Based on our judgment at the time, we reduced the previously recorded current asset of \$1.3 million within “Prepaid expenses and other assets” to \$0.5 million as of September 30, 2011. We continued to negotiate this settlement with our supplier and during the second quarter of 2012, the supplier signed a final settlement agreement providing for additional reimbursements above what was recognized as of September 30, 2011. Pursuant to the settlement, the supplier agreed to cash consideration of \$1.2 million, of which we received \$0.7 million subsequent to the signing of the settlement agreement, with the remaining \$0.5 million to be received in installments over the next three quarters. Additionally, our supplier committed to product rebates and/or price concessions on product orders for a period of 39 months from the execution of the settlement agreement, in return for our agreement to release our supplier from all obligations relating to the power supply failures known by us to date. This agreement is not subject to any required future purchases.

In addition, we have commenced discussions with our General Liability and Errors and Omissions Insurance and underwriters and will continue to pursue our rights to cover any damages we incur and that are not reimbursed by our supplier. The insurance company has issued a reservation of rights letter to us and at this time, it is not possible to estimate to what extent the residual amounts, if any, we will be covered by our carrier. As of September 30, 2012 we have not assumed or recorded any insurance reimbursement.

To the extent our settlement agreements with our customer and our component supplier are not on mutually beneficial terms, or our component supplier does not continue to reimburse us for the expenses incurred by us or our customers, and we are unsuccessful in recovering such expenses from our insurance provider, we could incur additional expenses which could potentially have a material effect on our financial statements and liquidity.

In July 2012, a technology partner notified us of a dispute regarding royalties paid to it for the right to include their technology in certain products sold by us under an intellectual property licensing agreement. This claim relates to certain sales during the period from June 2006 to August 2011. We are reviewing this claim, but cannot at this stage in the process determine the likelihood of the outcome. Our initial estimate of our potential exposure ranges between \$0.0 million and \$1.9 million.

During September 2011, our primary AssuredUVS customer became delinquent on the settlement of its payables to us and upon our investigation it became evident that its financial resources were limited. It informed us that the AssuredUVS



Table of Contents

software would no longer be a component of its business strategy, which would result in a significant decline in revenues for the Company, and we determined it was “more-likely-than-not” that the reporting unit was less than its carrying value.

The actual amount and timing of working capital and capital expenditures that we may incur in future periods may vary significantly and will depend upon numerous factors, including the timing and extent of net revenue and expenditures from our core business and strategic investments, the overall level of net profits or losses, our ability to manage our relationships with our contract manufacturers, the potential growth or decline in inventory to support our customers, costs associated with product quality issues and the recovery, if any, of such costs from a supplier, the status of our relationships with key customers, partners and suppliers, the timing and extent of the introduction of new products and services, growth in operations and the economic environment. In addition, the actual amount and timing of working capital will depend on our ability to maintain payment terms with our suppliers consistent with the credit terms of our customers. For example, if Foxconn, our major contract manufacturing partner, were to shorten our payment terms with them, or if HP were to lengthen their payment terms with us, our financial condition could be harmed.

We maintain a credit facility with Silicon Valley Bank for cash advances and letters of credit of up to an aggregate of \$30 million based upon an advance rate dependent on certain concentration limits within eligible accounts receivable. These limitations exclude certain eligible customer receivables if an individual customer account balance exceeds 25, 50 or 85 percent of the total eligible accounts receivable, depending on the customer, as defined by our Loan and Security Agreement with Silicon Valley Bank. Borrowings under the credit facility bear interest at the prime rate and are secured by substantially all of our accounts receivable, deposit and securities accounts. The agreement provides for a negative pledge on our inventory and intellectual property, subject to certain exceptions, and contains usual and customary covenants for an arrangement of its type, including an obligation that we maintain at all times a net worth, as defined in the agreement, of \$50 million (subject to certain increases). The agreement also includes provisions to increase the financing facility by \$20 million subject to our meeting certain requirements, including \$40 million in borrowing base for the immediately preceding 90 days, and Silicon Valley Bank locating a lender willing to finance the additional facility. In addition, if our cash and cash equivalents net of the total amount outstanding under the credit facility fall below \$20 million (measured on a rolling three-month basis), the interest rate will increase to prime plus 1% and additional restrictions will apply. Our credit facility also provides for a cash management services sublimit under the revolving credit line of up to \$300,000.

During the second quarter of 2012, we amended our credit agreement with Silicon Valley Bank. The amendment extends the maturity date to July 21, 2015 and amended certain other terms of the credit agreement, which we do not believe materially impacts our financial position. As of September 30, 2012 we had no outstanding letters of credit and there was \$1.8 million outstanding under the Silicon Valley Bank line of credit.

At September 30, 2012, our long-term commitments had not materially changed from those disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Off — Balance Sheet Arrangements

At September 30, 2012, we did not have any relationship with unconsolidated entities or financial partnerships, such as entities often referred to as structured finance variable interest, or special purpose entities, which would have been established for the purpose of facilitating off-balance sheet arrangements or other contractually narrow or limited purposes. In addition, we did not engage in trading activities involving non-exchange traded contracts. As a result, we are not exposed to any financing, liquidity, market or credit risk that could arise if we had engaged in such relationships. We do not have relationships and transactions with persons and entities that derive benefits from their non-independent relationship with us or our related parties except as disclosed herein.

We enter into indemnification agreements with third parties in the ordinary course of business that generally require us to reimburse losses suffered by the third party due to various events, such as lawsuits arising from patent or copyright infringement. These indemnification obligations are considered off-balance sheet arrangements under accounting guidance. It is not possible to determine the maximum potential amount under these indemnification agreements due to the limited history of prior indemnification claims and the unique facts and circumstances involved in each particular agreement. Such indemnification agreements may not be subject to maximum loss clauses. Historically, we have not incurred material costs as a result of obligations under these agreements.

#### Recent Accounting Pronouncements

Please see Note 1 of the Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

#### Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

31

---

## Table of Contents

### Interest Rate Risk

We place our cash equivalents with high-credit-quality financial institutions, investing primarily in money market accounts. We have established guidelines relative to credit ratings, diversification and maturities that seek to maintain safety and liquidity. Our investment strategy generally results in lower yields on investments but reduces the risk to principal in the short term prior to these funds being invested in our business. Our interest income is sensitive to changes in the general level of interest rates. In this regard, changes in interest rates can affect the interest earned on our cash equivalents. A 10% unfavorable change in the interest rate would not materially impact our September 30, 2012 financial statements.

We have a line of credit agreement, which accrues interest on any outstanding balances at the prime rate. As of September 30, 2012, there was \$1.8 million outstanding under this line. As we make borrowings under this line, we are exposed to interest rate risk on such debt.

Indicated changes in interest rates are based on hypothetical movements and are not necessarily indicative of the actual results that may occur. Future earnings and losses will be affected by actual fluctuations in interest rates.

### Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Risk

We conduct a portion of our business in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, the currency in which our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements are reported. The most significant foreign currencies that subjected us to foreign currency exchange rate risk for the nine months September 30, 2012 were the Euro, British Pound, Japanese Yen and the Israeli Shekel. Correspondingly, our operating results could be adversely affected by foreign currency exchange rate volatility relative to the U.S. dollar. Although we continue to evaluate strategies to mitigate risks related to the effect of fluctuations in currency exchange rates, we will likely continue to recognize gains or losses from international transactions and foreign currency changes. Although foreign currency transaction gains and losses have not historically been material, we incurred \$0.4 million in foreign currency transaction losses during the nine months ended September 30, 2011, primarily resulting from the re-measurement process of certain of our foreign subsidiaries that maintain their books of record in a currency other than the functional currency. Future changes in foreign currency rates could adversely impact our financial statements. A 10% unfavorable change in exchange rates would result in foreign currency losses of approximately \$0.9 million.

## Item 4. Controls and Procedures

### Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Based on management's evaluation (with the participation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer), as of the end of the period covered by this report, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act)), are effective to provide reasonable assurance 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 SEC rules and forms, and is accumulated and communicated to management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

### Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There were no changes to our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) that occurred during the period covered by this quarterly report on Form 10-Q that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

## Part II. Other Information

### Item 1. Legal Proceedings

We are involved in certain legal actions and claims from time to time arising in the ordinary course of business. Management believes the outcome of such litigation and claims could have a material effect on our financial statements. Historically, the outcome of such litigation and claims has not had a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

In July 2012, a technology partner notified us of a dispute regarding royalties paid to it for the right to include their technology in certain products sold by us under an intellectual property licensing agreement. This claim relates to certain sales

Table of Contents

during the period from June 2006 to August 2011. We are reviewing this claim, but cannot at this stage in the process determine the likelihood of the outcome. Our initial estimate of our potential exposure ranges between \$0.0 million and \$1.9 million.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

The following sets forth risk factors that may affect our future results, including certain revisions to the risk factors included in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011. Our business, results of operations and financial condition may be materially and adversely affected due to any of the following risks. We face risks described but not limited to those detailed below. Additional risks we are not presently aware of or that we currently believe are immaterial may also impair our business operations. The trading price of our common stock could decline due to any of these risks. In assessing these risks, you should also refer to the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q, including our financial statements and related notes.

We are dependent on sales to a relatively small number of customers and a disruption in sales to any one of these customers could materially harm our financial results.

Our business is highly dependent on a limited number of customers. For example, sales to HP accounted for 57% of our net revenue for the year ended December 31, 2010, 74% of our net revenue for the year ended December 31, 2011 and 67% of our net revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. The increase in sales to HP, as a percentage of total net revenues from 2010 to 2011, was primarily due to our election to terminate our relationship with Network Appliances, or NetApp, at or around December 1, 2010. For the nine months ended September 30, 2010, our sales to NetApp represented 28.4% of total net revenues. We expect HP will represent much greater than 10% of our overall net revenue for the year ending December 31, 2012. If our relationships with HP or certain of our other customers were disrupted or declined significantly, we would lose a substantial portion of our anticipated net revenue and our business could be materially harmed. We cannot guarantee that our relationship with HP or our other customers will expand or not otherwise be disrupted.

Going forward, we expect to generate additional revenue primarily from our indirect channel sales and from potential new OEM customers. However, if we are unable to generate sufficient revenue and gross profit from these sources, our financial results could be harmed.

Factors that could influence our relationship with our significant customers and other potential new customers include:

- our ability to maintain our products at prices that are competitive with those of our competitors;
- our ability to maintain quality levels for our products sufficient to meet the expectations of our customers;
- our ability to produce, ship and deliver a sufficient quantity of our products in a timely manner to meet the needs of our customers;
- our ability to continue to develop and launch new products that our customers feel meet their needs and requirements, with respect to cost, timeliness, features, performance and other factors;
- our ability to provide timely, responsive and accurate customer support to our customers; and
- the ability of our customers to effectively deliver, market and increase sales of their own solutions based on our products.

Product recalls, epidemic failures, post-manufacture repairs of our products, liability claims and associated costs could harm our reputation, divert resources, reduce sales and increase costs and could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition.

Our products may contain undetected errors, or failures that become epidemic failures, which may be discovered after shipment, resulting in a loss of net revenue, an increase in costs to rework or replace failed products, product liability claims, a tarnished reputation, a loss of customers, or a loss or delay in market acceptance of our products, any of which could harm or disrupt our business. Product failures or recalls could be the result of components purchased from our suppliers not meeting the required specifications or containing undetected quality errors and manufacturing defects or from our own design deficiencies.

Even if the errors are detected before shipment, such errors still could result in the halting of production, delay of shipments, recovery costs, loss of goodwill, tarnishment of reputation and/or a substantial decrease in net revenue. Our standard warranty provides that if our systems do not function to published specifications, we will repair or replace the defective component or system without charge generally for a period of approximately three years. We generally extend to our customers the warranties provided to us by our suppliers, and accordingly, the majority of our warranty obligations to customers are intended to be covered by corresponding supplier warranties. There can be no assurance that our suppliers will continue to

Table of Contents

provide such warranties to us in the future or that our warranty obligations to our customers will be covered by corresponding warranties from our suppliers, which could have a material adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition. Significant warranty costs could decrease our gross margin and negatively impact our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, defects in our products could result in our customers claiming property damages, consequential damages, or bodily injury, which could also result in our loss of customers and goodwill. There can be no assurance that our customers will not assert claims that our products have failed to meet agreed-to specifications or that they have sustained injuries from our products, and we may be subject to lawsuits relating to these claims. There is a risk that these claims or liabilities may exceed, or fall outside of the scope of our insurance coverage. Significant claims exceeding our expected warranty provisions could distract management's attention from operating our business and, if successful, result in material claims against us that might not be covered by our insurance.

In October 2009, we discovered a quality issue associated with certain power supply devices provided by a long-term component supplier, which resulted in a higher than expected level of power supply failures to us and our customers. While we were able to promptly identify and resolve the cause of the failures, we are required to provide replacement products or make repairs to the affected power supply units that had been sold between March and October 2009. Through June 30, 2011, our component supplier had repaired all of the faulty power supplies at no cost to us and reimbursed us for our out-of-pocket costs, which was in effect a reimbursement to customers for certain out-of-pocket costs they incurred in connection with these power supply failures. The total amount reimbursed to us by our component supplier approximated \$1.0 million through June 30, 2011. In the second and third quarters of 2011, a material customer provided us with a framework estimating the potential claims precipitated by the power supply failures. Negotiations with this material customer continued and a final settlement was reached during the second quarter of 2012. The terms of the agreement required an immediate payment of \$2.0 million and an estimated remaining liability of approximately \$2.7 million as of September 30, 2012 related to a combination of future price concessions and rebates to be paid quarterly based on sales volumes through December 31, 2012. While our estimated liability relating to failed power supply units is subject to some uncertainty until final settlement, based on our current expectation of sales volumes with the material customer, we do not believe the incurrence of an additional loss is either probable or reasonably possible at this time.

During the second quarter of 2012, we reached a settlement with our supplier responsible for the manufacture of the failed power supply units. Pursuant to the settlement, the supplier agreed to cash consideration of \$1.2 million, of which we received \$0.7 million upon the subsequent signing of the settlement agreement, with the remaining \$0.5 million to be received in three quarterly installments commencing three months from the date of the signed settlement agreement. These payments do not obligate us to any required future purchases. Additionally, our supplier committed to product rebates and/or price concessions on post-2011 product orders for a period of approximately three years, commencing three months from the date of signing the settlement agreement, in return for our agreement to release our supplier from all obligations relating to the power supply failures known by us to date.

In addition, we have commenced discussions with our General Liability and Errors and Omissions Insurance and underwriters and will continue to pursue our rights to cover any damages we incur and not reimbursed by our supplier. The insurance company has issued a reservation of rights letter to us and at this time, it is not possible to estimate to what extent, if any, we will be covered by our carrier. As of September 30, 2012, we have not assumed or recorded any insurance reimbursement.

To the extent that we are unsuccessful executing the settlement agreements with our customer and our component supplier on mutually beneficial terms, or our component supplier does not continue to reimburse us for the expenses incurred by us or our customers, and we are unsuccessful in recovering such expenses from our insurance provider, we could incur additional expenses which could potentially have a material effect on our financial statements.

Potential future acquisitions may not be successfully integrated or produce the results we anticipate.

As part of our strategy, we are continuously evaluating opportunities to buy other businesses or technologies that would complement our current products, expand the breadth of our markets, or enhance our technical capabilities. The acquisition and ongoing integration of new businesses into our business may adversely affect our operations or profitability.

In January 2010, we acquired Cloverleaf, a privately held software company, based primarily in Israel for approximately \$9.5 million in stock and \$2.5 million in cash. The Cloverleaf acquisition provided us with a new team of software development and other professionals. Cloverleaf's products provide heterogeneous storage virtualization and unified storage technologies that can simplify data center management, eliminate downtime and reduce storage costs.



## Table of Contents

The accounting treatment for the Cloverleaf acquisition resulted in significant amortizable intangible assets, which when amortized negatively affects our consolidated results of operations. As of September 30, 2011, we identified a change in circumstances that indicated the carrying amount of our goodwill and long-lived assets may not be recoverable, as our primary AssuredUVS customer informed us that they were changing their strategy which would result in a significant decline in revenue for the Company. Thus, as of the end of September 2011, we tested the carrying values of Goodwill and Long-Lived Assets. The results were that we impaired the entire goodwill amount of \$4.1 million, impaired the entire trade name by \$0.1 million, and reduced the carrying value of the software from \$4.9 million to \$2.1 million.

In February 2012, our Board of Directors approved a plan to exit our AssuredUVS business and close down our Israel Technology Development Center (See Note 7 of Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for more details regarding our restructuring activities). We evaluated the potential impact, if any, on our valuation of our acquired software and other long-lived assets maintained at our Israel Technology Development Center, and based on the facts and circumstances in existence at March 31, 2012, we believed that the valuations at that date were appropriate.

During the second quarter of 2012, we explored the potential sale of the AssuredUVS business, but were unsuccessful in locating a buyer and ended efforts to sell the business or its component assets as of June 30, 2012. Accordingly, we recognized an impairment of \$0.2 million of property, plant and equipment and \$1.6 million for the remaining value of acquired software as a component of cost of goods sold as of June 30, 2012. The AssuredUVS business is now recorded in discontinued operations, since we have ceased all ongoing operational activities as of September 30, 2012.

Our inability to grow and manage our indirect sales channel may significantly impact our ability to increase net revenue, gross margin and operating income.

We have recently expanded our indirect sales model to access end-user markets primarily through our distributors, VARs and OSPs and are investing significant monetary and human resources in order to grow this indirect sales channel. If we cannot successfully identify, manage, develop, and generate sufficient net revenue through our indirect sales channel, our business could be harmed. In addition, even if we are able to grow our indirect sales channel, managing the interaction of our OEMs', distributors', VARs' and OSPs' efforts to reach various potential customer segments for our products and services is a complex process. Moreover, since each channel method has distinct risks and gross margins, our failure to implement the most advantageous balance in the delivery model for our products and services could adversely affect our net revenue and gross margin and our profitability.

Recent turmoil in the global economy, credit markets and the financial services industry may negatively impact our net revenue, access to capital, our customers' access to capital and ability to pay for their purchases in a timely manner, and our suppliers' access to capital and ability to provide us with goods and timely delivery, or willingness to provide credit terms to us.

The current global economic condition could continue to affect the demand for our products and negatively impact our net revenue and operating profit. We are unable to predict changes in general macroeconomic conditions and when, or if, global IT spending rates will be affected and to what degree they will be impacted. Furthermore, even if IT spending rates increase, we cannot be certain that the market for external storage solutions will be positively impacted. If there are future reductions in either domestic or international IT spending rates, or if IT spending rates do not increase, our net revenue, operating results and financial condition may be adversely affected. In addition, the global economic condition could also adversely impact our customers, and/or their customers, ability to finance the purchase of storage systems from us or our suppliers' ability to provide us with product, any of which may negatively impact our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our smaller customers may not be as well capitalized as, nor do they have the financial resources of, our larger customers. In addition, sales to all our customers are typically made on credit without collateral. There is a risk that customers will not pay, or that payment may be delayed, because of their liquidity constraints or because they are awaiting payment from their customers, or other factors beyond our control, which could increase our exposure to losses from bad debts or increase accounts receivable, and thus reduce cash.

Our third-party manufacturers rely on other third parties to supply key components of our storage products. Some of these components are available only from one or limited sources in the quantities and quality we require. Should any of the component suppliers cease to operate due to current economic conditions or otherwise, we would have to qualify and locate alternative suppliers. We estimate that replacing key components we currently use in our products with those of another supplier could involve several months of hardware and software modification, which could significantly harm our ability to meet our customers' orders for our products, damage our customer relationships and result in a loss of sales.

Table of Contents

Our manufacturing suppliers provide us with credit terms that have in some cases been negotiated and documented in our manufacturing agreements. The credit terms we receive from these suppliers vary amongst our manufacturing partners but they all provide for adequate credit limits and credit terms. Should any of our manufacturing partners reduce our credit limits or shorten payment terms, due to their inability to purchase credit insurance or due to uncertainty regarding our financial position, our cash resources and working capital could be significantly impacted.

Our contracts with our customers do not include minimum purchase requirements and are not exclusive, and we cannot assure you that our relationship with these customers will not be terminated or will generate significant sales.

None of our contracts with our existing customers, including HP, contain minimum purchase commitments and while our contracts typically contain a specified term, our customers may cancel purchase orders at any time, cease making purchases or elect not to renew the applicable contract upon the expiration of the current term. Consequently, our customers generally order only through written purchase orders. Further, we do not expect that future contracts with customers, if any, will include any minimum purchase commitments. Changes in the timing or volume of purchases by our major customers could result in lower net revenue. For example, we cannot be certain that our sales to any of our customers will continue at historical levels or will reach expected levels. In addition, our existing contracts do not require our customers to purchase our products exclusively or on a preferential basis over the products of any of our competitors. Consequently, to the extent they are not sole sourced, our customers may sell the products of our competitors. The decision by any of our customers to cancel purchase orders, cease making purchases or terminate their respective contracts could cause our net revenue to decline substantially, and our business, financial condition and results of operations could be significantly harmed.

We sell on a purchase order basis, making us subject to uncertainties and variability in demand by our customers, and our component suppliers may make obsolete certain components we incorporate into our products, either of which could decrease net revenue and adversely affect our operating results.

We sell to our customers on a purchase order basis rather than pursuant to long-term contracts or contracts with minimum purchase requirements. Consequently, our sales are subject to demand variability by our customers. The level and timing of orders placed by our customers vary for a variety of reasons, including seasonal buying by end-users, the introduction of new technologies and general economic conditions.

Customers submitting a purchase order may cancel, reduce or delay their orders. If we are unable to anticipate and respond to the demands of our customers, we may lose customers because we have an inadequate supply of products, or we may have excess inventory which may have to be sold in the open market at a substantial discount, if at all possible, either of which may harm our business, financial position and operating results.

In addition, there are occasions when some of our component suppliers make obsolete certain components that we incorporate into our products. In these situations we may be required to purchase such components on a “last time buy” basis, based on our forecasts of customer demand. If we incorrectly forecast customer demand or if our customers over or under forecast demand, we may have an inadequate supply of products, or we may have excess inventory which may have to be sold in the open market at a substantial discount, if at all possible, either of which may harm our business, financial position and operating results.

Furthermore, we are contractually obligated to purchase excess and obsolete material and finished goods from our contract manufacturer if not consumed within 90 days of contract manufacturer’s purchase, which could have a material effect on our financial results.

Our sales cycle varies substantially from customer to customer and future net revenue in any period may be lower than our historical net revenue or forecasts.

Our sales are difficult to forecast because the open systems storage market is rapidly evolving and our sales cycle varies substantially from customer to customer. Customer orders for our products fall into two categories: OEM sales and Dot Hill branded sales through the channel. For the OEM business, the length of time between initial contact with a potential customer and the sale of our product may last from 6 to 36 months. This is particularly true during times of economic slowdown and when selling products that require complex installations. For the branded sales business through the channel, sales cycles can range from 30 days to three months or more for individual deals. With Dot Hill's new products in the midrange segment, sales cycles are expected to increase to a range of 60 days to six months. This can increase the time for product decisions in both the OEM and Channel business for customers taking the new midrange products.

Table of Contents

Additional factors that may extend our sales cycle, particularly orders for new products, include:

- the amount of time needed for technical evaluations by customers;
- customers' budget constraints and changes to customers' budgets during the course of the sales cycle;
- customers' internal review and testing procedures;
- our engineering work necessary to integrate a storage solution with a customer's system;
- the complexity of technical challenges that need to be overcome during the development, testing and/or qualification process for new products and/or new customers;
- our ability to meet unique customer specifications and requirements;
- difficulties by our customers in integrating our products and technologies into their own products; and
- the ability of our customers to ramp sales of our products including the desire of customer's to purchase legacy products.

Our net revenue is difficult for us to predict since it is directly affected by the timing of large orders. We may ship products representing a significant portion of our net revenue for a quarter during the last month of that quarter. In addition, our expense levels are based, in part, on our expectations as to future sales. As a result, if sales levels are below expectations, our operating results may be disproportionately affected. We cannot assure you that our sales will not decline in future periods.

The open systems storage market is rapidly changing and we may be unable to keep pace with or properly prepare for the effects of those changes and if we fail to develop and market new software and hardware products that meet customer requirements, our business will be harmed.

The open systems data storage market in which we operate is characterized by rapid technological change, frequent new product introductions, new interface protocol, evolving industry standards and consolidation among our competitors, suppliers and customers. Customer preferences in this market are difficult to predict and changes in those preferences and the introduction of new products by our competitors, new entrants into the open systems storage market, or us could render our existing products obsolete or uncompetitive. Our success will depend upon our ability to address the increasingly sophisticated needs of customers, to enhance existing products, and to develop and introduce on a timely basis new competitive products, including new software and hardware, and enhancements to existing software and hardware that keep pace with technological developments and emerging industry standards. If we cannot successfully identify, manage, develop, manufacture or market product enhancements or new products, our business will be harmed. In addition, consolidation among our competitors, suppliers and customers may harm our business by increasing the resources of our competitors, reducing the number of suppliers available to us for our product components and increasing competition for customers by reducing the number of customer-purchasing decisions.

We believe that to remain competitive, we will need to continue to develop new hardware and software products, which will require a significant investment in new product development. Our competitors and new market participants may be developing alternative technologies, which may adversely affect the market acceptance of our products. If alternative technologies and interface protocols are adopted by the industry that we have not incorporated into our products, we may become uncompetitive and not have product offerings for select market segments. Even if our new products are developed on time, we may not be able to manufacture them at competitive prices or in sufficient volumes.

We may not be able to reduce expenses timely in response to any shortfalls in net revenue or gross margin.

We primarily sell to HP and thus do not need to make substantial incremental investments in sales and marketing to generate demand for our products to our largest customer. Additionally, we outsource substantially all of our

manufacturing to very large contract manufacturing partners in Asia. Hence, there is little incremental cost required to increase our production capacity. Furthermore, we have an adopted modular architecture to our storage systems products and consequently if our customers do not require substantial customization, we are able to launch products based on existing product platforms for new OEMs or channel partners at modest incremental expenditures.

In the past, we have taken and may have to take further measures to reduce expenses if net revenue or gross margins decline and we experience greater operating losses or do not achieve profitable results. A number of factors could preclude us from successfully bringing variable costs and expenses in line with our net revenue, such as the fact that our variable expense levels are based in part on our expectations as to future sales. This limits our ability to reduce expenses quickly in response to

Table of Contents

any shortfalls in net revenue or gross margin. Consequently, if net revenue does not generate enough gross margin to cover operating expenses, our operating results may be negatively affected.

The market for storage products is intensely competitive and subject to substantial pricing pressure that may harm our net revenue, gross margin and operating results.

The storage market is intensely competitive and is characterized by rapidly changing technology. For our AssuredSAN storage hardware products, we compete primarily against independent storage system suppliers, including EMC Corp., or EMC, Hitachi Data Systems Corp., or Hitachi, Infortrend, Promise Technology, Inc., or Promise, NEC and NetApp as a result of its acquisition of LSI's Engenio Division in May 2011. We also compete with traditional suppliers of computer systems, including IBM, Oracle, Dell and HP, which market storage systems as well as other computer products.

Many of our existing and potential competitors have longer operating histories, greater name recognition and substantially greater financial, technical, sales, marketing and other resources than we do. In addition, some of our competitors have much lower labor costs than we do. As a result, they may have more advanced technology, larger distribution channels, stronger brand names, better customer service, more financial leverage and access to more customers than we do. Other large companies with significant resources could become direct competitors, either through acquiring a competitor or through internal efforts. Additionally, a number of public and privately held companies are currently attempting to enter the storage market, some of which may become significant competitors in the future. In the future, it is conceivable that we could compete with some of the original design manufacturers, one of whom is currently our manufacturing partner, as they develop expertise in chassis design and power and cooling technologies.

We could also lose current or future business to certain of our suppliers or manufacturers, some of which directly and indirectly compete with us. Currently, we leverage our supply and manufacturing relationships to provide substantially all of our products. Our suppliers and manufacturers are very familiar with the specific attributes of our products and may be able to provide our customers with similar products.

We also expect that competition will increase as a result of industry consolidation and the creation of companies with new, innovative product offerings. Current and potential competitors have established or may establish cooperative relationships among themselves or with third parties to increase the ability of their products to address the needs of our prospective customers.

Accordingly, it is possible that new competitors, or alliances among competitors, may emerge and rapidly acquire significant market share. Increased competition is likely to result in price reductions, and may reduce operating margins and create a potential loss of market share, any of which could harm our business. We believe that the principal competitive factors affecting the storage systems market include: performance, features, scalability and reliability; price; product breadth; product availability and quality; timeliness of new product introductions; interoperability; and ease of management.

We cannot assure you that we will be able to successfully incorporate these factors into our products and compete against current or future competitors or that competitive pressures we face will not harm our business. If we are unable to cost effectively develop and market products to compete with the products of competitors, our business will be materially and adversely affected. In addition, if major customers who are also competitors cease purchasing our products in order to concentrate on sales of their own products, our business will be harmed.

Additional pricing pressures are due, in part, to continuing decreases in component prices, such as those of disks, memory, semiconductors and RAID controllers. Decreases in component prices are typically passed on to customers

by storage companies through a continuing decrease in the price of storage hardware systems.

Pricing pressures could also result when we cannot pass increased material costs onto our customers. For example, a significant increase in fuel prices could result in higher steel and freight costs which we may not be able to pass onto our customers.

Pricing pressures also exist from our significant customers that may attempt to change the terms, including pricing, payment terms and post sales obligations with us. As our customers are pressured to reduce prices as a result of competitive factors, we may be required to contractually, or otherwise, commit to price reductions for our products prior to determining if we can implement corresponding cost reductions. If we are unable to achieve such cost reductions, or are unable to pass along cost increases to our customers, and have to reduce the pricing of our products, our gross margin may be negatively impacted which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.



Table of Contents

Our inability to lower product costs or changes in the mix of products we sell may significantly impact our gross margin and results of operations.

Our gross margin is determined in large part based on our contract manufacturing costs, our component costs, the timing and magnitude of product cost reductions, and our ability to include RAID controllers and value added features into our products, such as DMS and RealStor, as well as the prices at which we sell our products. The amount of revenue recognized from software and service sales and the relative mix of such sales in comparison to sales of our other products will also impact our gross margin, as the gross margin on sales of software and services is higher than that of our other products. If we are unable to lower production costs to be consistent with our projections or if we experience any decline in selling prices, such as with certain customers with whom we have negotiated periodic price reductions based on specific criteria, our gross margin and results of operations may suffer. Some of the new products we are currently shipping or expect to begin shipping are in the early stages of their lifecycle. Our historical experience indicates that gross margin on new products are low initially and increase over time as a result of maturing manufacturing processes, component cost reductions and re-engineering the products to reduce costs. If we fail to achieve these improvements, our gross margin will be negatively impacted and our business, financial condition and results of operations could be significantly harmed.

In addition, we typically plan our production and inventory levels based on internal forecasts of customer demand, which is highly unpredictable and can fluctuate substantially. Such forecasts have not historically demonstrated a high degree of accuracy. From time to time, in response to anticipated long lead times to obtain inventory and materials from our outside suppliers, we may order materials in advance of anticipated customer demand. This advance ordering may result in excess inventory levels or unanticipated inventory write-downs due to expected orders that fail to materialize.

Additional factors which could adversely impact gross margin dollars and gross margin percentage include:

- changes in the mix of products we sell to our customers;
- increased price competition;
- introduction of new products by us or our competitors, including products with price performance advantages;
- our inability to reduce production or component costs;
- entry into new markets or the acquisition of new customers;
- sales discounts and marketing development funds;
- increases in material or labor costs;
- excess inventory, inventory shrinkages and losses and inventory holding charges;
- the timing of purchase price variances resulting from reductions in component costs purchased on our behalf by our contract manufacturers or owned by us in inventory versus the original cost of those components;
- increased warranty costs and costs associated with any potential future product quality and product defect issues;
- our inability to sell our higher performance products, or our software products and our services;
- component shortages which can result in expedite fees, overtime or increased use of air freight; and
- increased freight costs resulting from higher fuel prices, or from the need to expedite shipments of components to our contract manufacturers or finished goods to some of our customers and their hub locations.

Our customers may have very aggressive product launch and ramp schedules and our efforts to accommodate these schedules may divert our management's attention, cause component shortages and force us to allocate products across many customers, all of which could harm our customer relations.

Our efforts to accommodate our customers' aggressive launch and ramp schedules can divert management's attention from the rest of our business and force us to allocate product volumes across many customers due to component shortages, all of which could harm our relations with customers. In addition, we could incur overtime, expedite charges, and other charges such as shipping products by air as opposed to by ocean as a result of efforts to meet such

schedules. Any of these factors could result in lower net revenue and gross margin as well as increased operating expenses which could have an impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Manufacturing and supplier disruptions could harm our business.

Table of Contents

We primarily rely on Foxconn to manufacture the majority of all of our products. If our agreement with Foxconn is terminated, or if they do not perform their obligations under our agreement, or if we otherwise determine to transition manufacturing of our products to another third party manufacturer, it could take several months to establish and qualify alternative manufacturing for our products and we may not be able to fulfill our customers' orders in a timely manner. If our agreement with Foxconn terminates, we cannot be certain that we will be able to identify a suitable alternative manufacturing partner that meets the requirements of our customers and one that is cost competitive. Failure to identify a suitable alternative manufacturing partner could impact our customer relationships and our financial condition.

Due to our use of third-party manufacturers, our ability to control the timing of shipments could decrease. Delayed shipment could result in the deferral or cancellation of purchases of our products. Any significant deferral or cancellation of these sales would harm our results of operations in any particular quarter. Net revenue for a period may be lower than predicted if large orders forecasted for that period are delayed or are not realized, which could also impact cash flow or result in a decline in our stock price. To the extent we establish a relationship with an alternative manufacturer for our products, we may be able to partially mitigate potential disruptions to our business. We may also suffer manufacturing disruptions as we ramp up manufacturing processes for newly introduced products, which could result in delays in delivery of these products to our customers and adversely affect our results of operations. We also generally extend to our customers the warranties provided to us by our suppliers and, accordingly, the majority of our warranty obligations to customers are covered by supplier warranties. For warranty costs not covered by our suppliers, we reserve for estimated warranty costs in the period the net revenue is recognized. There can be no assurance that our suppliers will continue to provide such warranties to us in the future, or that we have estimated these costs correctly, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Any shortage of disk drives, memory or other components could increase our costs or harm our ability to manufacture and deliver our storage products to our customers in a timely manner.

From time to time there is significant market demand for disk drives, semiconductors, memory and other components, and we may experience component shortages, selective supply allocations and increased prices of such components. In such event, we may be required to purchase our components from alternative suppliers, and we cannot be certain that alternative sources of supplies will be available on competitive terms. Even if alternative sources of supply for critical components such as disk drives and memory become available, incorporating substitute components into our products could delay our ability to deliver our products in a timely manner.

Demand for disk drives and memory has at times surpassed supply, forcing drive, memory and component suppliers, including those who supply the components that are integrated into many of our storage products, to manage allocation of their inventory. If such a shortage were prolonged, we may be forced to pay higher prices for disk drives, memory or components or may be unable to purchase sufficient quantities of these components to meet our customers' demand for our storage products in a timely manner or at all.

We may continue to experience losses in the future, and may have difficulty forecasting future operating results, which could result in revenue and earnings volatility, which could cause our stock price to decline.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2012 we incurred a net loss of \$9.9 million. For the year ended December 31, 2011 we incurred a net loss of \$20.4 million. For the year ended December 31, 2010 we incurred a net loss of \$12.8 million. We expect our business to remain volatile as we are often unable to reliably predict net revenue from HP and our other customers. Net revenue from our customers, the mix of products sold to our customers, our ability to introduce new products as planned and our ability to reduce product costs and manage our operating expenses and manufacturing variances will continue to affect our financial results for 2012. Consequently, we cannot assure you that we will be profitable in any future period.

Our future operating results and profitability will depend on, and could vary substantially as a result of many factors, including:

- our ability to maintain and enhance relationships with our customers, in particular our OEM customers, as well as our ability to win new business;
- our ability to implement and achieve targeted gross margin and cost reduction objectives;
- our ability to contain operating expenses and manufacturing variances;
- our ability to meet product delivery schedules for HP and other customers which could result in increased air freight, expedite and overtime charges;
- the extent to which we invest in new initiatives such as channel sales and software development;

40

---

Table of Contents

- our plans to maintain and enhance our engineering, research, development and product testing programs;
- the success of our manufacturing strategy and relationships with our contract manufacturing partners;
- the success of our sales and marketing efforts;
- the amount of field failures resulting in product replacements, recalls or customer penalties;
- the extent and terms of any development, marketing or other arrangements;
  - changes in economic, regulatory or competitive conditions, including the current worldwide economic crisis;
- costs of filing, prosecuting, defending and enforcing intellectual property rights;
- costs of litigating and defending law suits; and
- our ability to capitalize on new customer opportunities resulting from industry consolidation.

Our success depends significantly upon our ability to protect our intellectual property and to avoid infringing the intellectual property of third parties, which has already resulted in costly, time-consuming litigation and could result in the inability to offer certain products.

We rely primarily on patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets, nondisclosure agreements and common law to protect our intellectual property. Despite our efforts to protect our intellectual property, unauthorized parties may attempt to copy aspects of our products or obtain and use information that we regard as proprietary. In addition, the laws of foreign countries may not adequately protect our intellectual property rights. Our efforts to protect our intellectual property from third party discovery and infringement may be insufficient and third parties may independently develop technologies similar to ours, duplicate our products or design around our patents.

Furthermore, third parties may assert infringement claims against us, which would require us to incur substantial license fees, legal fees and other expenses, and distract management from the operations of our business. In addition, we enter into indemnification agreements with third parties in the ordinary course of business that generally require us to reimburse losses suffered by the third party due to various events, such as lawsuits arising from patent or copyright infringement.

We expect that providers of storage products will increasingly be subject to infringement claims as the number of products and competitors increase. We receive, from time to time, letters from third parties suggesting that we may require a license from such third parties to manufacture or sell our products. We evaluate all such communications to assess whether to seek a license from the patent owner. We may be required to purchase licenses that could have a material impact on our business, or, we may not be able to obtain the necessary license from a third party on commercially reasonable terms, or at all. Consequently, we could be prohibited from selling and marketing products that incorporate the protected technology or incur substantial costs to redesign our products in a manner to avoid infringement of third party intellectual property rights.

Our success depends on our ability to attract and retain key personnel.

Our performance depends in significant part on our ability to attract and retain talented senior management and other key personnel. Our key personnel include Dana Kammersgard, our Chief Executive Officer and President, Hanif Jamal, our Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Corporate Secretary, James Kuenzel, our Senior Vice President of Engineering, Ernest Hafersat, our Senior Vice President of World-Wide Manufacturing, Operations, and Supply Base Management, and Ali Asgari, our Senior Vice President of Customer Services. If any of these individuals were to terminate his employment with us, we would be required to locate and hire a suitable replacement. In addition, if any of our additional key engineering, sales and general and administrative employees were to terminate their employment with us, our business could be harmed. Competition for attracting talented employees in the technology industry can be intense. We may be unable to identify suitable replacements for any employees that we lose. In addition, even if we are successful in locating suitable replacements, the time and cost

involved in recruiting, hiring, training and integrating new employees, particularly key employees responsible for significant portions of our operations, could harm our business by delaying our production schedule, our research and development efforts, our ability to execute on our business strategy and our client development and marketing efforts.

In the second quarter of 2010, our management approved, committed to and initiated a restructuring and cost reduction plan, or the 2010 Plan, to better align our resources in order to lower our breakeven point. The 2010 Plan included, among other things, severance and related costs for the reduction of approximately 10% of our workforce, a 10% salary reduction for all employees at or above the vice-president level and a 5% salary reduction for certain other employee groups. As of December 31, 2011, we had restored a limited number of employee salaries for retention purposes, and had restored all employee salaries to their pre-2010 Plan levels by January 31, 2012. As a result of these actions, we may experience higher

Table of Contents

employee attrition rates, which would require us to locate and hire suitable replacements and could cause our business to be harmed.

Many of our customer relationships are based on personal relationships between the customer and our executives or sales representatives. If these representatives terminate their employment with us, we may be forced to expend substantial resources to attempt to retain the customers that the sales representatives serviced. Ultimately, if we were unsuccessful in retaining these customers, our net revenue would decline.

Protective provisions in our charter and bylaws and the existence of our stockholder rights plan could prevent a takeover which could harm our stockholders.

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain a number of provisions that could impede a takeover or prevent us from being acquired, including, but not limited to, a classified board of directors, the elimination of our stockholders' ability to take action by written consent and limitations on the ability of our stockholders to remove a director from office without cause. Our board of directors may issue additional shares of common stock or establish one or more classes or series of preferred stock with such designations, relative voting rights, dividend rates, liquidation and other rights, preferences and limitations as determined by our board of directors without stockholder approval. In addition, we adopted a stockholder rights plan in May 2003 that is designed to impede takeover transactions that are not supported by our board of directors. Each of these charter and bylaw provisions and the stockholder rights plan gives our board of directors, acting without stockholder approval, the ability to prevent, or render more difficult or costly, the completion of a takeover transaction that our stockholders might view as being in their best interests.

Unanticipated changes in tax laws or adverse outcomes resulting from examination of our income tax returns could adversely affect our results of operations.

We are subject to income taxes in the United States and various foreign jurisdictions. Our effective income tax rates have recently been and could in the future be adversely affected by changes in tax laws or interpretations of those tax laws, by changes in the mix of earnings in countries with differing statutory tax rates, by discovery of new information in the course of our tax return preparation process, or by changes in the valuation of our deferred tax assets and liabilities. Our effective income tax rates are also affected by intercompany transactions for licenses, services, funding and other items. Additionally, we are subject to the continuous examination of our income tax returns by the Internal Revenue Service and other tax authorities which may result in the assessment of additional income taxes. We regularly assess the likelihood of adverse outcomes resulting from these examinations. However, there can be no assurance that the outcomes from these examinations will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The exercise of outstanding stock options and warrants may result in dilution to our stockholders.

We have a large number of outstanding stock options and warrants. Dilution of the per share value of our common stock could result from the exercise of outstanding stock options and warrants. When the exercise price of outstanding stock options and warrants is less than the trading price of our common stock, the exercise of such stock options and warrants would have a dilutive effect on our stockholders. The possibility of the issuance of shares of our common stock upon exercise of stock options and warrants could cause the trading price of our common stock to decline.

Furthermore, it is also possible that future large customers or suppliers may make our relationship with them contingent on receiving warrants to purchase shares of our common stock. The impact of potentially issuing additional warrants could have a dilutive effect on our stockholders.

Our stock price may be highly volatile and could decline substantially and unexpectedly, which can and has in some cases resulted in litigation.

The market price of our common stock has fluctuated substantially, and there can be no assurance that such volatility will not continue. Several factors could impact our stock price including, but not limited to:

- differences between our actual operating results and the published expectations of analysts;
- quarterly fluctuations in our operating results;
- mergers and acquisitions in the data storage marketplace;
- introduction of new products or changes in product pricing policies by our competitors or us;
- conditions in the markets in which we operate;



Table of Contents

- changes in market projections by industry forecasters;
- changes in estimates of our earnings by us or industry analysts;
- overall market conditions for high technology equities;
- rumors or dissemination of false information; and
- general economic and geopolitical conditions.

It is often the case that securities class action litigation is brought against a company following periods of volatility in the market price of its securities. Securities litigation could result in the expenditure of substantial funds, divert management's attention and resources, harm our reputation in the industry and the securities markets and reduce our profitability.

If we are not able to satisfy the continued listing requirements of the NASDAQ Global Market, our common stock could be delisted and the price and liquidity of our common stock may be adversely affected.

Our common stock is currently listed on the NASDAQ Global Market. Continued listing on the NASDAQ Global Market is conditioned upon compliance with numerous continued listing standards. In particular, the listing standards include a requirement that the closing minimum bid price of our Common Stock be maintained at least at \$1.00 per share. Our common stock has traded below \$1.00 per share since October 19, 2012. If our common stock trades below the \$1.00 minimum closing bid requirement for any 30 consecutive trading days, NASDAQ is likely to send us a Deficiency Notice. We would then have a 180-day period to regain compliance. If we are unable to regain compliance during that period, we may be delisted. If our common stock were to be delisted from the NASDAQ Global Market, our common stock would thereafter likely be traded in the over-the-counter market, and the price and liquidity of our common stock may be adversely affected. We may be required to effect a reverse stock split to regain compliance with the \$1.00 per share minimum bid price requirement. Even if we are able to regain compliance through a reverse stock split, there can be no assurance that our stock will remain above \$1.00 per share thereafter. If we are delisted and thereafter seek to re-list our stock on the NASDAQ Global Market, we will be required to comply with all of the NASDAQ Global Market initial listing requirements, many of which are more stringent than the continued listing requirements.

Future sales of our common stock may hurt our market price.

A significant portion of our common stock is owned by a few institutional stockholders. As a result, a substantial number of shares of our common stock may become available for resale. If these or other of our stockholders sell substantial amounts of our common stock in the public market, the market price of our common stock could decline. These sales might also make it more difficult for us to sell equity securities in the future at times and prices that we deem appropriate.

Our system of internal controls may be inadequate.

We maintain a system of internal controls in order to ensure we are able to collect, process, summarize, and disclose the information required by the Securities and Exchange Commission within the time periods specified. Any system of controls, however well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the system are met. In addition, the design of any control system is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events. Due to these and other inherent limitations of control systems, there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions, regardless of how remote. Additionally, public companies in the United States are required to review their internal controls under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. If the internal controls put in place by us are not adequate or fail to perform as anticipated, errors could occur that would not be detected, which could require us to restate our consolidated financial statements, receive an adverse audit opinion on the effectiveness of our internal controls, and/or take other actions that will divert significant financial and managerial resources, as well as be subject to fines and/or

other government enforcement actions. Furthermore, the price of our stock could be adversely affected.

Environmental compliance costs could adversely affect our results of operations.

Many of our products are subject to various laws governing chemical substances in products, including those regulating the manufacture and distribution of chemical substances and those restricting the presence of certain substances in electronic products. We could incur substantial costs, or our products could be restricted from entering certain countries, if our products become non-compliant with environmental laws.

We face increasing complexity in our product design and procurement operations as we adjust to new and future requirements relating to the materials composition of our products, including the restrictions on lead and certain other substances that apply to specified electronic products put on the market in the European Union as of July 1, 2006 (Restriction

Table of Contents

of Hazardous Substances Directive, or RoHS). We design our products to ensure that they comply with these requirements as well as related requirements imposed by our customers. We are also working with our suppliers to provide us with compliant materials, parts and components. If our products do not comply with the European substance restrictions, we could become subject to fines, civil or criminal sanctions, and contract damage claims. In addition, we could be prohibited from shipping non-compliant products into the European Union, and required to recall and replace any products already shipped, if such products were found to be non-compliant, which would disrupt our ability to ship products and result in reduced net revenue, increased obsolete or excess inventories and harm to our business and customer relationships. Various other countries and states in the United States have issued, or are in the process of issuing, other environmental regulations that may impose additional restrictions or obligations and require further changes to our products. These regulations could impose a significant cost of doing business in those countries and states.

The European Union has enacted the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive, which makes producers of electrical goods financially responsible for specified collection, recycling, treatment and disposal of past and future covered products. Similar legislation has been or may be enacted in other jurisdictions, including in the United States, Canada, Mexico, China and Japan, the cumulative impact of which could be significant.

Due to the global nature of our business, risks inherent in our international operations could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Although a substantial portion of our business is located and conducted in the United States, a significant portion of our operations are located outside of the United States. A substantial portion of our products are manufactured outside of the United States, and we have research and development and service centers overseas. Accordingly, our business and our future operating results could be adversely affected by a variety of factors affecting our international operations, some of which are beyond our control, including regulatory, political, or economic conditions in a specific country or region, trade protection measures and other regulatory requirements, government spending patterns, and acts of terrorism and international conflicts. In addition, we may not be able to maintain or increase international market demand for our products.

We face exposure to adverse movements in foreign currency exchange rates as a result of our international operations. These exposures may change over time as business practices evolve, and they could have a material adverse impact on our financial results and cash flows. Our international sales are denominated in U.S. dollars and in foreign currencies. An increase in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to foreign currencies could make our products more expensive and therefore, potentially less competitive in foreign markets. Conversely, lowering our price in local currency may result in lower U.S.-based revenues. A decrease in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to foreign currencies could increase operating expenses in foreign markets. Prices for our products are substantially U.S. dollar denominated, even when sold to customers that are located outside the United States. Therefore, as a substantial portion of our sales are from countries outside the United States, fluctuations in currency exchanges rates, most notably the strengthening of the U.S. dollar against other foreign currencies, contribute to variations in sales of products in impacted jurisdictions and could adversely impact demand and revenue growth. In addition, currency variations can adversely affect margins on sales of our products in countries outside the United States.

Additional risks inherent in our international business activities generally include, among others, difficulties in managing international operations and compliance with complex tax regulations in each tax jurisdiction.

In addition, due to the global nature of our business, we are subject to complex legal, tax and regulatory requirements in the United States and the foreign jurisdictions in which we operate and sell our products, including antitrust and anti-competition laws, rules and regulations, and regulations related to data privacy. We are also subject to the potential loss of proprietary information due to piracy, misappropriation or laws that may be less protective of our

intellectual property rights than U.S. laws. Such factors could have an adverse impact on our business, operating results and financial position.

Moreover, in many foreign countries, particularly in those with developing economies, it is common to engage in business practices that are prohibited by our internal policies and procedures, or U.S. laws and regulations applicable to us, such as the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. There can be no assurance that all of our employees, contractors and agents, as well as those companies to which we outsource certain of our business operations, will comply with these policies, procedures, laws and/or regulations. Any such violation could subject us to fines and other penalties, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Our business could be materially and adversely affected as a result of a natural disaster, terrorist acts or other catastrophic events.

Table of Contents

We depend on the ability of our personnel, raw materials, equipment and products to move reasonably unimpeded around the world. Any political, military, terrorism, global trade, world health or other issue that hinders this movement or restricts the import or export of materials could lead to significant business disruptions. Furthermore, any strike, economic failure or other material disruption caused by fire, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanoes, power loss, power shortages, environmental disasters, telecommunications or business information systems failures, break-ins and similar events, such as the recent flooding in Thailand, could also adversely affect our ability to conduct business. If such disruptions result in cancellations of customer orders or contribute to a general decrease in economic activity or corporate spending on information technology, or directly impact our marketing, manufacturing, financial and logistics functions, or impair our ability to meet our customer demands, our results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

Our business is subject to increasingly complex corporate governance, public disclosure, and accounting and tax requirements that have increased both our costs and the risk of noncompliance.

Because our common stock is publicly traded, we are subject to certain rules and regulations of federal, state and financial market exchange entities charged with the protection of investors and the oversight of companies whose securities are publicly traded. These entities, including the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, the SEC, and NASDAQ have implemented requirements and regulations and continue developing additional regulations and requirements in response to corporate scandals and laws enacted by Congress, most notably the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. Our efforts to comply with these regulations have resulted in, and are likely to continue resulting in, increased general and administrative expenses and diversion of management time and attention from revenue-generating activities to compliance activities.

On July 21, 2010, the President signed into law the Dodd-Frank Act. Many aspects of the Dodd-Frank Act are subject to rulemaking and will take effect over several years, making it difficult to anticipate the overall financial impact on us. However, as we continue to implement changes in response to this new law and its associated regulations, we expect to incur additional operating costs that could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

A change in accounting standards or practices and varying interpretations of existing accounting pronouncements, such as the changes to revenue recognition standards, the increased use of fair value measures, additional proposed changes to revenue recognition, lease accounting, financial instruments and other accounting standards, and the potential requirement that U.S. registrants prepare financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), could have a significant effect on our reported financial results or the way we conduct our business. Implementation of accounting regulations and related interpretations and policies, particularly those related to revenue recognition, could cause us to defer recognition of revenue or recognize lower revenue, which may affect our results of operations.

Because new and modified laws, regulations, and standards are subject to varying interpretations in many cases due to their lack of specificity, their application in practice may evolve over time as new guidance is provided by regulatory and governing bodies. This evolution may result in continuing uncertainty regarding compliance matters and additional costs necessitated by ongoing revisions to our disclosure and governance practices.

We are subject to risks related to the provision of employee health care benefits and recent health care reform legislation.

In March 2010, comprehensive health care reform legislation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (HR 3590) and the Health Care Education and Affordability Reconciliation Act (HR 4872) was passed and signed into law. Among other things, the health care reform legislation includes guaranteed coverage requirements, eliminates

pre-existing condition exclusions and annual and lifetime maximum limits, restricts the extent to which policies can be rescinded and imposes new and significant taxes on health insurers and health care benefits. Provisions of the health care reform legislation become effective at various dates over the next several years. The Department of Health and Human Services, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, the Department of Labor and the Treasury Department have yet to issue necessary enabling regulations and guidance with respect to the health care reform legislation.

Due to the breadth and complexity of the health care reform legislation, the lack of implementing regulations and interpretive guidance, and the phased-in nature of the implementation, it is difficult to predict the overall impact of the health care reform legislation on our business over the coming years. Our results of operations, financial position and cash flows could be materially adversely affected due to this health care reform legislation.

If we are unable to establish fair value for any undelivered element of a sales arrangement, all or a portion of the revenues relating to the arrangement could be deferred to future periods.

## Table of Contents

In the course of our sales efforts, we may enter into multiple element arrangements that include software and hardware related elements and maintenance. If we are required to change the pricing of our software-related elements through discounting, or otherwise introduce variability in the pricing of such elements, we may be unable to maintain Vendor Specific Objective Evidence of fair value of the undelivered elements of the arrangement, and would therefore be required to delay the recognition of all or a portion of the related arrangement. A delay in the recognition of revenues may cause fluctuations in our financial results and may adversely affect our operating margins. To date, these types of transactions have not been significant, but they will become more significant in the future as we expand our product offerings.

We are exposed to the credit and non-payment risk of our customers, resellers, and distributors, especially during times of economic uncertainty and tight credit markets, which could result in material losses.

Most of our sales to customers are on an open credit basis, with typical payment terms between net 30 and net 45 days. While we monitor individual customer payment capability in granting such open credit arrangements, and seek to limit such open credit to amounts we believe are reasonable, we may experience losses due to a customer's inability to pay.

In the past, there have been bankruptcies by our customers to whom we had extended open credit, causing us to incur bad debt charges. We may be subject to similar losses in future periods. Any future losses could harm our business and have a material adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition. Additionally, to the extent that the recent turmoil in the credit markets makes it more difficult for customers to obtain open credit or financing, those customers' ability to purchase our products could be adversely impacted, which in turn could have a material adverse impact on our financial condition and operating results.

We make significant investments in research and development to improve our technology and develop new technologies, and unsuccessful investments could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Over the past several years, our business strategy has been to derive a competitive advantage by moving from being a follower of new technologies to being a leader in the innovation and development of new technologies. This strategy requires us to make significant investments in research and development and, in attempting to remain competitive, we may increase our capital expenditures and expenses above our historical run-rate model. There can be no assurance that these investments will result in viable technologies or products, or if these investments do result in viable technologies or products, that they will be profitable or accepted by the market. Significant investments in unsuccessful research and development efforts could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, increased investments in technology could cause our cost structure to fall out of alignment with demand for our products, which would have a negative impact on our financial results.

Violation of applicable laws, including labor or environmental laws, and certain other practices by our suppliers could harm our business.

We expect our suppliers to operate in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including labor and environmental laws, and to otherwise meet our required supplier standards of conduct. While our internal operating guidelines promote ethical business practices, we do not control our suppliers or their labor or environmental practices. The violation of labor, environmental or other laws by any of our suppliers, or divergence of a supplier's business practices from those generally accepted as ethical in the United States, could harm our business by:

- interrupting or otherwise disrupting the shipment of our product components;
- damaging our reputation;
- forcing us to find alternate component sources;

reducing demand for our products (for example, through a consumer boycott); or  
exposing us to potential liability for our supplier's wrongdoings.

We are vulnerable to system failures or attacks, which could harm our business.

We are heavily dependent on our technology infrastructure, among other functions, to operate our factories, sell our products, fulfill orders, manage inventory and bill, collect and make payments. Our systems are vulnerable to damage or interruption from natural disasters, power loss, telecommunication failures, computer viruses, computer denial-of-service attacks and other events. Our business is also subject to break-ins, sabotage and intentional acts of vandalism by third parties as



Table of Contents

well as employees. Despite any precautions we may take, such problems could result in, among other consequences, interruptions in our business, which could harm our reputation and financial condition.

Item 6. Exhibits

The following exhibits are included as part of this quarterly report on Form 10-Q:

2.1	Agreement and Plan of Merger and Reorganization dated as of January 4, 2010, among Dot Hill Systems Corp., Telluride Acquisition Sub, Inc., Cloverleaf Communications Inc., Cloverleaf Communications (Israel) Ltd., Cloverleaf Communications Corporation (BVI) and E. Shalev Management 2000 (1999) Ltd. (1)
3.1	Certificate of Incorporation of Dot Hill Systems Corp. (2)
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Dot Hill Systems Corp. (3)
4.1	Certificate of Incorporation of Dot Hill Systems Corp. (2)
4.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Dot Hill Systems Corp. (3)
4.3	Form of Common Stock Certificate. (4)
4.4	Certificate of Designation of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, as filed with the Secretary of State of Delaware on May 19, 2003. (5)
4.5	Form of Rights Certificate. (5)
4.6	Warrant to Purchase Shares of Common Stock dated January 4, 2008. (6)
10.1	First Amendment to Lease Agreement by and between Dot Hill Systems Corp. and DL Faraday L.P. as of July 24, 2012.
31.1	Certification pursuant to 17 CFR 240.13a-14(a) or 17 CFR 240.15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification pursuant to 17 CFR 240.13a-14(a) or 17 CFR 240.15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1	Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted 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.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document

101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

\* Confidential treatment has been granted by, or requested from, the SEC.

- (1) Filed as an exhibit to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 5, 2010 and incorporated herein by reference.
- (2) Filed as an exhibit to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 19, 2001 and incorporated herein by reference.
- (3) Filed as an exhibit to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on December 26, 2007 and incorporated herein by reference.
- (4) Filed as an exhibit to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 14, 2003 and incorporated herein by reference.
- (5) Filed as an exhibit to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 19, 2003 and incorporated herein by reference.
- (6) Filed as an exhibit to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 7, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference.

Table of Contents

Dot Hill's Current Reports on Form 8-K have a Commission File Number of 001-13317.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Dot Hill Systems Corp.

Date: November 9, 2012

By: /s/ DANA W. KAMMERSGARD  
Dana W. Kammersgard  
Chief Executive Officer, President and Director  
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: November 9, 2012

By: /s/ HANIF I. JAMAL  
Hanif I. Jamal  
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)