

NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

Form S-3

January 22, 2004

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 22, 2004

Registration No. 333-____

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

36-3687863
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1319 Marquette Drive
Romeoville, Illinois 60446

(630) 771-6700

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

JOSEPH E. CROSS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

1319 Marquette Drive

Romeoville, Illinois 60446

(630) 771-6700

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

JOHN L. EISEL, ESQ.

GEOFFREY C. COCKRELL, ESQ.

Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon LLP

225 West Wacker Drive

Chicago, Illinois 60606-1229

(312) 201-2000

(312) 201-2555 (fax)

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. "

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. x

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

Edgar Filing: NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION - Form S-3

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box. "

Calculation of registration fee

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered (1)	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Debt securities			
Common stock			
Warrants			
Total	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$1,213.50(2)

- (1) There are being registered hereunder by the Registrant such indeterminate principal amount of debt securities; such indeterminate number of shares of common stock; and such indeterminate number of warrants to purchase common stock and debt securities of the Registrant as shall have an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$15,000,000.
- (2) Calculated pursuant to Rule 457(o) of the rules and regulations under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Table of Contents

THE REGISTRANT HEREBY AMENDS THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON SUCH DATE OR DATES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO DELAY ITS EFFECTIVE DATE UNTIL THE REGISTRANT SHALL FILE A FURTHER AMENDMENT WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL THEREAFTER BECOME EFFECTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(A) OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 OR UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON SUCH DATE AS THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, ACTING PURSUANT TO SAID SECTION 8(A), MAY DETERMINE.

Table of Contents

THE INFORMATION IN THIS PROSPECTUS IS NOT COMPLETE AND MAY BE CHANGED. WE MAY NOT SELL THESE SECURITIES UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION IS EFFECTIVE. THE PROSPECTUS IS NOT AN OFFER TO SELL THESE SECURITIES AND IT IS NOT SOLICITING AN OFFER TO BUY THESE SECURITIES IN ANY STATE WHERE THE OFFER OR SALE IS NOT PERMITTED.

Subject to Completion, dated January 22, 2004

PROSPECTUS

\$15,000,000

NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

DEBT SECURITIES

COMMON STOCK

WARRANTS

We may offer from time to time the following in one or more series, with an aggregate principal amount of up to a maximum of \$15,000,000, at prices and on terms to be determined at the time of offering:

debt securities, which may consist of debentures, notes or other types of debt

shares of common stock

warrants to purchase debt securities or common stock

When we offer securities pursuant to this prospectus, we will deliver to you this prospectus as well as a prospectus supplement setting forth the specific terms of the securities being offered. We urge you to read carefully this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement before you make your investment decision.

Edgar Filing: NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION - Form S-3

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol **NANX** . Any common stock sold pursuant to a prospectus supplement will be listed on such exchange, subject to official notice of issuance. On January 16, 2004, the closing price of the common stock, as reported on the Nasdaq National Market, was \$13.60 per share.

We will sell these securities directly to our stockholders or to purchasers or through agents on our behalf or through underwriters or dealers as designated from time to time. If any agents or underwriters are involved in the sale of any of these securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will provide the names of the agents or underwriters and any applicable fees, commissions or discounts.

INVESTING IN OUR SECURITIES INVOLVES RISKS. SEE **RISK FACTORS** BEGINNING ON PAGE 5 OF THIS PROSPECTUS.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED IF THIS PROSPECTUS IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2004.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT US</u>	1
<u>PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u>	3
<u>SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	3
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	5
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	11
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	12
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	13
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	21
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	24
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	27
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	29
<u>EXPERTS</u>	29

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement filed by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or Commission, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may, from time to time, sell any combination of securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings up to a total amount of \$15,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement together with additional information described below under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**. As used in this prospectus, company, we, our and us refer to Nanophase Technologies Corporation, except where the context otherwise requires or as otherwise indicated.

We have not authorized any dealer, salesman or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the accompanying supplement to this prospectus. You must not rely upon any information or representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement as if we had authorized it. This prospectus and the accompanying supplement to this prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the registered securities to which they relate, nor do this prospectus and the accompanying supplement to this prospectus constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus and the supplement to this prospectus is correct on any date after their respective dates, even though this prospectus or a supplement is delivered or securities are sold on a later date.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT US

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference rooms in Washington, D.C., New York, and Chicago, Illinois. Please call the SEC at 1-800-732-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to these documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below (and any amendments thereto) and any future filings made with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until the offering under this registration statement is completed or withdrawn:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002 filed March 31, 2003, as amended by Amendment No. 1 on Form 10-K/A filed May 23, 2003;

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2003 filed May 15, 2003;

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2003 filed August 13, 2003;

Edgar Filing: NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION - Form S-3

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2003 filed November 14, 2003;

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed April 18, 2003, April 23, 2003, August 7, 2003, September 10, 2003 and October 23, 2003;
and

The description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A, including any amendments or reports filed to update such information.

Table of Contents

The information incorporated by reference into this prospectus is an important part of this prospectus. Any statement contained in an incorporated document shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of the registration statement or this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed incorporated documents or in an accompanying prospectus supplement modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

To obtain a copy of these filings at no cost, you may telephone us at 630-771-6700 or write us at Investor Relations Department, Nanophase Technologies Corporation, 1319 Marquette Drive, Romeoville, Illinois 60446. Unless otherwise requested, exhibits to an incorporated document will not be provided unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

In addition, we make available free of charge through our website at <http://www.nanophase.com> our annual reports on Form

10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and all amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with or furnished to the Commission. Other than the information expressly incorporated by reference into this prospectus, information on, or accessible through, our website is not a part of this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

The following summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to, and should be read in conjunction with, the more detailed information appearing elsewhere in this prospectus or incorporated by reference herein. Investors should also carefully consider the information set forth under Risk Factors beginning on page 5.

We are in the business of commercializing the emerging technology of nanocrystalline materials, i.e. materials with a particle size less than 100 billionths of a meter. Nanocrystalline materials often exhibit unusual, and many times valuable, behavior in applications compared to normal materials. Nanocrystalline technology allows engineering of materials at the smallest, or most fundamental manufactured level, yet allowing increased material performance.

We have three core proprietary and patented (or patent pending) technologies to engineer nanomaterials for applications:

The manufacture of nanocrystalline powders such as metals, oxides, carbides and nitrides using two patented and proprietary processes (physical vapor synthesis (PVS) and NanoArc Synthesis). These powders are manufactured in commercial volume and quality at two ISO 9001:2000 certified facilities. Nanomaterials for personal care applications are manufactured to USP (United States Pharmacopodia as promulgated by the US Food and Drug Administration) and cGMP standards (current good manufacturing practices as promulgated by the US Food and Drug Administration);

The capability to coat, or partially coat, each individual nanoparticle with various materials and then attach specific chemical properties to allow nanomaterials to be dispersed in a wide range of media; and

The capability to disperse nanocrystalline powders in water and various organic solvents.

We apply our unique powder production and coating technologies to engineer nanocrystalline material solutions for both processes and end products. Our patented technologies create powder additives that are capable of modifying, either individually or in optimal combinations, the electrical, chemical, mechanical, and optical properties of conventional materials.

While markets continue to emerge for nanotechnology, and are forecasted to do so for the next 10-20 years, our current markets include healthcare, polishing, catalysts, various coatings, and electronic applications. In many of these applications, our nanomaterials display unique performance attributes. We pursue new vertical market applications through a consultative, solution-based approach focusing on lead customers in targeted markets. As we develop application solutions, we market these solutions, and derivations thereof, to similar applications in horizontal markets.

We are engaged in ongoing research and application development for and with companies on a global basis, which have enhanced our intellectual property. We license technology to other companies, license technology from companies, and create technology in joint arrangements with companies. In some instances, we patent applications for nanocrystalline materials in various industries. We are developing additional nanotechnology processes, complementary technologies, and continually improving our core technologies, including manufacturing operations.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on our current plans and expectations and involve risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements. Generally, the words believe, expect, intend, plan, estimate, predict, anticipate, will, may, should and similar expressions identify forward-looking

Table of Contents

statements. We urge you to consider these factors carefully in evaluating the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus. Forward-looking statements are made only as of the date of this prospectus. We do not intend, and undertake no obligation, to update these forward-looking statements. For a more in-depth discussion of these and other factors that could cause actual results to differ from those contained in forward-looking statements, see the discussion under **Risk Factors** below. In addition, you should carefully consider the specific risks set forth under the caption **Rick Factors** in the applicable prospectus supplement before making your investment decision.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

This offering involves a high degree of risk. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider the following risks and the risks set forth in the supplement which accompanies this prospectus and in our periodic reports on Form 10-K and Form 10-Q which have been filed with the SEC and are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. The trading price of our common stock could decline due to any of these risks, and you could lose all or part of your investment. You also should refer to the other information appearing elsewhere in this prospectus, or incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

We have a limited operating history and face difficulties encountered by early stage companies in new and rapidly evolving markets.

We have only a limited operating history. We were formed in November 1989 and began our commercial nanocrystalline materials operations in January 1997. We have not yet generated a significant amount of revenue from our nanocrystalline materials operations. Because of our limited operating history and the early stage of development of our market, we have limited insight into trends that may emerge and affect our business and cannot be certain that our business strategy will be successful or that it will successfully address these risks. In addition, our efforts to address any of these risks may distract personnel or divert resources from other more important initiatives.

We have a history of losses that may continue in the future.

We have incurred net losses in each year since our inception with net losses of \$4.52 million in 2000, \$5.74 million in 2001, \$5.16 million in 2002 and \$4.36 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. As of September 30, 2003, we had an accumulated deficit of approximately \$44.27 million and presently expect to continue to incur losses on an annual basis through at least the end of 2004. We believe that our business depends, among other things, on our ability to significantly increase revenue. If revenue fails to grow at anticipated rates or if operating expenses increase without a commensurate increase in revenue, or if we fail to adjust operating expense levels accordingly, then the imbalance between revenue and operating expenses will negatively impact our cash balances and our ability to achieve profitability on a quarterly basis.

We depend on a small number of customers for a high percentage of our sales, and the loss of a significant customer could cause a decline in revenue and/or increases in the level of losses incurred.

Sales to our customers are executed pursuant to purchase orders and annual supply contracts; however, customers can cease doing business with us at any time without notice. We expect a significant portion of our future sales to remain concentrated within a limited number of strategic customers. We may not be able to retain our strategic customers, such customers may cancel or reschedule orders, or in the event of canceled orders, such orders may not be replaced by other sales or by sales that are on as favorable terms. In addition, sales to any particular customer may fluctuate significantly from quarter to quarter, which could affect our ability to achieve anticipated revenues on a quarterly basis.

Sales to BASF Corporation and C.I. Kasei, a division of Itochu Corporation, accounted for approximately 79% of total revenue for the year ended December 31, 2002, and sales to the same two customers accounted for approximately 85% of total revenue in 2001. For the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, a single customer accounted for 73% and 76% of our total revenue, respectively. If we were to lose one or both of these customers, then results of operations would be materially harmed. Additional details may be found in our Form 10-K.

We have been consistently expanding both our marketing and business development efforts and our production efficiency in order to address the issues of our dependence upon a limited amount of customers, enhancement of gross profit and operating cash flows, and the achievement of profitability. We currently have customers that may grow to the point where they generate significant revenues and margins as relationships expand. Our largest customer, BASF, currently accounts for the majority of revenues. We view this customer as a single leg of the business and plan on adding more customers of similar magnitude over the next several years. Given the unique nature of our products, and the fact that markets for them are not yet fully developed, it is difficult to accurately predict when additional large customers will materialize. Management expects gross margins, taken for the year 2003 as a whole, to be positive. The extent to which the Company's margins remain positive, as a

Table of Contents

percentage of revenue, will be dependent upon revenue mix, revenue volume, and the Company's ability to continue to cut costs. The extent of the growth in revenue volume, and the related gross profit that this revenue generates, will be the main drivers in generating positive operating cash flows and, ultimately, net income.

Any downturn in the markets served by us would harm our business.

A majority of our products are incorporated into products such as sunscreens, polishing slurries, personal care, and to a lesser extent abrasion-resistant coatings for flooring, and catalytic converters. These markets have from time to time experienced cyclical, depressed business conditions, often in connection with, or in anticipation of, a decline in general economic conditions. These industry downturns have resulted in reduced product demand and declining average selling prices. Our business would be harmed by any future downturns in the markets that we serve.

We depend on collaborative development relationships with our customers.

We have established, and will continue to pursue, collaborative relationships with many of our customers. Through these relationships, we seek to develop new applications for our nanocrystalline materials and share development and manufacturing resources. We also seek to coordinate the development, manufacture and marketing of our nanocrystalline products. Future success will depend, in part, on our continued relationships with these customers and our ability to enter into similar collaborative relationships with other customers. We can make no assurance that our customers will continue in these collaborative development relationships or that they will not enter into collaborative development relationships with our competitors. Additionally, these customers may require a share of control of these collaborative programs. Some of our agreements with these customers limit our ability to license our technology to others and/or limit our ability to engage in certain product development or marketing activities. These relationships can usually be terminated unilaterally by customers. If we are unable to initiate or sustain such collaborative relationships, then we may be unable to independently develop, manufacture or market our current and future nanocrystalline materials or applications.

Our manufacturing processes are susceptible to disruption.

Our success will depend, in part, on our ability to manufacture nanocrystalline materials in significant quantities, with consistent quality and in an efficient and timely manner. We may need to continue to expand our current facilities or obtain additional facilities in the future. Any material disruption in our operations could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. While we maintain customary property and business interruption insurance, this insurance may not adequately compensate us for all losses that we may incur.

Protection of our intellectual property is limited and uncertain.

Our intellectual property is important to our business. We seek to protect our intellectual property through patent, trademark and copyright law, trade secret protection and confidentiality or license agreements with our employees, customers, suppliers and others. We can make no assurance that our means of protecting our intellectual property rights in the United States or abroad will be adequate or that others, including our competitors, will not use our proprietary technology without our consent. We can also make no assurance that we will receive the necessary patent protection for any applications pending with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office or that any of the patents that we currently own or

Edgar Filing: NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION - Form S-3

license will be sufficient to keep competitors from using our materials or processes. In addition, we can make no assurance that any patents that we currently own or license will be held valid if subsequently challenged by others or that others will not claim rights in the patents and other proprietary technology that we own or license. Additionally, others may have already developed or may subsequently develop similar products or technologies without violating any of our proprietary rights. If we fail to obtain patent protection or preserve our trade secrets we may be unable to effectively compete against others offering similar products and services. In addition, if we fail to operate without infringing the proprietary rights of others or lose any license to technology that we currently have or will acquire in the future, we may be unable to continue making the products that we currently make.

Table of Contents

Furthermore, litigation may be necessary to enforce our intellectual property rights, to protect our trade secrets, to determine the validity and scope of the proprietary rights of others, or to defend against claims of infringement or invalidity. Such litigation could result in substantial costs and diversion of resources and could harm our business, operating results and financial condition. In addition, if others assert that our technology infringes their intellectual property rights, resolving the dispute could divert our management team and financial resources.

In the future, we may license certain of our intellectual property, such as trademarks or copyrighted material, to third parties. While we would attempt to ensure that any licensees maintain the quality and value of our brand, we can make no assurance that we will refrain from actions that might diminish this quality and value.

We may be subject to claims that one or more of the business methods used by us infringe upon patents held by others. The defense of any claims of infringement made against us by third parties could involve significant legal costs and require our management to divert time and other resources from our business operations. Either of these consequences of an infringement claim could have a material adverse effect on our operating results. If we are unsuccessful in defending any claims of infringement, we may be forced to obtain licenses or pay royalties to continue to use our technology. We may not be able to obtain any necessary licenses on commercially reasonable terms or at all. If we fail to obtain necessary licenses or other rights, or if these licenses are costly, our operating results may suffer either from reductions in revenue through our inability to serve clients or from increases in costs to license third-party technology.

Our industry is experiencing rapid changes in technology.

Rapid changes have occurred, and are likely to continue to occur, in the development of advanced materials and processes. Our success will depend, in large part, upon our ability to keep pace with advanced materials technologies, industry standards and market trends and to develop and introduce new and improved products on a timely basis. We will likely commit substantial resources to develop our technologies and product applications and, in the future, to expand our commercial manufacturing capacity as volume grows. We can make no assurance that our development efforts will not be rendered obsolete by the research efforts and technological advances of others or that other advanced materials will not prove more advantageous than those we produce.

Our market is highly competitive, and if we are unable to compete effectively, then our business will not grow.

The advanced materials industry is new, rapidly evolving and intensely competitive, and we expect competition to intensify in the future. The market for materials having the characteristics and potential uses of our nanocrystalline materials is the subject of intensive research and development efforts by both governmental entities and private enterprises around the world. We believe that the level of competition will increase further as more product applications with significant commercial potential are developed. The nanocrystalline product applications that we are developing will compete directly with products incorporating both conventional and advanced materials and technologies. While we are not currently aware of the existence of commercially available competitive products with the same attributes as those we offer, we can make no assurance that other companies will not develop and introduce new or competitive products. We can also make no assurance that our competitors will not succeed in developing or marketing materials, technologies and better or less expensive products than the ones we offer. In addition, many of our potential competitors have substantially greater financial and technical resources, and greater manufacturing and marketing capabilities than we do. If we fail to improve our current and potential nanocrystalline product applications at an acceptable price, or otherwise compete with producers of conventional materials, we will lose market share and revenue to our competitors.

We may need to raise additional capital in the future

We expect to expend significant resources on research, development and product testing, and in expanding current capacity or capability for new business. In addition, we may incur significant costs in preparing, filing, prosecuting, maintaining and enforcing our patents and other proprietary rights. We may seek additional funding through public or private financing and through contracts with government or other companies. We can make no assurance that additional financing will be available on acceptable terms or at all. If we are unable to obtain adequate funds, we may be required to delay, scale-back or eliminate some of our manufacturing and marketing

Table of Contents

operations or we may need to obtain funds through arrangements on less favorable terms. If we obtain funding on unfavorable terms, we may be required to relinquish rights to some of our intellectual property.

To raise additional funds in the future, we would likely sell our equity or debt securities or enter into loan agreements. To the extent that we issue debt securities or enter into loan agreements, we may become subject to financial, operational and other covenants that we must observe. In the event that we were to breach any of these covenants, then the amounts due under such loans or debt securities could become immediately payable by us, which could significantly harm us. To the extent that we sell additional shares of our equity securities, you may face economic dilution if the future equity securities are sold at a lower price than your purchase price in this offering, and, to the extent that you do not participate in such future offerings, you would also face dilution of your percentage ownership of us.

We currently have a supply agreement with BASF that contains provisions which could potentially result in a mandatory transfer of technology and sale of production equipment to BASF providing capacity sufficient to meet BASF's production needs. The transfer and related sale would be triggered only in the event that one of the following occurs:

our earnings for a twelve month period ending with our most recently published quarterly financial statements are less than zero and our cash, cash equivalents and liquid investments are less than \$2,000,000,

any lender accelerates any debt in excess of \$10,000,000, or

we become insolvent as defined in the supply agreement.

In the event of a triggering event where we are required to sell to BASF production equipment providing capacity sufficient to meet BASF's production needs, the equipment would be sold at 115% of the equipment's depreciated cost.

We believe that we have complied with all contractual requirements and that we have not had a triggering event. We further believe that the proceeds of the May 29, 2002 and September 8, 2003 private placements provide sufficient cash balances to avoid the first triggering event referenced above through the third quarter of 2004. In all likelihood, we may need to set aside a portion of the proceeds of the private placements in order to avoid a triggering event. Further, we expect, although such exercise is not guaranteed, to receive an additional \$2,000,000 in equity capital relating to the future exercise of warrants relating to the September 2003 fundraising. This additional funding should allow us to avoid a triggering event through at least early 2005. If a triggering event were to occur and BASF elected to proceed with the transfer and related sale mentioned above, we would lose both significant revenue and the ability to generate significant revenue to replace that which was lost in the near term. Replacement of necessary equipment that would be purchased and removed by BASF pursuant to this triggering event could take six months to a year. Any additional capital outlays required to rebuild capacity would probably be greater than the proceeds from the purchase of the assets pursuant to our agreement with BASF. This shortfall might put us in a position where it would be difficult to secure additional funding given what would then be an already tenuous cash position. Such an event would also result in the loss of many of the Company's key staff and line employees due to economic realities. We believe that our employees are a critical component of our success and would be difficult to quickly replace and train. Given the occurrence of such an event, we might not be able to hire and retrain skilled employees given the stigma relating to such an event and its impact on us. We would effectively reduce our size and staffing to a point where we could remain a going concern. Such a change would make it unlikely that, without unforeseen funding, we could continue to grow at anything other than an incremental rate.

We depend on key personnel.

Our success will depend, in large part, upon our ability to attract and retain highly qualified research and development, management, manufacturing, marketing and sales personnel on favorable terms. Due to the specialized nature of our business, we may have difficulty locating, hiring and retaining qualified personnel on favorable terms. If we were to lose the services of any of our key executive officers or other key personnel, or if we are unable to attract and retain other skilled and experienced personnel on acceptable terms in the future, then our business, results of operations and financial condition would be materially harmed. In addition, we do not currently have key-man

Table of Contents

life insurance policies covering all of our executive officers or key employees, nor do we presently have any plans to purchase such policies.

We face potential product liability risks.

We may be subject to product liability claims in the event that any of our nanocrystalline product applications are alleged to be defective or cause harmful effects. Because our nanocrystalline materials are used in other companies' products, to the extent our customers become subject to suits relating to their products, such as medical implants and cosmetic and skin-care products, we can make no assurance that these claims will not also be asserted against us. We currently maintain insurance coverage in the amount of \$10 million for product liability claims, which may or may not prove to be sufficient. We may incur significant costs in defending or settling product liability claims. Even if we are able to settle these claims, we can make no assurance that any settlement would be on acceptable terms. The costs related to these claims could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We are subject to governmental regulations.

Current and future laws and regulations may require us to make substantial expenditures for preventive or remedial action. We can make no assurance that our operations, business or assets will not be materially and adversely affected by governmental interpretation and enforcement of current or future environmental laws and regulations. In addition, our coating operations pose a risk of accidental contamination or injury. The damages in the event of an accident or the costs to prevent or remediate an environmental event could exceed our resources or otherwise have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

In addition, both of our facilities and all of our operations are subject to the plant and laboratory safety requirements of various occupational safety and health laws. We believe we have complied in all material respects with regard to governmental regulations applicable to us. We can make no assurance, however, that we will not have to incur significant costs in defending or settling future claims of alleged violations of governmental regulations or that these regulations will not materially restrict or impede our operations in the future. In addition, our efforts to comply with or contest any regulatory actions may distract personnel or divert resources from other more important initiatives.

The manufacture and use of certain products that contain our nanocrystalline materials are subject to intense governmental regulation. As a result, we are required to adhere to the requirements of the regulations of governmental authorities in the United States and other countries. These regulations could increase our cost of doing business and may render some potential markets prohibitively expensive.

We have implemented anti-takeover provisions which could discourage or prevent a takeover, even if an acquisition could be beneficial to our stockholders.

In October 1998, we entered into a Rights Agreement, commonly referred to as a poison pill. The provisions of this agreement and some of the provisions of our certificate of incorporation, our bylaws and Delaware law could, together or separately:

discourage potential acquisition proposals;

delay or prevent a change in control; and

limit the price that investors might be willing to pay in the future for shares of our common stock.

In particular, our board of directors is authorized to issue up to 24,588 shares of preferred stock (less any outstanding shares of preferred stock) with rights and privileges that might be senior to our common stock, without the consent of the holders of the common stock.

In addition, Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporations Law and the terms of our stock option plans may discourage, delay or prevent a change in control of our company.

Table of Contents

Future sales of our common stock by existing stockholders could negatively affect the market price of our stock and make it more difficult for us to sell stock in the future.

Sales of our common stock in the public market, or the perception that such sales could occur, could result in a decline in the market price of our common stock and make it more difficult for us to complete future equity financings. A substantial number of shares of our common stock and shares of common stock subject to outstanding warrants may be resold pursuant to currently effective registration statements. As of January 15, 2004, in addition to the shares to be sold in this offering, there are:

16,058,058 shares of common stock that have been issued in registered offerings or upon the exercise of options under our equity incentive plan and are freely tradable in the public markets,

1,370,000 shares of common stock which have been registered for resale under a Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-90326);

an aggregate of 1,928,619 shares of common stock that may be issued on the exercise of stock options outstanding under our equity incentive plan.

We cannot estimate the number of shares of common stock that may actually be resold in the public market because this will depend on the market price for our common stock, the individual circumstances of the sellers, and other factors. If stockholders sell large portions of their holdings in a relatively short time, for liquidity or other reasons, the market price of our common stock could decline significantly.

We have been involved in litigation.

In 1998, Harbour Court LPI, a small stockholder, sued us, several of our then-current and former officers and the underwriters of our initial public offering of common stock in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. The complaint alleged that the defendants had violated the federal Securities Exchange Act of 1934 by making supposedly fraudulent material misstatements and omissions of fact in connection with soliciting consents to our initial public offering from several of our preferred stockholders. The supposed misrepresentations concerned purported mischaracterization of revenue that we received from our then-largest customer. The complaint further alleged that the suit should be maintained as a plaintiff class action on behalf of several former preferred stockholders whose shares of preferred stock were converted into common stock in connection with our initial public offering. The complaint sought relief including unquantified compensatory damages and attorneys' fees. In September 2000, each of the defendants answered the complaint, denying all wrongdoing. Following initial discovery, we agreed to settle all claims against all defendants for \$800,000, plus up to an additional \$50,000 for the cost of settlement administration. The settlement did not admit liability by any party. The court ordered final approval of the settlement in January 2002 and concurrently dismissed the complaint with prejudice. In January 2003, the court approved interim payment to the plaintiffs of \$17,102 in settlement administration costs. Because both the settlement and the settlement administration costs were funded by our directors and officers liability insurance, neither the settlement nor the settlement administration costs payments have had a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

In November 2001, George Tatz, a purchaser of 200 shares of our common stock, sued us and Joseph Cross, our President and CEO, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. The complaint alleged that the defendants violated the federal Securities Exchange Act of 1934 by making supposedly fraudulent material misstatements and omissions of fact in connection with our public disclosures, including certain press releases, concerning our dealings with Celox, a British customer. The complaint further alleged that the action should be maintained as a plaintiff class action on behalf of buyers who purchased shares of our common stock from April 5, 2001 through October 24,

Edgar Filing: NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION - Form S-3

2001. The complaint sought relief including unquantified compensatory damages and attorneys' fees. In March 2002, the plaintiff filed an amended complaint, alleging that we and four of our officers (Joseph Cross; Daniel Bilicki - our vice president of sales and marketing; Jess Jankowski - our acting chief financial officer; and Gina Kritchevsky - our then-current chief technology officer) were liable under the federal Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for making supposedly fraudulent material misstatements and omissions of fact in connection with our press releases, publicly-filed reports and other public disclosures concerning our relationship

Table of Contents

with Celox and our purportedly improper booking, and later reversal, of \$400,000 in revenue from a one-time sale to that customer treated as a bill and hold transaction. The amended complaint alleged the same class and sought the same relief as in the plaintiff's initial complaint. In November 2002, the defendants answered the amended complaint, denying all alleged wrongdoing. Following initial discovery, on June 11, 2003, we agreed to settle all claims against all defendants for \$2,500,000. On June 12, 2003, the court certified the class alleged in the amended complaint. On December 1, 2003, the court ordered final approval of the settlement and dismissed the amended complaint with prejudice. The settlement does not admit liability by any party. Because the settlement has been funded by our directors and officers liability insurance, the settlement has not had a material adverse effect on our financial position or results of operations.

Dilutive Effect of Private Placements.

On May 29, 2002 we sold 1,370,000 shares of our common stock to selected accredited investors at a purchase price of \$5.00 per share. On May 29, 2002 the closing sale price of our common stock, as reported on Nasdaq, was \$5.15 per share. On September 8, 2003 we sold 453,001 shares of our common stock to Grace Brothers, Ltd. at a purchase price of \$4.415 per share together with a warrant to purchase a like number of shares of common stock during the next twelve months also at a price of \$4.415 per share. The share price for the common stock was determined based on the fifteen-day market closing average for the Company's stock ending September 5, 2003. On September 8, 2003 the closing sale price of our common stock as reported on Nasdaq, was \$5.50 per share. Both of these issuances of stock at below the then-current market price had a dilutive effect on existing common stockholders.

We have never paid dividends.

We currently intend to retain earnings, if any, to support our growth strategy. We do not anticipate paying dividends on our stock in the foreseeable future.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered by this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement for general corporate purposes, which might include working capital, increase in technology development, increase in business development, capital expenditures, the repayment of indebtedness, the repurchase of shares of our equity securities and acquisitions. Pending use for these purposes, we may invest proceeds from the sale of the securities in short-term marketable securities. The precise amount and timing of sales of any securities will be dependent on market conditions and the availability and cost of other funds to us.

On May 29, 2002, we completed the sale of 1,370,000 shares of our common stock in a private placement to selected institutional and accredited investors, resulting in gross proceeds of \$6,850,000. On September 8, 2003, we completed the sale of 453,001 shares of our common stock in a private placement to Grace Brothers, Ltd., resulting in gross proceeds of \$2,000,000. To date, we have used the proceeds of both private placements for operations and general working capital purposes. In all likelihood, we may need to reserve as much as \$2.0 million of the proceeds of the private placements or this offering in order to avoid a triggering event in our BASF contract.

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

	Years Ended December 31,					Nine Months Ended September 30,
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges(1)(2)						

- (1) In computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, (a) earnings have been computed as loss before provision for income taxes excluding fixed charges and (b) fixed charges consist of interest expense and the estimated interest portion of rent expense.
- (2) For the years ended December 31, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002, and the nine months ended September 30, 2003, earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges for those periods by \$5,477,880, \$5,117,067, \$4,518,327, \$5,710,243, \$5,086,563 and \$4,342,357, respectively.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

This prospectus describes the general terms and provisions of our debt securities. When we offer to sell a particular series of debt securities, we will describe the specific terms of the series in a supplement to this prospectus. Accordingly, for a description of the terms of any series of debt securities, you must refer to both the prospectus supplement relating to that series and the description of the debt securities in this prospectus. To the extent the information contained in the prospectus supplement differs from this summary description, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement.

The debt securities offered hereby will be issued under an indenture between us and the trustee named therein. The indenture will be subject to, and governed by, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. A copy of the form of indenture will be filed in an amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or filed in a Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated by reference in the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The following description of certain provisions of the form of indenture does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the indenture to be filed in an amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or filed in a Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated by reference in the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

General

The terms of each series of debt securities will be established by or pursuant to a resolution of our board of directors and detailed or determined in the manner provided in an officers' certificate or by a supplemental indenture. The particular terms of each series of debt securities will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to the series, including any pricing supplement.

We will be able to issue an unlimited amount of debt securities under the indenture that may be in one or more series with the same or various maturities, at par, at a premium, or at a discount. We will set forth in a prospectus supplement, including any pricing supplement, relating to any series of debt securities being offered, the initial offering price, the aggregate principal amount and the following terms of the debt securities:

We will provide in a prospectus supplement, including any pricing supplement, relating to any series of debt securities being offered, the aggregate principal amount and the following terms of the debt securities:

the title of the debt securities;

the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities and any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

whether we will issue the debt securities at a discount and the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity of the securities or upon redemption, if other than the principal amount, and the rate at which the original issue discount will accrue;

the date on which we will pay the principal on the debt securities;

the rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method used to determine the rate at which the debt securities will bear interest;

the date from which interest will accrue, the date on which interest will be payable and any regular record date for the interest payable on any interest payment date;

Table of Contents

the place where we will pay, or the method of payment of, principal, premium and interest on the debt securities and where holders may surrender the debt securities for conversion, registration of transfer or exchange;

any obligation we have to redeem or purchase the debt securities under any sinking fund or similar provisions or at the option of a holder of debt securities;

our right to redeem the debt securities and the date on which, the price at which and the terms and conditions upon which we may redeem the debt securities;

the denominations in which we will issue the debt securities, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any multiples of \$1,000;

provisions, if any, for the defeasance or discharge of our obligations relating to the debt securities;

whether we will issue the debt securities in registered or bearer form;

the currency in which we will pay principal, premium and interest on the debt securities;

if we will pay principal, premium or interest on the debt securities in one or more currencies other than those in which the debt securities are denominated, the manner in which we will determine the exchange rate on the payments;

the manner in which we will determine the amounts of payment of principal, premium or interest on the debt securities if these amounts may be determined by reference to an index based on a currency other than that in which the debt securities are denominated or designated or by reference to a commodity, commodity index, stock exchange index or financial index;

any addition to, or change or deletion of, any events of default or covenants in the indenture;

a discussion of any material or special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;

any depositaries, trustees, interest rate calculation agents, exchange rate calculation agents or other agents relating to the debt securities other than those originally appointed;

whether we will issue the debt securities in the form of global securities and whether we will issue the global securities in temporary or permanent global form;

any rights of the holders of the debt securities to convert the debt securities into other securities or property and the terms and conditions of the conversion;

any subordination provisions relating to the debt securities;

any listing of the debt securities on a securities exchange;

any provisions relating to any security provided for by the debt securities; and

any other terms of the debt securities that will not be inconsistent with the indenture.

We may issue debt securities at a discount below their stated principal amount. Even if we do not issue the debt securities below their stated principal amount, for United States federal income tax purposes the debt securities may be deemed to have been issued with a discount because of interest payment characteristics. We will describe in a prospectus supplement the United States federal income tax considerations applicable to debt securities issued at a

Table of Contents

discount or deemed to be issued at a discount. We will also describe in a prospectus supplement the special United States federal income tax considerations or other restrictions or terms applicable to debt securities issuable in bearer form, offered exclusively to foreigners or denominated in a foreign currency.

Denominations, Registration, Transfer and Exchange

Unless we specify otherwise in the prospectus supplement, the debt securities of any series will be issuable only in denominations of \$1,000 and multiples of \$1,000, and will be payable only in U.S. dollars.

We may issue the debt securities in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository identified in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may issue the global securities in either registered or bearer form and in either temporary or permanent form. We will describe the specific terms of the depository arrangement relating to a series of debt securities in the prospectus supplement.

You may transfer or exchange certificated debt securities at any office we maintain for this purpose in accordance with the terms of the indenture. We will not charge a service fee for any transfer or exchange of certificated debt securities, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge we are required to pay in connection with a transfer or exchange.

You may effect the transfer of certificated debt securities and the right to receive the principal, premium and interest on certificated debt securities only by surrendering the certificate representing those certificated debt securities and either reissuance by us or the trustee of the certificate to the new holder or the issuance by us or the trustee of a new certificate to the new holder.

We are not required to:

register, transfer or exchange debt securities of any series during a period beginning at the opening of 15 business days before the day we transmit a notice of redemption of debt securities of the series selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the transmission; or

to register, transfer or exchange any debt security so selected for redemption in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt security being redeemed in part.

Covenants

We will describe in the prospectus supplement any restrictive covenants applicable to an issue of debt securities.

Consolidation, Merger or Sale of Assets

Unless we have pre-existing contractual obligations, we may not consolidate or merge with or into, or sell, assign, convey or transfer our properties and assets substantially in their entirety to another corporation, person or entity unless:

in the case of a consolidation or merger, (1) we are the surviving corporation, or (2) the successor corporation is an entity organized and validly existing under the laws of the United States, any state of the United States or the District of Columbia and expressly assumes our obligations under the debt securities and the indenture; and

immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no event of default exists.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any subsidiary of ours may consolidate with, merge into or transfer all or part of its properties and assets to us.

Table of Contents

Events of Default

Each of the following is an event of default relating to a series of debt securities:

default in the payment of any interest upon any debt security of that series when it becomes due and payable, and continuance of that default for a period of 30 days;

default in the payment of principal of or premium on any debt security of that series when due and payable;

default in the deposit of any sinking fund payment, when and as due relating to any debt security of that series;

default in the performance or breach by us of any other covenant or warranty in the indenture, other than a covenant or warranty that has been included in the indenture solely for the benefit of a series of debt securities other than that series, which default continues uncured for a period of 60 days after we receive written notice from the trustee or we and the trustee receive written notice from the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series as provided in the indenture;

the acceleration of the maturity date of any of our indebtedness, other than non-recourse indebtedness, at any one time, in an amount exceeding the greater of (1) \$10 million or (2) 5% of our consolidated net tangible assets, if the acceleration is not cancelled within 30 days;

events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization; and

any other event of default provided relating to debt securities of that series that is described in the applicable prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus.

Non-recourse indebtedness means indebtedness for which the terms provide that the lender's claim for repayment of the indebtedness is limited solely to a claim against the property that secures the indebtedness.

Consolidated net tangible assets means the total amount of assets, including investments in joint ventures, of a company and its subsidiaries, if any, less applicable depreciation, amortization and other valuation reserves after deducting:

all current liabilities, excluding (1) the current portion of long-term indebtedness, (2) intercompany liabilities and (3) any liabilities that are by their terms renewable or extendible at the option of the obligor to a time more than 12 months from the time as of which the amount is being computed; and

all goodwill, trade names, trademarks, patents, unamortized debt discount and any other similar intangibles, all as provided on the most recent consolidated balance sheet of the company and computed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Edgar Filing: NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION - Form S-3

If an event of default relating to outstanding debt securities of any series occurs and is continuing, then the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of outstanding debt securities of that series may declare, in a written notice, the principal amount, or specified amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest and premium, if payable on all debt securities of that series to be immediately due and payable. At any time after a declaration of acceleration relating to debt securities of any series has been made, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may rescind and cancel the acceleration if:

the holders act before the trustee has obtained a judgment or decree for payment of the money due;

we have paid or deposited with the trustee a sum sufficient to pay overdue interest and overdue principal other than the accelerated interest and principal; and

Table of Contents

we have cured or the holders have waived all events of default, other than the non-payment of accelerated principal and interest relating to debt securities of that series, as provided in the indenture.

We refer you to the prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities that are discount securities for the particular provisions relating to acceleration of a portion of the principal amount of the discount securities upon the occurrence of an event of default.

The trustee has no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture at the request of any holder of outstanding debt securities, unless the trustee receives indemnity satisfactory to it against any loss, liability or expense. Subject to rights of the trustee, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee relating to the debt securities of that series.

No holder of any debt security of any series will have any right to institute any judicial or other proceeding relating to the indenture or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any remedy under the indenture, unless:

that holder has previously given the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default relating to debt securities of that series; and

the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of outstanding debt securities of that series have made a written request, and offered reasonable indemnity, to the trustee to institute the proceeding as trustee, and the trustee has not received from the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series a direction inconsistent with that request and has failed to institute the proceeding within 60 days.

The holder of any debt security will have an absolute and unconditional right to receive payment of the principal, premium and any interest on that debt security on or after the due dates expressed in that debt security and to institute suit for the enforcement of payment.

Within 120 days after the end of our fiscal year we will furnish to the trustee a statement as to compliance with the indenture. The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any series of any default or event of default, except in payment on any debt securities of that series, relating to debt securities of that series if it in good faith determines that withholding notice is in the interest of the holders of those debt securities.

Modification and Waiver

We may modify the indenture, without prior notice to or consent of any holders, for any of the following purposes:

to evidence the succession of another corporation to our rights and the assumption by the successor of our covenants and obligations in the indenture and the debt securities;

Edgar Filing: NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION - Form S-3

to add to the covenants for the benefit of the holders of the debt securities or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us in the indenture;

to add any events of default;

to add or change any provision of the indenture to permit or facilitate the issuance of debt securities of any series in bearer form, to permit bearer securities to be issued in exchange for registered securities, to permit bearer securities to be issued in exchange for bearer securities of other denominations or to permit the issuance of debt securities of any series in uncertificated form, provided that the action will not adversely affect the interests of the holders of debt securities or coupons in any material respect;

Table of Contents

to change or eliminate any provision of the indenture, provided that the change or elimination will become effective only when there is no outstanding debt security issued under the indenture or coupon of any series created prior to the modification which is entitled to the benefit of the provision and as to which the modification would apply;

to secure the debt securities or to provide that any of our obligations under the debt securities or the indenture will be guaranteed and the terms and conditions for the release or substitution of the security or guarantee;

to supplement any provisions of the indenture to permit or facilitate the defeasance and discharge of any series of debt securities, provided that the action will not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the debt securities or coupons in any material respect;

to establish the form or terms of debt securities and coupons as permitted by the indenture;

to evidence and provide for a successor or other trustee relating to one or more series of debt securities and to add or change any provision of the indenture to provide for or facilitate the administration of the trusts by more than one trustee; or

to cure any ambiguity, to correct or supplement any provision of the indenture that may be defective or inconsistent with any other provision of the indenture, to eliminate any conflict between the terms of the indenture and the debt securities and the Trust Indenture Act or to make any other provisions which will not be inconsistent with any provision of the indenture; provided, however, that these other provisions will not adversely affect the interest of the holders of outstanding debt securities or coupons in any material respect.

We may modify and amend the indenture with the written consent of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected by the modifications or amendments. However, these modifications may not, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security of each series affected:

change the stated maturity of any debt security or coupon;

reduce the principal amount of any payment to be made on any debt security or coupon;

reduce the rate of interest or extend the time for payment of interest or premium payable upon redemption of any debt security;

change the coin or currency in which any debt security or any premium or interest is payable;

reduce the amount of the principal of a discount security that would be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity;

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or after the due date of the payment;

alter any redemption provisions in a manner adverse to the holders of the debt securities;

Edgar Filing: NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION - Form S-3

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities;

adversely affect the right of any holder to convert any debt security;

modify any of the waiver provisions, except to increase any required percentage or to provide that other provisions of the indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holder of each affected outstanding debt security; or

Table of Contents

modify any provision described in the applicable prospectus supplement as requiring the consent of each affected holder of debt securities.

A modification that changes or eliminates any covenant or other provision of the indenture relating to one or more particular series of debt securities and coupons, or that modifies the rights of the holder of debt securities and coupons of that series, will be deemed not to affect the rights of the holders of debt securities and coupons of any other series.

The holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series, by notice to the trustee, may on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of that series waive any default and its consequences under the indenture, except:

a continuing default in the payment of interest on, premium or the principal amount of any debt security held by a non-consenting holder; or

a default of a covenant or provision that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security of each series affected.

Defeasance of Debt Securities and Covenants in Circumstances

Legal Defeasance. We may be discharged from any and all obligations relating to the debt securities of any series except for obligations:

to pay additional amounts, if any, upon the occurrence of specified tax, assessment or government charge events relating to payments on the debt securities;

to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities;

to replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities;

to maintain paying agencies; and

to hold money in payment for trust.

We will be discharged upon our deposit with the trustee, in trust, of money or government obligations that will provide money in an amount sufficient, in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants, to pay and discharge each installment of principal, premium and interest on and any mandatory sinking fund payments relating to the debt securities of that series on the stated maturity of those payments.

Edgar Filing: NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION - Form S-3

We may be discharged only if we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel stating that we have received from, or there has been published by, the United States Internal Revenue Service a ruling or, since the date of execution of the indenture, there has been a change in the applicable United States federal income tax law, in either case to the effect that the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit, defeasance and discharge.

Defeasance of Covenants. Upon compliance with specified conditions, we will not be required to comply with some restrictive covenants contained in the indenture and any omission to comply with the obligations will not constitute a default or event of default relating to the debt securities. These conditions include:

depositing with the trustee money or government obligations that, through the payment of interest and principal in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants to pay principal, premium and interest on and any mandatory sinking fund payments relating to the debt securities of that series on the date those payments are due; and

Table of Contents

delivering to the trustee a United States Internal Revenue Service ruling or an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the debt securities of the series will not recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit and related covenant defeasance.

Limited Liability of Some Persons

No past, present or future stockholder, incorporator, employee, officer or director of Nanophase or any successor corporation or any of our affiliates will have any personal liability for our obligations under the indenture or the debt securities because of his, her or its status as a stockholder, incorporator, employee, officer or director.

Conversion Rights

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms and conditions, if any, upon which the debt securities are convertible into common stock. Those terms will include:

whether the debt securities are convertible into common stock;

whether such conversion is at the option of us or the investor;

the conversion price, or manner of calculation;

the conversion period;

provisions regarding whether conversion will be at our option or the option of the holders;

the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price; and

provisions affecting conversion in the event of the redemption of the debt securities.

Payment and Paying Agents

The indenture will require us to duly and punctually pay the principal, premium and interest on the debt securities as provided in the debt securities and the indenture.

Edgar Filing: NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION - Form S-3

If debt securities of a series are issuable only as registered securities, we will maintain in each place of payment for that series an office or agency where:

holders may present or surrender for payment debt securities of that series;

holders may surrender debt securities of that series for registration of transfer or exchange; and

we may be served with notices and demands regarding the debt securities of that series.

If debt securities of a series are issuable as bearer securities, we will maintain or cause to be maintained:

in Chicago, Illinois, an office or agency (i) where holders may (1) present or surrender for payment any registered securities of that series, (2) surrender for registration or transfer any registered securities of that series, (3) surrender debt securities of that series for exchange or redemption and (4) present or surrender for payment bearer securities of that series and related coupons in the circumstances described in the following paragraph and not otherwise, and (ii) where we may be served with notices and demands regarding the debt securities of that series;

Table of Contents

subject to any applicable laws or registration, in a place of payment for that series that is located outside the United States, an office or agency where holders may present and surrender for payment debt securities of that series and related coupons; and

subject to any applicable laws or regulations, in a place of payment for that series located outside the United States, an office or agency where holders may surrender any registered securities of that series for registration of transfer or surrender for exchange or redemption debt securities of that series and where we may receive notices and demands regarding the debt securities of that series.

We will give prompt written notice to the applicable trustee of the locations, and any change in the locations, of offices or agencies. If at any time we fail to maintain any required office or agency or fail to furnish the applicable trustee with the address, holders may make or serve the presentations, surrenders, notices and demands at the corporate trust office of the applicable trustee, except that holders may present and surrender bearer securities of that series and the related coupons for payment at the offices specified in the applicable debt security. We will appoint the applicable trustee as our agent to receive the foregoing presentations, surrenders, notices and demands. However, in the case of bearer securities, we may appoint another agent as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We will make no payment of principal, premium or interest on bearer securities at any of our offices or agencies in the United States or by check mailed to any address in the United States or by transfer to an account maintained with a bank located in the United States. However, if the debt securities of a series are denominated and payable in U.S. dollars, we will pay principal and any premium and interest on the debt securities of that series, if specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, at the office of our paying agent in Chicago, Illinois, only if payment in U.S. dollars of the full amount of the principal, premium, interest or additional amounts, as the case may be, at all offices or agencies outside the United States maintained for the purpose by us in accordance with the indenture is illegal or effectively precluded by exchange controls or other similar restrictions.

Governing Law

The indenture and the related debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

General

This prospectus describes the general terms of our capital stock. For a more detailed description of these securities, you should read the applicable provisions of Delaware law and our certificate of incorporation and bylaws. When we offer to sell a particular series of these securities, we will describe the specific terms of the series in a supplement to this prospectus. Accordingly, for a description of the terms of any series of securities, you must refer to both the prospectus supplement relating to that series and the description of the securities described in this prospectus. To the extent the information contained in the prospectus supplement differs from this summary description, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement.

Under our certificate of incorporation, the total number of shares of all classes of stock that we have authority to issue is 25,024,088 consisting of 25,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and 24,088 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share.

Common Stock

As of January 15, 2004 we had 16,058,058 shares of common stock outstanding. The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share on all matters voted on by stockholders. The holders of our common stock do not have cumulative voting rights, which means that holders of more than one-half of the shares voting for the election of directors can elect all of the directors then being elected. Subject to the preferences of any

Table of Contents

of our outstanding preferred stock from time to time outstanding, the holders of our common stock are entitled to a proportional distribution of any dividends that may be declared by the board of directors. In the event of a liquidation or dissolution of Nanophase, the holders of our common stock are entitled to share equally in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities and any payments due to holders of any outstanding shares of our preferred stock from time to time outstanding. The outstanding shares of our common stock are, and the shares offered by this prospectus, when issued, will be fully paid and nonassessable. The rights, preferences and privileges of holders of our common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of shares of any of our outstanding preferred stock.

Preferred Stock

Our board of directors has the authority to issue up to 24,088 shares of preferred stock. All of our preferred stock has been reserved for issuance in connection with our rights plan discussed below. No shares of preferred stock are presently outstanding, and no shares are expected to be issued except in connection with the shareholder rights plan referred to below. The issuance of preferred stock with voting and conversion rights may adversely affect the voting power of the holders of our common stock.

Shareholder Rights Plan

In October 1998, we declared a dividend of one preferred stock purchase right for each outstanding share of Company common stock on November 10, 1998. Each right entitles the holder, upon the occurrence of certain specified events, to purchase from the Company one ten-thousandth of a share of the Company's Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock at a purchase price of \$25 per one-ten thousandth of a share. The rights further provide that each right will entitle the holder, upon the occurrence of certain specified events (and without the necessity of purchasing the one ten-thousandth of a share of the Company's Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock), to purchase from us, common stock having a value of twice the purchase price and, upon the occurrence of certain other specified events, to purchase from another entity into which we are merged or which acquires 50% or more of our assets or earnings power, common stock of such other entity having a value of twice the purchase price. The rights are not presently exercisable. The rights generally become exercisable if a person or group acquires 35% or more of our common stock or commences a tender offer that could result in such person or group owning 35% or more of our common stock. In general, the rights may be redeemed by us at a price of \$0.01 per right. The rights expire on October 28, 2008.

Anti-takeover Provisions

As a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, we are subject to Section 203 of the DGCL, which restricts our ability to enter into business combinations with an interested stockholder or a stockholder owning 15% or more of our outstanding voting stock, or that stockholder's affiliates or associates, for a period of three years. These restrictions do not apply if:

prior to becoming an interested stockholder, our board of directors approves either the business combination or the transaction in which the stockholder becomes an interested stockholder;

upon consummation of the transaction in which the stockholder becomes an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owns at least 85% of our voting stock outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, subject to exceptions; or

Edgar Filing: NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION - Form S-3

on or after the date a stockholder becomes an interested stockholder, the business combination is both approved by our board of directors and authorized at an annual or special meeting of our stockholders by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock not owned by the interested stockholder.

Some provisions of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws could also have anti-takeover effects. These provisions:

permit the board of directors to increase its own size and fill the resulting vacancies;

Table of Contents

provide for a board comprised of three classes of directors with each class serving a staggered three-year term;

authorize the issuance of preferred stock in one or more series; and

prohibit stockholder action by written consent.

These provisions are intended to enhance the likelihood of continuity and stability in the composition of the policies formulated by the board of directors. In addition, these provisions are intended to ensure that the board of directors will have sufficient time to act in what it believes to be in the best interests of Nanophase and its stockholders. These provisions also are designed to reduce our vulnerability to an unsolicited proposal for a takeover of Nanophase that does not contemplate the acquisition of all of our outstanding shares or an unsolicited proposal for the restructuring or sale of all or part of Nanophase. The provisions are also intended to discourage some tactics that may be used in proxy fights.

Classified Board of Directors

The certificate of incorporation provides for the board of directors to be divided into three classes of directors, with each class as nearly equal in number as possible, serving staggered three-year terms. As a result, approximately one-third of the board of directors will be elected each year. The classified board provision will help to assure the continuity and stability of the board of directors and the business strategies and policies of Nanophase as determined by the board of directors. The classified board provision could have the effect of discouraging a third party from making a tender offer or attempting to obtain control of Nanophase. In addition, the classified board provision could delay stockholders who do not agree with the policies of the board of directors from removing a majority of the board of directors for two years.

No Stockholder Action by Written Consent; Special Meetings

The certificate of incorporation provides that stockholder action can only be taken at an annual or special meeting of stockholders and prohibits stockholder action by written consent in lieu of a meeting. The certificate of incorporation also provides that special meetings of stockholders may be called only by the board of directors, its chairman, the president or the secretary of Nanophase. Stockholders are not permitted to call a special meeting of stockholders or to require that the board of directors call a special meeting.

Number of Directors; Removal; Filling Vacancies

The certificate of incorporation provides that the board of directors will consist of between five and nine members, the exact number to be fixed by resolution adopted by affirmative vote of a majority of the board of directors. The board of directors currently consists of seven directors. Further, the certificate of incorporation authorizes the board of directors to fill newly created directorships. Accordingly, this provision could prevent a stockholder from obtaining majority representation on the board of directors by permitting the board of directors to enlarge the size of the board and fill the new directorships with its own nominees. A director so elected by the board of directors holds office until the next election of the class for which the director has been chosen and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The certificate of incorporation also provides that directors may be removed only for cause and only by the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the total voting power of all outstanding securities. The effect of these provisions is to preclude a stockholder from removing incumbent directors without cause and simultaneously gaining control of the board of directors by filling the vacancies created by the removal with its own nominees.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The Transfer Agent and Registrar for our common stock is LaSalle Bank National Association.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

Description of Warrants

We may issue warrants to purchase debt securities or common stock. We may issue warrants independently or together with any other securities we offer under a prospectus supplement. The warrants may be attached to or separate from the securities. We will issue each series of warrants under a separate warrant agreement that we will enter into with a bank or trust company, as warrant agent. The statements made in this section relating to the warrant agreement are summaries only. These summaries are not complete. When we issue warrants, we will provide the specific terms of the warrants and the applicable warrant agreement in a prospectus supplement. To the extent the information contained in the prospectus supplement differs from this summary description, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. For more detail, we refer you to the applicable warrant agreement itself, which we will file as an exhibit to an amendment to, or incorporate by reference in, the registration statement.

Debt Warrants

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the debt warrants being offered, the warrant agreement relating to the debt warrants and the debt warrant certificates representing the debt warrants, including:

the title of the debt warrants;

the aggregate number of the debt warrants;

the price or prices at which the debt warrants will be issued;

the designation, aggregate principal amount and terms of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the debt warrants, and the procedures and conditions relating to the exercise of the debt warrants;

the designation and terms of any related debt securities with which the debt warrants are issued, and the number of the debt warrants issued with each security;

the date, if any, on and after which the debt warrants and the related debt securities will be separately transferable;

the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of each debt warrant, and the price at which the principal amount of the debt securities may be purchased upon exercise;

the date on which the right to exercise the debt warrants will commence, and the date on which the right will expire;

Edgar Filing: NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION - Form S-3

the maximum or minimum number of the debt warrants which may be exercised at any time;

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;

a discussion of the material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the exercise of the debt warrants; and

any other terms of the debt warrants and terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exercise of the debt warrants.

Holders may exchange debt warrant certificates for new debt warrant certificates of different denominations, and may exercise debt warrants at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Prior to the exercise of their debt warrants, holders of debt warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon the exercise and will not be entitled to payments of principal, premium or interest on the securities purchasable upon the exercise of debt warrants.

Table of Contents

Equity Warrants

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the common stock warrants being offered, the warrant agreement relating to the common stock warrants and the warrant certificates representing the common stock warrants, including:

the title of the warrants;

the securities for which the warrants are exercisable;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

if applicable, the number of warrants issued with each share of common stock;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the related common stock will be separately transferable;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence, and the date on which the right will expire;

the maximum or minimum number of warrants which may be exercised at any time;

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;

a discussion of the material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to exercise of the warrants; and

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of equity warrants will not be entitled, by virtue of being such holders, to vote, consent, receive dividends, receive notice as stockholders with respect to any meeting of stockholders for the election of our directors or any other matter, or to exercise any rights whatsoever as stockholders.

Except as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the exercise price payable and the number of shares of common stock purchasable upon the exercise of each warrant will be subject to adjustment in certain events, including the issuance of a stock dividend to holders of common stock or a stock split, reverse stock split, combination, subdivision or reclassification of common stock. In lieu of adjusting the number of shares of common stock purchasable upon exercise of each warrant, we may elect to adjust the number of warrants. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, no adjustments in the number of shares purchasable upon exercise of the warrants will be required until all cumulative adjustments require an adjustment of at least 1% thereof. We may, at our option, reduce the exercise price at any time.

No fractional shares will be issued upon exercise of warrants, but we will pay the cash value of any fractional shares otherwise issuable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, except as otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, in case of any consolidation, merger, or sale or conveyance of our property as an entirety or substantially as an entirety, the holder of each outstanding warrant will have the right to the kind and amount of shares of stock and other securities and property, including cash, receivable by a holder of the number of shares of common stock into which each warrant was exercisable immediately prior to the particular triggering event.

Table of Contents

Exercise of Warrants

Each warrant will entitle the holder of the warrant to purchase for cash at the exercise price provided in the applicable prospectus supplement the principal amount of debt securities or shares of common stock being offered. Holders may exercise warrants at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants are void.

Holders may exercise warrants as described in the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants being offered. Upon receipt of payment and the warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as practicable, forward the debt securities or shares of common stock purchasable upon the exercise of the warrant. If less than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate are exercised, we will issue a new warrant certificate for the remaining warrants.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may offer and sell the securities described in this prospectus:

through agents;

through one or more underwriters or dealers;

through a block trade in which the broker or dealer engaged to handle the block trade will attempt to sell the securities as agent; but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;

directly to one or more purchasers (through a specific bidding or auction process or otherwise); or

through a combination of any of these methods of sale.

The distribution of the securities described in this prospectus may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions either:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices relating to the prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices (which may potentially raise the dilutive effect of such issuance).

Offers to purchase the securities may be solicited by agents designated by us from time to time. Any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities will be named, and any commissions payable by us to the agent will be described, in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment. Any agent may be deemed to be an underwriter, as such term is defined in the Securities Act of 1933, of the securities so offered and sold.

If we offer and sell securities through an underwriter or underwriters, we will execute an underwriting agreement with the underwriter or underwriters. The names of the specific managing underwriter or underwriters, as well as any other underwriters, and the terms of the transactions, including compensation of the underwriters and dealers, which may be in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions, if any, will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, which will be used by the underwriters to make resales of the securities. That prospectus supplement and this prospectus will be used by the underwriters to make resales of the securities. If underwriters are used in the sale of any securities in connection with this prospectus, those securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be

Edgar Filing: NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION - Form S-3

resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at fixed public offering prices or at varying prices determined by the underwriters and us at the time of sale. Securities may be offered to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or directly by one or more underwriters. If any underwriter or underwriters are used in the sale of securities, unless otherwise indicated in a related prospectus supplement, the underwriting agreement will provide that the obligations of the underwriters are subject to some conditions precedent and that with respect to a sale of these securities the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all such securities if any are purchased.

We may grant to the underwriters options to purchase additional securities to cover over-allotments, if any, at the public offering price, with additional underwriting commissions or discounts, as may be set forth in a related prospectus supplement. The terms of any over-allotment option will be set forth in the prospectus supplement for those securities.

If any underwriters are involved in the offer and sale, they will be permitted to engage in transactions that maintain or otherwise affect the price of the securities. These transactions may include over-allotment transactions,

Table of Contents

purchases to cover short positions created by the underwriter in connection with the offering and the imposition of penalty bids. If an underwriter creates a short position in the securities in connection with the offering, i.e., if it sells more securities than set forth on the cover page of the applicable prospectus supplement, the underwriter may reduce that short position by purchasing the securities in the open market. In general, purchases of a security to reduce a short position could cause the price of the security to be higher than it might be in the absence of such purchases. As noted above, underwriters may also choose to impose penalty bids on other underwriters and/or selling group members. This means that if underwriters purchase securities on the open market to reduce their short position or to stabilize the price of the securities, they may reclaim the amount of the selling concession from those underwriters and/or selling group members who sold such securities as part of the offering.

Neither we nor any underwriter make any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the securities. In addition, neither we nor any underwriter make any representation that such underwriter will engage in such transactions or that such transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

If we offer and sell securities through a dealer, we or an underwriter will sell the securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell the securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by the dealer at the time of resale. Any such dealer may be deemed to be an underwriter, as such term is defined in the Securities Act of 1933, of the securities so offered and sold. The name of the dealer and the terms of the transactions will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may solicit offers to purchase the securities directly, and we may sell the securities directly to institutional or other investors, who may be deemed an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to any resales of those securities. The terms of these sales, including the terms of any bidding or auction process, if utilized, will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may enter into agreements with agents, underwriters and dealers under which we may agree to indemnify the agents, underwriters and dealers against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, or to contribute to payments they may be required to make with respect to these liabilities. The terms and conditions of this indemnification or contribution will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Some of the agents, underwriters or dealers, or their affiliates may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

We may authorize our respective agents or underwriters to solicit offers to purchase securities at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts. The terms of these delayed delivery contracts, including when payment for and delivery of the securities sold will be made under the contracts and any conditions to each party's performance set forth in the contracts, will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The compensation received by underwriters or agents soliciting purchases of securities under delayed delivery contracts will also be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, each series of offered securities will be a new issue of securities with no established trading market, except for our common stock, which is listed on the Nasdaq National Market. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we do not expect to list the securities on a securities exchange, except for our common stock, which is listed on the Nasdaq National Market. Underwriters involved in the public offering and sale of these securities may make a market in the securities. They are not obligated to make a market, however, and may discontinue market making activity at any time. We cannot give any assurance as to the liquidity of the trading market for any of these securities. In order to comply with the securities laws of some states, if applicable, the securities offered hereby will be sold in those jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in some states securities may not be sold unless they have been registered or qualified for sale in the applicable state or an exemption from the registration or qualification requirement is available and complied with.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon LLP, Chicago, Illinois is giving an opinion of the validity of the issuance of the securities offered in this prospectus.

EXPERTS

The financial statements of Nanophase Technologies Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2000 appearing in Nanophase Technologies Corporation's Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2002, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors, as set forth in their report thereon included therein and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The financial statements of Nanophase Technologies Corporation as of December 31, 2002 and 2001 and the two years then ended appearing in Nanophase Technologies Corporation's Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2002, have been audited by McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, independent auditors, as set forth in their report thereon included therein and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents**PART II.****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

SEC Registration Fee	\$ 1,213
Accounting Fees and Expense	\$ 10,000
Legal Fees and Expenses	\$ 20,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 0
	<hr/>
Total	\$ 31,213

All fees and expenses other than the SEC registration fee are estimated. The expenses listed above will be paid by the Company.

Item 15. Indemnification of Officers and Directors

Under Section 145 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the "DGCL"), a corporation may indemnify its directors, officers, employees and agents and its former directors, officers, employees and agents and those who serve, at the corporation's request, in such capacities with another enterprise, against expenses (including attorney's fees), as well as judgments, fines and settlements in nonderivative lawsuits, actually and reasonably incurred in connection with the defense of any action, suit or proceeding in which they or any of them were or are made parties or are threatened to be made parties by reason of their serving or having served in such capacity. The DGCL provides, however, that such person must have acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in (or not opposed to) the best interests of the corporation and, in the case of a criminal action, such person must have had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. In addition, the DGCL does not permit indemnification in an action or suit by or in the right of the corporation, where such person has been adjudged liable to the corporation, unless, and only to the extent that, a court determines that such person fairly and reasonably is entitled to indemnity for costs the court deems proper in light of liability adjudication. Indemnity is mandatory to the extent a claim, issue or matter has been successfully defended.

Our certificate of incorporation provides that to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law, it shall indemnify and advance indemnification expenses to all of its directors and officers. In addition, the certificate of incorporation provides that to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law, a director shall not be liable to Nanophase Technologies Corporation or its stockholders for breach of fiduciary duty as a director.

We have entered into indemnification agreements with each director providing for indemnification to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law.

Item 16. List of Exhibits

(a) Exhibits

- 4.1 Specimen stock certificate representing Common Stock, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-36937) (the "IPO S-1").
- 4.2 Form of Warrants, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the IPO S-1.
- 4.3 Rights Agreement dated as of October 28, 1998 by and between the Company and LaSalle National Bank, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed October 28, 1998.
- 4.4 Certificate of Designation of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1998 (the "1998 10-K").
- 4.5 Amendment to Rights Agreement dated August 1, 2001 between the Company and LaSalle National Association, as Rights Agent, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.5 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2001.

Table of Contents

4.6	2001 Nanophase Technologies Corporation Equity Compensation Plan, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-74170) filed October 29, 2001.
4.7	Second Amendment to Rights Agreement dated May 24, 2002 between the Company and LaSalle National Association, as Rights Agent, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.7 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-90326) filed June 12, 2002.
4.8	Third Amendment to Rights Agreement dated September 5, 2003 between the Company and LaSalle National Association, as Rights Agent, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Company's Form 8-K filed September 10, 2003.
4.9*	Form of Indenture.
4.10*	Form of Note.
4.11*	Form of Common Stock Warrant Agreement, including Common Stock Warrant Certificate.
4.12*	Form of Debt Warrant Agreement, including Common Debt Warrant Certificate.
5.1	Opinion of Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon LLP
12	Statement of Computation of Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges
23.1	Consent of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP
23.2	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP
23.3	Consent of Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)
24	Power of Attorney (included on signature page)

* To be filed, if necessary, subsequent to the effectiveness of this registration statement by an amendment to the registration statement or incorporated by reference pursuant to a Current Report on Form 8-K in connection with the offering of securities registered hereunder.

(b) Financial Statement Schedule

None

Item 17. Undertakings

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement: (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933; (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; (iii) To include any material information with respect to the distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement; provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) of this section do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3 or Form S-8, and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is conformed in periodic reports filed by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the 1934 Act that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that

time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof; and

II-2

Table of Contents

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

The undersigned Registrant undertakes that: (1) for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of the registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in the form of prospectus filed by the Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the time it was declared effective; and (2) for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the Registration Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, indemnification agreements or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, Nanophase Technologies Corporation certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized in Romeoville, Illinois as of January 22, 2004.

NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

/s/ JOSEPH E. CROSS

Joseph E. Cross,

President and Chief Executive Officer

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears immediately below constitutes and appoints Joseph E. Cross or Jess Jankowski or any of them, his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement, and any and all additional registration statements pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, in connection with or related to the offering contemplated by this Registration Statement and its amendments, if any, and to file the same with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Commission, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact and agent or his or her substitute or substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated as of January 22, 2004.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>
<u>/s/ JOSEPH E. CROSS</u>	President and Chief Executive Officer
Joseph E. Cross	
<u>/s/ JESS JANKOWSKI</u>	Acting Chief Financial Officer, Vice President and Corporate Controller (Principal Accounting and Financial Officer)
Jess Jankowski	
<u>/s/ DONALD PERKINS</u>	Chairman of the Board
Donald Perkins	
<u>/s/ JAMES HENDERSON</u>	Director
James Henderson	

Edgar Filing: NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION - Form S-3

/s/ JAMES McCLUNG

Director

James McClung

/s/ JERRY PEARLMAN

Director

Jerry Pearlman

/s/ RICHARD SIEGEL

Director

Richard Siegel

/s/ R. JANET WHITMORE

Director

R. Janet Whitmore

II-4

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

4.1	Specimen stock certificate representing Common Stock, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-36937) (the "IPO S-1").
4.2	Form of Warrants, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the IPO S-1.
4.3	Rights Agreement dated as of October 28, 1998 by and between the Company and LaSalle National Bank, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed October 28, 1998.
4.4	Certificate of Designation of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1998 (the "1998 10-K").
4.5	Amendment to Rights Agreement dated August 1, 2001 between the Company and LaSalle National Association, as Rights Agent, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.5 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2001.
4.6	2001 Nanophase Technologies Corporation Equity Compensation Plan, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-74170) filed October 29, 2001.
4.7	Second Amendment to Rights Agreement dated May 24, 2002 between the Company and LaSalle National Association, as Rights Agent, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.7 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-90326) filed June 12, 2002.
4.8	Third Amendment to Rights Agreement dated September 5, 2003 between the Company and LaSalle National Association, as Rights Agent, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Company's Form 8-K filed September 10, 2003.
4.9*	Form of Indenture.
4.10*	Form of Note.
4.11*	Form of Common Stock Warrant Agreement, including Common Stock Warrant Certificate.
4.12*	Form of Debt Warrant Agreement, including Common Debt Warrant Certificate.
5.1	Opinion of Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon LLP
12	Statement of Computation of Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges
23.1	Consent of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP
23.2	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP
23.3	Consent of Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)
24	Power of Attorney (included on signature page)

* To be filed, if necessary, subsequent to the effectiveness of this registration statement by an amendment to the registration statement or incorporated by reference pursuant to a Current Report on Form 8-K in connection with the offering of securities registered hereunder.