M/A-COM Technology Solutions Holdings, Inc.
Form 10-K
December 05, 2013
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# UNITED STATES

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

# FORM 10-K

x **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**
**For the fiscal year ended September 27, 2013**

**OR**

¨ **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**
**For the transition period from to**

**Commission file number: 001-35451**

# M/A-COM Technology Solutions Holdings, Inc.

**(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

| Delaware | 27-0306875 |
|---|---|
| (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) | (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.) |

| 100 Chelmsford Street, Lowell, Massachusetts | 01851 |
|---|---|
| (Address of principal executive offices) | (Zip Code) |

**Registrant s telephone number, including area code: (978) 656-2500**

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

| Title of Each Class | Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered |
|---|---|
| Common Stock, par value $0.001 per share | NASDAQ Global Select Market |

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

**None**

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

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Act. Yes ¨ No x

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

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

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant s knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. x

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

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

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

The aggregate market value of the registrant s common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of March 29, 2013, the last business day of the registrant s second fiscal quarter, was approximately $331.5 million based on the closing price of the registrant s common stock as of such date as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. For purposes of the foregoing calculations only, shares of common stock held by each executive officer and director of the registrant have been excluded, as such persons may be deemed to be affiliates. This determination of affiliate status is not necessarily a conclusive determination for other purposes.

The number of outstanding shares of the registrant s common stock, par value $0.001 per share, as of November 29, 2013 was 46,646,805.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Part III incorporates certain information by reference from the registrant s definitive proxy statement for the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which will be filed no later than 120 days after the close of the registrant s fiscal year ended September 27, 2013.

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M/A-COM TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS HOLDINGS, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 27, 2013

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## CAUTIONARY STATEMENT

This Annual Report on Form 10-K (Annual Report) contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, including statements regarding our business outlook, strategy, plans, expectations, estimates and objectives for future operations, and our future results of operations and financial position. Forward-looking statements include all statements that are not historical facts and generally may be identified by terms such as anticipates, believes, could, continue , estimates, expects, intends, may, plans, potential, predicts, projects, seeks, should, targets expressions or variations or the negatives of those terms, but are not the exclusive means of identifying forward-looking statements in this Annual Report.

Although forward-looking statements in this Annual Report reflect the good faith judgment of our management based on what we know at the time they are made, such statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties and actual results and outcomes may differ materially and adversely from the results and outcomes expressed or implied by our forward-looking statements. A number of important factors could cause actual results to differ materially and adversely from those in the forward-looking statements. We urge you to consider the risks and uncertainties in Item 1A. Risk Factors and elsewhere in this Annual Report and the other documents filed by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Except as required by law, we have no plans, and undertake no obligation, to revise or update our forward-looking statements to reflect any event or circumstance that may arise after the date of this report. We caution readers not to place undue reliance upon any such forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date made.

In this document, the words Company , we , our , us and similar terms refer only to M/A-COM Technology Solutions Holdings, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, and not any other person or entity.

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**PART I**

**ITEM 1. BUSINESS**

**Overview**

We are a leading provider of high-performance analog semiconductor solutions for use in wireless and wireline applications across the radio frequency (RF), microwave and millimeterwave spectrum. We leverage our system-level expertise to design and manufacture differentiated, high-value products for customers who demand high performance, quality, and reliability. We offer over 2,700 standard and custom devices, which include integrated circuits (IC), multi-chip modules, power pallets and transistors, diodes, switches and switch limiters, passive and active components and complete subsystems, across 37 product lines serving over 6,000 end customers in four primary markets. Our semiconductor products are electronic components that our customers incorporate into their larger electronic systems, such as point-to-point wireless backhaul radios, radar, automobile navigation systems, digital cable television (CATV) set-top boxes, magnetic resonance imaging systems and unmanned aerial vehicles. Our primary markets are Networks, which includes CATV, cellular backhaul, cellular infrastructure and fiber optic applications; Aerospace and Defense (A&D); Automotive, which includes global positioning system (GPS) modules sold to the automotive industry; and Multi-market, which includes industrial, medical, mobile communications and scientific applications.

We build upon a 60-year heritage of delivering innovative solutions dating back to the founding of Microwave Associates, Inc. We utilize our system-level knowledge and our extensive capabilities in high-frequency modeling, IC design, integration, packaging and manufacturing of semiconductors to address our customers needs. Our specialized engineers and technologists located across six global design centers collaborate with our customers during the early stage of their system development process to incorporate our standard products and identify custom products we can develop to enhance their overall system performance. We intend to continue to expand our revenue opportunities through our market-facing strategy of aligning our solutions with our customers needs and collaborating with them during the product definition stage of their systems toward design-in of our products. We believe this approach will allow us to sell more complete semiconductor solutions that integrate more functions and incorporate more highly-valued content into our products. We believe the combination of our market-facing strategy and our engineering expertise enables us to identify profitable growth opportunities and rapidly develop and deliver new products and solutions. We have a comprehensive new product opportunity assessment process with 128 products in development as of September 27, 2013 that we believe will enhance our revenue growth and improve our gross margin over the long term through a richer product mix. Many of our products have long lifecycles ranging from 5 to 10 years, and some of our products have been shipping for over 20 years. We believe these factors create a competitive advantage. Our goal is to leverage this advantage into strengthened customer relationships and sole source design wins, where a customer allows us to be its only supplier of a particular component used in its system.

We believe our fab-lite manufacturing model provides us with a competitive advantage and an attractive financial model through a variable cost structure. We operate a single Gallium Arsenide (GaAs) and silicon semiconductor fab at our Lowell, Massachusetts headquarters, which we are currently in the process of updating to include Gallium Nitride (GaN) fabrication operations as well. We also utilize external semiconductor foundries to supply us with additional capacity in periods of high demand and to provide us access to additional process technologies. The ability to utilize a broad array of internal proprietary process technologies as well as commercially available foundry technologies allows us to select the most appropriate technology to solve our customers needs. We believe our fab-lite strategy also provides us with dependable domestic supply, control over quality, reduced capital investment requirements, faster time to market, and additional outsourced capacity when needed. In the A&D market, an internal domestic fab can be a requirement to be a strategic supplier. In addition, the experience base cultivated through the continued operation of our internal fab provides us with the expertise to better manage our external foundry suppliers.

We serve our broad and diverse customer base through a multi-channel sales strategy utilizing our direct sales force, a global network of independent sales representatives, distributors and an e-commerce channel. Our

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direct sales force and application engineers are focused on securing design wins by supporting industry-leading original equipment manufacturer (OEM) customers. Our external sales representatives, distributors and our more recently implemented e-commerce channel are focused on increasing our design wins with smaller or emerging customers early in their new product development efforts.

**Our Markets & Products**

The growth of advanced electronic systems using RF, microwave and millimeterwave technologies has created demand for high-performance analog semiconductor components, modules and solutions. The terms RF, microwave and millimeterwave are used to refer to electromagnetic waves in a particular frequency range produced by applying an alternating current to an antenna or conductor. A wide variety of advanced electronic systems rely on electromagnetic waves for high-speed data transmission or reception. We offer high-performance analog semiconductor products for both wireless and wireline applications across the frequency spectrum from RF to millimeterwave. We regularly develop high-value products to serve our customers in four primary markets: Networks, A&D, Multi-market and Automotive which represented 26.3%, 27.3%, 20.0% and 26.5%, respectively, of our revenue in fiscal year 2013.

The market demand for RF, microwave and millimeterwave semiconductors is driven by the growth of mobile Internet devices, cloud computing and streaming video that strain existing network capacity, as well as the growth in advanced information-centric military applications. In addition, the increasing need for real-time information, sensing and imaging functions in automotive, industrial, medical, scientific and test and measurement applications is driving demand in these markets.

*Networks*. Growth in the Networks market is driven by the proliferation of wireless and wired devices from smartphones and tablets to set-top boxes, as well as the data rich applications and services they enable such as mobile Internet, cloud computing, video-on-demand, social media, global positioning functionality and location based services. Growth in global Internet Protocol traffic drives demand for communications infrastructure equipment consisting of amplifiers, filters, receivers, switches, synthesizers, transformers, upconverters, and other components to expand and upgrade cellular backhaul, cellular infrastructure, CATV, broadband, and fiber optic networks. Semiconductor products and solutions must continually deliver higher throughput performance and functionality as the demands of end users increase.

Our expertise in system-level architectures and advanced IC design capability allow us to offer Networks OEMs highly-integrated solutions optimized for performance and cost. We are a leader in high-frequency semiconductors used in point-to-point radios for cellular backhaul, where we provide a highly-integrated chipset solution featuring innovative IC and low cost package design capabilities. Similarly, our portfolio of opto-electronics products for transmitter and receiver applications in 40/100 gigabits per second (Gbps) fiber optic networks enable telecommunications carriers and data centers to cost-efficiently increase their network capacity by a factor of four to ten times over earlier generation solutions. For optical communications applications, we utilize a proprietary combination of GaAs and Indium Phosphide (InP) technologies to obtain advantages in performance and size. For CATV applications, we offer OEMs the opportunity to streamline their supply chain through our broad portfolio of active components such as active splitters, amplifiers, multi-function ICs and switches, as well as passive components such as transformers, diplexers, filters, power dividers and combiners.

*Aerospace & Defense*. In the A&D market, military applications require more advanced electronic systems, such as radar warning receivers, communications data links and tactical radios, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), RF jammers, electronic countermeasures and smart munitions. Military applications are becoming more sophisticated, favoring higher performance semiconductor ICs based on GaAs and GaN technology due to their high power density, improved power efficiency and broadband capability. Radar systems for mapping and targeting missions are undergoing a major transition from existing mechanically-scanned radar products to a new generation of active electronically-scanned array (AESA) based products. Consisting of hundreds or thousands of transmit/receive modules commonly based on GaAs and increasingly on GaN technology, AESAs deliver greater

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speed, range, resolution and reliability over mechanically-scanned radar products that utilize a single transmitter and receiver with mechanical steering. Military communications employing wireless infrastructure and tactical radios in the field remain critical for allowing geographically dispersed users to exchange information quickly and efficiently. UAVs and their underlying semiconductor content require innovative designs to meet rigorous specifications for high performance, small size, and low power consumption.

We believe our in-depth knowledge of critical radar system requirements, integration expertise and track record of reliability make us a resource for A&D customers faced with demanding application parameters. For radar applications, we offer standard and custom power transistor pallets, discrete components, switch limiters, phase shifters and integrated modules for transmit and receive functions in air traffic control, marine, weather and military radar applications. For military communications data link and tactical radio applications, we offer a family of active, passive and discrete products, such as integrated IC modules, control components, voltage-controlled oscillators (VCOs), transformers, power transistors and pallets, and diodes. In some cases, we design parts specifically for these applications, while in others, our reputation for quality allows these demanding customers to reduce the cost of their high-performance systems by designing in standard dual-use or commercial off-the-shelf parts that we have developed for other applications. We believe manufacturing many of these products in our U.S. fab offers us a competitive advantage in the A&D market because of our proprietary process technologies and certain A&D customers requirements for a domestic supply chain.

*Automotive.* The Automotive category includes GPS modules we sell to the automotive industry. Semiconductor content in automobiles is projected to grow in order to offer connectivity, safety, performance and navigation features.

*Multi-market*. The Multi-market category encompasses various applications including industrial, medical, mobile communications, test and measurement and scientific applications, where RF, microwave and millimeterwave semiconductor solutions are gaining prevalence. In addition, evolving medical technology has increased the need for high-performance semiconductor solutions in medical imaging and patient monitoring to provide enhanced analysis and functionality.

In Multi-market, our products are used in industrial, medical, mobile communications, test and measurement and scientific applications. In the medical industry, our custom designed non-magnetic diode product line is a critical component for certain MRI applications. For sensing and test and measurement applications, we believe our patented Heterolithic Microwave Integrated Circuit (HMIC) process is ideal for high-performance, integrated bias networks and switches. Our portfolio of general purpose GaAs ICs includes low noise amplifiers, switches and power amplifiers that address a wide range of applications such as industrial automation systems, to test and measurement equipment, tablets and other wireless local area network devices.

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To address our target markets, we offer a broad range of standard and custom ICs, modules and complete subsystems across 37 product lines. Our product portfolio currently consists of more than 2,700 products including the following key product platforms: power pallets and transistors, ICs, diodes, switches and switch limiters, passive and active components, multi-chip modules, and complete subsystems. Many of our product platforms are leveraged across multiple markets and applications. For example, our application expertise with regard to power transistor technology is leveraged across both scientific laboratory equipment applications and commercial and defense radar system applications. Our diode technology is used in switch filter banks of military tactical radios as well as medical imaging MRI systems. The table below presents the major product families, major applications and major end customers in our primary target markets.

| TARGET MARKET | MAJOR PRODUCT FAMILIES | MAJOR APPLICATIONS | MAJOR OEM CUSTOMERS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Networks | Active Splitters<br>Amplifiers<br>Attenuators<br>Filters/Diplexers<br>Modulator Driver Amplifiers<br>Switches<br>Transformers/Baluns<br>Transimpedance Amplifiers<br>Upconverters/Downconverters<br>Voltage Controlled Oscillators | Point-to-Point Wireless Backhaul<br>2G/3G/4G Wireless Base Stations<br>Set Top Boxes<br>CATV Infrastructure<br>GPON/Fiber-to-the-x<br>40/100G Fiber Optics | Arris<br>Cisco<br>Ericsson<br>Huawei<br>Samsung |
| Aerospace and Defense | Amplifiers<br>Attenuators<br>Components<br>Diodes<br>Power Transistors & Modules<br>Mixers<br>Phase Shifters<br>Switch Limiters<br>Voltage Control Oscillators | Air Traffic Control Radar<br>Weather Radar<br>Public Safety Radios<br>Tactical & Manpack Radios<br>Satellite Communications<br>Military Communications | CIENJ<br>Exelis<br>Iridium<br>Motorola Solutions<br>Thales |
| Automotive | GPS Module | Global Positioning System | Autoliv<br>Ford |
| Multi-Market | Amplifiers<br>Attenuators<br>Couplers<br>Diodes<br>Logic Drivers<br>Mixers<br>Power Detectors<br>Power Transistors<br>Switches<br>Transceivers | Industrial<br>Medical<br>Scientific<br>Test & Measurement | Agilent<br>BEA<br>Samsung<br>Siemens |

Many of our products have long lifecycles ranging from 5 to 10 years, and some of our products have been shipping for over 20 years. We believe these factors create a competitive advantage. Our goal is to leverage this advantage into strengthened customer relationships and sole source design wins, where a customer allows us to be its only supplier of a particular component used in its system.

**Research and Development**

Our research and development efforts are directed toward the rapid development of new and innovative products and solutions, process technologies and packaging techniques. The interaction of semiconductor process technology, circuit design technology and packaging technology defines the performance parameters of our products. We believe our core competency is the ability to model, design, integrate, package, and manufacture

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differentiated solutions. We leverage this core competency to solve difficult and complex challenges that our customers face during their system design phases. We believe our integrated and customized solutions offer customers high performance, quality, reliability and faster time to market.

*Circuit design and device modeling expertise*. Our engineers are experts in the design of circuits capable of reliable, high-performance RF, microwave and millimeterwave signal conditioning. Our staff has decades of experience in solving complex design challenges in applications involving high frequency, high power, and environmentally-rugged operating conditions. We also developed proprietary device and electro-magnetic modeling techniques that our engineers use to generate predictive models prior to fabrication. Our predictive modeling expertise allows us to achieve faster design cycle times resulting in shorter time to market for our products.

*Packaging expertise*. Our extensive packaging expertise enables us to model the interaction between the semiconductor and its package, and our engineers make appropriate adjustments in the design of both to take account of that interaction. We offer products in a variety of different package types for specific applications, including plastic over-molded, ceramic and laminate-based.

*Semiconductor process technology*. We leverage our domestic semiconductor wafer fabrication capabilities and our foundry suppliers to offer customers the right process technology to meet their particular requirements. Depending on the requirements for the application, our semiconductor products may be designed using an internally developed or externally sourced process technology.

We continue to invest in proprietary processes to enable us to develop and manufacture high-value solutions. For example, we have developed innovative, patented technologies such as HMIC, which provides high integration, high power and low loss switching capabilities for our primary markets. This technology replaces mechanical switches for very high power applications such as wireless basestations. We are also in the process of porting from an external foundry supplier and establishing innovative, high-performance GaN process technology manufacturing capability at our Lowell, MA fabrication facility. Upon completion of the porting and qualification process, we believe that being able to offer our customers this dual-sourced, internal and external GaN supply capability will provide us with a competitive advantage.

Our engineers system-level design expertise allows us to offer differentiated solutions that leverage multiple process technologies and are integrated into a single, higher-level assembly, thereby delivering our customers solutions with enhanced functionality.

Our new product introductions in fiscal year 2013 included:

- optical modulator drivers and transimpedance amplifiers for 40/100 Gbps fiber optic networks;
- amplifiers, filters, and transformers for CATV applications such as data over cable service interface specification (DOCSIS) 3.0 and multimedia over coax alliance (MoCA) 2.0;
- low phase noise VCOs for the wireless backhaul market and military communications applications;
- GaN power transistors and pallets for radar, avionic and military communication applications;
- high power PIN diodes and modules for front-end applications in aerospace and defense, military communications, wireless infrastructure and multi-market;
- complete GaAs IC discrete and integrated solutions for phased array radar applications from S-Band through Ka-Band; and
- highly integrated GaAs chipsets for point-to-point wireless backhaul radio applications from C-Band up through E-Band.

Research and development expenses were $40.6 million, $35.8 million and $36.1 million for fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. As of September 27, 2013, we had 128 new products in development. Our

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typical design cycle times range from eight weeks to 18 months. We anticipate that we will continue to make significant research and development expenditures in order to drive future new product and process introductions and maintain our competitive position.

**Sales and Marketing**

We employ a global multi-channel sales strategy and support model intended to facilitate our customer s evaluation and selection of our products. We sell through our direct sales force, our application engineering staff and our global network of independent sales representatives and distributors, as well as an e-commerce channel. We have strategically positioned our direct sales and applications engineering staff in 25 locations worldwide, augmented by independent sales representatives and distributors in 135 locations worldwide to offer responsive local support resources to our customers and to build long-term relationships. With our global design centers, our application engineers visit customers at their engineering and manufacturing facilities, aid them in understanding our capabilities and collaborate with them to optimize their system performance. Our global distribution network allows us to reach new customers in new geographies more effectively than we can using our direct sales force alone.

Our products are principally sold in the U.S., Asia and Western Europe, which is also where our direct sales force, engineering staff, independent sales representatives and distributors are concentrated. Sales to our distributors accounted for 18.6%, 21.3% and 25.8% of our revenue in fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Our agreements with our distributors typically provide for an initial term of one or more years with the opportunity for subsequent renewals and also provide that either party may terminate the agreement for convenience with a minimum period of prior notice to the other party, typically between 30 and 90 days.

Our sales efforts are focused on customer needs in our four primary markets rather than on particular product lines, facilitating product cross-selling across end markets and within key accounts. Through our website, customers can order online, request samples, as well as access our product selection guide, detailed product brochures and data sheets, application notes, suggested design block diagrams and test fixture information, technical articles and information regarding quality and reliability.

**Customers**

Our diversified customer base of over 6,000 customers includes systems manufacturers, OEMs, contract manufacturers and distributors. For fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, our only direct customer individually accounting for more than 10% of our revenue was Ford Motor Company (Ford) at 25.2%, 15.8% and 11.6%, respectively. In addition, our principal distributor, Richardson Electronics, an Arrow Electronics Company (Richardson) individually accounted for 15.8%, 17.6% and 21.3%, respectively, of our revenue in fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Our top 25 direct customers accounted for an aggregate of 59.8%, 54.5% and 56.2% of our revenue in fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Revenue from our distributors accounted for 18.6%, 21.3% and 25.8% of our revenue in fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

**Competition**

The markets for our products are highly competitive and are characterized by rapid technological change and continuously evolving customer requirements. We believe that the principal competitive factors in our markets include:

- the ability to timely design and deliver products and solutions that meet customers performance, reliability and price requirements;
- the breadth and diversity of product offerings;
- the ability to provide a reliable supply of products in sufficient quantities and in a timely manner;
- the ability of engineering talent to drive innovation and new product development;

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the quality of customer service and technical support; and

financial and operational stability and reputation.

We believe that we compete favorably with respect to these factors. We compete primarily with other suppliers of high-performance analog semiconductor solutions for use in wireless and wireline RF, microwave and millimeterwave applications. We expect competition in our markets to intensify, as new competitors enter the RF, microwave and millimeterwave markets, existing competitors merge or form alliances, and new technologies emerge. We believe in the future we will see increasing competition from companies utilizing alternative technologies, such as high-volume manufacturers using low-cost silicon process technology. Some of our competitors are also our customers, and in certain product categories we compete with semiconductor manufacturers from which we also obtain foundry services, including Sumitomo Electric Device Innovations, Inc. and RF Micro Devices, Inc. (RFMD).

We compete with Hittite Microwave Corporation across three of our primary markets, Networks, A&D and Multi-market. In the Networks market, we also compete with Avago, Inc. (Avago), RFMD and TriQuint. In the A&D market, we also compete with Aeroflex, Inc. (Aeroflex), Microsemi Corporation (Microsemi) and TriQuint. In the Multi-market arena, we also compete with Aeroflex, Avago, Microsemi and Skyworks Solutions, Inc.

**Segment and Geographic Information**

We manage our operations in one reportable segment, semiconductors. Financial information about our operations, including our revenue and long-lived assets by geographic region, is included in our consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes in Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data appearing elsewhere in this Annual Report.

Risks attendant to our foreign operations are discussed in this Annual Report under Item 1A. Risk Factors.

**Backlog and Inventory**

Our sales are made primarily on a purchase order basis, rather than pursuant to long-term contracts where the customer commits to buy any minimum amount of product over an extended period. On occasion, we ship finished goods inventory to certain customer or third-party hub locations, but do not recognize revenue associated with such shipments until these customers consume the inventory from the hub. Due to these arrangements and industry practice, which allows customers to cancel orders with limited advance notice prior to shipment, and with little or no penalty, we believe that backlog as of any particular date may not be a reliable indicator of our future revenue levels. We also frequently ship products from inventory shortly after receipt of an order, which we refer to as turns business.

**Intellectual Property**

Our success depends in part upon our ability to protect our intellectual property. To accomplish this, we rely on a combination of intellectual property rights, including patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secrets, as well as customary contractual protections with our customers, suppliers, employees and consultants.

As of September 27, 2013, we had 89 U.S. and 15 foreign patents and 23 U.S. pending patent applications covering elements of circuit design, manufacturing and wafer fabrication. We do not know whether any of our pending patent applications will result in the issuance of patents or whether the examination process will require us to narrow our claims. The expiration dates of our patents range from 2014 to 2031. We do not regard any of the patents scheduled to expire in the next 12 months as material to our overall intellectual property portfolio. Notwithstanding our active pursuit of patent protection when available, we believe that our future success will be determined by the innovation, technical expertise and management abilities of our engineers and management more than by patent ownership.

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The semiconductor industry is characterized by the existence of a large number of patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secrets and by the vigorous pursuit, protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights. Many of our customer agreements require us to indemnify our customers for third-party intellectual property infringement claims, which may in the future require that we defend those claims and might require that we pay damages in the case of adverse rulings. Claims of this sort could harm our relationships with our customers and might deter future customers from doing business with us. With respect to any intellectual property rights claims against us or our customers or distributors, we may be required to cease manufacture of the infringing product, pay damages or settlement amounts, expend resources to develop non-infringing technology, seek a license, which may not be available on commercially reasonable terms or at all, or relinquish patents or other intellectual property rights.

**Manufacturing, Sources of Supply and Raw Materials**

In any particular situation, we may choose to leverage our internal proprietary process technologies or other technologies from external fabs. We believe this ability to leverage our existing internal capabilities and external outsourcing helps us to provide optimized solutions for our customers.

All of our internal wafer fabrication, and a majority of our internal assembly and test operations, are conducted at our Lowell, Massachusetts headquarters. We believe having a U.S.-based four-inch wafer fab is a competitive advantage for us over fabless competitors, in that we have greater control over quality, a secure source of supply and a domestic source for U.S. A&D customers for whom this may be an important sourcing advantage. We also believe that our domestic fab allows us to better control quality and develop products faster with shorter fabrication lead times than we otherwise could at external foundries. We also perform internal assembly and test functions at our Long Beach, California and Hsinchu, Taiwan locations.

The remainder of our manufacturing is outsourced, and our operations staff has extensive expertise in the management of outsourced manufacturing service providers and other supply chain participants. We believe our fab-lite model of outsourcing certain of our manufacturing activities rather than investing heavily in capital-intensive production facilities to support those functions internally provides us with the flexibility to respond to new market opportunities, simplifies our operations and reduces our capital requirements.

We utilize external foundries to supply us with semiconductor wafers manufactured in process technologies which we have chosen not to develop internally, and to provide us additional manufacturing capacity on some internally fabricated process technologies. We also use third-party contract manufacturers for assembly, packaging and test functions, and in some cases for fully-outsourced turnkey manufacturing of our products.

The principal materials used in the production of our IC products are semiconductor substrates and high purity source materials such as gallium, aluminum, arsenic and silicon. We purchase from hundreds of suppliers worldwide a wide variety of other semiconductors, packages, metals, printed circuit boards, electromechanical components and other materials for use in our operations. These supply relationships are generally conducted on a purchase order basis. The use of external suppliers involves a number of risks, including the possibility of material disruptions in the supply of key raw materials and components, the lack of control over delivery schedules, capacity constraints, quality and costs.

While we attempt to maintain alternative sources for our principal raw materials to reduce the risk of supply interruptions or price increases, some of the raw materials and components are not readily available from alternate suppliers due to their unique nature, design or the length of time necessary for re-design or qualification. We routinely utilize single sources of supply for various materials based on availability, performance, efficiency or cost considerations. For example, wafers procured from merchant foundries for a particular process technology are generally sourced through one foundry only, on which we rely for all of our wafers in that process. Our reliance on external suppliers puts us at risk of supply chain disruption if the supplier does not have sufficient raw material inventory to meet our manufacturing needs, goes out of business, changes or discontinues the process in which components or wafers are manufactured, or declines to continue supplying

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us for competitive or other reasons, as discussed in more detail in Item 1A. Risk Factors herein. Where practical, we attempt to mitigate these risks by qualifying multiple sources of supply, redesigning products for alternative components and purchasing incremental inventory of raw materials and components in order to protect us against supply problems.

**Quality Assurance**

The goal of our quality assurance program is for our products to meet our customers requirements, be delivered on time, and function reliably throughout their useful lives. The International Organization for Standards (ISO) provides models for quality assurance in various operational disciplines, such as design, manufacturing and testing, which comprise one part of our overall quality management system. Our Lowell, Massachusetts; Long Beach, California; Cork, Ireland; Sydney, Australia and Hsinchu, Taiwan locations have each received ISO 9001:2008 certifications in their principal functional areas. In addition, our Lowell facility has received an ISO 14001:2004 environmental management systems certification.

**Environmental Regulation**

Our operations involve the use of hazardous substances and are regulated under international, federal, state and local laws governing health and safety and the environment. These regulations include limitations on discharge of pollutants to air, water, and soil; remediation requirements; product chemical content limitations; manufacturing chemical use and handling restrictions; pollution control requirements; waste minimization considerations; and treatment, transport, storage and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes. We are also subject to regulation by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration and similar health and safety laws in other jurisdictions. While we are committed to compliance with applicable regulations, the risk of environmental liabilities can never be completely eliminated, and there can be no assurance that the application of environmental and health and safety laws to our business will not require us to incur material future expenditures.

We are also regulated under a number of international, federal, state and local laws regarding recycling, product packaging and product content requirements, including legislation enacted in the European Union and other foreign jurisdictions that have placed greater restrictions on the use of lead, among other chemicals, in electronic products, which affects materials composition and semiconductor packaging. These laws are becoming more stringent and may in the future cause us to incur material expenditures.

**Export Regulations**

We market and sell our products both inside and outside the U.S. Certain of our products are subject to the Export Administration Regulations, administered by the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry Security, which require that we obtain an export license before we can export products or technology to specified countries. Additionally, some of our products are subject to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations, which restrict the export of information and material that may be used for military or intelligence applications by a foreign person. Other of our products are controlled by similar laws in other jurisdictions. Failure to comply with these laws could result in sanctions by the government, including substantial monetary penalties, denial of export privileges and debarment from government contracts. We maintain an export compliance program staffed by dedicated personnel under which we screen export transactions against current lists of restricted exports, destinations and end users with the objective of carefully managing export-related decisions and transactions and shipping logistics and ensuring compliance with these regimes.

**Employees**

As of September 27, 2013, we employed 675 persons worldwide and none of our domestic employees were represented by a collective bargaining agreement; however, a number of our employees working in our European operations were covered by collective bargaining agreements. We consider our relations with employees to be good, and we have not experienced a work stoppage due to labor issues.

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**General Development**

We were incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware in March 2009. Our operations are conducted through our various subsidiaries, which are organized and operated according to the laws of their respective jurisdictions of incorporation.

M/A-COM Technology Solutions Inc., our primary operating subsidiary which provides high-performance analog semiconductor solutions for use in wireless and wireline applications across the RF, microwave and millimeterwave spectrum, was incorporated under the laws of the state of Delaware on July 16, 2008. M/ACOM Technology Solutions (Cork) Limited, our primary foreign operating subsidiary, was incorporated under the laws of Ireland on November 18, 2008. In September 2008, Cobham Defense Electronic Systems Corporation (Cobham) acquired certain assets from a third party, including the RF and microwave component and subsystem design and business operations that would ultimately become the operations of M/A-COM Technology Solutions Inc. and M/ACOM Technology Solutions (Cork) Limited. The heritage of some of these business operations dates back over 60 years to the founding of Microwave Associates, Inc. and the M/A-COM brand dates back over 30 years.

On March 30, 2009, we acquired 100% of the outstanding stock of M/A-COM Technology Solutions Inc. and M/ACOM Technology Solutions (Cork) Limited and the related M/A-COM brand from Cobham (MACOM Acquisition) for $22.1 million in cash net of purchase price adjustments, the issuance of $35.0 million in short- and long-term debt payable to the seller and contingent consideration of up to $30.0 million based on our achievement of revenue targets in the 12-month periods ended September 30, 2010, 2011 and 2012. We paid Cobham contingent consideration of $8.8 million for the period ended September 30, 2010 in November 2010, $15.0 million for the period ended September 30, 2011 in November 2011, and we $6.0 million for the final period ended September 30, 2012 in November 2012.

On May 28, 2010, we acquired Mimix Holdings, Inc. (Mimix), a supplier of high-performance GaAs semiconductors, for $1.2 million in cash and 17.5 million shares of our Series A-2 convertible preferred stock (Mimix Merger). We acquired Mimix for its complementary products and technologies in our core markets, which enabled us to strengthen customer relationships.

On April 25, 2011, we acquired Optomai, Inc. (Optomai), a fabless semiconductor company that develops high-performance ICs and modules for next generation fiber optic networks, for $1.8 million in cash and potential contingent consideration based on our achievement of certain revenue, product release and contribution margin targets based on sales of products utilizing Optomai intellectual property through, as amended, September 2013. No amounts of contingent consideration have been paid nor are payable pursuant to the terms of the agreement. We acquired Optomai for technologies that have accelerated our entrance into the fiber optics market.

In the second and third quarters of fiscal year 2011, we sold the assets related to our non-core laser diode and ferrite business lines.

On November 5, 2013, we entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the Merger Agreement) with Micro Merger Sub, Inc., our wholly-owned subsidiary (Purchaser), and Mindspeed Technologies, Inc. (Mindspeed), pursuant to which we will acquire Mindspeed (Mindspeed Acquisition). Mindspeed is a supplier of semiconductor solutions for communications infrastructure applications.

Pursuant to the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement, on November 19, 2013, we and Purchaser commenced a cash tender offer (the Offer) to purchase all of the outstanding shares of common stock, par value $0.01, of Mindspeed (the Shares) at a purchase price of $5.05 per Share, net to the seller in cash, without interest, less any applicable withholding taxes. The Offer will expire at 12:00 midnight at the end of December 17, 2013, unless the Offer is extended. Upon completion of the Offer, and subject to the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement and pursuant to Section 251(h) of the Delaware General Corporation Law, Purchaser will merge with and into Mindspeed, with Mindspeed as the surviving corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of us. See the risk factor titled *We may be unable to successfully integrate the*

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*business and personnel of Mindspeed and may not realize the anticipated synergies and benefits of the Mindspeed Acquisition*. in Item 1A. Risk Factors in this Annual Report.

We intend to continue to pursue acquisitions of technologies, design teams, products and companies that complement our strengths and help us execute our strategies. Our acquisition strategy is designed to accelerate our revenue growth, expand our technology portfolio, grow our addressable market and create shareholder value. We believe our management team has a proven track record in identifying, acquiring and successfully integrating companies and technologies in the high-performance analog semiconductor industry.

**Available Information**

We maintain a website at www.macomtech.com, including an investors section at which we routinely post important information, such as webcasts of quarterly earnings calls and other investor events in which we participate or host, and any related materials. You may access our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports, as well as other reports relating to us that are filed with or furnished to the SEC, free of charge in the investors section of our website as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with or furnished to the SEC. The public may also read and copy materials we file with the SEC at the SEC s Public Reference Room, which is located at 100 F Street, NE, Room 1580, Washington, DC 20549. You can obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains a website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC at www.sec.gov. The contents of the websites mentioned above are not incorporated into and should not be considered a part of this report.

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**ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

*Our business involves a high degree of risk. If any of the following risks actually occurs, our business, financial condition or results of operations could suffer. The risks described below are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently consider immaterial also may adversely affect our Company.*

**Risks Relating to Our Business**

***Our revenue growth is substantially dependent on our successful development and release of new products.***

Maintaining or growing our revenue will depend on our ability to timely develop new products for existing and new markets that meet customers performance, reliability and price requirements. The development of new products is a highly complex process, and we have in the past and may in the future experience delays and failures in completing the development and introduction of new products. Our successful product development depends on a number of factors, including the following:

- accurate prediction of market requirements, changes in technology and evolving standards;
- the availability of qualified product designers and process technologies needed to solve difficult design challenges in a cost-effective, reliable manner;
- our ability to design products that meet customers cost, size and performance requirements;
- our ability to manufacture new products according to customer needs with acceptable manufacturing yields;
- our ability to offer new products at competitive prices;
- acceptance by customers of our new product designs;
- identification of and entry into new markets for our products;
- acceptance of our customers products by the market and the lifecycle of such products;
- our ability to deliver products in a timely manner within our customers product planning and deployment cycle; and
- our ability to maintain and increase our level of product content in our customers systems.

A new product design effort may last 12 to 18 months or longer, and requires material investments in engineering hours and materials, as well as sales and marketing expenses, which will not be recouped if the product launch is unsuccessful. We may not be able to design and introduce new products in a timely or cost-efficient manner, and our new products may fail to meet the requirements of the market or our customers, or may be adopted by customers slower than we expect. In that case, we may not reach our expected level of production orders and may lose market share, which could adversely affect our ability to sustain our revenue growth or maintain our current revenue levels.

***Various factors may reduce our gross margin, which could negatively affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

If we are unable to utilize our design, fabrication, assembly and test facilities at a high level, the significant fixed costs associated with these facilities may not be fully absorbed, resulting in higher average unit costs and lower gross margin. Our various products have different gross margin and increased sales of lower-margin products, such as our products targeted at automotive and other consumer markets, in a given period relative to sales of higher-margin products such as our optical products may cause us to report lower overall gross margin. In our fourth fiscal quarter of 2012 and at other times in the past, we have experienced periods where our gross margin declined due to, among other things, reduced factory utilization resulting from reduced customer demand,

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reduced selling prices and a change in product mix towards lower-margin products. Future market conditions may adversely affect our revenue and utilization rates and consequently our future gross margin, and this, in turn, could have an adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, increased raw material costs, changes in manufacturing yields, more complex engineering requirements and other factors may lead to lower margins for us in the future. As a result of these or other factors, we may be unable to maintain or increase our gross margin in future periods and our gross margin may fluctuate from period to period.

***Our operating results may fluctuate significantly from period to period. We may not meet investors quarterly or annual financial expectations and, as a result, our stock price may decline.***

Our quarterly and annual operating results and related expectations may vary significantly in the future based upon a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control. Factors that could cause operating results and related expectations to fluctuate include:

general economic growth or decline in the U.S. or foreign markets;

the reduction or cancellation of orders by customers, whether as a result of a loss of market share by us or our customers, changes in the design of customers products, or slowing demand for our products or customers products;

the amount of new customer orders we both book and ship in any particular fiscal quarter, which accounts for a significant amount of our net revenue in any particular quarter, and which can often be weighted toward the latter part of each fiscal quarter, making the timing of recognition of the associated revenue difficult to forecast with fidelity and susceptible to slippage between quarters;

the relative linearity of our shipments within any particular fiscal quarter, in that a less linear shipment pattern within a given fiscal quarter tends to result in lower gross margin in that quarter, and a shipment pattern weighted toward the latter part of a fiscal quarter tends to reduce our cash flows from operations in that quarter, as collections of related receivables do not occur until later fiscal periods;

the gain or loss of a key customer or significant changes in the financial condition of one or more key customers;

fluctuations in manufacturing output, yields, capacity levels, quality control or other potential problems or delays we or our subcontractors may experience in the fabrication, assembly, testing or delivery of our products;

fluctuations in demand relating to the A&D market due to changes in government programs, budgets or procurement;

the market acceptance of our products and particularly the timing and success of new product and technology introductions by us, customers or competitors;

the amount, timing and relative success of our investments in research and development, which impacts our ability to develop, introduce and market new products and solutions on a timely basis;

period-to-period changes in the mix of products we sell, which can result in lower gross margin;

availability, quality and cost of semiconductor wafers and other raw materials, equipment, components and internal or outsourced manufacturing, packaging and test capacity, particularly where we have only one qualified source of supply;

seasonal and other changes in customer purchasing cycles and component inventory levels;

the effects of competitive pricing pressures, including decreases in average selling prices of our products;

impairment charges associated with intangible assets, including goodwill and acquisition-related intangible assets;

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loss of key personnel or the shortage of available skilled workers;

factors that could cause our reported domestic and foreign income taxes and income tax rate to increase in future periods, such as limits on our ability to utilize net operating losses or tax credits and the geographic distribution of our income, which may change from period to period; and

the effects of war, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, macroeconomic uncertainty or decline or geopolitical unrest.

The foregoing factors are difficult to forecast, and these, as well as other factors, could materially and adversely affect our quarterly and annual operating results and related expectations for future periods. In addition, if our operating results in any period do not meet our publicly stated guidance, if any, or the expectations of investors or securities analysts, our stock price may decline. Similarly, any publicly stated guidance we provide in the future may itself fail to meet the expectations of investors or securities analysts, and our stock price may decline as a result.

***If our primary markets decline or fail to grow, our revenue and profitability may suffer.***

Our future growth depends to a significant extent on the continued growth in usage of advanced electronic systems in our primary markets: Networks, A&D, Automotive and Multi-market. The rate and extent to which these markets grow, if at all, is uncertain. These markets may fail to grow or decline for many reasons, including insufficient consumer demand, lack of access to capital, sequestration or other changes in the U.S. defense budget and procurement processes, changes in regulatory environments, macro-economic factors and changes in network specifications. If demand for electronic systems in which our products are incorporated declines, fails to grow, or grows more slowly than we anticipate, purchases of our products may be reduced, which may adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. In particular, our sales to Ford Motor Company (Ford), which accounted for 25.2% of our revenue for fiscal year 2013 and substantially all of the revenue in our Automotive market, are dependent upon the health of the automotive industry, Ford s ability to maintain or grow its market share, Ford s continuing to source parts from us for its current platforms and Ford s continuing to design our products into its automotive platforms as they evolve, none of which are assured.

***We typically depend on orders from a limited number of customers for a significant percentage of our revenue.***

In fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, sales to our distributor Richardson, and to Ford each accounted for more than 10% of our revenue. Sales to our top 10 direct and distribution customers accounted for an aggregate of 59%, 55% and 61%, respectively, of our revenue. While the composition of our top 10 customers varies from year to year, we expect that sales to a limited number of customers will continue to account for a significant percentage of our revenue for the foreseeable future. The purchasing arrangements with our customers are typically conducted on a purchase order basis that does not require our customers to purchase any minimum amount of our products over a period of time. As a result, it is possible that any of our major customers could terminate their purchasing arrangements with us or significantly reduce or delay the amount of our products that they order, purchase products from our competitors or develop their own products internally. The loss of, or a reduction in, orders from any major customer could cause a decline in revenue and adversely affect our results of operations.

***Our investment in research and development may not be successful, which may impact our profitability.***

The semiconductor industry requires substantial investment in research and development in order to develop and bring to market new and enhanced technologies and products. Research and development expenses were $40.6 million, $35.8 million and $36.1 million for our fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. In each of the last three fiscal years, we invested in research and development as part of our strategy toward the development of innovative products and solutions to fuel our growth and profitability. We cannot assure you if or when the products and solutions where we have focused our research and development expenditures will become

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commercially successful. In addition, we may not have sufficient resources to maintain the level of investment in research and development required to remain competitive or succeed in our strategy. Our efforts to develop new and improved process technologies for use in our products require substantial expenditures that may not generate any return on investment, may take longer than we anticipate to generate a return or may generate a return on investment that is inadequate. In July 2013, we announced that we had licensed 0.5 µm, 0.25 µm and 0.15 µm GaN process technology from Global Communications Semiconductors, LLC (GCS) and would be porting such process technology to our Lowell, Massachusetts manufacturing facility. This porting effort is expected to be a multi-year process and to involve tens of millions of dollars of investment in capital equipment, license fees and other related costs and expenses. We may experience unexpected difficulties, expenses or delays in porting and qualifying this GaN technology, and ultimately may not be successful in our efforts, may not realized the competitive advantage we anticipate from the license and porting effort, and may not realize customer demand for the ported technology that meets our expectations following the porting effort, any of which could lead to reduced revenues and gross margin or otherwise harm our business.

***We may incur significant risk and expense in attempting to win new business, and such efforts may never generate revenue.***

To obtain new business, we often need to win a competitive selection process to develop semiconductors for use in our customers systems, known in the industry as a design win. These competitive selection processes can be lengthy and can require us to incur significant and unreimbursed design and development expenditures and dedicate scarce engineering resources in pursuit of a single customer opportunity. We may not win the competitive selection process and may never generate any revenue despite incurring significant design and development expenditures and selling, general and administrative expenses. Failure to obtain a design win sometimes prevents us from supplying components for an entire generation of a customer s system. This can result in lost revenue and could weaken our position in future competitive selection processes.

Even when we achieve a design win, success is not assured. Customer qualification and design cycles can be lengthy, and it may take a year or more following a successful design win and product qualification for one of our products to be purchased in volume by the customer. We may experience difficulties manufacturing the part in volume, such as low yields, supply chain delays or shortages, or quality issues. Further, while the customer has successfully qualified our part for use in its system when it awards a design win to us, it may not have qualified all of the other components being sourced for its system, or qualified its system as a whole with its end customers. Any difficulties our customer may experience in completing those qualifications may delay or prevent us from translating the design win into revenue. These risks can be particularly acute in our A&D market, where we may spend material amounts and commit substantial design engineer resources to product development work in support of an OEM customer s attempt to win business tied to a government contract award, but realize no related revenue or less than expected revenue from that investment based on failure of the OEM to win the business, government program cancellation, federal budget limitations or otherwise. Any of these events, or any cancellation of a customer s program or failure of our customer to successfully market its own product after our design win could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations, as we may have incurred significant expense and generated no revenue.

***We are subject to order and shipment uncertainties. Our profitability will decline if we fail to accurately forecast customer demand when managing inventory.***

We generally sell our products on the basis of purchase orders rather than long-term purchase commitments from our customers. Our customers can typically cancel purchase orders or defer product shipments for some period without incurring liability to us. We typically plan production and inventory levels based on internal forecasts of customer demand, which can be highly unpredictable and can fluctuate substantially, leading to excess inventory write-downs and resulting negative impacts on gross margin and net income. We have limited visibility into our customers inventories, future customer demand and the product mix that our customers will require, which could adversely affect our production forecasts and operating margins. In a number of markets we serve, and in our A&D market in particular, large dollar value customer orders scheduled for delivery in the

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current fiscal quarter may be canceled or rescheduled by the customer for delivery in a future fiscal quarter on short notice, which could cause our reported revenue to vary materially from our prior expectations. In addition, the rapid pace of innovation in our industry could render significant portions of our inventory obsolete. If we overestimate our customers requirements, we may have excess inventory, which could lead to obsolete inventory and unexpected costs. Conversely, if we underestimate our customers requirements, we may have inadequate inventory, which could lead to foregone revenue opportunities, loss of potential market share and damage to customer relationships as product deliveries may not be made on a timely basis, disrupting our customers production schedules. Some of our larger customers also require us to build and maintain minimum inventories and keep them available for purchase at specified locations based on non-binding demand estimates that are subject to change, which exposes us to increased inventory risk and makes it more difficult to manage our working capital. If demand from such customers decreases, we may be left with excess or obsolete inventory we are unable to sell. In response to anticipated long lead times to obtain inventory and materials from outside suppliers and foundries, we periodically order materials and build a stock of finished goods inventory in advance of customer demand. This advance ordering of raw material and building of finished goods inventory has in the past and may in the future result in excess inventory levels or unanticipated inventory write-downs if expected orders fail to materialize, or other factors make our products less saleable. In addition, any significant future cancellation or deferral of product orders could adversely affect our revenue and margins, increase inventory write-downs due to obsolete inventory, and adversely affect our operating results and stock price.

***Because we have a limited history of operations as a standalone company, it may be difficult to evaluate our current business and prospects.***

While many of the products and technologies now comprising our business had a long history of operations as part of the larger organizations of prior owners, our standalone business began in March 2009. This short operating history as a standalone company, rather than as a small subset of a much larger corporate parent, combined with the rapidly evolving nature of our industry and fluctuations in the overall worldwide economy since March 2009, may make it difficult to evaluate our current business and future prospects.

***The average selling prices of our products may decrease over time, which could have a material adverse effect on our revenue and gross margin.***

It is common in our industry for the average selling price of a given product to decrease over time as production volumes increase, competing products are developed, technology, industry standards and customer platforms evolve, or new technologies featuring higher performance or lower cost emerge. To combat the negative effects that erosion of average selling prices have had in the past and may in the future have on our revenue and gross margin, we attempt to actively manage the prices of our existing products and introduce new process technologies and products in the market that exhibit higher performance, new features that are in demand, or lower manufacturing cost. Despite this strategy, we may experience price erosion in select product platforms or generally in future periods. Failure to maintain our current prices or to successfully execute on our new product development strategy will cause our revenue and gross margin to decline, which could decrease the value of your investment in our common stock.

***We face intense competition in our industry, and our inability to compete successfully could negatively affect our operating results.***

The semiconductor industry is highly competitive. While we compete with a wide variety of companies, we compete with Hittite Microwave Corporation across most of our primary markets. Our other significant competitors include, among others, Aeroflex, Inc., Avago, Inc., Microsemi Corporation, RF Micro Devices, Inc., Skyworks Solutions, Inc. and TriQuint Semiconductor, Inc.

We believe future competition could also come from companies developing new alternative technologies, component suppliers based in countries with lower production costs and IC manufacturers achieving higher levels of integration that exceed the functionality offered by our products. Our customers and suppliers could

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also develop products that compete with or replace our products. A decision by any of our large customers to design and manufacture ICs internally could have an adverse effect on our operating results. Increased competition could mean lower prices for our products, reduced demand for our products and a corresponding reduction in our ability to recover development, engineering and manufacturing costs.

Many of our existing and potential competitors have entrenched market positions, historical affiliations with original equipment manufacturers, considerable internal manufacturing capacity, established intellectual property rights and substantial technological capabilities. Many of them may also have greater financial, technical, manufacturing or marketing resources than we do. Prospective customers may decide not to buy from us due to concerns about our relative size, financial stability or other factors. Our failure to successfully compete could result in lower revenue, decreased profitability and a lower stock price.

***We operate in the semiconductor industry, which is cyclical and subject to significant downturns.***

The semiconductor industry is highly cyclical and is characterized by constant and rapid technological change, price erosion, product obsolescence, evolving standards, short product lifecycles and significant fluctuations in supply and demand. The industry has historically experienced significant fluctuations in demand and product obsolescence, resulting in product overcapacity, high inventory levels and accelerated erosion of average selling prices. Downturns in many sectors of the electronic systems industry have in the past contributed to extended periods of weak demand for semiconductor products. We have experienced adverse effects on our profitability and cash flows during such downturns in the past, and our business may be similarly harmed by any downturns in the future, particularly if we are unable to effectively respond to reduced demand in a particular market.

***We expect to make future acquisitions, dispositions and investments, which involve numerous risks.***

We have an active corporate development program and routinely evaluate potential acquisitions of, and investments with or other strategic alliances involving, complementary technologies, design teams, products and companies. We also may evaluate the merits of a potential divestment of one or more of our existing business lines. We expect to pursue such transactions if appropriate opportunities arise. However, we may not be able to identify suitable transactions in the future, or if we do identify such transactions, we may not be able to complete them on commercially acceptable terms, or at all. We also face intense competition for acquisitions from other acquirers in our industry. These competing acquirers may have significantly greater financial and other resources than us, which may prevent us from successfully pursuing a transaction. In the event we pursue acquisitions, we will face numerous risks including:

- difficulties in integrating the personnel, culture, operations, technology or products and service offerings of the acquired company;
- diversion of management s attention from normal daily operations of our business;
- difficulties in entering markets where competitors have stronger market positions;
- difficulties in improving and integrating the financial reporting capabilities and operating systems of any acquired operations, particularly foreign and formerly private operations, as needed to maintain effective internal control over financial reporting and disclosure controls and procedures;
- the loss of any key personnel of the acquired company as well as their know-how, relationships and expertise, which is common following an acquisition;
- maintaining customer, supplier or other favorable business relationships of acquired operations;

generating insufficient revenue from completed acquisitions to offset increased expenses associated with any abandoned or completed acquisitions;

acquiring material or unknown leasehold, environmental, regulatory, infringement, contractual or other liabilities associated with any acquired operations;

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litigation frequently associated with merger and acquisition transactions; and

additional expense associated with amortization or depreciation of acquired tangible and intangible assets.

Our past acquisitions of Mimix Holdings, Inc. and Optomai, and current proposed acquisition of Mindspeed, required or continue to require significant management time and attention relating to the transaction and integration activities. If we fail to properly integrate these acquired companies with ours, we may not receive the expected benefits of the acquisitions. Even if a proposed acquisition is successfully realized and integrated, we may not receive the expected benefits of the transaction.

Past transactions, whether completed or abandoned by us, have resulted, and in the future may result, in significant costs, expenses, liabilities and charges to earnings. The accounting treatment for any acquisition may result in significant amortizable intangible assets which, when amortized, will negatively affect our consolidated results of operations. The accounting treatment for any acquisition may result in significant goodwill, which, if impaired, will negatively affect our consolidated results of operations. Furthermore, we may incur indebtedness or issue equity securities to pay for acquisitions. The incurrence of indebtedness could limit our operating flexibility and be detrimental to our profitability, and the issuance of equity securities would be dilutive to our existing stockholders. Any or all of the above factors may differ from the investment community s expectations in a given quarter, which could negatively affect our stock price. In addition, as a result of the foregoing, we may not be able to successfully execute acquisitions in the future to the same extent as we have the in the past, if at all.

In the event we make future investments, the investments may decline in value or fail to deliver any strategic benefits we anticipate from them, and we may lose all or part of our investment. In the event we undertake divestments, we may suffer from associated management distraction, damaged customer relationships, failure to realize the perceived strategic or financial merits of the divestment, or we may incur material indemnity liabilities to the purchaser.

***We may be unable to successfully integrate the business and personnel of Mindspeed and may not realize the anticipated synergies and benefits of the Mindspeed Acquisition.***

On November 5, 2013, we entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger with Mindspeed pursuant to which Mindspeed will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of us at closing. The Mindspeed Acquisition is subject to various conditions to closing and may not close. If the Mindspeed Acquisition does not close, we will not realize the expected benefits from the transaction.

We also may not realize the expected benefits from the Mindspeed Acquisition after closing because of integration difficulties or other challenges. The success of the Mindspeed Acquisition will depend, in part, on our ability to realize all or some of the anticipated synergies and other benefits from integrating Mindspeed s business with our existing businesses. The integration process may be complex, costly and time-consuming. The difficulties of integrating the operations of Mindspeed s business include, among others:

failure to implement our business plan for the combined business;

unexpected losses of key employees, customers or suppliers of Mindspeed;

unanticipated issues in conforming Mindspeed s standards, processes, procedures and controls with our operations;

coordinating new product and process development;

increasing the scope, geographic diversity and complexity of our operations;

diversion of management s attention from other business concerns;

adverse effects on our or Mindspeed s existing business relationships with customers and suppliers;

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unanticipated changes in applicable laws and regulations;

operating risks inherent in Mindspeed s business and operations;

unanticipated expenses and liabilities;

complications in or inability to consummate the anticipated sale or wind down of Mindspeed s wireless business or other non-core businesses;

unfamiliarity with Mindspeed products and markets, including the enterprise market generally, which may place us at a competitive disadvantage; and

other difficulties in the assimilation of Mindspeed s operations, technologies, products and systems.

In addition, in connection with the Mindspeed Acquisition, we will assume all the liabilities of Mindspeed that are not satisfied on or prior to the closing date. There may be liabilities that we underestimated or did not discover in the course of performing our due diligence investigation of Mindspeed. We will have no recourse to recover any damages relating to the liabilities of Mindspeed.

We may not be able to maintain the levels of revenue, earnings or operating efficiency that each of Mindspeed and us had achieved or might achieve separately. In addition, we may not accomplish the integration of Mindspeed s business smoothly, successfully or within the anticipated costs or timeframe. If we experience difficulties with the integration process or if the Mindspeed business deteriorates, the anticipated cost savings, growth opportunities and other synergies of the Mindspeed Acquisition may not be realized fully, or at all, or may take longer to realize than expected. If any of the above risks occur, our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows may be materially and adversely impacted, we may fail to meet the expectations of investors or analysts, and our stock price may decline as a result.

***We may incur liability for claims of intellectual property infringement relating to our products.***

The semiconductor industry is generally subject to frequent litigation regarding patents and other intellectual property rights. Other companies in the industry have numerous patents that protect their intellectual property rights in these areas, and have made in the past and may make in the future claims that we have infringed or misappropriated their intellectual property rights. Our customers may assert claims against us for indemnification if they receive claims alleging that their or our products infringe others intellectual property rights, and have in the past and may in the future choose not to purchase our products based on their concerns over such a pending claim. In the event of an adverse result of any intellectual property rights litigation, we could be required to pay substantial damages for infringement, expend significant resources to develop non-infringing technology, incur material liability for royalty payments or fees to obtain licenses to the technology covered by the litigation, or be subjected to an injunction, which could prevent us from selling our products and materially and adversely affect our revenue and results of operations. Negotiated settlements resolving such claims may require us to pay substantial sums, as was the case in September 2013 when we paid $7.25 million in settlement of a suit alleging intellectual property misappropriation. We cannot be sure that we will be successful in any such non-infringing development or that any such license would be available on commercially reasonable terms, if at all. Any claims relating to the infringement of third-party proprietary rights, even if not meritorious, could result in costly litigation, lost sales or damaged customer relationships, and diversion of management s attention and resources.

***We depend on third parties for products and services required for our business, which may limit our ability to meet customer demand, assure product quality and control costs.***

We purchase numerous raw materials, such as ceramic packages, precious metals, semiconductor wafers and dies, from a limited number of external suppliers. We also currently use several external manufacturing suppliers for assembly and testing of our products, and in some cases for fully-outsourced turnkey manufacturing

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of our products. We currently expect to increase our use of outsourced manufacturing in the future as a strategy for lowering our fixed operating costs. The ability and willingness of our external suppliers to perform is largely outside of our control. The use of external suppliers involves a number of risks, including the possibility of material disruptions in the supply of key components, the lack of control over delivery schedules, capacity constraints, manufacturing yields, quality and fabrication costs, and misappropriation of our intellectual property. For example, a defective batch of a chemical etchant received from a supplier caused scrap loss in our internal manufacturing facility in March 2011, which reduced manufacturing yields and gross profit by $0.7 million for fiscal year 2011. If these vendors processes vary in reliability or quality, they could negatively affect our products and, therefore, our customer relations and results of operations. We generally purchase raw materials on a purchase order basis and we do not have significant long-term supply commitments from our vendors. Where we do have long-term supply commitments, they may result in our being obligated to purchase more material than we need, materially and negatively impacting our operating results. In terms of relative bargaining power, many of our suppliers are larger than we are, with greater resources, and many of their other customers are larger and have greater resources than we do. If these vendors experience shortages or fail to accurately predict customer demand, they may have insufficient capacity to meet our demand, creating a capacity constraint on our business. They may also choose to supply others in preference to us in times of capacity constraint or otherwise, particularly where the other customers purchase in higher volume. Third-party supplier capacity constraints have in the past and may in the future prevent us from supplying customer demand that we otherwise could have fulfilled at attractive prices. If we have a firm commitment to supply our customer but are unable to do so based on inability or unwillingness of one of our suppliers to provide related materials or services, we may be liable for resulting damages and expense incurred by our customer.

Based on superior performance features, cost parameters or other factors, we utilize sole source suppliers for certain semiconductor packages and other materials, and it is not uncommon for one of our outside semiconductor foundries to be our sole supplier for the particular semiconductor fabrication process technologies manufactured at that supplier s facility. Such supplier concentrations involve the risk of a potential future business interruption if the supplier becomes unable or unwilling to supply us at any point. While in some cases alternate suppliers may exist, because there are limited numbers of third-party wafer fabs that use the process technologies we select for our products and that have sufficient capacity to meet our needs, it may not be possible or may be expensive to find an alternative source of supply. Even if we are able to find an alternative source, moving production to an alternative external fab requires an extensive qualification or re-qualification process that could prevent or delay product shipments or disrupt customer s production schedules, which could harm our business. In addition, some of our external foundry suppliers compete against us in the market in addition to being our supplier. The loss of a supplier can also significantly harm our business and operating results. A supplier may discontinue supplying us if its business is not sufficiently profitable, for competitive reasons or otherwise. We have in the past and may in the future have our supply relationship discontinued by an external foundry, causing us to experience supply chain disruption, customer dissatisfaction, loss of business and increased cost.

***If we lose key personnel or fail to attract and retain key personnel, we may be unable to pursue business opportunities or develop our products.***

We believe our continued ability to recruit, hire, retain and motivate highly-skilled engineering, operations, sales, administrative and managerial personnel is key to our future success. Competition for these employees is intense, particularly with respect to qualified engineers. Our failure to retain our present employees and hire additional qualified personnel in a timely manner and on reasonable terms could harm our competitiveness and results of operations. In addition, from time to time we may recruit and hire employees from our competitors, customers, suppliers and distributors, which could result in liability to us and has in the past and could in the future damage our business relationship with these parties. None of our senior management team is contractually bound to remain with us for a specified period, and we generally do not maintain key person life insurance covering our senior management. The loss of any member of our senior management team could strengthen a competitor or harm our ability to implement our business strategy.

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***Sources for certain components and materials are limited, which could result in interruptions, delays or reductions in product shipments.***

Our industry may be affected from time to time by limited supplies of certain key components and materials. We have in the past and may in the future experience delays or reductions in supply shipments, which could reduce our revenue and profitability. If key components or materials are unavailable, our costs could increase and our revenue could decline.

In particular, our manufacturing headquarters, design facilities, assembly and test facilities and supply chain, and those of our contract manufacturers, are subject to risk of catastrophic loss due to fire, flood, or other natural or man-made disasters, such as the earthquake and tsunami that devastated parts of Japan in 2011. The majority of our semiconductor products are fabricated in our Lowell, Massachusetts headquarters, where our only internal wafer fab is located. The majority of the internal and outsourced assembly and test facilities we utilize are located in the Pacific Rim, and some of our internal design, assembly and test facilities are located in California, regions with above average seismic and severe weather activity. In addition, our research and development personnel are concentrated in a few locations, primarily our headquarters and our Santa Clara, California, Sydney, Australia, Belfast, Northern Ireland and Cork, Ireland locations, with the expertise of the personnel at each such location generally focused on one or two specific areas. Any catastrophic loss or significant damage to any of these facilities would likely disrupt our operations, delay production, shipments and revenue and result in significant expenses to repair or replace the facility, and in some instances, could significantly curtail our research and development efforts in a particular product area or primary market, which could have a material adverse effect on our operations. For example, in October 2011, heavy monsoon rains in Thailand caused widespread flooding affecting major cities and industrial parks where there is a concentration of semiconductor manufacturing, assembly and test sites. One of our contract manufacturing suppliers located in Thailand was affected by the flooding and, as a result of the flooding of our affected contract manufacturer, $2.7 million of orders that were scheduled for shipment to our customers in the three months ended December 30, 2011 were delayed into the second quarter of fiscal year 2012 or were canceled. In particular, any catastrophic loss at our headquarters facility would materially and adversely affect our business and financial results, revenue and profitability.

***Our failure to continue to keep pace with new or improved semiconductor process technologies could impair our competitive position.***

Semiconductor manufacturers constantly seek to develop new and improved semiconductor process technologies. Our future success depends in part upon our ability to continue to gain access to these semiconductor process technologies, internally or externally, in order to adapt to emerging customer requirements and competitive market conditions. We may be unable to internally develop such technologies successfully, and may be unable to gain access to them from merchant foundries or other sources on commercially reasonable terms, or at all. If we fail for any reason to remain abreast of new and improved semiconductor process technologies as they emerge, we may lose market share and our revenue and gross margin may decline, which could adversely affect our operating results.

***Minor deviations in the manufacturing process can cause substantial manufacturing yield loss or even cause halts in production, which could have a material adverse effect on our revenue and gross margin.***

Our products involve complexities in both their design and the semiconductor process technology employed in their fabrication. In many cases, the products are also assembled in customized packages or feature high levels of integration. Our products must meet exacting customer specifications for quality, performance and reliability. Our manufacturing yield, or the percentage of units of a given product in a given period that is usable relative to all such units produced, is a combination of yields including wafer fabrication, assembly, and test yields. Due to the complexity of our products, we periodically experience difficulties in achieving acceptable yields as even minor deviations in the manufacturing process can cause substantial manufacturing yield loss or even cause halts

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in production. Our customers may also test our components once they have been assembled into their products. The number of usable products that result from our production process can fluctuate as a result of many factors, including the following:

- design errors;
- defects in photomasks, which are used to print circuits on wafers;
- minute impurities in materials used;
- contamination of the manufacturing environment;
- equipment failure or variations in the manufacturing processes;
- losses from broken wafers or other human error;
- defects in packaging; and
- issues and errors in testing.

Typically, for a given level of sales, when our yields improve, our gross margin improves. When our yields decrease, our unit costs are typically higher, our gross margin is lower and our profitability is adversely affected, any or all of which can harm our results of operations and lower our stock price.

***We depend on third-party sales representatives and distributors for a material portion of our revenues.***

We sell many of our products to customers through independent sales representatives and distributors, as well as through our direct sales force. We are unable to predict the extent to which our independent sales representatives and distributors will be successful in marketing and selling our products. Moreover, many of our independent sales representatives and distributors also market and sell competing products. Our relationships with our representatives and distributors typically may be terminated by either party at any time, and do not require them to buy any of our products. Sales to distributors accounted for 18.6% of our revenue in fiscal year 2013, and sales to our largest distributor, Richardson, represented 15.8% of our revenue in the same period. If our distributors cease doing business with us or fail to successfully market and sell our products, our ability to sustain and grow our revenue could be materially adversely affected.

***Our internal and external manufacturing, assembly and test model subjects us to various manufacturing and supply risks.***

We operate a semiconductor wafer processing and manufacturing facility at our headquarters in Lowell, Massachusetts. This facility is also our primary internal design, assembly and test facility. We maintain other internal assembly and test operation facilities as well, including leased sites in Long Beach, California and Hsinchu, Taiwan. We also use multiple external foundries for outsourced semiconductor wafer supply, as well as multiple domestic and Asian assembly and test suppliers to assemble and test our products. A number of factors will affect the future success of these internal manufacturing facilities and outsourced supply and service arrangements, including the following:

- the level of demand for our products;

our ability to expand and contract our facilities and purchase commitments in a timely and cost-effective manner in response to changes in demand for our products;

our ability to generate revenue in amounts that cover the significant fixed costs of operating our facilities;

our ability to qualify our facilities for new products in a timely manner;

the availability of raw materials, including GaAs substrates and high purity source materials such as gallium, aluminum, arsenic, indium and silicon;

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our manufacturing cycle times and yields;

the political and economic risks associated with our reliance on outsourced Asian assembly and test suppliers;

the location of our facilities and those of our outsourced suppliers;

natural disasters impacting our facilities and those of our outsourced suppliers;

our ability to hire, train, manage and retain qualified production personnel;

our compliance with applicable environmental and other laws and regulations; and

our ability to avoid prolonged periods of downtime or high levels of scrap in our and our suppliers facilities for any reason.

***We may experience difficulties in managing any future growth.***

To successfully conduct business in a rapidly evolving market, we must effectively plan and manage any current and future growth. Our ability to do so will be dependent on a number of factors, including:

maintaining access to sufficient manufacturing capacity to meet customer demands;

arranging for sufficient supply of key raw materials and services to avoid shortages or supply bottlenecks;

building out our administrative infrastructure at the proper pace to support any current and future sales growth while maintaining operating efficiencies;

adhering to our high quality and process execution standards, particularly as we hire and train new employees and during periods of high volume;

managing the various components of our working capital effectively;

upgrading our operational and financial systems, procedures and controls, including improvement of our accounting and internal management systems; and

maintaining high levels of customer satisfaction.

If we do not effectively manage any future growth, we may not be able to take advantage of attractive market opportunities, our operations may be impacted and we may experience delays in delivering products to our customers or damaged customer relationships, and achieve lower than anticipated revenue and decreased profitability.

***We may not realize the expected benefits of our recent restructuring activities and other initiatives designed to reduce costs and increase revenue across our operations.***

We have pursued a number of restructuring initiatives designed to reduce costs and increase revenue across our operations. These initiatives included reductions in our number of manufacturing facilities and significant workforce reductions in certain areas as we realigned our business. Additional initiatives included establishing certain operations closer in location to our global customers and evaluating functions that may be more efficiently performed through outsourcing arrangements. These initiatives have been substantial in scope and disruptive to some of our historical operations. We may not realize the expected benefits of these new initiatives. As a result of these initiatives, we have incurred restructuring or other charges and we may in the future experience disruptions in our operations, loss of personnel and difficulties in delivering products in a timely fashion. In fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, we incurred restructuring charges of $1.0 million, $1.9 million and $1.5 million, respectively, consisting primarily of employee severance and related costs resulting from reductions in our workforce.

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***Our business could be harmed if systems manufacturers choose not to use components made of compound semiconductor materials we utilize.***

Silicon semiconductor technologies are the dominant process technologies for the manufacture of ICs in high-volume, commercial markets and the performance of silicon ICs continues to improve. While we use silicon for some applications, we also often use compound semiconductor technologies such as GaAs, InP or GaN to deliver reliable operation at higher power, higher frequency or smaller form factor than a silicon solution has historically allowed. While these compound semiconductor materials offer high-performance features, it is generally more difficult to design and manufacture products with reliability and in volume using them. GaN and InP, in particular, are newer process technologies that do not have as extensive a track record of reliable performance in the field as many of the competing process technologies. Compound semiconductor technology tends to be more expensive than silicon technology due to its above-described challenges and the generally lower volumes at which parts in those processes tend to be manufactured relative to silicon parts for high-volume consumer applications.

System designers in some markets may be reluctant to adopt our non-silicon products or may be likely to adopt silicon products in lieu of our products if silicon products meeting their demanding performance requirements are available, because of:

- their unfamiliarity with designing systems using our products;
- their concerns related to manufacturing costs and yields;
- their unfamiliarity with our design and manufacturing processes; or
- uncertainties about the relative cost effectiveness of our products compared to high-performance silicon components.

We cannot be certain that additional systems manufacturers will design our compound semiconductor products into their systems or that the companies that have utilized our products will continue to do so in the future. Improvements in the performance of available silicon process technologies and solutions could result in a loss of market share on our part. If our products fail to achieve or maintain market acceptance for any of the above reasons, our results of operations will suffer.

***We may incur material costs and our business may be interrupted in connection with consolidation and outsourcing initiatives.***

We have a number of ongoing strategic initiatives aimed at reducing our long-term operating cost model, including the outsourcing of various manufacturing functions to third party suppliers and consolidation of our operations within existing facilities. While the goal of these actions is to reduce recurring fixed cost, there are associated restructuring charges and execution risks associated with these initiatives. Exiting a leased site may involve contractual or negotiated exit payments with the landlord, temporary holding over at an increased lease rate, costs to perform restoration work required by the lease, or associated environmental liability, any of which may be material in amount. For example, we paid $2.5 million in exit costs in connection with our exit from a former leased site in Santa Clara, California in September 2010. Consolidation of operations and outsourcing may involve substantial capital expenses and the transfer of manufacturing processes and personnel from one site to another, with resultant startup issues at the receiving site and need for re-qualification of the transitioned operations with major customers and for ISO or other certifications. We may experience shortages of affected products, delays and higher than expected expenses. Affected employees may be distracted by the transition or may seek other employment, which could cause our overall operational efficiency to suffer.

***We are subject to risks from our international sales and operations.***

We have operations in Europe, Asia and Australia, and customers around the world. As a result, we are subject to regulatory, geopolitical and other risks associated with doing business outside the U.S. global operations involve inherent risks, including currency controls, currency exchange rate fluctuations, tariffs,

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required import and export licenses, associated delays and other related international trade restrictions and regulations.

The legal system in many of the regions where we conduct business can lack transparency in certain respects relative to that of the U.S. and can accord local government authorities a higher degree of control and discretion over business than is customary in the U.S. This makes the process of obtaining necessary regulatory approvals and maintaining compliance inherently more difficult and unpredictable. In addition, the protection accorded to proprietary technology and know-how under these legal systems may not be as strong as in the U.S., and, as a result, we may lose valuable trade secrets and competitive advantage. The cost of doing business in European jurisdictions can also be higher than in the U.S. due to exchange rates, local collective bargaining regimes and local legal requirements and norms regarding employee benefits and employer-employee relations, in particular.

Sales to customers located outside the U.S. accounted for 41.6%, 47.2% and 46.4% of our revenue for the fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. We expect that revenue from international sales will continue to be a significant part of our total revenue. Because the majority of our foreign sales are denominated in U.S. dollars, our products become less price-competitive in countries with currencies that are low or are declining in value against the U.S. dollar. Also, we cannot be sure that our international customers will continue to accept orders denominated in U.S. dollars. If they do not, our reported revenue and earnings will become more directly subject to foreign exchange fluctuations. Some of our customer purchase orders and agreements are governed by foreign laws, which may differ significantly from U.S. laws. We may be limited in our ability to enforce our rights under such agreements and to collect amounts owed to us.

The majority of our assembly, packaging and test vendors are located in Asia. We generally do business with our foreign assemblers in U.S. dollars. Our manufacturing costs could increase in countries with currencies that are increasing in value against the U.S. dollar. Also, our international manufacturing suppliers may not continue to accept orders denominated in U.S. dollars. If they do not, our costs will become more directly subject to foreign exchange fluctuations. From time to time we may attempt to hedge our exposure to foreign currency risk by buying currency contracts or otherwise, and any such efforts involve expense and associated risk that the currencies involved may not behave as we expect, and we may lose money on such hedging strategies or not properly hedge our risk.

In addition, if terrorist activity, armed conflict, civil, economic or military unrest, or political instability occurs in the U.S. or other locations, such events may disrupt our manufacturing, assembly, logistics, security and communications, and could also result in reduced demand for our products. We have in the past and may again in the future experience difficulties relating to employees traveling in and out of countries facing civil unrest or political instability and with obtaining travel visas for our employees. Major health pandemics could also adversely affect our business and our customer order patterns. We could also be affected if labor issues disrupt our transportation arrangements or those of our customers or suppliers. There can be no assurance that we can mitigate all identified risks with reasonable effort. The occurrence of any of these events could have a material adverse effect on our operating results.

***Our business could be adversely affected if we experience product returns, product liability and defects claims.***

Our products are complex and frequently operate in high-performance, challenging environments. We may not be able to anticipate all of the possible performance or reliability problems that could arise with our products after they are released to the market. If such problems occur or become significant, we may experience reduced revenue and increased costs related to product recalls, inventory write-offs, warranty or damage claims, delays in, cancellations of, or returns of product orders, and other expenses. The many materials and vendors used in the manufacture of our products increase the risk that some defects may escape detection in our manufacturing process and subsequently affect our customers, even in the case of long-standing product designs. Our use of newly-developed or less mature semiconductor process technologies, such as GaN and InP, which have a less extensive track record of reliability in the field than other more mature process technologies, also increases the

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risk of performance and reliability problems. These matters have arisen in our operations from time to time in the past, have resulted in significant net costs to us per occurrence, and will likely occur again in the future. The occurrence of defects could result in product returns and liability claims, reduced product shipments, the loss of customers, the loss of or delay in market acceptance of our products, harm to our reputation, diversion of management s time and resources, lower revenue, higher expenses and reduced profitability. Any warranty or other rights we may have against our suppliers for quality issues caused by them may be more limited than those our customers have against us, based on our relative size, bargaining power, or otherwise. In addition, even if we ultimately prevail, such claims could result in costly litigation, divert management s time and resources, and damage our customer relationships.

We also face exposure to potential liability resulting from the fact that some of our customers integrate our products into consumer products such as automobiles or mobile communication devices, which are then sold to consumers in the marketplace. We may be named in product liability claims even if there is no evidence that our products caused a loss. Product liability claims could result in significant expenses in connection with the defense of such claims and possible damages. In addition, we may be required to participate in a recall if our products prove to be defective. Any product recall or product liability claim brought against us, particularly in high-volume consumer markets, could have a material negative impact on our reputation, business, financial condition or results of operations.

***The outcome of litigation in which we have been named as a defendant is unpredictable and an adverse decision in any such matter could subject us to damage awards and lower the market price of our stock.***

From time to time we are a defendant in litigation matters such as those described in Part II. Item 1, Legal Proceedings of this report. These and any other future disputes, litigations, investigations, administrative proceedings or enforcement actions we may be involved in may divert financial and management resources that would otherwise be used to benefit our operations, result in negative publicity and harm our customer or supplier relationships. Although we intend to contest such matters vigorously, we cannot assure you that their outcome will be favorable to us. An adverse resolution of any such matter in the future, including the results of any amicable settlement, could subject us to material damage awards or settlement payments or otherwise materially harm our business.

***Our financial results may be adversely affected by increased tax rates and exposure to additional tax liabilities.***

Our effective tax rate is highly dependent upon the geographic composition of our worldwide earnings and tax regulations governing each region, each of which can change from period to period. We are subject to income taxes in both the U.S. and various foreign jurisdictions, and significant judgment is required to determine our worldwide tax liabilities. Our effective tax rate as well as the actual tax ultimately payable could be adversely affected by changes in the amount of our earnings attributable to countries with differing statutory tax rates, changes in the valuation of our deferred tax assets, changes in tax laws or tax rates (particularly in the U.S. or Ireland), increases in non-deductible expenses, the availability of tax credits, material audit assessments or repatriation of non-U.S. earnings, each of which could materially affect our profitability. Any significant increase in our effective tax rates could materially reduce our net income in future periods and decrease the value of your investment in our common stock.

Changes in tax laws are introduced from time to time to reform U.S. taxation of international business activities. Depending on the final form of legislation enacted, if any, these consequences may be significant for us due to the large scale of our international business activities. If any of these proposals are enacted into legislation, they could have material adverse consequences on the amount of tax we pay and thereby on our financial position and results of operations.

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***Our limited ability to protect our proprietary information and technology may adversely affect our ability to compete.***

Our future success and ability to compete is dependent in part upon our protection of our proprietary information and technology through patent filings and otherwise. We cannot be certain that any patents we apply for will be issued or that any claims allowed from pending applications will be of sufficient scope or strength to provide meaningful protection or commercial advantage. Our competitors may also be able to design around our patents. The laws of some countries in which our products are or may be developed, manufactured or sold, may not protect our products or intellectual property rights to the same extent as U.S. laws, increasing the possibility of piracy of our technology and products. Although we intend to vigorously defend our intellectual property rights, we may not be able to prevent misappropriation of our technology.

In addition, we rely on trade secrets, technical know-how and other unpatented proprietary information relating to our product development and manufacturing activities. We try to protect this information by entering into confidentiality agreements with employees and other parties. We cannot be sure that these agreements will be adequate and will not be breached, that we would have adequate remedies for any breach or that our trade secrets and proprietary know-how will not otherwise become known or independently discovered by others.

Additionally, our competitors may independently develop technologies that are substantially equivalent or superior to our technology. Despite our efforts to protect our proprietary rights, unauthorized parties may attempt to copy or otherwise obtain or use our products or technology. Patent litigation is expensive, and our ability to enforce our patents and other intellectual property is limited by our financial resources and is subject to general litigation risks. If we seek to enforce our rights, we may be subject to claims that the intellectual property rights are invalid, are otherwise not enforceable or are licensed to the party against whom we assert a claim. In addition, our assertion of intellectual property rights could result in the other party seeking to assert alleged intellectual property rights of its own against us, which is a frequent occurrence in such litigations.

***If we fail to comply with export control regulations we could be subject to substantial fines or other sanctions, including loss of export privileges.***

Certain of our products are subject to the Export Administration Regulations, administered by the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry Security, which require that we obtain an export license before we can export products or technology to specified countries. Other products are subject to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations, which restrict the export of information and material that may be used for military or intelligence applications by a foreign person. We are also subject to U.S. import regulations and the import and export regimes of other countries in which we operate. Failure to comply with these laws could result in sanctions by the government, including substantial monetary penalties, denial of export privileges and debarment from government contracts. Export and import regulations may create delays in the introduction of our products in international markets or prevent the export or import of our products to certain countries or customers altogether. Any change in export or import regulations or related legislation, shift in approach by regulators to the enforcement or scope of existing regulations, changes in the interpretation of existing regulations by regulators or change in the countries, persons or technologies targeted by such regulations, could harm our business by resulting in decreased use of our products by, or our decreased ability to export or sell our products to, existing or potential customers with international operations. In addition, our sale of our products to or through third-party distributors, resellers and sales representatives creates the risk that any violation of these laws they may engage in may cause disruption in our markets or otherwise bring liability on us.

***We face risks associated with government contracting.***

Some of our revenue is derived from contracts with agencies of the U.S. government or subcontracts with its prime contractors. Under some of our government subcontracts, we are required to maintain secure facilities and to obtain security clearances for personnel involved in performance of the contract, in compliance with applicable federal standards. If we were unable to comply with these requirements, or if personnel critical to our

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performance of these contracts were to lose their security clearances, we might be unable to perform these contracts or compete for other projects of this nature, which could adversely affect our revenue.

***We may need to modify our activities or incur substantial costs to comply with environmental laws, and if we fail to comply with environmental laws we could be subject to substantial fines or be required to change our operations.***

We are subject to a variety of international, federal, state and local governmental regulations directed at preventing or mitigating climate change and other environmental harms, as well as to the storage, discharge, handling, generation, disposal and labeling of toxic or other hazardous substances used to manufacture our products. If we fail to comply with these regulations, substantial fines could be imposed on us, and we could be required to suspend production, alter manufacturing processes, cease operations, or remediate polluted land, air or groundwater, any of which could have a negative effect on our sales, income and business operations. Failure to comply with environmental regulations could subject us to civil or criminal sanctions and property damage or personal injury claims. Compliance with current or future environmental laws and regulations could restrict our ability to expand our facilities or build new facilities, or require us to acquire additional expensive equipment, modify our manufacturing processes, or incur other substantial expenses which could harm our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, under some of these laws and regulations, we could be held financially responsible for remedial measures if our properties or those nearby are contaminated, even if we did not cause the contamination. We have incurred in the past and may in the future incur environmental liability based on the actions of prior owners, lessees or neighbors of sites we have leased or may lease in the future, or sites we become associated with due to acquisitions. We cannot predict:

- changes in environmental or health and safety laws or regulations;
- the manner in which environmental or health and safety laws or regulations will be enforced, administered or interpreted;
- our ability to enforce and collect under any indemnity agreements and insurance policies relating to environmental liabilities; or
- the cost of compliance with future environmental or health and safety laws or regulations or the costs associated with any future environmental claims, including the cost of clean-up of currently unknown environmental conditions.

In addition to the costs of complying with environmental, health and safety requirements, we may in the future incur costs defending against environmental litigation brought by government agencies, lessors at sites we currently lease or have been associated with in the past and other private parties. We may be defendants in lawsuits brought by parties in the future alleging environmental damage, personal injury or property damage. A significant judgment or fine levied against us, or agreed settlement payment, could materially harm our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***Environmental regulations such as the WEEE and RoHS directives limit our flexibility and may require us to incur material expense.***

Various countries require companies selling a broad range of electrical equipment to conform to regulations such as the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and the European Directive 2002/95/Ec on restriction of hazardous substances (RoHS). New environmental standards such as these could require us to redesign our products in order to comply with the standards, require the development of compliance administration systems or otherwise limit our flexibility in running our business or require us to incur substantial compliance costs. For example, RoHS requires that certain substances be removed from most electronic components. The WEEE directive makes producers of electrical and electronic equipment financially responsible for specified collection, recycling, treatment and disposal of past and future covered products. We have already invested significant resources into complying with these regimes, and further investments may be required. Alternative designs implemented in response to regulation may be more costly to produce, resulting in an adverse

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effect on our gross profit margin. If we cannot develop compliant products in a timely fashion or properly administer our compliance programs, our revenue may also decline due to lower sales, which would adversely affect our operating results. Further, if we were found to be non-compliant with any rule or regulation, we could be subject to fines, penalties and/or restrictions imposed by government agencies that could adversely affect our operating results.

***Customer demands and new regulations related to conflict minerals may force us to incur additional expenses and liabilities.***

In August 2012, the SEC adopted its final rule to implement Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act regarding disclosure and reporting requirements for companies who use conflict minerals mined from the Democratic Republic of Congo and adjoining countries in their products. In the semiconductor industry, these minerals are most commonly found in metals used in the manufacture of semiconductor devices and related assemblies. These new requirements could adversely affect our ability to source related minerals and metals and increase our related cost. We will face difficulties and increased expense associated with complying with the disclosure requirements, such as costs related to determining the source of any conflict minerals used in our products. Also, since our supply chain is complex, and some suppliers may be unwilling to share related confidential information regarding the source of their products, we may face reputational challenges if we are unable to sufficiently verify the origins of the subject minerals and metals. Moreover, we may encounter challenges to satisfy any related requirements of our customers, which may be different from or more onerous than the requirements of the related SEC rule. If we cannot satisfy these customers, they may choose a competitor s products or may choose to disqualify us as a supplier, and we may have to write off inventory in the event that it becomes unsalable as a result of these regulations.

***Our revolving credit facility could result in outstanding debt with a claim to our assets that is senior to that of our stockholders, and may have other adverse effects on our results of operations.***

As of September 27, 2013, we have a revolving credit facility with a syndicate of lenders with a potential future borrowing availability of up to $300.0 million, subject to compliance with financial and other covenants. As of September 27, 2013, we had no outstanding borrowings under the revolving credit facility. However, we currently intend to draw approximately $214 million on the revolving credit facility to partially fund the Mindspeed Acquisition. The facility is secured by a first priority lien on substantially all of our assets. The amount of our indebtedness could have important consequences, including the following:

- our ability to obtain additional financing in the future for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, general corporate or other purposes may be limited;
- no proceeds will be available for distribution to our stockholders in a sale or liquidation until any balance on the line is repaid in full;
- we may be more vulnerable to economic downturns, less able to withstand competitive pressures and less flexible in responding to changing business and economic conditions;
- cash flow from operations will be allocated to the payment of the principal of, and interest on, any outstanding indebtedness; and
- we cannot assure you that our business will generate sufficient cash flow from operations or other sources to enable us to meet our payment obligations under the facility and to fund other liquidity needs.

Our revolving credit facility also contains certain restrictive covenants that may limit or eliminate our ability to incur additional debt, sell, lease or transfer our assets, pay dividends, make capital expenditures, investments and loans, make acquisitions, guarantee debt or obligations, create liens, enter into transactions with our affiliates, enter into new lines of business and enter into certain merger, consolidation or other reorganizations transactions. These restrictions could limit our ability to withstand downturns in our business or the economy in

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general or to take advantage of business opportunities that may arise, any of which could place us at a competitive disadvantage relative to our competitors that are not subject to such restrictions. If we breach a loan covenant, the lenders could either refuse to lend funds to us or accelerate the repayment of any outstanding borrowings under the revolving credit facility. In addition, the lenders could either refuse to lend funds to us or accelerate the repayment of any outstanding borrowings under the revolving credit facility if a person acquires more than 35% of our outstanding equity securities. We might not have sufficient assets to repay such indebtedness upon a default. If we are unable to repay the indebtedness, the lenders could initiate a bankruptcy proceeding against us or collection proceedings with respect to our assets securing the facility, which could materially decrease the value of our common stock.

***We are a holding company and rely on dividends, distributions and other payments, advances and transfers of funds from our subsidiaries to meet our obligations.***

As a holding company, we derive substantially all of our cash flow from our subsidiaries. Because we conduct our operations through our subsidiaries, we depend on those entities for dividends and other payments or distributions to meet our operating needs. Legal and contractual restrictions in any existing and future outstanding indebtedness we or our subsidiaries incur may limit our ability to obtain cash from our subsidiaries. The deterioration of the earnings from, or other available assets of, our subsidiaries for any reason could limit or impair their ability to pay dividends or other distributions to us.

***Variability in self-insurance liability estimates could impact our results of operations.***