NETLIST INC
Form 10-Q
November 12, 2014
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended September 27, 2014

or

o 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 001-33170

NETLIST, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	**95-4812784**
State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

175 Technology Drive, Suite 150

Irvine, CA 92618

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(949) 435-0025

(Registrant s telephone number, including area code)

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 o

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 (section 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 o

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 definition of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check One):

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

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

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant s common stock as of the latest practicable date:

Common Stock, par value $0.001 per share

41,479,584 shares outstanding at October 31, 2014

Table of Contents

NETLIST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

QUARTERLY REPORT ON FORM 10-Q

FOR THE THREE AND NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 27, 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
PART I.	FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
Item 1.	Financial Statements	3
	Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at September 27, 2014 (unaudited) and December 28, 2013 (audited)	3
	Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Three and Nine Months Ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013	4
	Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Nine Months Ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013	5
	Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements	6
Item 2.	Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	26
Item 4.	Controls and Procedures	41
PART II.	OTHER INFORMATION	41
Item 1.	Legal Proceedings	41
Item 1A.	Risk Factors	41
Item 6.	Exhibits	60

Table of Contents

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

NETLIST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

(in thousands, except par value)

	(unaudited) September 27, 2014	(audited) December 28, 2013
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 14,120	$ 6,701
Restricted cash	1,100	1,100
Accounts receivable, net	3,074	4,866
Inventories	2,392	2,620
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	671	823
Total current assets	21,357	16,110
Property and equipment, net	516	1,143
Other assets	197	422
Total assets	$ 22,070	$ 17,675
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	$ 4,475	$ 3,795
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	775	635
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	572	533
Accrued engineering charges	500	500
Current portion of long-term debt, net of debt discount	1,512	
Total current liabilities	7,834	5,463
Long-term debt, net of current portion and debt discount	4,077	5,099
Other liabilities	98	100
Total liabilities	12,009	10,662
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders equity:		
Common stock, $0.001 par value - 90,000 shares authorized; 41,480 (2014) and 31,776 (2013) shares issued and outstanding	41	31
Additional paid-in capital	117,077	104,469
Accumulated deficit	(107,057)	(97,487)
Total stockholders equity	10,061	7,013
Total liabilities and stockholders equity	$ 22,070	$ 17,675

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents

NETLIST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations

(in thousands, except per share amounts)

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013
Net sales	$ 4,791	$ 4,289	$ 16,679	$ 15,318
Cost of sales(1)	3,678	3,896	12,602	14,112
Gross profit	1,113	393	4,077	1,206
Operating expenses:				
Research and development(1)	2,997	1,641	7,274	4,941
Selling, general and administrative(1)	1,782	1,554	5,185	4,880
Total operating expenses	4,779	3,195	12,459	9,821
Operating loss	(3,666)	(2,802)	(8,382)	(8,615)
Other expense, net:				
Interest expense, net	(393)	(324)	(1,181)	(542)
Other expense, net		(8)	(5)	(8)
Total other expense, net	(393)	(332)	(1,186)	(550)
Loss before provision for income taxes	(4,059)	(3,134)	(9,568)	(9,165)
Provision for income taxes		7	2	9
Net loss	$ (4,059)	$ (3,141)	$ (9,570)	$ (9,174)
Net loss per common share:				
Basic and diluted	$ (0.10)	$ (0.10)	$ (0.24)	$ (0.30)
Weighted-average common shares outstanding:				
Basic and diluted	41,472	31,268	39,911	30,599

(1) Amounts include stock-based compensation expense as follows:

Cost of sales	$ 13	$ 13	$ 42	$ 37
Research and development	179	162	548	440
Selling, general and administrative	313	266	961	768

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents

NETLIST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(in thousands)

	Nine Months Ended	
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net loss	$ (9,570)	$ (9,174)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	722	1,166
Amortization of debt discount and debt issuance costs	605	164
Realized gain (loss) on disposal of property and equipment	6	(5)
Capitalized payment-in-kind interest	123	
Stock-based compensation	1,551	1,245
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Restricted cash		(1,000)
Accounts receivable	1,792	1,324
Inventories	228	3,111
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	314	470
Other assets	22	6
Accounts payable	680	(957)
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	140	(17)
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	37	37
Accrued engineering charges		50
Net cash used in operating activities	(3,350)	(3,580)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Acquisition of property and equipment	(104)	(75)
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	3	25
Proceeds from maturities and sales of investments in marketable securities		415
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities	(101)	365
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from bank term loan, net of issuance costs		2,483
Payments on debt	(197)	(1,024)
Proceeds from public offering, net	10,276	1,006
Proceeds from exercise of equity awards, net of taxes remitted for restricted stock	791	24
Net cash provided by financing activities	10,870	2,489
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	7,419	(726)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	6,701	7,755
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	$ 14,120	$ 7,029

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents

NETLIST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

September 27, 2014

Note 1 Description of Business

Netlist, Inc. (the Company or Netlist) designs and manufactures a wide variety of high performance, logic-based memory subsystems for the global datacenter, storage and high-performance computing and communications markets. The Company s memory subsystems consist of combinations of dynamic random access memory integrated circuits (DRAM ICs or DRAM), NAND flash memory (NAND), application-specific integrated circuits (ASICs) and other components assembled on printed circuit boards (PCBs). Netlist primarily markets and sells its products to leading original equipment manufacturer (OEM) customers, hyperscale datacenter operators and storage vendors. The Company s solutions are targeted at applications where memory plays a key role in meeting system performance requirements. The Company leverages a portfolio of proprietary technologies and design techniques, including efficient planar design, alternative packaging techniques and custom semiconductor logic, to deliver memory subsystems with high memory density, small form factor, high signal integrity, attractive thermal characteristics, reduced power consumption and low cost per bit. Our NVvault product is the first to offer both DRAM and NAND in a standard form factor memory subsystem as a persistent DIMM in mission critical applications.

Netlist was incorporated in June 2000 and is headquartered in Irvine, California. In 2007, the Company established a manufacturing facility in the People s Republic of China (the PRC), which became operational in July 2007 upon the successful qualification of certain key customers.

Liquidity

The Company incurred net losses of approximately $9.6 million and $9.2 million for the nine months ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013, respectively.

On February 11, 2014, the Company completed a registered firm commitment underwritten public offering (the 2014 Offering) of shares of the Company s common stock. In the 2014 Offering, the Company issued and sold to Craig-Hallum Capital Group LLC (the Underwriter) 8,680,775 shares of common stock pursuant to an underwriting agreement (the Underwriting Agreement), dated as of February 6, 2014, by and between the Company and the Underwriter, at a price of $1.2115 per share, including 1,132,275 shares resulting from the Underwriter s exercise in full of its option to purchase additional shares of Common Stock to cover over-allotments. The price per share to the public in the 2014 Offering was $1.30 per share. The net proceeds from the 2014 Offering were approximately $10.3 million, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses.

On February 3, 2014, the Company issued 750,000 shares of common stock upon exercise of warrants at a purchase price of $0.89 per share, resulting in proceeds to the Company of $667,500.

If adequate working capital is not available when needed, the Company may be required to significantly modify its business model and operations to reduce spending to a sustainable level. Insufficient working capital could cause the Company to be unable to execute its business plan, take advantage of future opportunities, or respond to competitive pressures or customer requirements. It may also cause the Company to delay, scale back or eliminate some or all of its research and development programs, or to reduce or cease operations. While there is no assurance that the Company can meet its revenue forecasts, management anticipates that it can continue operations for at least the next twelve months.

Note 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The interim unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (the U.S.) for interim financial information and with the instructions to Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Form 10-Q and Article 8 of SEC Regulation S-X. These

Table of Contents

condensed consolidated financial statements do not include all of the information and footnotes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. for complete financial statements. Therefore, these unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company s audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto for the year ended December 28, 2013, included in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 18, 2014.

The condensed consolidated financial statements included herein as of September 27, 2014 are unaudited; however, they contain all normal recurring accruals and adjustments that, in the opinion of the Company s management, are necessary to present fairly the condensed consolidated financial position of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries as of September 27, 2014 and the condensed consolidated statements of operations for the three and nine months ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013 and the condensed consolidated statements of cash flows for the nine months ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013. The results of operations for the nine months ended September 27, 2014 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year or any future interim periods.

Principles of Consolidation

The condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Netlist, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Fiscal Year

The Company operates under a 52/53-week fiscal year ending on the Saturday closest to December 31. For fiscal 2014, the Company s fiscal year is scheduled to end on December 27, 2014 and will consist of 52 weeks. Each of the Company s first three quarters in a fiscal year is comprised of 13 weeks.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the condensed consolidated financial statements, and the reported amounts of net sales and expenses during the reporting period. By their nature, these estimates and assumptions are subject to an inherent degree of uncertainty. Significant estimates made by management include, among others, provisions for uncollectible receivables and sales returns, warranty liabilities, valuation of inventories, fair value of financial instruments, recoverability of long-lived assets, stock-based transactions and realization of deferred tax assets. The Company bases its estimates on historical experience, knowledge of current conditions and our beliefs of what could occur in the future considering available information. The Company reviews its estimates on an on-going basis. The actual results experienced by the Company may differ materially and adversely from its estimates. To the extent there are material differences between the estimates and the actual results, future results of operations will be affected.

Revenue Recognition

The Company s revenues primarily consist of product sales of high-performance memory subsystems to OEMs, hyperscale data center operators and storage vendors.

The Company recognizes revenues in accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 605. Accordingly, the Company recognizes revenues when there is persuasive evidence of an arrangement, product delivery and acceptance have occurred, the sales price is fixed or determinable, and collectibility of the resulting receivable is reasonably assured.

The Company generally uses customer purchase orders and/or contracts as evidence of an arrangement. Delivery occurs when goods are shipped for customers with FOB Shipping Point terms and upon receipt for customers with FOB Destination terms, at which time title and risk of loss transfer to the customer. Shipping documents are used to verify delivery and customer acceptance. The Company assesses whether the sales price is fixed or determinable based on the payment terms associated with the transaction and whether the sales price is subject to refund. Customers are generally allowed limited rights of return for up to 30 days, except for sales of excess component inventories, which contain no right-of-return privileges. Estimated returns are provided for at the time of sale based on historical experience or specific identification of an event necessitating a reserve. The Company offers a standard product warranty to its customers and has no other post-shipment obligations. The Company assesses collectibility based on the creditworthiness of the customer as determined by credit checks and evaluations, as well as the customer s payment history.

Table of Contents

All amounts billed to customers related to shipping and handling are classified as revenues, while all costs incurred by the Company for shipping and handling are classified as cost of sales.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less, other than short-term investments in securities that lack an active market.

Restricted Cash

Restricted cash of $1.1 million, as of September 27, 2014, consists of cash to secure three standby letters of credit.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The Company s financial instruments consist principally of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable, accrued expenses and debt instruments. The fair value of the Company s cash equivalents is determined based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or Level 1 inputs. The Company recognizes transfers between Levels 1 through 3 of the fair value hierarchy at the beginning of the reporting period. The Company believes that the carrying values of all other financial instruments approximate their current fair values due to their nature and respective durations.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

The Company evaluates the collectibility of accounts receivable based on a combination of factors. In cases where the Company is aware of circumstances that may impair a specific customer s ability to meet its financial obligations subsequent to the original sale, the Company will record an allowance against amounts due, and thereby reduce the net recognized receivable to the amount the Company reasonably believes will be collected. For all other customers, the Company records allowances for doubtful accounts based primarily on the length of time the receivables are past due based on the terms of the originating transaction, the current business environment and its historical experience. Uncollectible accounts are charged against the allowance for doubtful accounts when all cost effective commercial means of collection have been exhausted. At September 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013 the Company had an allowance for doubtful accounts of $61,000 and $72,000, respectively.

Concentration of Credit Risk

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to significant concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash and cash equivalents, and accounts receivable.

The Company invests its cash equivalents primarily in money market mutual funds. Cash equivalents are maintained with high quality institutions, the composition and maturities of which are regularly monitored by management. At times, deposits held with financial institutions may exceed the amount of insurance provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

The Company s trade accounts receivable are primarily derived from sales to OEMs in the computer industry. The Company performs credit evaluations of its customers financial condition and limits the amount of credit extended when deemed necessary, but generally requires no collateral. The Company believes that the concentration of credit risk in its trade receivables is moderated by its credit evaluation process, relatively short collection terms, the high level of credit worthiness of its customers (see Note 3), foreign credit insurance and letters of credit issued on the Company s behalf. Reserves are maintained for potential credit losses, and such losses historically have not been significant and have been within management s expectations.

Inventories

Inventories are valued at the lower of actual cost to purchase or manufacture the inventory or the net realizable value of the inventory. Cost is determined on an average cost basis which approximates actual cost on a first-in, first-out basis and includes raw materials, labor and manufacturing overhead. At each balance sheet date, the Company evaluates its ending

Table of Contents

inventory quantities on hand and on order and records a provision for excess quantities and obsolescence. Among other factors, the Company considers historical demand and forecasted demand in relation to the inventory on hand, competitiveness of product offerings, market conditions and product life cycles when determining obsolescence and net realizable value. In addition, the Company considers changes in the market value of components in determining the net realizable value of its inventory. Once established, lower of cost or market write-downs are considered permanent adjustments to the cost basis of the excess or obsolete inventories.

Deferred Financing Costs, Debt Discount and Detachable Debt-Related Warrants

Costs incurred to issue debt are deferred and included in debt issuance costs in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet. The Company amortizes debt issuance costs over the expected term of the related debt using the effective interest method. Debt discounts relate to the relative fair value of any warrants issued in conjunction with the debt are recorded as a reduction to the debt balance and accreted over the expected term of the debt to interest expense using the effective interest method.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are recorded at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives, which generally range from three to seven years. Leasehold improvements are recorded at cost and amortized on a straight-line basis over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the remaining lease term.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

The Company evaluates the recoverability of the carrying value of long-lived assets held and used by the Company for impairment on at least an annual basis or whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying value may not be recoverable. When such factors and circumstances exist, the Company compares the projected undiscounted future net cash flows associated with the related asset or group of assets over their estimated useful lives against their respective carrying amount. If the carrying value is determined not to be recoverable from future operating cash flows, the asset is deemed impaired and an impairment loss is recognized to the extent the carrying value exceeds the estimated fair value of the asset. The fair value of the asset or asset group is based on market value when available, or when unavailable, on discounted expected cash flows. The Company s management believes there is no impairment of long-lived assets as of September 27, 2014. There can be no assurance, however, that market conditions will not change or demand for the Company s products will continue, which could result in future impairment of long-lived assets.

Warranty Reserve

The Company offers product warranties generally ranging from one to three years, depending on the product and negotiated terms of any purchase agreements with customers. Such warranties require the Company to repair or replace defective product returned to the Company during such warranty period at no cost to the customer. Warranties are not offered on sales of excess component inventory. The Company records an estimate for warranty-related costs at the time of sale based on its historical and estimated product return rates and expected repair or

replacement costs (see Note 3).While such costs have historically been within management s expectations and the provisions established, unexpected changes in failure rates could have a material adverse impact on the Company, requiring additional warranty reserves, and could adversely affect the Company s gross profit and gross margins.

Stock-Based Compensation

The Company accounts for equity issuances to non-employees in accordance with ASC Topic 505. All transactions in which goods or services are the consideration received for the issuance of equity instruments are accounted for based on the fair value of the consideration received or the fair value of the equity instrument issued, whichever is more reliably measurable. The measurement date used to determine the fair value of the equity instrument issued is the earlier of the date on which the third-party performance is complete or the date on which it is probable that performance will occur.

In accordance with ASC Topic 718, employee and director stock-based compensation expense recognized during the period is based on the value of the portion of stock-based payment awards that is ultimately expected to vest during the period. Given that stock-based compensation expense recognized in the condensed consolidated statements of operations is based on awards ultimately expected to vest, it has been reduced for estimated forfeitures. ASC Topic 718 requires forfeitures to be estimated at the time of grant and revised, if necessary, in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates. The Company s estimated average forfeiture rates are based on historical forfeiture experience and estimated future forfeitures.

Table of Contents

The fair value of common stock option awards to employees and directors is calculated using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. The Black-Scholes model requires subjective assumptions regarding future stock price volatility and expected time to exercise, along with assumptions about the risk-free interest rate and expected dividends, all of which affect the estimated fair values of the Company s common stock option awards. The expected term of options granted is calculated as the average of the weighted vesting period and the contractual expiration date of the option. This calculation is based on the safe harbor method permitted by the SEC in instances where the vesting and exercise terms of options granted meet certain conditions and where limited historical exercise data is available. The expected volatility is based on the historical volatility of the Company s common stock. The risk-free rate selected to value any particular grant is based on the U.S. Treasury rate that corresponds to the expected term of the grant effective as of the date of the grant. The expected dividend assumption is based on the Company s history and management s expectation regarding dividend payouts. Compensation expense for common stock option awards with graded vesting schedules is recognized on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period for the last separately vesting portion of the award, provided that the accumulated cost recognized as of any date at least equals the value of the vested portion of the award.

The Company recognizes the fair value of restricted stock awards issued to employees and outside directors as stock-based compensation expense on a straight-line basis over the vesting period for the last separately vesting portion of the awards. Fair value is determined as the difference between the closing price of our common stock on the grant date and the purchase price of the restricted stock award, if any, reduced by expected forfeitures.

If there are any modifications or cancellations of the underlying vested or unvested stock-based awards, the Company may be required to accelerate, increase or cancel any remaining unearned stock-based compensation expense, or record additional expense for vested stock-based awards. Future stock-based compensation expense and unearned stock- based compensation may increase to the extent that the Company grants additional common stock options or other stock-based awards.

Income Taxes

Under ASC Topic 270, the Company is required to adjust its effective tax rate each quarter to be consistent with the estimated annual effective tax rate. The Company is also required to record the tax impact of certain discrete items, unusual or infrequently occurring, including changes in judgment about valuation allowances and effects of changes in tax laws or rates, in the interim period in which they occur. In addition, jurisdictions with a projected loss for the year or a year-to-date loss where no tax benefit can be recognized are excluded from the estimated annual effective tax rate. The impact of such an exclusion could result in a higher or lower effective tax rate during a particular quarter, based upon the mix and timing of actual earnings versus annual projections.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized to reflect the estimated future tax effects, calculated at currently effective tax rates, of future deductible or taxable amounts attributable to events that have been recognized on a cumulative basis in the condensed consolidated financial statements. A valuation allowance related to a net deferred tax asset is recorded when it is more likely than not that some portion of the deferred tax asset will not be realized.

ASC Topic 740 prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement requirement for the financial statement recognition of a tax position that has been taken or is expected to be taken on a tax return and also provides guidance on de-recognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure, and transition. Under ASC Topic 740 the Company may only recognize or continue to recognize tax positions that meet a more likely than not threshold.

The application of tax laws and regulations is subject to legal and factual interpretation, judgment and uncertainty. Tax laws and regulations may change as a result of changes in fiscal policy, changes in legislation, the evolution of regulations and court rulings. Therefore, the actual liability for U.S. or foreign taxes may be materially different from the Company s estimates, which could require the Company to record additional tax liabilities or to reduce previously recorded tax liabilities, as applicable.

Research and Development Expenses

Research and development expenditures are expensed in the period incurred.

Table of Contents

Risks and Uncertainties

The Company is subject to certain risks and uncertainties including its ability to obtain profitable operations due to the Company s history of losses and accumulated deficits, the Company s dependence on a few customers for a significant portion of revenues, risks related to intellectual property matters, market development of and demand for the Company s products, and the length of the sales cycle. Such risks could have a material adverse effect on the Company s consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

The Company invested a significant portion of its research and development budget into the design of ASIC and hybrid devices, including the HyperCloud® memory subsystem and NVvault family of products. These designs and the products they are incorporated into are subject to increased risks as compared to the Company s legacy products. The Company may be unable to achieve customer or market acceptance of its products, or achieve such acceptance in a timely manner. The Company experienced a longer qualification cycle than anticipated with its HyperCloud® memory subsystems, and has experienced supply chain disruption and a shortage of DRAM and Flash required to create the HyperCloud® memory subsystem and NVvault products. As of September 27, 2014, Hypercloud has not generated significant revenue relative to the Company s investment in the product.

The Company s operations in the PRC are subject to various political, geographical and economic risks and uncertainties inherent to conducting business in the PRC. These include, but are not limited to, (i) potential changes in economic conditions in the region, (ii) managing a local workforce that may subject the Company to uncertainties or certain regulatory policies, (iii) changes in other policies of the Chinese governmental and regulatory agencies, and (iv) changes in the laws and policies of the U.S. government regarding the conduct of business in foreign countries, generally, or in the PRC, in particular. Additionally, the Chinese government controls the procedures by which its local currency, the Chinese Renminbi (RMB), is converted into other currencies and by which dividends may be declared or capital distributed for the purpose of repatriation of earnings and investments. If restrictions in the conversion of RMB or in the repatriation of earnings and investments through dividend and capital distribution restrictions are instituted, the Company s operations and operating results may be negatively impacted. The liabilities of the Company s subsidiaries in the PRC exceeded its assets as of September 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013.

Foreign Currency Remeasurement

The functional currency of the Company s foreign subsidiary is the U.S. dollar. Local currency financial statements are remeasured into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate in effect as of the balance sheet date for monetary assets and liabilities and the historical exchange rate for nonmonetary assets and liabilities. Expenses are remeasured using the average exchange rate for the period, except items related to nonmonetary assets and liabilities, which are remeasured using historical exchange rates. All remeasurement gains and losses are included in determining net loss. Transaction gains and losses were not significant in the three and nine months ended September 27, 2014 or September 28, 2013.

Net Loss Per Share

Basic net loss per share is calculated by dividing net loss by the weighted-average common shares outstanding during the period, excluding unvested shares issued pursuant to restricted share awards under the Company s share-based compensation plans. Diluted net loss per share is calculated by dividing the net loss by the weighted-average shares and dilutive potential common shares outstanding during the period. Dilutive potential shares consist of dilutive shares issuable upon the exercise or vesting of outstanding stock options, warrants and restricted stock

awards, respectively, computed using the treasury stock method. In periods of losses, basic and diluted loss per share are the same, as the effect of stock options and unvested restricted share awards on loss per share is anti-dilutive.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In May 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (ASU 2014-09). ASU 2014-09 supersedes the revenue recognition requirements in FASB Topic 605, *Revenue Recognition*. The ASU implements a five-step process for customer contract revenue recognition that focuses on transfer of control, as opposed to transfer of risk and rewards. The amendment also requires enhanced disclosures regarding the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenues and cash flows from contracts with customers. Other major provisions include the capitalization and amortization of certain contract costs, ensuring the time value of money is considered in the transaction price, and allowing estimates of variable consideration to be recognized before contingencies are resolved in certain circumstances. The amendments in this ASU are effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, and early adoption is prohibited. Entities can transition to the standard either retrospectively or as a cumulative-effect adjustment as of the date of adoption. Management is currently assessing the impact the adoption of ASU 2014-09 will have on the Company s consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-15, *Presentation of Financial Statements - Going Concern.* The amendments in this update provide guidance in accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America about management s responsibilities to evaluate whether there is substantial doubt about an entity s ability to continue as a going concern and to provide related footnote disclosures. The main provision of the amendments are for an entity s management, in connection with the preparation of financial statements, to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the entity s ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued. Management s evaluation should be based on relevant conditions and events that are known or reasonably knowable at the date the consolidated financial statements are issued. When management identifies conditions or events that raise substantial doubt about an entity s ability to continue as a going concern, the entity should disclose information that enables users of the consolidated financial statements to understand all of the following: (1) principal conditions or events that raised substantial doubt about the entity s ability to continue as a going concern (before consideration of management s plans); (2) management s evaluation of the significance of those conditions or events in relation to the entity s ability to meet its obligations; and (3) management s plans that alleviated substantial doubt about the entity s ability to continue as a going concern or management s plans that are intended to mitigate the conditions or events that raise substantial doubt about the entity s ability to continue as a going concern. The amendments in this update are effective for interim and annual reporting periods after December 15, 2016 and early application is permitted. The Company is currently assessing this guidance for future implementation.

Note 3 Supplemental Financial Information

Inventories

Inventories consist of the following (in thousands):

	(unaudited) September 27, 2014	(audited) December 28, 2013
Raw materials	$ 1,404	$ 1,737
Work in process	218	67
Finished goods	770	816
	$ 2,392	$ 2,620

Warranty Liabilities

The following table summarizes the activity related to the warranty liabilities (in thousands):

	Nine Months Ended	
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013
Beginning balance	$ 249	$ 235
Estimated cost of warranty claims charged to cost of sales	104	93

Cost of actual warranty claims		(107)		(70)
Ending balance		246		258
Less current portion		(148)		(155)
Long-term warranty obligations	$	98	$	103

Table of Contents

The allowance for warranty liabilities expected to be incurred within one year is included as a component of accrued expenses and other current liabilities in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheets. The allowance for warranty liabilities expected to be incurred after one year is included as a component of other liabilities in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheets.

Computation of Net Loss Per Share

The following table sets forth the computation of net loss per share, including the reconciliation of the numerator and denominator used in the calculation of basic and diluted net loss per share (in thousands, except per share data):

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013
Basic and diluted net loss per share:				
Numerator: Net loss	$ (4,059)	$ (3,141)	$ (9,570)	$ (9,174)
Denominator: Weighted-average common shares outstanding, basic and diluted	41,472	31,268	39,911	30,599
Basic and diluted net loss per share	$ (0.10)	$ (0.10)	$ (0.24)	$ (0.30)

The following table sets forth potentially dilutive common share equivalents, consisting of shares issuable upon the exercise or vesting of outstanding stock options and restricted stock awards, respectively computed using the treasury stock method. These potential common shares have been excluded from the diluted net loss per share calculations above as their effect would be anti-dilutive for the periods then ended (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013
Common share equivalents	167	232	368	225

The above common share equivalents would have been included in the calculation of diluted earnings per share had the Company reported net income for the periods then ended.

Major Customers

The Company s product sales have historically been concentrated in a small number of customers. The following table sets forth sales to customers comprising 10% or more of the Company s net sales as follows:

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013
Customer:				
Customer A	23%	51%	18%	39%
Customer B	16%	14%	15%	17%
Customer C	28%	%	%	%
Customer D	15%	%	21%	%

The Company s accounts receivable as of September 27, 2014 were concentrated with four customers, representing approximately 10%, 11%, 23% and 43% of aggregate gross receivables. At December 28, 2013, one customer represented approximately 73% of aggregate gross receivables. A significant reduction in sales to, or the inability to collect receivables from, a significant customer could have a material adverse impact on the Company. The Company mitigates risk with foreign receivables by purchasing comprehensive foreign credit insurance.

Table of Contents

Cash Flow Information

The following table sets forth supplemental disclosures of cash flow information and non-cash investing and financing activities (in thousands):

	Nine Months Ended	
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013
Supplemental disclosure of non-cash investing and financing activities:		
Debt financing of directors and officers insurance	$ 198	$ 240
Debt issuance costs associated with July debt financing	$	$ 323
Debt discount related to the relative fair value of detachable warrants issued	$	$ 1,215
Paydown of SVB term loan directly with proceeds from July debt financing	$	$ 2,731

Note 4 Credit Agreements

Silicon Valley Credit Agreement

On October 31, 2009, the Company entered into a credit agreement with Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), which was amended on July 18, 2013 (as amended, the SVB Credit Agreement). Currently, the SVB Credit Agreement provides that the Company can borrow up to the lesser of (i) 80% of eligible accounts receivable, or (ii) $5.0 million.

Pursuant to the September 2010 amendment to the SVB Credit Agreement, SVB extended a $1.5 million term loan, bearing interest at a rate of prime plus 2.00%. The Company was required to make monthly principal payments of $41,666 over the 36 month term of the loan, or $0.5 million annually. In May 2011, SVB extended an additional $3.0 million term loan, bearing interest at a rate of prime plus 2.75%. The Company was required to make monthly principal payments of $125,000 over the 24 month term of the loan, or $1.5 million annually. In May 2012, SVB consolidated both term loans and extended additional credit, resulting in a combined balance of $3.5 million as of May 2012 (the Consolidated Term Loan). The Consolidated Term Loan was payable in 36 installments of $97,222, beginning December 2012, with interest at a rate of prime plus 2.50%. Interest was payable monthly from the date of funding through final payoff of the loan. On July 18, 2013, as part an amendment to the SVB Credit Agreement entered into with SVB and following the Company s receipt of additional loan financing from DBD Credit Funding, LLC, an affiliate of Fortress Investment Group, LLC (DBD), the Consolidated Term Loan and outstanding interest was paid in full.

On July 18, 2013, the Company and SVB entered into an amendment (the SVB Amendment) to the SVB Credit Agreement. Pursuant to the SVB Amendment, SVB allowed for the financing and security interests contemplated under the loan agreement entered into with DBD and released certain patents and related assets relating to the NVvault product line from the collateral subject to SVB s security interest under the SVB Credit Agreement. Additionally, pursuant to the SVB Amendment, advances under the revolving line now accrue interest at a rate equal to SVB s most recently announced prime rate plus 2.75%. The SVB Amendment also relaxed the Company s tangible net worth covenant under the SVB Credit Agreement and waived certain events of default in connection therewith. Certain reporting requirements under the SVB Credit Agreement were modified while certain reserves with respect to the borrowing base and the availability of revolving loans were removed pursuant to the SVB Amendment. Under the terms of the SVB Credit Agreement, the Company may draw revolving advances in an aggregate outstanding principal

amount of up to the lesser of $5 million or the available borrowing base, subject to reserve amounts. The Company s borrowing base under the SVB Credit Agreement is subject to certain adjustments and up to the lesser of 80% of eligible accounts receivable.

The SVB Amendment requires letters of credit to be secured by cash, which is classified as restricted cash in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheets. At September 27, 2014, letters of credit in the amount of $1.1 million were outstanding. On September 30, 2014, the SVB Credit Agreement was amended again to further modify our tangible net worth covenant and to extend the maturity date of our revolving credit line under the SVB Credit Agreement to September 29, 2015.

Table of Contents

The following table presents details of interest expense related to borrowings on the line of credit with SVB, along with certain other applicable information (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013
Interest expense	$ 16	$ 19	$ 65	$ 114

The following table presents details of the Company s outstanding borrowings and availability under our line of credit with SVB:

	(unaudited) September 27, 2014	(audited) December 28, 2013
Availability under the revolving line of credit	$ 2,498	$ 4,042

All obligations under the SVB Credit Agreement are secured by a first priority lien on the Company s tangible and intangible assets, other than its intellectual property, which is subject to a first priority lien held by DBD. The SVB Credit Agreement subjects the Company to certain affirmative and negative covenants, including financial covenants with respect to the Company s liquidity and tangible net worth and restrictions on the payment of dividends. As of September 27, 2014, the Company was in compliance with its debt covenants.

DBD Credit Funding, LLC Loan and Security Agreement and Related Agreements

On July 18, 2013, the Company, entered into a loan agreement (as amended, the Loan Agreement) with DBD, an affiliate of Fortress Investment Group LLC, providing for up to $10 million in term loans and up to $5 million in revolving loans. The term loans are available in an initial $6 million tranche (the Initial Term Loan) with a second tranche in the amount of $4 million becoming available upon achievement of certain performance milestones relating to intellectual property matters (the IP Monetization Milestones and such second tranche loan, IP Milestone Term Loan). The $5 million in revolving loans are available at DBD s discretion and subject to customary conditions precedent. The $6 million Initial Term Loan was fully drawn at closing on July 18, 2013. Proceeds from the Initial Term Loan were used in part to repay the Company s existing Consolidated Term Loan with SVB. The remainder of such funds have been or are expected to be used to fund the Company s ongoing working capital needs.

The loans bear interest at a stated fixed rate of 11.0% per annum. During the first eighteen (18) months following the closing date, the payments on the term loans are interest-only at a cash rate of 7.0% per annum and a payment-in-kind deferred cash interest rate of 4.0%, which payment-in-kind interest is capitalized semi-annually, beginning with December 31, 2013. Following the eighteen (18) month interest-only period, the term loans are amortized with 65% of the principal amount due in equal monthly installments over the following eighteen (18) months with a balloon payment equal to 35% of the remaining principal amount of the term loans, plus accrued interest, being payable on July 18, 2016.

The Company s obligations under the Loan Agreement are secured by a first-priority security interest in the Company s intellectual property assets (other than certain patents and related assets relating to the NVvault product line) pursuant to an intellectual property security agreement with DBD (the IP Security Agreement) and a second-priority security interest in substantially all of the Company s other assets.

In connection with the Loan Agreement, the Company paid certain facility, due diligence and legal fees of DBD on the closing date and is obligated to pay a conditional facility fee upon satisfaction of the IP Monetization Milestones. If the Company repays or prepays all or a portion of the term loans prior to maturity, the Company is obligated to pay DBD a prepayment fee based on a percentage of the then outstanding principal balance being prepaid, equal to 2.0% if the prepayment occurs between July 18, 2014 and July 18, 2015, or 0.0% if the prepayment occurs after July 18, 2015.

The Loan Agreement contains customary representations, warranties and indemnification provisions. The Loan Agreement also contains affirmative and negative covenants that, among other things restrict the ability of the Company to:

- incur additional indebtedness or guarantees;
- incur liens;
- make investments, loans and acquisitions;
- consolidate or merge;
- sell or exclusively license assets, including capital stock of subsidiaries;
- alter the business of the Company;
- engage in transactions with affiliates; and
- pay dividends or make distributions.

Table of Contents

The Loan Agreement also includes events of default, including, among other things, payment defaults, breaches of representations, warranties or covenants, certain bankruptcy events, the failure to maintain its listing on a nationally recognized securities exchange or alternatively for its shares to be qualified for trading on the OTC Bulletin Board and certain material adverse changes, including an impairment of the perfection or priority of the lender s lien. Upon the occurrence of an event of default and following any applicable cure periods, a default interest rate of an additional 5.0% per annum may be applied to the outstanding loan balances, and DBD may declare all outstanding obligations immediately due and payable and take such other actions as set forth in the Loan Agreement.

Concurrently with the execution of the Loan Agreement, the Company and an affiliate of DBD entered into a Patent Monetization Side Letter Agreement (the Letter Agreement). The Letter Agreement provides, among other things, that DBD may be entitled to share in certain monetization revenues that the Company may derive in the future related to its patent portfolio (the Patent Portfolio). The Patent Portfolio does not include certain patents relating to the NVvault product line. Monetization revenues subject to this arrangement include revenues recognized during the seven year term of the Letter Agreement from amounts (whether characterized as settlement payments, license fees, royalties, damages, or otherwise) actually paid to the Company or its subsidiaries in connection with any assertion of, agreement not to assert, or license of, the Patent Portfolio (in whole or in part) either (A) in consideration of the grant of a license or covenant not sue, or other immunity with respect to the Patent Portfolio, or (B) as a damages award with respect to such assertion of the Patent Portfolio, less (i) actual legal fees and expenses (including fees payable on a contingency basis) and actual court costs paid or payable by the Company or its subsidiaries in connection with any such assertion and/or grant of a license or covenant not to sue, or other immunity with respect to the Patent Portfolio, provided that such legal fees and expenses shall be capped at forty percent (40%) of such gross, aggregate amounts paid to the Company, (ii) all reasonable and actual legal fees, filing fees, maintenance fees, annuities, and other reasonable and actual costs and expenses paid or required to be paid by the Company or its subsidiaries after the effective date in connection with the prosecution, maintenance, and defense of any patents or patent applications within the Patent Portfolio, (iii) reasonable and actual legal fees and reasonable and actual other costs and expenses paid or required to be paid by the Company or its subsidiaries in connection with the enforcement of any agreement, undertaking, commitment or court order that would generate monetization revenues and the collection thereof, and (iv) reasonable and actual costs of acquisition of patents and patent applications included in the Patent Portfolio that are acquired by or licensed to the Company or its subsidiaries after the effective date. Monetization revenues also include the value attributable to the Patent Portfolio in any sale of the Company during the seven year term, subject to a maximum amount payable to DBD. The Letter Agreement also requires that the Company use commercially reasonable efforts to pursue opportunities to monetize the Patent Portfolio during the term of the Letter Agreement, provided that the Company is under no obligation to pursue any such opportunities that Company does not deem to be in the Company s best interest in the Company s reasonable business judgment. Notwithstanding the foregoing, there can be no assurance that the Company will be successful in these efforts, and the Company may expend resources in pursuit of monetization revenues that may not result in any benefit to the Company.

Concurrently with the execution of the Loan Agreement, the Company issued to an affiliate of DBD a seven-year warrant (the Warrant) to purchase an aggregate of 1,648,351 shares of the Company s common stock at an exercise price of $1.00 per share, of which 989,011 shares are exercisable immediately on a cash or cashless basis in whole or in part. Pursuant to the stock purchase warrant agreement, (i) 329,670 shares will become exercisable upon the achievement of the IP Monetization Milestones and (ii) the remaining 329,670 shares will become exercisable upon the Company s receipt of an IP Milestone Term Loan. The Warrant was issued in a private placement transaction that was exempt from registration under Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act). The Company accounted for the warrants as a debt discount and has valued them based on the relative fair value at approximately $1,215,000, to be amortized over the term of the debt instrument, or three years, using the effective interest method. For the three and nine months ended September 27, 2014, the Company amortized approximately $123,000 and $366,000, respectively, as interest expense in the consolidated statements of operations.

Also in connection with the Loan Agreement, the Company agreed to pay to a consultant a consulting fee equal to (i) $300,000 in connection with the Company s receipt of the Initial Term Loan and (ii) 5% of any additional principal amount loaned to the Company as an IP Milestone Term Loan. The initial $300,000 has been recorded as debt issuance cost to be amortized over the term of the debt instrument, or three years, using the effective interest method. During the three and nine months ended September 27, 2014, the Company amortized approximately $80,000 and $239,000, respectively, as interest expense in the condensed consolidated statements of operations.

16

Table of Contents

Note 5 Debt

Debt consists of the following (in thousands):

	(unaudited) September 27, 2014	(audited) December 28, 2013
Term Loan, DBD, net of debt discount of $645 for 2014 and $1,012 for 2013	$ 5,589	$ 5,099
Less current portion	(1,512)	
	$ 4,077	$ 5,099

Interest expense related to debt is presented in the following table (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013
Interest expense	$ 379	$ 305	$ 1,121	$ 428

Note 6 Income Taxes

The following table sets forth the Company s provision for income taxes, along with the corresponding effective tax rates (in thousands, except percentages):

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013
Provision for income taxes	$	$ 7	$ 2	$ 9
Effective tax rate	%	(0.2)%	(0.0)%	(0.1)%

The Company evaluates whether a valuation allowance should be established against its deferred tax assets based on the consideration of all available evidence using a more likely than not standard. Due to uncertainty of future utilization, the Company has provided a full valuation allowance as of September 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013. Accordingly, no benefit has been recognized for net deferred tax assets.

The Company does not have any unrecognized tax benefits as of September 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013.

Note 7 Commitments and Contingencies

Facility Lease

On July 26, 2013, the Company entered into an amendment for a three year lease with the Irvine Company. The amendment terminated the Company s former lease of the 51 Discovery, Suite 150, Irvine, California, 92618 premise in exchange for office space located at 175 Technology Drive, Suite 150, Irvine, California, 92618 USA. The lease payments range from approximately $9,000 per month to $10,000 per month over the term of the lease. This lease is valid through July 31, 2016. The annual payment for this space equates to approximately $111,000 per year.

Table of Contents

Litigation and Patent Reexaminations

The Company owns numerous patents and continues to enlarge and strengthen its patent portfolios, which cover different aspects of the Company s technology innovations with various claim scopes. The Company plans to generate revenue by selling or licensing its technology, and intends to vigorously enforce its patent rights against infringers of such rights. The Company dedicates substantial resources in protecting its intellectual property, including its efforts to defend its patents against challenges made by way of reexamination proceedings at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). These activities are likely to continue for the foreseeable future, without any guarantee that any ongoing or future patent protection and litigation activities will be successful. The Company is also subject to litigation claims that it has infringed on the intellectual property of others, against which the Company intends to defend vigorously.

Litigation, whether or not eventually decided in the Company s favor or settled, is costly and time-consuming and could divert management s attention and resources. Because of the nature and inherent uncertainties of litigation, should the outcome of any of such actions be unfavorable, the Company s business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows could be materially and adversely affected. Additionally, the outcome of pending litigation, and the related patent reexaminations, as well as any delay in their resolution, could affect the Company s ability to license its intellectual property in the future or to protect against competition in the current and expected markets for its products.

Google Litigation

In May 2008, the Company initiated discussions with Google, Inc. (Google) based on information and belief that Google had infringed on a U.S. patent owned by the Company, U.S. Patent No. 7,289,386 (the 386 patent), which relates generally to technologies to implement rank multiplication in memory modules. Preemptively, Google filed a declaratory judgment lawsuit against the Company in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California (the Northern District Court), seeking a declaration that Google did not infringe the 386 patent and that the 386 patent was invalid. The Company filed a counterclaim for infringement of the 386 patent by Google. Claim construction proceedings were held in November 2009, and the Company prevailed on every disputed claim construction issue. In June 2010, the Company filed motions for summary judgment of patent infringement and dismissal of Google s affirmative defenses. In May 2010, Google requested and was later granted an *Inter Partes* Reexamination of the 386 patent by the USPTO. The reexamination proceedings are described below. The Northern District Court granted Google s request to stay the litigation pending result of the reexamination, and therefore has not ruled on the Company s motions for summary judgment.

In December 2009, the Company filed a patent infringement lawsuit against Google in the Northern District Court, seeking damages and injunctive relief based on Google s infringement of U.S. Patent No. 7,619,912 (the 912 patent), which is related to the 386 patent and relates generally to technologies to implement rank multiplication. In February 2010, Google answered the Company s complaint and asserted counterclaims against the Company seeking a declaration that the patent is invalid and not infringed, and claiming that the Company committed fraud, negligent misrepresentation and breach of contract based on the Company s activities in the JEDEC standard-setting organization. The counterclaim seeks unspecified compensatory damages. Accruals have not been recorded for loss contingencies related to Google s counterclaim because it is not probable that a loss has been incurred and the amount of any such loss cannot be reasonably estimated. In October 2010, Google requested and was later granted an *Inter Partes* Reexamination of the 912 patent by the USPTO. The reexamination proceedings are described below. In connection with the reexamination request, the Northern District Court granted the Company and Google s joint request to stay the 912 patent infringement lawsuit against Google until the completion of the reexamination proceedings.

Inphi Litigation

In September 2009, the Company filed a patent infringement lawsuit against Inphi Corporation (Inphi) in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California (the Central District Court). The complaint, as amended, alleges that Inphi is contributorily infringing and actively inducing the infringement of U.S. patents owned by the Company, including the 912 patent, U.S. Patent No. 7,532,537 (the 537 patent), which relates generally to memory modules with load isolation and memory domain translation capabilities, and U.S. Patent No. 7,636,274 (the 274 patent), which is related to the 537 patent and relates generally to load isolation and memory domain translation technologies. The Company is seeking damages and injunctive relief based on Inphi s use of the Company s patented technology. Inphi denied infringement and claimed that the three patents are invalid. In April 2010, Inphi requested but was later denied *Inter Partes* Reexaminations of the 912, 537 and 274 patents by the USPTO. In June 2010, Inphi submitted new requests and was later granted *Inter Partes* Reexaminations of the 912, 537 and 274 patents by the USPTO. The reexamination proceedings are described below. In

Table of Contents

connection with the reexamination requests, Inphi filed a motion to stay the patent infringement lawsuit with the Central District Court, which was granted. The Central District Court has requested that the Company notify it within one week of any action taken by the USPTO in connection with the reexamination proceedings, at which time the Central District Court may decide to maintain or lift the stay.

SanDisk, Smart Modular, Smart Worldwide, and Diablo Litigations

In September 2012, Smart Modular, Inc. (Smart Modular) filed a patent infringement lawsuit against the Company in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California (the Eastern District Court). The complaint alleges that the Company willfully infringes and actively induces the infringement of six claims of a U.S. patent newly issued to Smart Modular, U.S. Patent No. 8,250,295 (the 295 patent), and seeks damages and injunctive relief. Smart Modular also filed a motion for preliminary injunction and a memorandum in support of the motion on the same day of the complaint. The Company promptly filed a request for reexamination of the 295 patent with the USPTO setting forth six different combinations of prior art that would render the six asserted claims of the 295 patent unpatentable. The Company also filed an answer to Smart Modular s complaint with the Eastern District Court in October 2012 to deny infringement of the 295 patent, assert that the 295 patent is invalid and unenforceable, and bring a set of counterclaims against Smart. Smart Modular filed various motions on the pleadings on November 1, 2012, which were opposed by the Company in its briefs filed in late November 2012.

In December 2012, the USPTO granted the Company s request for the reexamination of the 295 patent, and issued an Office Action rejecting all of the six asserted claims over the six different combinations of prior art set forth by the Company in its request. The Company promptly moved to stay litigation pending result of reexamination. On February 19, 2013, a few days after Smart Modular filed replies in support of its motions, the Eastern District Court issued a Minute Order, in which the court on its own motion took the preliminary injunction; the motion to dismiss and the motion to stay under submission without oral argument and vacated the hearing dates.

On February 7, 2013, Smart Modular filed a response to the Office Action in the reexamination of the 295 patent. Thereafter, the Company and Smart Modular made various filings to address certain apparent defects contained in Smart Modular s response. On March 13, 2013, the USPTO issued a Notice of Defective Paper, in which the USPTO found Smart Modular s responses, both the initial filing and a supplemental filing, to be improper, and both responses were expunged from the record. The USPTO gave Smart Modular 15 days to submit another response, which Smart Modular submitted on March 26, 2013. The Company timely filed its comments on Smart Modular s corrected response on April 25, 2013. The USPTO ultimately accepted Smart Modular s corrected response on July 17, 2013. On April 29, 2014, the USPTO issued an Action Closing Prosecution (ACP), confirming some claims and rejecting others. Smart Modular filed a response to the ACP on May 29, 2014, and Netlist filed comments related to Smart Modular s response on June 30, 2014. Thus, the reexamination of the 295 patent remains pending and will continue in accordance with established procedures for reexamination proceedings.

On May 30, 2013, the Eastern District Court issued an order granting Netlist s motion to stay pending results of the reexamination of the 295 patent and denied Smart Modular s motion for preliminary injunction.

On July 1, 2013, Netlist filed a complaint against Smart Modular in the Santa Ana Division of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California (Central District Court), seeking, among other things, relief under federal antitrust laws for Smart Modular s violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act, and damages and other equitable relief under California statutory and common law for Smart Modular s unfair competition, deceptive trade practices and fraud.

On August 23, 2013, Netlist filed an amended complaint for patent infringement, antitrust violations and trade secret misappropriation against Smart Modular, Smart Storage Systems (Smart Storage), Smart Worldwide Holdings (Smart Worldwide) and Diablo Technologies (Diablo) in the Central District Court. Smart Storage was acquired by SanDisk Corporation (SanDisk) on August 22, 2013. Netlist s amended complaint alleges infringement of five Netlist patents by the defendants based on the manufacture and sale of the ULLtraDIMM memory module. Netlist s complaint also alleges antitrust violations by Smart Modular and Smart Worldwide, contending that Smart Modular procured a patent (U.S. Patent No. 8,250,295) with blatant inequitable conduct at the USPTO, withheld the patent application leading to the patent from relevant JEDEC committees for more than eight years, sought to improperly enforce that patent against Netlist s JEDEC-compliant HyperCloud® product by seeking a preliminary injunction against Netlist based on the patent, which was denied by the Eastern District Court, and made deceptive statements to the public about its lawsuit against Netlist. Netlist s complaint also alleges trade secret misappropriation and trademark infringement against Diablo, claiming that Diablo misused Netlist trade secrets to create the ULLtraDIMM product for Smart Storage (now SanDisk), and that Diablo used Netlist s HyperCloud® technology to create competing products.

Table of Contents

On the same day Netlist filed its amended complaint, Smart Modular and Diablo each filed a complaint in the San Francisco Division of the U.S. District Court Northern District of California (Northern District Court), seeking declaratory judgment of non-infringement and invalidity of the patents asserted in the Netlist s amended complaint. On September 9, 2013, Netlist filed a Motion to Dismiss or Transfer these declaratory judgment complaints to the Central District Court. This motion was denied by the Northern District Court on October 10, 2013.

In the Central District Court, Smart Modular and Smart Worldwide filed motions on September 13, 2013, to dismiss or sever various counts related to the 295 patent. On September 26, 2013, Diablo filed a motion to dismiss Netlist s claims for trade secret misappropriation, breach of contract, and unfair competition. On October 29, 2013, Smart Modular and Diablo filed motions to dismiss or transfer the patent claims related to the ULLtraDIMM memory module. On November 26, 2013, the Central District Court: (i) severed and transferred the claims related to the 295 patent to the Eastern District Court, which were stayed by the Eastern District Court on March 7, 2014, along with the other 295 related claims pending results of the 295 reexamination; (ii) severed and transferred to the Northern District Court the patent claims related to the ULLtraDIMM memory module; (iii) issued an order to show cause why the remaining claims should not also be transferred to the Northern District Court; and (iv) held in abeyance Diablo s pending motion to dismiss and motion for judgment on the pleadings. The parties filed briefs in response to the order to show cause, and then on December 23, 2013, the Central District Court ordered the remaining claims to be transferred to the Northern District Court. All of the claims from the amended complaint filed on August 23, 2013, in the Central District Court have now been transferred to either the Northern District Court or the Eastern District Court.

As reported in its Form 8-K filed on December 13, 2013, Netlist received a whistleblower letter postmarked from Canada (where Diablo is based) on November 13, 2013, and obviously written by a current or former Diablo employee. The letter begins by bluntly stating that Diablo stole Netlist s architecture and design, and goes on to explain that Diablo used Netlist s HyperCloud™ product to create the ULLtraDIMM product, which it then used in demonstrations to major customers including IBM and Hewlett-Packard. The letter further states that Diablo s management conspired to hide this theft by instructing its employees not to speak to customers about the fact that Netlist s product was incorporated into ULLtraDIMM. The letter includes diagrams showing how Diablo implemented the theft of Netlist s trade secrets, as well as the names of former Diablo employees, customers and suppliers who can verify the theft. The Form 8-K included as an exhibit a partially redacted copy of the whistleblower letter. On December 13, 2013, Diablo filed an ex parte application in the Northern District Court requesting that the Court issue an order to show cause why Netlist should not be sanctioned for attaching the redacted copy of the whistleblower letter to the Form 8-K. The Northern District Court heard the parties arguments on December 16, 2013, and on January 3, 2014, issued an order denying Diablo s application for sanctions, finding that Diablo had not established a basis for finding the information in the Form 8-K and its attachments confidential and therefore had not shown why it should be granted the relief sought.

On January 21, 2014, Netlist filed a motion for leave to file a second amended answer and counterclaims in the Northern District Court to assert two additional patents, bringing the total to seven patents asserted against the ULLtraDIMM. Diablo did not oppose Netlist s motion, and the parties filed a joint stipulation and proposed order on February 3, 2014, requesting an additional two months be added to the case schedule to account for the additional patents. On February 5, 2014, the Northern District Court granted Netlist s motion to add the two patents and entered a new case schedule. On February 12, 2014, the Northern District Court granted the parties joint stipulation dismissing Smart Modular without prejudice. On April 7, 2014, the Northern District Court granted Netlist s motion for leave to file a Second Amended Complaint in the patent case.

On March 21, 2014, Netlist filed a Second Amended Complaint against Diablo in the Northern District Court, Case No. 4:13-CV-05962 (the trade secret case), alleging, among other things, that in stealing Netlist s proprietary HyperCloud® and DxD and LRD technologies, Diablo breached its contracts with Netlist, committed trademark violations, and misappropriated Netlist s trade secrets. Also on March 21, 2014, Netlist served Diablo with its Amended Trade Secret Disclosure, detailing approximately 60 trade secrets Netlist taught to Diablo in connection with the contracted and confidential work on the HyperCloud® project. On April 9, 2014, Diablo filed a motion to dismiss Netlist s Second Amended Trade Secret Complaint, as well as a motion for judgment on the pleadings. That motion was heard by the Northern District Court on May 13, 2014, and on September 4, 2014, denied the motion with respect to all grounds except one, which Netlist did not contest.

On April 1, 2014, the Northern District Court denied Diablo s motion to strike Netlist s infringement contentions, finding that Netlist s contentions did indeed satisfy the relevant requirements and, on April 7, 2014, granted Netlist s motion to compel defendants to produce certain discovery materials related to the ULLtraDIMM. Diablo filed a motion for relief from these two rulings, which was denied on April 8, 2014. Also on April 7, 2014, the Northern District Court granted Netlist s motion for issuance of Letters Rogatory to the Canadian courts requesting that summons be issued for two former Diablo employees living in Canada and named in the whistleblower letter to produce documents and to be deposed. These depositions occured in late August, 2014.

Table of Contents

On April 8, 2014, the Northern District Court granted Netlist s motion to consolidate the patent related cases (Case Nos. 4:13-CV-05889-YGR and 4:13-CV-03901-YGR) and to coordinate discovery with the trade secret case (4:13-CV-05962-YGR), and denied Diablo s motion to further consolidate the patent and trade secret cases. On April 15, 2014, the Northern District Court granted the parties joint stipulation dismissing Smart Worldwide without prejudice. On April 30, 2014, the Northern District Court denied Diablo s request that Netlist s Amended Trade Secret Disclosure and exhibits thereto be re-designated as Confidential from the current designation of Highly Confidential Attorneys Eyes Only .

Between June 18 and June 24, 2014, SanDisk filed petitions in the USPTO requesting *Inter Partes* Review (IPR) of the five Netlist patents asserted in the August 23, 2013 amended complaint. Diablo similarly filed petitions requesting IPR of the two Netlist patents added in the second amended answer filed on January 21, 2014. Netlist has three months from the IPR petition filing dates to file a preliminary response. The USPTO has an additional three months to decide whether or not to institute one or more of the IPRs. SanDisk filed a motion on June 24, 2014, to stay the Northern District patent cases pending completion of the IPRs (Diablo later joined this motion). Netlist filed its opposition to the motion to stay on July 10, 2014. The Northern District Court heard oral arguments on the motion to stay in early August 2014, and issued an order on August 21, 2014, denying the motion without prejudice.

On October 6, 2014, Netlist filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction in the Northern District Court trade secret suit, asking that Diablo and its partner SanDisk be immediately enjoined from any further manufacture or sale of the ULLtraDIMM module. The Court has set a tentative date of December 2, 2014, for a hearing on Netlist s Motion. Netlist also filed a Second Amended Trade Secret Disclosure along with the Motion for Preliminary Injunction.

386 Patent Reexamination

As noted above, in May 2010, Google requested and was later granted an *Inter Partes* Reexamination of the 386 patent by the USPTO. In October 2010, Smart Modular requested and was later granted an *Inter Partes* Reexamination of the 386 patent. The reexaminations requested by Google and Smart Modular were merged by the USPTO into a single proceeding. In April 2011, a Non-Final Action was issued by the USPTO, rejecting all claims in the patent. In July 2011, the Company responded by amending or canceling some of the claims, adding new claims, and making arguments as to the validity of the rejected claims in view of cited references. Both Google and Smart Modular filed their comments to the Company s response in October 2011. In October 2012, the USPTO issued an ACP rejecting all 60 claims. The Company filed a response to the ACP on December 3, 2012. On June 21, 2013, the USPTO issued a Right of Appeal Notice (RAN) in which the examiner maintained his rejection of the claims. Netlist filed a notice of appeal on July 19, 2013. Google filed a notice of cross-appeal on August 2, 2013, and a cross-appeal brief on October 1, 2013. The Company filed an appeal brief and an amendment canceling some of the remaining claims on October 2, 2013 to further focus the issues on appeal. On February 24, 2014, the examiner entered the amendment canceling claims, withdrew the rejections related to those claims, but otherwise maintained the positions previously set forth in the RAN. On September 24, 2014, the USPTO set a hearing date of November 19, 2014. Thus, the reexamination of the 386 patent remains pending and will continue in accordance with established procedures for merged reexamination proceedings.

912 Patent Reexamination

As noted above, in April 2010, Inphi requested but was later denied an *Inter Partes* Reexamination of the 912 patent by the USPTO. In June 2010, Inphi submitted a new request and was later granted an *Inter Partes* Reexamination of the 912 patent by the USPTO. In September 2010, the USPTO confirmed the patentability of all fifty-one claims of the 912 patent. In October 2010, Google and Smart Modular each filed and were later granted requests for reexamination of the 912 patent. In February 2011, the USPTO merged the Inphi, Google and Smart Modular 912 reexaminations into a single proceeding. In an April 2011 Non-Final Action in the merged reexamination proceeding, the

USPTO rejected claims 1-20 and 22-51 and confirmed the patentability of claim 21 of the 912 patent. In July 2011, the Company responded by amending or canceling some of the claims, adding new claims, and making arguments as to the validity of the rejected claims. Inphi, Google, and Smart Modular filed their comments on the Company s response in August 2011. In October 2011, the USPTO mailed a second Non-Final Action confirming the patentability of twenty claims of the 912 patent, including claims that were added in the reexamination process. In January 2012, the Company responded by amending or canceling some of the claims, adding new claims, and making arguments as to the validity of the rejected claims. Google, Inphi and Smart Modular filed their comments to the Company s response in February 2012. The USPTO determined that Smart Modular s comments were defective, and issued a notice to Smart Modular to rectify and resubmit its comments. Smart Modular filed corrected

Table of Contents

comments and a petition for the USPTO to withdraw the notice in March 2012. The USPTO issued a non-final Office Action on November 13, 2012 maintaining the patentability of many key claims while rejecting some claims that were previously determined to be patentable. The Company filed a response to the Office Action on January 14, 2013. The requesters filed their comments on February 13, 2013. On March 21, 2014, the USPTO issued an ACP, confirming the patentability of 92 claims and maintaining the rejection of 11 other claims. On June 18, 2014, the USPTO issued a RAN, maintaining the substantive positions taken by the examiner in the ACP. Smart Modular, Inphi and Google filed notices of appeal on July 16, July 18 and July 18, 2014, respectively. Netlist filed a notice of cross-appeal on July 30, 2014. Smart Modular, Inphi and Google filed their respective appeal briefs on September 16, September 30 and September 30, 2014. Netlist filed its cross-appeal brief on September 30, 2014. The reexamination of the 912 patent remains pending and will continue in accordance with established procedures for merged reexamination proceedings.

627 Patent Reexamination

In September 2011, Smart Modular filed a request for reexamination of U.S. Patent No. 7,864,627 (the 627 patent) issued to the Company on January 4, 2011. The 627 patent is related to the 912 patent. In November 2011, the USPTO granted Smart Modular s request for reexamination of the 627 patent and concurrently issued a Non-Final Action confirming the patentability of three claims. In February 2012, the Company responded by amending or canceling some of the claims, adding new claims, and making arguments as to the validity of the rejected claims. Smart Modular filed its comments to the Company s response in March 2012. The USPTO determined that Smart Modular s comments were defective and issued a notice in April 2012 to Smart Modular to rectify and resubmit its comments. Smart Modular filed corrected comments and a petition for the USPTO to withdraw the notice in April 2012. The USPTO posted an Office Action on December 19, 2012, confirming one claim and rejecting the rest of the claims in the 627 patent. The Company filed a response to the Office Action on March 19, 2013. Smart Modular filed its comments on the Office Action on April 24, 2013. The USPTO issued another Non-Final Office Action on September 26, 2013, withdrawing certain rejections while adopting new rejections for certain of the pending claims. The Company responded to the Non-Final Office Action on November 26, 2013, by amending some of the claims and making arguments as to the validity of the rejected claims. On March 27, 2014, the USPTO issued an ACP, maintaining the claim rejections. On June 27, 2014, the USPTO issued a RAN, maintaining the substantive positions taken by the examiner in the ACP. Netlist filed a notice of cross-appeal on July 28, 2014. The reexamination of the 627 patent remains pending and will continue in accordance with established *Inter Partes* Reexamination procedures.

537 Patent Reexamination

As noted above, in April 2010, Inphi requested and was later denied an *Inter Partes* Reexamination of the 537 patent by the USPTO. In June 2010, Inphi submitted a new request and was later granted an *Inter Partes* Reexamination of the 537 patent by the USPTO. In September 2010, the USPTO issued a Non-Final Action confirming the patentability of four claims. In October 2010, the Company responded by amending or canceling some of the claims, adding new claims, and making arguments as to the validity of the rejected claims. Inphi filed its comments on the Company s response in January 2011. In June 2011, the USPTO issued an ACP, which reconfirmed the patentability of the four claims. In August 2010, the Company responded by amending some of the claims and making arguments as to the validity of the rejected claims. Inphi filed its comments to the Company s response in September 2011. The USPTO issued a Right of Appeal Notice (RAN) in February 2012, in which the claim rejections were withdrawn, thus confirming the patentability of all sixty (60) claims in view of all the previously submitted comments by both Inphi and the Company. Inphi filed a notice of appeal in March 2012 followed by an appeal brief in May 2012. In response, the USPTO issued a Notice of Defective Appeal Brief. Inphi filed a corrective appeal brief in late May 2012, and the Company filed its reply brief to the corrected Inphi appeal brief in early July 2012. The examiner responded to Inphi s corrected appeal brief as well as the Company s reply brief by Examiner s Answer on April 16, 2013, in which he maintained his position confirming all sixty (60) claims. Inphi filed a rebuttal brief on May 16, 2013. Netlist filed a request for oral hearing on June 14, 2013. The Company and the examiner jointly defended the 537 patent in a hearing on November 20, 2013 before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) at the USPTO. On January 16, 2014, the PTAB issued a decision upholding the validity of all 60 claims, dismissing every single validity challenge raised by Inphi and affirming the examiner s decision to allow the claims. On August 13, 2014, the PTAB denied Inphi s request for rehearing and made its decision final for judicial review to Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The reexamination of the 537 patent remains pending and will continue in accordance with established procedures for *Inter Partes* Reexamination and judicial appeals therefrom.

Table of Contents

274 Patent Reexamination

As noted above, in April 2010, Inphi requested and was later denied an *Inter Partes* Reexamination of the 274 patent by the USPTO. In June 2010, Inphi submitted a new request and was later granted an *Inter Partes* Reexamination of the 274 patent by the USPTO. In September 2011, the USPTO issued a Non-Final Action, confirming the patentability of six claims. The Company has responded by amending or canceling some of the claims, adding new claims, and making arguments as to the validity of the rejected claims. Inphi filed its comments on the Company s response in November 2011. The USPTO issued an ACP in March 2012, which confirmed the patentability of one hundred and four (104) claims in view of all the previously submitted comments by both Inphi and the Company. The USPTO subsequently issued a RAN in June 2012. This RAN triggered Inphi s right as the losing party to file a notice of appeal and corresponding appeal brief, which Inphi filed when due. The Company responded to Inphi s appeal brief by filing a reply brief in October 2012. The examiner responded to Inphi s appeal brief and the reply brief by Examiner s Answer on April 16, 2013, in which he maintained his position confirming the one hundred and four (104) claims. Inphi filed a rebuttal brief on May 16, 2013. Netlist filed a request for oral hearing on June 14, 2013. The Company and the USPTO examiner jointly defended the 274 patent in a hearing on November 20, 2013 before the PTAB, in accordance with established procedures for *Inter Partes* Reexamination. On January 16, 2014, the PTAB issued a decision affirming the examiner in part, but reversing the examiner on new grounds and rejecting the one hundred and four (104) claims. On March 28, 2014, Netlist filed a Patent Owner s Response Requesting to Reopen Prosecution along with certain claim amendments and arguments. On June 26, 2014, the PTAB issued a decision granting-in-part Inphi s request to modify the January 16, 2014, decision as to two of the rejected claims. The reexamination of the 274 patent remains pending and will continue in accordance with established procedures for *Inter Partes* Reexamination.

Other Contingent Obligations

During its normal course of business, the Company has made certain indemnities, commitments and guarantees pursuant to which it may be required to make payments in relation to certain transactions. These include (i) intellectual property indemnities to the Company s customers and licensees in connection with the use, sales and/or license of Company products; (ii) indemnities to vendors and service providers pertaining to claims based on the Company s negligence or willful misconduct; (iii) indemnities involving the accuracy of representations and warranties in certain contracts; (iv) indemnities to directors and officers of the Company to the maximum extent permitted under the laws of the State of Delaware; and (v) certain real estate leases, under which the Company may be required to indemnify property owners for environmental and other liabilities, and other claims arising from the Company s use of the applicable premises. The duration of these indemnities, commitments and guarantees varies and, in certain cases, may be indefinite. The majority of these indemnities, commitments and guarantees do not provide for any limitation of the maximum potential for future payments the Company could be obligated to make. Historically, the Company has not been obligated to make significant payments for these obligations, and no liabilities have been recorded for these indemnities, commitments and guarantees in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheets.

Note 8 Stockholders Equity

Serial Preferred Stock

The Company s authorized capital includes 10,000,000 shares of Serial Preferred Stock, with a par value of $0.001 per share. No shares of Serial Preferred Stock were outstanding at September 27, 2014 or December 28, 2013.

Common Stock

In November 2011, the Company entered into a sales agreement with Ascendiant Capital Markets, LLC (Ascendiant), whereby shares with a total value of up to $10.0 million may be released for sale to the public at the discretion of management at a price equal to the current market price in an at-the-market offering as defined in Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933. During 2013, the Company received net proceeds of approximately $0.2 million raised through the sale of 240,373 shares of common stock. The sales agreement with Ascendiant expired on November 21, 2013.

On July 17, 2013, the Company entered into a definitive securities purchase agreement for the sale of common stock and warrants in a registered public offering (2013 Offering) of its securities for gross proceeds of $1.0 million. The 2013 Offering closed on July 19, 2013, and the Company received net proceeds of $960,000 after deducting commissions and offering costs. The 2013 Offering resulted in the issuance 1,098,902 shares of the Company s common stock and a warrant to purchase up to an aggregate of 1,098,902 shares of the Company s common stock. The warrant is exercisable as of the date

Table of Contents

of its issuance, has a term of seven years, and an exercise price of $1.00 per share. The exercise price and the number of warrant shares issuable upon exercise of warrant is subject to adjustment in the event of, among other things, certain transactions affecting the Company s common stock (including without limitation stock splits and stock dividends), and certain fundamental transactions (including without limitation a merger or other sale-of-company transaction).

On July 18, 2013, concurrent with the execution of the Loan Agreement, the Company issued to an affiliate of DBD, a seven-year warrant (the Warrant) to purchase an aggregate of 1,648,351 shares of the Company s common stock at a per share price of $1.00, of which 989,011 shares are exercisable immediately on a cash or cashless basis in whole or in part. Pursuant to the terms of the stock purchase warrant agreement, (i) 329,670 shares will become exercisable upon the achievement of the IP Monetization Milestones and (ii) the remaining 329,670 shares will become exercisable upon the Company s receipt of an IP Milestone Term Loan. The Warrant was issued in a private placement transaction that was exempt from registration under Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act). See Note 4 for treatment of the Warrant.

On February 3, 2014, the Company issued 750,000 shares of common stock upon exercise of warrants at a purchase price of $0.89 per share, resulting in proceeds to the Company of $667,500.

Sale of Common Stock Pursuant to Securities Purchase Agreement

On February 11, 2014, the Company completed a registered firm commitment underwritten public offering (the 2014 Offering) of shares of the Company s common stock. In the 2014 Offering, the Company issued and sold to Craig-Hallum Capital Group LLC (the Underwriter) 8,680,775 shares of common stock pursuant to an underwriting agreement (the Underwriting Agreement), dated as of February 6, 2014, by and between the Company and the Underwriter, at a price of $1.2115 per share, including 1,132,275 shares resulting from the Underwriter s exercise in full of its option to purchase additional shares of Common Stock to cover over-allotments. The price per share to the public in the 2014 Offering was $1.30 per share. The net proceeds from the 2014 Offering were approximately $10.3 million, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses.

Cancellation of Shares of Common Stock

During the nine months ended September 27, 2014 and the year ended December 28, 2013, the Company cancelled 10,015 and 19,575 shares of common stock, respectively, valued at approximately $21,000 and $14,000, respectively, in connection with its obligation to holders of restricted stock to withhold the number of shares required to satisfy the holders tax liabilities in connection with the vesting of such shares.

The Company is incorporated in the state of Delaware, and as such, is subject to various state laws which may restrict the payment of dividends or purchase of treasury shares.

Stock-Based Compensation

The Company has stock-based compensation awards outstanding pursuant to the Amended and Restated 2000 Equity Incentive Plan (the 2000 Plan) and the Amended and Restated 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (the 2006 Plan), under which a variety of option and direct stock-based awards may be granted to employees and nonemployees of the Company. Further grants under the 2000 Plan were suspended upon the adoption of the 2006 Plan. In addition to awards made pursuant to the 2006 Plan, the Company periodically issues inducement grants outside the 2006 Plan to certain new hires.

Subject to certain adjustments, as of September 27, 2014, the Company was authorized to issue a maximum of 7,805,566 shares of common stock pursuant to awards under the 2006 Plan. That maximum number will automatically increase on the first day of each subsequent calendar year by the lesser of (i) 5.0% of the number of shares of common stock that are issued and outstanding as of the first day of the calendar year, and (ii) 1,200,000 shares of common stock, subject to adjustment for certain corporate actions. At September 27, 2014, the Company had 443,010 shares available for grant under the 2006 Plan. Options granted under the 2000 Plan and the 2006 Plan equity incentive plans primarily vest at a rate of at least 25% per year over four years and expire 10 years from the date of grant. Restricted stock awards vest in eight equal increments at intervals of approximately six months from the date of grant.

Table of Contents

A summary of the Company s common stock option activity for the nine months ended September 27, 2014 is presented below (shares in thousands):

	Options Outstanding	
	Number of Shares	Weighted-Average Exercise Price
Options outstanding at December 28, 2013	5,837	$ 2.58
Options granted	1,580	1.68
Options exercised	(283)	0.52
Options expired/forfeited	(70)	2.81
Options outstanding at September 27, 2014	7,064	$ 2.46

The intrinsic value of options exercised in the nine months ended September 27, 2014 was $400,953.

A summary of the Company s restricted stock awards as of and for the nine months ended September 27, 2014 is presented below (shares in thousands):

	Restricted Stock Outstanding	
	Number of Shares	Weighted-Average Grant-Date Fair Value per Share
Balance outstanding at December 28, 2013	54	$ 3.17
Restricted stock vested	(50)	3.03
Balance outstanding at September 27, 2014	4	$ 1.51

The following table presents details of the assumptions used to calculate the weighted-average grant date fair value of common stock options granted by the Company:

	Nine Months Ended	
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013
Expected term (in years)	6.5	6.1
Expected volatility	121%	121%
Risk-free interest rate	1.92%	1.60%
Expected dividends		
Weighted-average grant date fair value per share	$ 1.73	$ 0.70

The fair value per share of restricted stock grants is calculated based on the fair value of the Company s common stock on the respective grant dates. The grant date fair value of restricted stock vested was $0.2 and $0.3 million in the nine months ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013, respectively.

At September 27, 2014, the amount of unearned stock-based compensation currently estimated to be expensed from fiscal 2014 through fiscal 2017 related to unvested common stock options and restricted stock awards is approximately $1.8 million, net of estimated forfeitures. The weighted-average period over which the unearned stock-based compensation is expected to be recognized is approximately 2.5 years. If there are any modifications or cancellations of the underlying unvested awards, the Company may be required to accelerate, increase or cancel any remaining unearned stock-based compensation expense.

Table of Contents

Note 9 Segment and Geographic Information

The Company operates in one reportable segment, which is the design and manufacture of high-performance memory subsystems for the server, high-performance computing and communications markets. The Company evaluates financial performance on a Company-wide basis.

At September 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013, approximately $0.2 and $0.6 million, respectively, of the Company s long-lived assets, net of depreciation and amortization, respectively, were located in the PRC. Substantially all other long-lived assets were located in the U.S.

Note 10 Subsequent Events

We have evaluated subsequent events through the filing date of this Form 10-Q, and have determined that no subsequent events have occurred that would require recognition in the condensed consolidated financial statements or disclosure in the notes thereto, other than as discussed in the accompanying notes.

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

Cautionary Statement

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements and the related notes thereto contained in Part I, Item 1 of this Report. The information contained in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q is not a complete description of our business or the risks associated with an investment in our common stock. We urge you to carefully review and consider the various disclosures made by us in this Report and in our other reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 28, 2013 and subsequent reports on Form 10-Q and 8-K, which discuss our business in greater detail.

This report contains forward-looking statements regarding future events and our future performance. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expected or projected. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to risks associated with: the uncertainty of our future capital requirements and the likelihood that we will need to raise additional funds; the amount and terms of our indebtedness; the launch and commercial success of our products, programs and technologies; the success of our product partnerships; our reliance on suppliers of critical components and vendors in the supply chain; our success in continuing to develop, qualify and produce adequate volumes of EXPRESSvault , NVvault , HyperCloud and VLP Planar-X RDIMM; the impact on us of substantially diminished sales to Dell; our ability to leverage our NVvault technology in a more diverse customer base; the rapidly-changing nature of technology; risks associated with intellectual property, including the costs and unpredictability of litigation and reexamination proceedings before the USPTO; volatility in the pricing of DRAM ICs and NAND; changes in and uncertainty of customer acceptance of, and demand for, our existing products and products under development, including uncertainty of and/or delays in product orders and product qualifications; delays in our and our customers product releases and development; introductions of new products by competitors; changes in end-user demand for technology solutions; our ability to attract and retain skilled personnel; fluctuations in the market price of

critical components; evolving industry standards; and the political and regulatory environment in the PRC. Other risks and uncertainties are described under the heading Risk Factors in Part II, Item IA of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, and similar discussions in our other SEC filings. Given these risks, uncertainties and other important factors, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements represent our estimates and assumptions only as of the date made. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to revise or update publicly any forward-looking statements for any reason.

Overview

We design, manufacture and sell a wide variety of high performance, logic-based memory subsystems for the global datacenter, storage and high-performance computing markets. Our memory subsystems consist of combinations of dynamic random access memory integrated circuits (DRAM ICs or DRAM), NAND flash memory (NAND), application-specific integrated circuits (ASICs) and other components assembled on printed circuit boards (PCBs). We primarily market and sell our products to leading original equipment manufacturer (OEM) customers, hyperscale datacenter operators and storage vendors. Our solutions are targeted at applications where memory plays a key role in meeting system

Table of Contents

performance requirements. We leverage a portfolio of proprietary technologies and design techniques, including combining discrete semiconductor technologies from third parties such as DRAM and NAND flash to function as one, efficient planar design, and alternative packaging techniques to deliver memory subsystems with persistence, high density, small form factor, high signal integrity, attractive thermal characteristics, reduced power consumption and low cost per bit. Our NVvault product is the first to offer both DRAM and NAND in a standard form factor memory subsystem as a persistent dual-in line memory module (DIMM) in mission critical applications. Our HyperCloud® technology incorporates our patented rank multiplication and load reduction technologies.

Our high performance memory subsystems are developed in part using our proprietary technologies, and we believe that the strength of our intellectual property rights will be important to the success of our business. We utilize patent and trade secret protection, confidentiality agreements with customers and partners, disclosure and invention assignment agreements with employees and consultants and other contractual provisions to protect our intellectual property and other proprietary information. We intend to vigorously defend and monetize our intellectual property through licensing arrangements and, where necessary, enforcement actions against those entities using our patented solutions in their products. We may seek injunctive relief in the course of enforcing our intellectual property rights in certain instances, and in other instances we may enter into settlement or license agreements, which can be structured in a variety of ways, including one-time paid up licenses or on-going royalty arrangements. However, our efforts may not result in significant revenues from these monetization efforts.

As of September 27, 2014, we had 49 U.S. patents issued, 2 foreign patents granted and over 30 pending applications worldwide. Assuming that they are properly maintained, our patents will expire at various dates between 2022 and 2029. Our issued patents and patent applications relate to the use of custom logic in high performance memory subsystems, PCB design, layout and packaging techniques. We intend to actively pursue the filing of additional patent applications related to our technology advancements. While we believe that our patent and other intellectual property rights are important to our success, our technical expertise and ability to introduce new products in a timely manner are also important factors in developing and maintaining our competitive position. Accordingly, we believe that our business is not materially dependent upon any one claim in any of our existing patents or pending patent applications.

Our Products

NVvault Family

We were the first to develop and market memory subsystems that incorporate both DRAM and NAND in a single NVvault persistent DIMM solution. NVvault was originally used for mission critical backups during power interruption in Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) and main memory. NVvault has moved beyond its original application to a variety of other applications, including hyperscale computing for Cloud, Big Data, on-line banking and other real time applications. Recently, we have experienced increased demand for NVvault for use as a data accelerator. We are working to further enhance the capabilities of our NVvault technology in these new applications, and we are also seeking to expand our customer base through the integration of NVvault into leading storage motherboards. NVvault is incorporated in our EXPRESSvault PCIe solution for both acceleration and backup in storage applications. Our NVvault product line consists primarily of battery-free and battery-powered flash backed cache memory subsystems targeting RAID storage, application acceleration and mission critical data integrity. NVvault battery-free provides server and storage OEMs a solution for enhanced datacenter fault recovery. Our NVvault products have historically been sold primarily to Dell, for incorporation in its PERC 7 server products. Following Intel s launch of its Romley platform in the first quarter of 2012, we have experienced a steady decline in NVvault sales to Dell. There were no sales of NVvault products to Dell in the three and nine months ended September 27, 2014 and $1.2 million and $2.1 million in the three and nine months ended September 28, 2013. We expect no demand from Dell for our DDR2 NVvault during the remainder of 2014. We continue to pursue qualifications with other potential significant customers within the industry and we are currently working to remedy our ongoing supply chain disruptions, however, our efforts to expand our qualifications and manage our supply chain may not result in significant revenues from the sale of NVvault family products..

For the nine months ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013, our NVvault non-volatile RDIMM used in cache-protection and data logging applications, including our NVvault battery-free, the flash-based cache system, accounted for approximately 48% and 32% of total net sales, respectively. For the three months ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013, our NVvault non-volatile RDIMM used in cache-protection and data logging applications, including our NVvault battery-free, the flash-based cache system, accounted for approximately 48% and 35% of total net sales, respectively.

Table of Contents

HyperCloud ®

Our HyperCloud® technology incorporates our patented rank multiplication technology, which increases memory capacity and our patented load reduction technology, which increases memory bandwidth. We expect that these patented technologies will make possible improved levels of performance for memory intensive datacenter applications and workloads, including enterprise virtualization, cloud computing infrastructure, business intelligence real- time data analytics, and high performance computing**.**

Specialty Memory Modules and Flash-Based Products

The remainder of our revenues are primarily from OEM sales of specialty memory modules and flash-based products, the majority of which are utilized in data center and industrial applications. When developing custom modules for an equipment product launch, we engage with our OEM customers from the earliest stages of new product definition, providing us unique insight into their full range of system architecture and performance requirements. This close collaboration has also allowed us to develop a significant level of systems expertise. We leverage a portfolio of proprietary technologies and design techniques, including efficient planar design, alternative packaging techniques and custom semiconductor logic, to deliver memory subsystems with high speed, capacity and signal integrity, small form factor, attractive thermal characteristics and low cost per bit. Revenues from our specialty modules and flash-based products are subject to fluctuation as a result of the life cycles of the products into which our modules are incorporated. Our ability to continue to generate revenues from specialty memory modules and flash-based products is dependent on our ability to qualify our products on new platforms as current platforms reach the end of their lifecycles, and on the state of the global economy.

Technology

We have a portfolio of proprietary technologies and design techniques and have assembled an engineering team with expertise in semiconductors, printed circuit boards, memory subsystem and system design. Our technology competencies include:

IC Design Expertise. We have designed special algorithms that can be implemented in stand-alone integrated circuits or integrated into other functional blocks in ASICs. We utilize these algorithms in the HyperCloud ® chipset to incorporate rank multiplication and load reduction functionality. We also incorporate these algorithms in our NVvault product line of RDIMMS.

NVvault . We were the first to develop and market memory subsystems that incorporate both DRAM and NAND flash in a single NVvault persistent DIMM solution. NVvault combines the best attributes of DRAM, including speed, durability and reliability with high densities, lower power and lowest costs provided by NAND. This combination enables us to provide application acceleration and mission critical backup during power interruption for cloud infrastructure, virtualization, analytics and database applications. NVvault is incorporated in our EXPRESSvault PCIe solution for both acceleration and backup in storage applications.

Proprietary PCB Designs. We utilize advanced, proprietary techniques to optimize electronic signal strength and integrity within a PCB. These techniques include the use of 8- or 10-layer boards, matching conductive trace lengths, a minimized number of conductive connectors, or vias, and precise load balancing to, among other benefits, help reduce noise and crosstalk between adjacent traces. In addition, our proprietary designs for the precise placement of intra-substrate components allow us to assemble memory subsystems with significantly smaller physical size, enabling OEMs to develop products with smaller footprints for their customers.

Very Low Profile Designs. We were the first company to create memory subsystems in a form factor of less than one inch in height. We believe our proprietary board design technology is particularly useful in the blade server market, where efficient use of motherboard space is critical. Our technology has allowed us to decrease the system board space required for memory, and improve thermal performance and operating speeds, by enabling our customers to use alternative methods of component layout.

Planar-X Designs. Our patented Planar-X circuit design provides additional board space for a large number of DRAM components. This enables us to produce higher capacity RDIMM modules, such as our 32GB two-virtual rank HyperCloud ® RDIMM, at a lower cost by allowing us to use standard, currently available 4GB DRAM technology.

Table of Contents

Thermal Management Designs. We design our memory subsystems to ensure effective heat dissipation. We use thermal cameras to obtain thermal profiles of the memory subsystem during the design phase, allowing us to rearrange components to enhance thermal characteristics and, if necessary, replace components that do not meet specifications. We use thermal simulation and modeling software to create comprehensive heat transfer models of our memory subsystems, which enables our engineers to quickly develop accurate solutions for potential thermal issues. We also develop and use proprietary heat spreaders to enhance the thermal management characteristics of our memory subsystems.

Key Business Metrics

The following describes certain line items in our condensed consolidated statements of operations that are important to management s assessment of our financial performance:

Net Sales. Net sales consist primarily of sales of our high performance memory subsystems, net of a provision for estimated returns under our right of return policies, which generally range up to 30 days. We generally do not have long-term sales agreements with our customers. Although OEM customers typically provide us with non-binding forecasts of future product demand over specific periods of time, they generally place orders with us approximately two weeks in advance of scheduled delivery. Selling prices are typically negotiated monthly, based on competitive market conditions and the current price of DRAM ICs and NAND. Purchase orders generally have no cancellation or rescheduling penalty provisions. We often ship our products to our customers international manufacturing sites. All of our sales to date, however, are denominated in U.S. dollars. Depending on our inventory levels, we may also sell excess component inventory of DRAM ICs and NAND, if any, to distributors and other users of memory ICs. Component inventory sales are a relatively small percentage of net sales as a result of our efforts to diversify both our customer and product line bases. This diversification effort has also allowed us to use components in a wider range of memory subsystems. We expect that component inventory sales will continue to represent a minimal portion of our net sales in future periods.

Cost of Sales. Our cost of sales includes the cost of materials, labor and other manufacturing costs, depreciation and amortization of equipment, inventory valuation provisions, stock-based compensation, and occupancy costs and other allocated fixed costs. The DRAM ICs and NAND incorporated into our products constitute a significant portion of our cost of sales, and thus our cost of sales will fluctuate based on the current price of DRAM ICs and NAND. We attempt to pass through such DRAM IC and NAND flash memory cost fluctuations to our customers by frequently renegotiating pricing prior to the placement of their purchase orders. However, the sales prices of our memory subsystems can also fluctuate due to competitive situations unrelated to the pricing of DRAM ICs and NAND, which affects gross margins. In addition, we have experienced shortages of DRAM and Flash required for our HyperCloud® and NVvault products from time to time, which can cause disruptions in our revenues and gross profits. In addition, the gross margin on our sales of any excess component DRAM IC and NAND inventory is much lower than the gross margin on our sales of our memory subsystems. As a result, fluctuations in DRAM IC and NAND inventory sales as a percentage of our overall sales could impact our overall gross margin. We assess the valuation of our inventories on a quarterly basis and record a provision to cost of sales as necessary to reduce inventories to the lower of cost or net realizable value.

Research and Development. Research and development expense consists primarily of employee and independent contractor compensation and related costs, stock-based compensation, non-recurring engineering fees, computer-aided design software licenses, reference design development costs, patent filing and protection legal fees, depreciation or rental of evaluation equipment, and occupancy and other allocated overhead costs. Also included in research and development expense are the costs of material and overhead related to the production of engineering samples of new products under development or products used solely in the research and development process. Our customers typically do not separately compensate us for design and engineering work involved in developing application-specific products for them. All research and development costs are expensed as incurred. In order to conserve capital resources in light of the significant year over year revenue decline, we have materially reduced our research and development expenditures by reducing headcount and professional and outside service costs. However, we anticipate that research and development expenditures will increase in future periods as we seek to expand new product opportunities, increase our activities related to new and emerging markets and continue to develop additional proprietary technologies.

Selling, General and Administrative. Selling, general and administrative expenses consist primarily of employee salaries and related costs, stock-based compensation, independent sales representative commissions, professional services, promotional and other selling and marketing expenses, and occupancy and other allocated overhead costs. A significant portion of our selling effort is directed at building relationships with OEMs and other customers and working through the product approval and qualification process with them. Therefore, the cost of material and overhead related to products manufactured for qualification is included in selling expenses. In order to conserve capital resources in light of the year over year revenue decline, we have reduced our selling, general and administrative expenditures by eliminating headcount and other related expenses.

Table of Contents

Critical Accounting Policies

The preparation of our condensed consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the condensed consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of net sales and expenses during the reporting period. By their nature, these estimates and assumptions are subject to an inherent degree of uncertainty. We base our estimates on our historical experience, knowledge of current conditions and our beliefs of what could occur in the future considering available information. We review our estimates on an on-going basis. Actual results may differ from these estimates, which may result in material adverse effects on our operating results and financial position. We believe the following critical accounting policies involve our more significant assumptions and estimates used in the preparation of our condensed consolidated financial statements:

Revenue Recognition. We recognize revenues in accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 605. Accordingly, we recognize revenues when there is persuasive evidence that an arrangement exists, product delivery and acceptance have occurred, the sales price is fixed or determinable, and collectibility of the resulting receivable is reasonably assured.

We generally use customer purchase orders and/or contracts as evidence of an arrangement. Delivery occurs when goods are shipped for customers with FOB Shipping Point terms and upon receipt for customers with FOB Destination terms, at which time title and risk of loss transfer to the customer. Shipping documents are used to verify delivery and customer acceptance. We assess whether the sales price is fixed or determinable based on the payment terms associated with the transaction and whether the sales price is subject to refund. Customers are generally allowed limited rights of return for up to 30 days, except for sales of excess component inventories, which contain no right-of-return privileges. Estimated returns are provided for at the time of sale based on historical experience or specific identification of an event necessitating a reserve. We offer a standard product warranty to our customers and have no other post-shipment obligations. We assess collectibility based on the creditworthiness of the customer as determined by credit checks and evaluations, as well as the customer s payment history.

All amounts billed to customers related to shipping and handling are classified as net sales, while all costs incurred by us for shipping and handling are classified as cost of sales.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments. Our financial instruments consist principally of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable, accrued expenses and debt instruments. The fair value of our cash equivalents is determined based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or level 1 inputs. We recognize transfers between Levels 1 through 3 of the fair value hierarchy at the beginning of the reporting period. We believe that the carrying values of all other financial instruments approximate their current fair values due to their nature and respective durations.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts. We perform credit evaluations of our customers financial condition and limit the amount of credit extended to our customers as deemed necessary, but generally require no collateral. We evaluate the collectibility of accounts receivable based on a combination of factors. In cases where we are aware of circumstances that may impair a specific customer s ability to meet its financial obligations subsequent to the original sale, we will record an allowance against amounts due, and thereby reduce the net recognized receivable to the amount that we reasonably believe will be collected. For all other customers, we record allowances for doubtful accounts based primarily on the length of time the receivables are past due based on the terms of the originating transaction, the current business environment and our historical experience. Uncollectible accounts are charged against the allowance for doubtful accounts when all cost effective commercial means of collection have been exhausted. Generally, our credit losses have been within our expectations and the provisions established. However, we

cannot guarantee that we will continue to experience credit loss rates similar to those we have experienced in the past.

Our accounts receivable are highly concentrated among a small number of customers, and a significant change in the liquidity or financial position of one of these customers could have a material adverse effect on the collectibility of our accounts receivable, our liquidity and our future operating results.

Table of Contents

Inventories. We value our inventories at the lower of the actual cost to purchase or manufacture the inventory or the net realizable value of the inventory. Cost is determined on an average cost basis which approximates actual cost on a first-in, first-out basis and includes raw materials, labor and manufacturing overhead. At each balance sheet date, we evaluate ending inventory quantities on hand and record a provision for excess quantities and obsolescence. Among other factors, we consider historical demand and forecasted demand in relation to the inventory on hand, competitiveness of product offerings, market conditions and product life cycles when determining obsolescence and net realizable value. In addition, we consider changes in the market value of DRAM ICs and NAND in determining the net realizable value of our raw material inventory. Once established, any write downs are considered permanent adjustments to the cost basis of our excess or obsolete inventories.

A significant decrease in demand for our products could result in an increase in the amount of excess inventory quantities on hand. In addition, our estimates of future product demand may prove to be inaccurate, in which case we may have understated or overstated the provision required for excess and obsolete inventory. In the future, if our inventories are determined to be overvalued, we would be required to recognize additional expense in our cost of sales at the time of such determination. Likewise, if our inventories are determined to be undervalued, we may have over-reported our costs of sales in previous periods and would be required to recognize additional gross profit at the time such inventories are sold. In addition, should the market value of DRAM ICs or NAND decrease significantly, we may be required to lower our selling prices to reflect the lower current cost of our raw materials. If such price decreases reduce the net realizable value of our inventories to less than our cost, we would be required to recognize additional expense in our cost of sales in the same period. Although we make every reasonable effort to ensure the accuracy of our forecasts of future product demand, any significant unanticipated changes in demand, technological developments or the market value of DRAM ICs or NAND could have a material effect on the value of our inventories and our reported operating results.

Deferred Financing Costs, Debt Discount and Detachable Debt-Related Warrants. Costs incurred to issue debt are deferred and included in debt issuance costs in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet. We amortize debt issuance costs over the expected term of the related debt using the effective interest method. Debt discounts related to the relative fair value of any warrants issued in conjunction with the debt are recorded as a reduction to the debt balance and accreted over the expected term of the debt to interest expense using the effective interest method.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets. We evaluate the recoverability of the carrying value of long-lived assets held and used in our operations for impairment on at least an annual basis or whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying value may not be recoverable. When such factors and circumstances exist, we compare the projected undiscounted future net cash flows associated with the related asset or group of assets over their estimated useful lives against their respective carrying amount. These projected future cash flows may vary significantly over time as a result of increased competition, changes in technology, fluctuations in demand, consolidation of our customers and reductions in average selling prices. If the carrying value is determined not to be recoverable from future operating cash flows, the asset is deemed impaired and an impairment loss is recognized to the extent the carrying value exceeds the estimated fair value of the asset. The fair value of the asset or asset group is based on market value when available, or when unavailable, on discounted expected cash flows.

Warranty Reserve. We offer product warranties generally ranging from one to three years, depending on the product and negotiated terms of purchase agreements with our customers. Such warranties require us to repair or replace defective product returned to us during the warranty period at no cost to the customer. Warranties are not offered on sales of excess inventory. Our estimates for warranty-related costs are recorded at the time of sale based on historical and estimated future product return rates and expected repair or replacement costs. While such costs have historically been consistent between periods and within our expectations and the provisions established, unexpected changes in failure rates could have a material adverse impact on us, requiring additional warranty reserves, and adversely affecting our gross profit and gross margins.

Stock-Based Compensation. We account for equity issuances to non-employees in accordance with ASC Topic 505. All transactions in which goods or services are the consideration received for the issuance of equity instruments are accounted for based on the fair value of the consideration received or the fair value of the equity instrument issued, whichever is more reliably measurable. The measurement date used to determine the fair value of the equity instrument issued is the earlier of the date on which the third-party performance is complete or the date on

which it is probable that performance will occur.

In accordance with ASC Topic 718, employee and director stock-based compensation expense recognized during the period is based on the value of the portion of stock-based payment awards that is ultimately expected to vest during the period. Given that stock-based compensation expense recognized in the condensed consolidated statements of operations is based on awards ultimately expected to vest, it has been reduced for estimated forfeitures. ASC Topic 718 requires forfeitures to be estimated at the time of grant and revised, if necessary, in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates. Our estimated average forfeiture rates are based on historical forfeiture experience and estimated future forfeitures.

Table of Contents

The fair value of common stock option awards to employees and directors is calculated using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. The Black-Scholes model requires subjective assumptions regarding future stock price volatility and expected time to exercise, along with assumptions about the risk-free interest rate and expected dividends, all of which affect the estimated fair values of our common stock option awards. The expected term of options granted is calculated as the average of the weighted vesting period and the contractual expiration date of the option. This calculation is based on the safe harbor method permitted by the SEC in instances where the vesting and exercise terms of options granted meet certain conditions and where limited historical exercise data is available. The expected volatility is based on the historical volatility of our common stock. The risk-free rate selected to value any particular grant is based on the U.S. Treasury rate that corresponds to the expected term of the grant effective as of the date of the grant. The expected dividends assumption is based on our history and our expectations regarding dividend payouts. We evaluate the assumptions used to value our common stock option awards on a quarterly basis. If factors change and we employ different assumptions, stock- based compensation expense may differ significantly from what we have recorded in prior periods. Compensation expense for common stock option awards with graded vesting schedules is recognized on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period for the last separately vesting portion of the award, provided that the accumulated cost recognized as of any date at least equals the value of the vested portion of the award.

We recognize the fair value of restricted stock awards issued to employees and outside directors as stock-based compensation expense on a straight-line basis over the vesting period for the last separately vesting portion of the awards. Fair value is determined as the difference between the closing price of our common stock on the grant date and the purchase price of the restricted stock award, if any, reduced by expected forfeitures.

If there are any modifications or cancellations of the underlying vested or unvested stock-based awards, we may be required to accelerate, increase or cancel any remaining unearned stock-based compensation expense, or record additional expense for vested stock-based awards. Future stock-based compensation expense and unearned stock- based compensation may increase to the extent that we grant additional common stock options or other stock-based awards.

Income Taxes. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized to reflect the estimated future tax effects of future deductible or taxable amounts attributable to events that have been recognized on a cumulative basis in the condensed consolidated financial statements, calculated at enacted tax rates for expected periods of realization. We regularly review our deferred tax assets for recoverability and establish a valuation allowance, when determined necessary, based on historical taxable income, projected future taxable income, and the expected timing of the reversals of existing temporary differences. Because we have operated at a loss for an extended period of time, we have not recognized deferred tax assets related to losses incurred since 2010. In the future, if we realize a deferred tax asset that currently carries a valuation allowance, we may record an income tax benefit or a reduction to income tax expense in the period of such realization.

ASC Topic 740 prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement requirement for the financial statement recognition of a tax position that has been taken or is expected to be taken on a tax return and also provides guidance on de-recognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure, and transition. Under ASC Topic 740, we may only recognize or continue to recognize tax positions that meet a more likely than not threshold.

The application of tax laws and regulations is subject to legal and factual interpretation, judgment and uncertainty. Tax laws and regulations themselves are subject to change as a result of changes in fiscal policy, changes in legislation, the evolution of regulations and court rulings. Therefore, the actual liability for U.S. or foreign taxes may be materially different from our estimates, which could result in the need to record additional tax liabilities or potentially reverse previously recorded tax liabilities.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements. In May 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (ASU 2014-09). ASU 2014-09 supersedes the revenue recognition requirements in FASB Topic 605, *Revenue Recognition*. The ASU implements a five-step process for customer contract revenue recognition that focuses on transfer of control, as opposed to transfer of risk and rewards. The amendment also requires enhanced disclosures regarding the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenues and cash flows from contracts with customers. Other major provisions include the capitalization and amortization of certain contract costs, ensuring the time value of money is considered in the transaction price, and allowing estimates of variable consideration to be recognized before contingencies are resolved in certain circumstances. The amendments in this ASU are effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, and early adoption is prohibited. Entities can transition to the standard either retrospectively or as a cumulative-effect adjustment as of the date of adoption. Management is currently assessing the impact the adoption of ASU 2014-09 will have on the Company s consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-15, *Presentation of Financial Statements - Going Concern.* The amendments in this update provide guidance in accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America about management s responsibilities to evaluate whether there is substantial doubt about an entity s ability to continue as a going concern and to provide related footnote disclosures. The main provision of the amendments are for an entity s management, in connection with the preparation of financial statements, to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the entity s ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued. Management s evaluation should be based on relevant conditions and events that are known or reasonably knowable at the date the consolidated financial statements are issued. When management identifies conditions or events that raise substantial doubt about an entity s ability to continue as a going concern, the entity should disclose information that enables users of the consolidated financial statements to understand all of the following: (1) principal conditions or events that raised substantial doubt about the entity s ability to continue as a going concern (before consideration of management s plans); (2) management s evaluation of the significance of those conditions or events in relation to the entity s ability to meet its obligations; and (3) management s plans that alleviated substantial doubt about the entity s ability to continue as a going concern or management s plans that are intended to mitigate the conditions or events that raise substantial doubt about the entity s ability to continue as a going concern. The amendments in this update are effective for interim and annual reporting periods after December 15, 2016 and early application is permitted. The Company is currently assessing this guidance for future implementation.

Results of Operations

The following table sets forth certain condensed consolidated statements of operations data as a percentage of net sales for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013
Net sales	100%	100%	100%	100%
Cost of sales	77	91	76	92
Gross profit	23	9	24	8
Operating expenses:				
Research and development	63	38	44	32
Selling, general and administrative	37	36	31	32
Total operating expenses	100	74	75	64
Operating loss	(77)	(65)	(50)	(56)
Other expense, net:				
Interest expense, net	(8)	(8)	(7)	(4)
Other expense, net				
Total other expense, net	(8)	(8)	(7)	(4)
Loss before provision for income taxes	(85)	(73)	(57)	(60)
Provision for income taxes				
Net loss	(85)%	(73)%	(57)%	(60)%

Three and Nine Months Ended September 27, 2014 Compared to Three and Nine Months Ended September 28, 2013

Net Sales, Cost of Sales and Gross Profit

The following tables present net sales, cost of sales and gross profit for the three and nine months ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013 (in thousands, except percentages):

Table of Contents

	Three Months Ended			
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013	Change	% Change
Net sales	$ 4,791	$ 4,289	$ 502	12%
Cost of sales	3,678	3,896	(218)	(6)%
Gross profit	$ 1,113	$ 393	$ 720	183%
Gross margin	23%	9%	14%	

	Nine Months Ended			
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013	Change	% Change
Net sales	$ 16,679	$ 15,318	$ 1,361	9%
Cost of sales	12,602	14,112	(1,510)	(11)%
Gross profit	$ 4,077	$ 1,206	$ 2,871	238%
Gross margin	24%	8%	17%	

Net Sales. The increase in net sales for the three months ended September 27, 2014 as compared with the three months ended September 28, 2013 resulted primarily from increased sales of approximately (i) $1.9 million of NVvault to customers other than Dell and (ii) $0.4 million of HyperCloud® sales, partially offset by decreased sales of approximately (i) $1.1 million in NVvault to Dell, (ii) $0.3 million of Planar X VLP and (iii) $0.4 million of flash sales.

The increase in our net sales for the nine months ended September 27, 2014 as compared with the nine months ended September 28, 2013 resulted primarily from increased sales of approximately (i) $5.2 million in sales of NVvault to customers other than Dell and (ii) $0.5 million in sales of HyperCloud ® memory modules, which was partially offset by decreased sales of approximately (i) $2.1 million in sales of NVvault to Dell, (ii) $0.4 million in sales of Planar X, (iii) $0.3 million in sales of flash products, and (iv)$1.5 million of other VLP sales.

Gross Profit and Gross Margin. The increase in gross profit and margin for the three and nine months ended September 27, 2014 as compared with the three and nine months ended September 28, 2013 is primarily the result of a change in our product mix, as we experienced increased sales of NVvault (a relatively higher margin product) in the three and nine months ended September 27, 2014.

Research and Development.

The following tables present research and development expenses for three and nine months ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013 (in thousands, except percentages):

	Three Months Ended			
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013	Change	% Change
Research and development	$ 2,997	$ 1,641	$ 1,356	83%

	Nine Months Ended			
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013	Change	% Change
Research and development	$ 7,274	$ 4,941	$ 2,333	47%

Table of Contents

The increase in research and development expense in the three months September 27, 2014, as compared with the three months ended September 28, 2013 is primarily attributable to an increase of $1.2 million in professional and outside services.

The increase in research and development expense in the nine months ended September 27, 2014, as compared to the nine months ended September 28, 2013 resulted primarily from an increase of $2.7 million in in professional and outside services incurred during the nine months ended September 27, 2014, partially offset by a decrease of $0.3 million in internal engineering headcount costs and related overhead and travel expenses.

Selling, General and Administrative.

The following tables present selling, general and administrative expenses for the three and nine months ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013 (in thousands, except percentages):

	Three Months Ended			
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013	Change	% Change
Selling, general and administrative	$ 1,782	$ 1,554	$ 228	15%

	Nine Months Ended			
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013	Change	% Change
Selling, general and administrative	$ 5,185	$ 4,880	$ 305	6%

Selling, general and administrative expense increased by approximately $0.2 million for the three months ended September 27, 2014, as compared to the three months ended September 28, 2013. This increase was primarily due to an increase of $0.3 million in headcount costs and related overhead and travel expenses, partially offset by a decrease of approximately $0.1 million in advertising expenses.

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased by $0.3 million for the nine months ended September 27, 2014, as compared to the nine months ended September 28, 2013. This increase was primarily due to an increase of approximately $0.4 million in headcount costs and related overhead and travel expenses, partially offset by a decrease of approximately $0.1 million in advertising expenses.

Other Income (Expense).

The following table presents other income (expense) for the three and nine months ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013 (in thousands, except percentages):

	Three Months Ended			
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013	Change	% Change
Interest expense, net	$ (393)	$ (324)	$ (69)	21%
Other expense, net		(8)	8	(100)%
Total other expense, net	$ (393)	$ (332)	$ (61)	18%

	Nine Months Ended			
	September 27, 2014	September 28, 2013	Change	% Change
Interest expense, net	$ (1,181)	$ (542)	$ (639)	118%
Other expense, net	(5)	(8)	3	(38)%
Total other expense, net	$ (1,186)	$ (550)	$ (636)	116%

Table of Contents

The increases in interest expense for the three and nine months ended September 27, 2014 compared with the three and nine months ended September 28, 2013 is primarily due to the amortization of debt discount and debt issuance costs associated with our term debt pursuant to our loan agreement with DBD Credit Funding, LLC, which we received on July 18, 2013.

Other expense, net, for the three and nine months ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013 was insignificant.

Provision for Income Taxes.

The following tables present the provision for income taxes for the three and nine months ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013 (in thousands, except percentages):

	Three Months Ended			
	September 27, 2014	**September 28, 2013**	**Change**	**% Change**
Provision for income taxes	$	$ 7	$ (7)	(100)%

	Nine Months Ended			
	September 27, 2014	**September 28, 2013**	**Change**	**% Change**
Provision for income taxes	$ 2	$ 9	$ (7)	(78)%

We did not record a benefit for income taxes for the three and nine months ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013, as tax benefits resulting from operating losses generated were fully reserved.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

We have historically financed our operations primarily through issuances of equity and bank debt and cash generated from operations. We have also funded our operations with a revolving line of credit and term loans under bank credit facilities, capitalized lease obligations and from the sale and leaseback of our former domestic manufacturing facility.

Working Capital and Cash and Cash Equivalents

The following table presents working capital and cash and cash equivalents (in thousands) as of September 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013:

	(unaudited) September 27, 2014	(audited) December 28, 2013
Working Capital	$ 13,523	$ 10,647
Cash and cash equivalents(1)	$ 14,120	$ 6,701

(1) Included in working capital

Table of Contents

Our working capital and cash and cash equivalents increased in the nine months ended September 27, 2014 primarily as a result of our 2014 Offering, in which we raised net proceeds of approximately $10.3 million, and to a lesser extent our receipt of $0.8 million in connection with the partial exercise of a warrant in February 2014. Our 2014 Offering closed on February 11, 2014 and is summarized below.

Cash Provided by (Used in) in the Nine Months Ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013

The following table summarizes our cash flows for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	Nine Months Ended	
	September 27, 2014	**September 28, 2013**
Net cash provided by (used in):		
Operating activities	$ (3,350)	$ (3,580)
Investing activities	(101)	365
Financing activities	10,870	2,489
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	$ 7,419	$ (726)

Operating Activities. Net cash used in operating activities for the nine months ended September 27, 2014 was primarily the result of a net loss of approximately $9.6 million, partially offset by (i) approximately $3.2 million in net cash provided by changes in operating assets and liabilities, which were primarily from changes in inventories, accounts receivable, and prepaid expenses and (ii) approximately $3.0 million in net non-cash operating expenses, which were primarily comprised of depreciation and amortization, amortization of debt discount and debt issuance costs and stock based compensation. Net cash used in operating activities for the nine months ended September 28, 2013 was primarily the result of a net loss of approximately $9.2 million, partially offset by (i) approximately $3.0 million in net cash provided by changes in operating assets and liabilities, which were primarily from changes in inventories, accounts receivable, restricted cash and prepaid expenses and (ii) approximately $2.6 million in net non-cash operating expenses, mainly comprised of depreciation and amortization, amortization of debt discount and debt issuance costs and stock based compensation.

Accounts receivable decreased by approximately $1.8 million during the nine months ended September 27, 2014, which we attribute primarily to a decrease in sales in September 2014 as compared to September 2013.

Inventories decreased by approximately $0.2 million during the nine months ended September 27, 2014 as we utilized inventory on hand to support our sales during the first nine months of 2014.

Investing Activities. Net cash used in investing activities for nine months ended September 27, 2014 was primarily the result our purchase of property and equipment, partially offset by proceeds we received from the sale of property and equipment. Net cash provided by investing activities for nine months ended September 28, 2013 was primarily the result of our sale of an auction rate security resulting in proceeds of $0.4 million. There were no similar events during the nine months ended September 27, 2014.

Financing Activities. Net cash provided by financing activities for the nine months ended September 27, 2014 was primarily the result of our February 2014 Public Offering, where we raised net proceeds of approximately $10.3 million and, to a lesser extent, our receipt in February 2014 of an aggregate of approximately $0.8 million in proceeds from the partial exercise of an outstanding warrant to purchase our common stock and the exercise of employee stock options. Net cash provided by financing activities for the nine months ended September 28, 2013 was primarily the result of (i) net proceeds from our term loan with DBD Credit Funding, LLC of $2.5 million, and (ii) $1.0 million in net proceeds from the sale of 1,098,902 shares of our common stock through a registered public offering, each as described below under the caption Capital Resources , partially offset by repayment of bank debt, capital leases and other notes payable of $1.0 million.

Table of Contents

Capital Resources

Silicon Valley Bank Credit Agreement

On October 31, 2009, we entered into a credit agreement with Silicon Valley Bank, which was amended on July 18, 2013 (as amended, the SVB Credit Agreement). Currently, the SVB Credit Agreement provides that we can borrow up to the lesser of (i) 80% of eligible accounts receivable, or (ii) $5.0 million.

In May 2012, Silicon Valley Bank consolidated our outstanding term loans and extended additional credit, resulting in a combined balance of $3.5 million (the Consolidated Term Loan). The Consolidated Term Loan was payable in 36 installments of $97,222, beginning December 2012, with interest at a rate of prime plus 2.50%. Interest was payable monthly from the date of funding through final payoff of the loan. On July 18, 2013, as part of our amendment of the SVB Credit Agreement and following our receipt of additional loan financing obtained through DBD Credit Funding, LLC, as further described below, the term loan and outstanding interest was paid in full. In accordance with the terms of the financing obtained through DBD Credit Funding, LLC, we recorded all amounts due as long-term debt in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet as of December 28, 2013 and recorded $1.5 million as short term and approximately $4.1 million as long term in the accompanying balance sheet as of September 27, 2014.

Prior to the May 2012 amendment, the SVB Credit Agreement contained an overall sublimit of $10.0 million to collateralize our contingent obligations under letters of credit and other financial services. Amounts outstanding under the overall sublimit reduced the amount available pursuant to the SVB Credit Agreement. As a result of the May 2012 amendment, letters of credit and other financial services were no longer subject to borrowing base sublimits and did not reduce the amount that could be borrowed under the revolving line of credit. The July 18, 2013 amendment requires letters of credit to be secured by cash. At September 27, 2014, letters of credit in the amount of $1.1 million were outstanding.

Following its amendment on July 18, 2013, the SVB Credit Agreement permits the debt financing and security interests contemplated under our Loan Agreement with DBD (described below) and releases certain patents and related assets from the collateral subject to SVB s security interest under the SVB Credit Agreement. Additionally, pursuant to the SVB Credit Agreement, advances under the revolving line now accrue interest at a rate equal to SVB s most recently announced prime rate plus 2.75%. The SVB Credit Agreement also relaxed our tangible net worth covenant and waived certain events of default in connection therewith. Certain reporting requirements under the SVB Credit Agreement were modified while certain reserves with respect to the borrowing base and the availability of revolving loans were removed. On September 30, 2014, the SVB Credit Agreement was amended again to further modify our tangible net worth covenant and to extend the maturity date of our revolving line under the SVB Credit Agreement to September 29, 2015.

Under the terms of the SVB Credit Agreement, we may draw revolving advances in an aggregate outstanding principal amount of up to the lesser of $5 million and the available borrowing base, subject to reserve amounts. Our borrowing base under the SVB Credit Agreement is 80% of eligible accounts receivable, subject to certain adjustments.

We made no borrowings under the SVB Credit Agreement in the nine months ended September 27, 2014 or the year ended December 28, 2013. At September 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013, we had borrowing availability of approximately $2.5 million and $4.0 million, respectively.

Loan Agreement with DBD Credit Funding, LLC

Concurrent with our amendment of the SVB Credit Agreement, on July 18, 2013 we entered into a loan and security agreement (the Loan Agreement) with DBD Credit Funding, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (DBD), an affiliate of Fortress Investment Group LLC, providing for up to $10 million in term loans and up to $5 million in revolving loans. The term loans are available in an initial $6 million tranche (the Initial Term Loan) with a second tranche in the amount of $4 million becoming available upon achievement of certain performance milestones relating to intellectual property matters (the IP Monetization Milestones and such second tranche loan, IP Milestone Term Loan). The $5 million in revolving loans are available at DBD s discretion and subject to customary conditions precedent. The $6 million Initial Term Loan was fully drawn at closing on July 18, 2013. Proceeds from the Initial Term Loan were used in part to repay our existing consolidated term loan with Silicon Valley Bank. The remainder of such funds will be used to fund our ongoing working capital needs.

Table of Contents

The loans bear interest at a stated fixed rate of 11.0% per annum. During the first eighteen (18) months following the closing date, the payments on the term loans are interest-only at a cash rate of 7.0% per annum and a payment-in-kind deferred cash interest rate of 4.0%, which payment-in-kind interest is capitalized semi-annually, beginning with December 31, 2013. Following the eighteen (18) month interest-only period, the term loans are amortized with 65% of the principal amount due in equal monthly installments over the following eighteen (18) months with a balloon payment equal to 35% of the remaining principal amount of the term loans, plus accrued interest, being payable on July 18, 2016 (the Maturity Date).

Patent Monetization Side Letter Agreement

Concurrently with the execution of the Loan Agreement, the Company and an affiliate of DBD entered into a Patent Monetization Side Letter Agreement (the Letter Agreement). The Letter Agreement provides, among other things, that DBD may be entitled to share in certain monetization revenues that we may derive in the future related to its patent portfolio (the Patent Portfolio). The Patent Portfolio does not include certain patents relating to the NVvault product line. Monetization revenues subject to this arrangement include revenues recognized during the seven year term of the Letter Agreement from amounts (whether characterized as settlement payments, license fees, royalties, damages, or otherwise) actually paid to us or our subsidiaries in connection with any assertion of, agreement not to assert, or license of, the Patent Portfolio (in whole or in part) either (A) in consideration of the grant of a license or covenant not sue, or other immunity with respect to the Patent Portfolio, or (B) as a damages award with respect to such assertion of the Patent Portfolio, less (i) actual legal fees and expenses (including fees payable on a contingency basis) and actual court costs paid or payable by us or our subsidiaries in connection with any such assertion and/or grant of a license or covenant not to sue, or other immunity with respect to the Patent Portfolio, provided that such legal fees and expenses shall be capped at forty percent (40%) of such gross, aggregate amounts paid to us, (ii) all reasonable and actual legal fees, filing fees, maintenance fees, annuities, and other reasonable and actual costs and expenses paid or required to be paid by us or our subsidiaries after the effective date in connection with the prosecution, maintenance, and defense of any patents or patent applications within the Patent Portfolio, (iii) reasonable and actual legal fees and reasonable and actual other costs and expenses paid or required to be paid by is or our subsidiaries in connection with the enforcement of any agreement, undertaking, commitment or court order that would generate monetization revenues and the collection thereof, and (iv) reasonable and actual costs of acquisition of patents and patent applications included in the Patent Portfolio that are acquired by or licensed to us or our subsidiaries after the effective date. Monetization revenues also include the value attributable to the Patent Portfolio in any sale of the Company during the seven year term, subject to a maximum amount payable to DBD. The Letter Agreement also requires that the we use commercially reasonable efforts to pursue opportunities to monetize the Patent Portfolio during the term of the Letter Agreement, provided that we are under no obligation to pursue any such opportunities that we do not deem to be in our best interest. Notwithstanding the foregoing, there can be no assurance that we will be successful in these efforts, and we may expend resources in pursuit of monetization revenues that may not result in any benefit to us.

Sales Agreement with Ascendiant Capital

On November 21, 2011, we entered into a sales agreement with Ascendiant as sales agent. The sales agreement with Ascendiant expired on November 21, 2013. Prior to its expiration, we were able to issue and sell shares of our common stock having an aggregate offering price of up to $10.0 million. During the term of the agreement, we received net proceeds of approximately $6.2 million, including approximately $3.9 million raised through the sale of approximately 1,312,669 shares during the year ended December 29, 2012 and approximately $0.2 million through the sale of 240,373 shares during the year ended December 28, 2013.

December 2012 Equity Financing

On December 26, 2012, we raised gross proceeds of $1.5 million in a registered public offering of our securities, which resulted in our receipt of net proceeds of $1.3 million after deducting commissions and offering costs. The offering resulted in the issuance of 1,685,394 shares of common stock and warrants to purchase up to an aggregate of 2,275,282 shares of our common stock, which represents 135% of the number of shares issued and sold in the offering. Each warrant grants the holder the right to purchase one share of our common stock at an exercise price of $0.89 per share and expires in June 2018. These warrants became exercisable 181 days following the December 26, 2012 issuance date. On February 3, 2014, 750,000 of these warrants were exercised for proceeds to us of approximately $0.7 million.

Table of Contents

July 2013 Equity Financing

On July 19, 2013, we sold 1,098,902 shares of our common stock and warrants to purchase 1,098,902 shares of our common stock for gross proceeds of $1.0 million and net proceeds of approximately $960,000 in an additional registered public offering of our securities. The warrant is exercisable as of the date of its issuance, has a term of seven years, and an exercise price of $1.00 per share. The exercise price and the number of warrant shares issuable upon exercise of warrant is subject to adjustment in the event of, among other things, certain transactions our common stock (including without limitation stock splits and stock dividends), and certain fundamental transactions (including without limitation a merger or other sale-of- company transaction).

February 2014 Public Offering of Common Stock

On February 11, 2014, we completed a registered firm commitment underwritten public offering (the 2014 Offering) of shares of our common stock. In the 2014 Offering, we issued and sold to Craig-Hallum Capital Group LLC (the Underwriter) 8,680,775 shares of common stock at a price of $1.2115 per share, including 1,132,275 shares resulting from the Underwriter s exercise in full of its option to purchase additional shares of Common Stock to cover over-allotments. The price per share to the public in the 2014 Offering was $1.30 per share. The net proceeds from the 2014 Offering were approximately $10.3 million, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses.

We have in the past utilized equipment leasing arrangements to finance certain capital expenditures. Equipment leases continue to be a financing alternative that we expect to pursue in the future.

We believe our existing cash and cash equivalent balances, borrowing availability under our Loan Agreement, borrowing availability under the SVB Credit Agreement and the cash expected to be generated from operations, will be sufficient to meet our anticipated cash needs for at least the next 12 months. Should we need additional capital, we may seek to raise capital through, among other things, public and private equity offerings and debt financings. Our future capital requirements will depend on many factors, including our levels of net sales, the timing and extent of expenditures to support research and development activities, the expansion of manufacturing capacity both domestically and internationally and the continued market acceptance of our products. Additional funds may not be available on terms acceptable to us, or at all. If adequate working capital is not available when needed, we may be required to significantly modify our business model and operations to reduce spending to a sustainable level. It could cause us to be unable to execute our business plan, take advantage of future opportunities, or respond to competitive pressures or customer requirements. It may also cause us to delay, scale back or eliminate some or all of our research and development programs, or to reduce or cease operations.

Liquidity

We incurred net losses of approximately $9.6 million and $9.2 million for the nine months ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013, respectively.

On February 11, 2014, we completed a registered firm commitment underwritten public offering (the 2014 Offering) of shares of our common stock. In the 2014 Offering, we issued and sold to Craig-Hallum Capital Group LLC (the Underwriter) 8,680,775 shares of common stock pursuant to an underwriting agreement (the Underwriting Agreement), dated as of February 6, 2014, by and between us and the Underwriter, at a price of $1.2115 per share, including 1,132,275 shares resulting from the Underwriter s exercise in full of their option to purchase additional shares of Common Stock to cover over-allotments. The price per share to the public in the 2014 Offering was $1.30 per share. The net proceeds from the 2014 Offering were approximately $10.3 million, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses.

On February 3, 2014, we issued 750,000 shares of common stock upon exercise of warrants at a purchase price of $0.89 per share, resulting in proceeds of $667,500.

If adequate working capital is not available when needed, we may be required to significantly modify our business model and operations to reduce spending to a sustainable level. Insufficient working capital could cause us to be unable to execute our business plan, take advantage of future opportunities, or respond to competitive pressures or customer requirements. It may also cause us to delay, scale back or eliminate some or all of our research and development programs, or to reduce or cease operations. While there is no assurance that we can meet our revenue forecasts, we anticipate that we can continue operations for at least the next twelve months.

Table of Contents

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We do not have any relationships with unconsolidated entities or financial partnerships, such as entities often referred to as structured finance or special purpose entities, which would have been established for the purpose of facilitating off-balance sheet arrangements or other contractually narrow or limited purposes. In addition, we do not have any undisclosed borrowings or debt, and we have not entered into any synthetic leases. We are, therefore, not materially exposed to financing, liquidity, market or credit risk that could arise if we had engaged in such relationships.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

(a) Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures. We carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, (Exchange Act)) as of the end of our fiscal quarter ended September 27, 2014. Based upon that evaluation, our principal executive officer and principal financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act (i) is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC s rules and forms and (ii) is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

(b) Change in internal controls over financial reporting. During the fiscal quarter that ended September 27, 2014, there were no changes in our internal controls over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal controls over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

The information set forth in the sections entitled Litigation and Patent Reexaminations under Note 7 of Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, included in Part I, Item I of this Report, is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

You should consider each of the following factors as well as the other information in this Report in evaluating our business and our prospects. The risks described below are not the only ones we face. Additional risks we are not presently aware of or that we currently believe are immaterial may also impair our business operations. If any of the events described below were to occur, our financial condition, our ability to

access capital resources, our results of operations and/or our future growth prospects could be materially and adversely affected and the market price of our common stock could decline. In assessing these risks, you should also refer to the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this Report, including our consolidated financial statements and related notes.

Risks related to our business

We expect a number of factors to cause our operating results to fluctuate on a quarterly and annual basis, which may make it difficult to predict our future performance.

Our operating results have varied significantly in the past and will continue to fluctuate from quarter-to-quarter or year-to-year in the future due to a variety of factors, many of which are beyond our control. Factors relating to our business that may contribute to these quarterly and annual fluctuations include the following factors, as well as other factors described elsewhere in this quarterly report:

- general economic conditions, including the possibility of a prolonged period of limited economic growth in the U.S. and Europe; disruptions to the credit and financial markets in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere;

Table of Contents

- our inability to develop new or enhanced products that achieve customer or market acceptance in a timely manner, including our HyperCloud ® memory module, our NVvault and Hypervault family of products and our flash-based memory products;

- our failure to maintain the qualification of our products with our current customers or to qualify current and future products with our current or prospective customers in a timely manner or at all;

- the timing of actual or anticipated introductions of competing products or technologies by us or our competitors, customers or suppliers;

- our ability to procure an adequate supply of key components, particularly DRAM ICs and NAND Flash;

- the loss of, or a significant reduction in sales to, a key customer;

- the cyclical nature of the industry in which we operate;

- a reduction in the demand for our high performance memory subsystems or the systems into which they are incorporated;

- our customers failure to pay us on a timely basis;

- costs, inefficiencies and supply risks associated with outsourcing portions of the design and the manufacture of integrated circuits;

- our ability to absorb manufacturing overhead if our revenues decline or vary from our projections;

- delays in fulfilling orders for our products or a failure to fulfill orders;

- dependence on large suppliers who are also competitors and whose manufacturing priorities may not support our production schedules;

- changes in the prices of our products or in the cost of the materials that we use to build our products, including fluctuations in the market price of DRAM ICs and NAND;

- our ability to effectively operate our manufacturing facility in the PRC;

- manufacturing inefficiencies associated with the start-up of new manufacturing operations, new products and initiation of volume production or disruption due to power outages, natural disasters or other factors;

- our failure to produce products that meet the quality requirements of our customers;

- disputes regarding intellectual property rights and the possibility of our patents being reexamined by the USPTO;

- the costs and management attention diversion associated with litigation;

- the loss of any of our key personnel;

- changes in regulatory policies or accounting principles;

- our ability to adequately manage or finance internal growth or growth through acquisitions;

- the effect of our investments and financing arrangements on our liquidity; and

- the other factors described in this Risk Factors section and elsewhere in this quarterly report.

Table of Contents

Due to the various factors mentioned above, and others, the results of any prior quarterly or annual periods should not be relied upon as an indication of our future operating performance. In one or more future periods, our results of operations may fall below the expectations of securities analysts and investors. In that event, the market price of our common stock would likely decline. In addition, the market price of our common stock may fluctuate or decline regardless of our operating performance.

We have historically incurred losses and may continue to incur losses.

Since the inception of our business in 2000, we have only experienced one fiscal year (2006) with profitable results. In order to regain profitability, or to achieve and sustain positive cash flows from operations in the future, we must further reduce operating expenses and/or increase our revenues and gross margins. Although we have in the past engaged in a series of cost reduction actions, and believe that we could reduce our current level of expenses through elimination or reduction of strategic initiatives, such expense reductions alone may not make us profitable or allow us to sustain profitability if it is achieved. Our ability to achieve profitability will depend on increased revenue growth from, among other things, increased demand for our memory subsystems and related product offerings, as well as our ability to expand into new and emerging markets. We may not be successful in achieving the necessary revenue growth or the expected expense reductions. Moreover, we may be unable to sustain past or expected future expense reductions in subsequent periods. We may not achieve profitability or sustain such profitability, if achieved, on a quarterly or annual basis in the future.

Any failure to achieve profitability could result in increased capital requirements and pressure on our liquidity position. We believe our future capital requirements will depend on many factors, including our levels of net sales, the timing and extent of expenditures to support sales, marketing, research and development activities, the expansion of manufacturing capacity both domestically and internationally and the continued market acceptance of our products. Our capital requirements could result in our having to, or otherwise choosing to, seek additional funding through public or private equity offerings or debt financings. Such funding may not be available on terms acceptable to us, or at all, either of which could result in our inability to meet certain of our financial obligations and other related commitments.

Our future capital needs are uncertain, and we may need to raise additional funds, which may not be available on acceptable terms or at all.

We believe our existing cash balances, borrowing availability under our bank credit facility with Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), borrowing availability under our loan agreement with DBD Credit Funding, LLC, an affiliate of Fortress Investment Group, LLC (DBD), and the cash expected to be generated from operations, will be sufficient to meet our anticipated cash needs for at least the next 12 months. However, we may need significant additional capital, which we may seek to raise through, among other things, public and private equity offerings and debt financings. Our future capital requirements will depend on many factors, including our levels of net sales, the timing and extent of expenditures to support research and development activities and patent infringement litigation, the expansion of manufacturing capacity both domestically and internationally and the continued market acceptance of our products. Additional funds may not be available on terms acceptable to us, or at all. Furthermore, if we issue equity or convertible debt securities to raise additional funds, our existing stockholders may experience dilution, and the new equity or debt securities may have rights, preferences, and privileges senior to those of our existing stockholders. If we incur additional debt, it may increase our leverage relative to our earnings or to our equity capitalization.

If adequate working capital is not available when needed, we may be required to significantly modify our business model and operations to reduce spending to a sustainable level. It could cause us to be unable to execute our business plan, take advantage of future opportunities, or respond to competitive pressures or customer requirements. It may also cause us to delay, scale back or eliminate some or all of our research and development programs, or to reduce or cease operations.

We have incurred a material amount of indebtedness to fund our operations, the terms of which required that we pledge substantially all of our assets as security and that we agree to share certain patent monetization revenues that may accrue in the future. Our level of indebtedness and the terms of such indebtedness, could adversely affect our operations and liquidity.

We have incurred debt secured by all of our assets under our credit facilities and term loans with DBD and SVB. Our credit facility with DBD is secured by a first-priority security interest in our intellectual property assets (other than certain patents and related assets relating to the NVvault product line) and a second priority security interest in substantially all of our other assets. Our credit facility with SVB is secured by a first priority security interest in all of our assets other than our intellectual property assets, to which SVB has a second priority security interest. The credit facility with

Table of Contents

DBD contains customary representations, warranties and indemnification provisions, as well as affirmative and negative covenants that, among other things restrict our ability to:

- incur additional indebtedness or guarantees;
- incur liens;
- make investments, loans and acquisitions;
- consolidate or merge
- sell or exclusively license assets, including capital stock of subsidiaries;
- alter our business;
- engage in transactions with affiliates; and
- pay dividends or make distributions.

The credit facilities also include events of default, including, among other things, payment defaults, breaches of representations, warranties or covenants, certain bankruptcy events, and certain material adverse changes. If we were to default under either credit facility and were unable to obtain a waiver for such a default, interest on the obligations would accrue at an increased rate. In the case of a default, the lenders could accelerate our obligations under the credit agreements and exercise their rights to foreclose on their security interests, which would cause substantial harm to our business and prospects.

Incurrence and maintenance of this debt could have material consequences, such as:

- requiring us to dedicate a portion of our cash flow from operations and other capital resources to debt service, thereby reducing our ability to fund working capital, capital expenditures, and other cash requirements;

- increasing our vulnerability to adverse economic and industry conditions;

- limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes and opportunities in, our business and industry, which may place us at a competitive disadvantage; and

- limiting our ability to incur additional debt on acceptable terms, if at all.

Concurrently with the execution of the credit facility with DBD, we entered into a Patent Monetization Side Letter Agreement which provides, among other things, that an affiliate of DBD may be entitled to share in certain monetization revenues that we may derive in the future related to our patent portfolio (excluding certain patents relating to the NVvault product line). Monetization revenues subject to this arrangement include revenues recognized during the seven year term of the Letter Agreement from net amounts actually paid to us or our subsidiaries in connection with any assertion of, agreement not to assert, or license of, our patent portfolio. Monetization revenues subject to the arrangement also include the value attributable to our patent portfolio in any sale of the Company during the seven year term, subject to a maximum amount. The Letter Agreement also requires that we use commercially reasonable efforts to pursue opportunities to monetize our patent portfolio during the term of the Letter Agreement, provided that we are under no obligation to pursue any such opportunities that we do not deem to be in our best interest in our reasonable business judgment. Notwithstanding the foregoing, there can be no assurance that we will be successful in these efforts, and we may expend resources in pursuit of monetization revenues that may not result in any benefit to us. Moreover, the revenue sharing obligation will reduce the benefit we receive from any monetization transactions, which could adversely affect our operating results and would reduce the amounts payable to our stockholders in the event of a sale transaction.

Table of Contents

Our revenues and results of operations have been substantially dependent on NVvault and we may be unable to replace revenue lost from the rapid decline in prior generation NVvault sales to Dell.

For the nine months ended September 27, 2014 and September 28, 2013, our NVvault non-volatile RDIMM used in cache-protection and data logging applications, including our NVvault battery-free, the flash-based cache system, accounted for approximately 48% and 32% of total net sales, respectively. Following Intel s launch of its Romley platform in the first quarter of 2012, we have experienced a rapid decline in NVvault sales to Dell, and we recognized no NVvault sales to Dell in the nine months ended September 27, 2014, as compared to $2.1 million in the nine months ended September 28, 2013. We expect no demand from Dell for our DDR2 NVvault during the remainder of 2014. In order to leverage our NVvault technology and diversify our customer base, and to secure one or more new key customers other than Dell, we continue to pursue additional qualifications of NVvault . We also introduced EXPRESSvault in March 2011, and we continue to pursue qualification of next generation DDR3 NVvault with customers. Our future operating results will depend on our ability to commercialize these NVvault product extensions, as well as other products such as HyperCloud® and other high-density and high- performance solutions. We may not be successful in expanding our qualifications or in marketing any new or enhanced products. If we are not successful in generating sales of other products, the cessation of sales of NVvault products to Dell will significantly reduce our annual revenues and negatively affect our results of operations.

We are subject to risks relating to our focus on developing our HyperCloud® and NVvault products and lack of market diversification.

We have historically derived a substantial portion of our net sales from sales of our high performance memory subsystems for use in the server market. We expect these memory subsystems to continue to account for a portion of our net sales in the near term, although we may be unable to meet customer demand for our HyperCloud ® or NVvault products in future periods if we experience disruptions in the supply of raw materials. We believe that continued market acceptance of these products or derivative products that incorporate our core memory subsystem technology for use in servers is critical to our success.

We have invested a significant portion of our research and development budget into the design of ASIC and hybrid devices, including the HyperCloud ® memory subsystem, introduced in November 2009, as well as our NVvault family of products. These designs and the products they are incorporated into are subject to increased risks as compared to our legacy products. For example:

- we are dependent on a limited number of suppliers for both the DRAM ICs and the ASIC devices that are essential to the functionality of the HyperCloud ® memory subsystem, and we have experienced supply chain disruptions and shortages of DRAM and Flash required to create our HyperCloud, NVvault and Planar X VLP products as a result of business issues that are specific to our suppliers or the industry as a whole;

- we may be unable to achieve new qualifications or customer or market acceptance of the HyperCloud ® memory subsystem or other new products, or achieve such acceptance in a timely manner;

- the HyperCloud ® memory subsystem or other new products may contain currently undiscovered flaws, the correction of which would result in increased costs and time to market; and

- we are required to demonstrate the quality and reliability of the HyperCloud ® memory subsystem or other new products to our customers, and are required to qualify these new products with our customers, which requires a significant investment of time and resources prior to the receipt of any revenue from such customers.

We experienced a longer qualification cycle than anticipated with our HyperCloud® memory subsystems, and as a result, we have not generated significant HyperCloud® product revenues to date relative to our investment in the product. We entered into collaborative agreements with both IBM and HP pursuant to which these OEMs qualified the 16GB and 32GB versions of HyperCloud® for use with their products. While we and each of the OEMs committed financial and other resources toward the collaboration, the efforts undertaken with each of these collaborative agreements have not resulted in significant product margins for us to date relative to our investment in developing and marketing these products. We must secure an adequate supply of DRAM in order to continue to sell our HyperCloud product in future periods and, even assuming we are successful in maintaining an adequate supply, we cannot provide any assurances that we will achieve sufficient revenues or margins from our HyperCloud® products.

Table of Contents

Additionally, if the demand for servers deteriorates or if the demand for our products to be incorporated in servers declines, our operating results would be adversely affected, and we would be forced to diversify our product portfolio and our target markets. We may not be able to achieve this diversification, and our inability to do so may adversely affect our business.

We use a small number of custom ASIC, DRAM IC and NAND suppliers and are subject to risks of disruption in the supply of custom ASIC, DRAM ICs and NAND.

Our ability to fulfill customer orders or produce qualification samples is dependent on a sufficient supply of DRAM ICs and NAND, which are essential components of our memory subsystems. We are also dependent on a sufficient supply of custom ASIC devices to produce our HyperCloud ® memory modules. There are a relatively small number of suppliers of DRAM ICs and NAND, and we purchase from only a subset of these suppliers. We have no long-term DRAM or NAND supply contracts.

From time to time, shortages in DRAM ICs and NAND have required some suppliers to limit the supply of their DRAM ICs and NAND. We have experienced supply chain disruptions and shortages of DRAM and Flash required to create our HyperCloud NVvault and Planar X VLP products and we are continually working to secure adequate supplies of DRAM and Flash necessary to fill customers orders for our products in a timely manner. If we are unable to obtain a sufficient supply of DRAM ICs or NAND Flash to meet our customers requirements, these customers may reduce future orders for our products or not purchase our products at all, which would cause our net sales to decline and harm our operating results. In addition, our reputation could be harmed and, even assuming we are successful in resolving supply chain disruptions, we may not be able to replace any lost business with new customers, and we may lose market share to our competitors.

Additionally, we could face obstacles in moving production of our ASIC components away from our current design and production partners. Our dependence on a small number of suppliers and the lack of any guaranteed sources of ASIC components, DRAM and NAND supply expose us to several risks, including the inability to obtain an adequate supply of these important components, price increases, delivery delays and poor quality.

Historical declines in customer demand and our revenues caused us to reduce our purchases of DRAM ICs and NAND. Such fluctuations could occur in the future. Should we not maintain sufficient purchase levels with some suppliers, our ability to obtain supplies of raw materials may be impaired due to the practice of some suppliers to allocate their products to customers with the highest regular demand.

Our customers qualify the ASIC components, DRAM ICs and NAND of our suppliers for use in their systems. If one of our suppliers should experience quality control problems, it may be disqualified by one or more of our customers. This would disrupt our supplies of ASIC components, DRAM ICs and NAND and reduce the number of suppliers available to us, and may require that we qualify a new supplier. If our suppliers are unable to produce qualification samples on a timely basis or at all, we could experience delays in the qualification process, which could have a significant impact on our ability to sell that product.

We may lose our competitive position if we are unable to timely and cost-effectively develop new or enhanced products that meet our customers requirements and achieve market acceptance.

Our industry is characterized by intense competition, rapid technological change, evolving industry standards and rapid product obsolescence. Evolving industry standards and technological change or new, competitive technologies could render our existing products obsolete. Accordingly, our ability to compete in the future will depend in large part on our ability to identify and develop new or enhanced products on a timely and cost-effective basis, and to respond to changing customer requirements. In order to develop and introduce new or enhanced products, we need to:

- identify and adjust to the changing requirements of our current and potential customers;

- identify and adapt to emerging technological trends and evolving industry standards in our markets;

- design and introduce cost-effective, innovative and performance- enhancing features that differentiate our products from those of our competitors;

- develop relationships with potential suppliers of components required for these new or enhanced products;

- qualify these products for use in our customers products; and

- develop and maintain effective marketing strategies.

Table of Contents

Our product development efforts are costly and inherently risky. It is difficult to foresee changes or developments in technology or anticipate the adoption of new standards. Moreover, once these things are identified, if at all, we will need to hire the appropriate technical personnel or retain third party designers, develop the product, identify and eliminate design flaws, and manufacture the product in production quantities either in-house or through third-party manufacturers. As a result, we may not be able to successfully develop new or enhanced products or we may experience delays in the development and introduction of new or enhanced products. Delays in product development and introduction could result in the loss of, or delays in generating, net sales and the loss of market share, as well as damage to our reputation. Even if we develop new or enhanced products, they may not meet our customers requirements or gain market acceptance.

Our customers require that our products undergo a lengthy and expensive qualification process without any assurance of net sales.

Our prospective customers generally make a significant commitment of resources to test and evaluate our memory subsystems prior to purchasing our products and integrating them into their systems. This extensive qualification process involves rigorous reliability testing and evaluation of our products, which may continue for nine months or longer and is often subject to delays. In addition to qualification of specific products, some of our customers may also require us to undergo a technology qualification if our product designs incorporate innovative technologies that the customer has not previously encountered. Such technology qualifications often take substantially longer than product qualifications and can take over a year to complete. Qualification by a prospective customer does not ensure any sales to that prospective customer. Even after successful qualification and sales of our products to a customer, changes in our products, our manufacturing facilities, our production processes or our component suppliers may require a new qualification process, which may result in additional delays.

In addition, because the qualification process is both product specific and platform specific, our existing customers sometimes require us to re-qualify our products, or to qualify our new products, for use in new platforms or applications. For example, as our OEM customers transition from prior generation architectures to current generation architectures, we must design and qualify new products for use by those customers. In the past, the process of design and qualification has taken up to nine months to complete, during which time our net sales to those customers declined significantly. After our products are qualified, it can take several months before the customer begins production and we begin to generate net sales from such customer.

Likewise, when our memory component vendors discontinue production of components, it may be necessary for us to design and qualify new products for our customers. Such customers may require of us or we may decide to purchase an estimated quantity of discontinued memory components necessary to ensure a steady supply of existing products until products with new components can be qualified. Purchases of this nature may affect our liquidity. Additionally, our estimation of quantities required during the transition may be incorrect, which could adversely impact our results of operations through lost revenue opportunities or charges related to excess and obsolete inventory.

We must devote substantial resources, including design, engineering, sales, marketing and management efforts, to qualify our products with prospective customers in anticipation of sales. Significant delays in the qualification process, such as those experienced with our HyperCloud ® product, could result in an inability to keep up with rapid technology change or new, competitive technologies. If we delay or do not succeed in qualifying a product with an existing or prospective customer, we will not be able to sell that product to that customer, which may result in our holding excess and obsolete inventory and harm our operating results and business.

Sales to a limited number of customers represent a significant portion of our net sales and the loss of, or a significant reduction in sales to, any one of these customers could materially harm our business.

Sales to certain of our OEM customers have historically represented a substantial majority of our net sales. Approximately 18%, 15% and 21% of our net sales in the nine months ended September 27, 2014 were to three of our customers. Approximately 39% and 17% of our nets sales in the nine months ended September 28, 2013 were to two of our customers. The composition of major customers and their respective contributions to our net sales have varied and will likely continue to vary from period to period as our OEMs progress through the life cycle of the products they produce and sell. We do not have long-term agreements with our OEM customers, or with any other customer. Any one of these customers could decide at any time to discontinue, decrease or delay their purchase of our products. In addition, the prices that these customers pay for our products could change at any time. The loss of any of our OEM customers, or a significant reduction in sales to any of them, could significantly reduce our net sales and adversely affect our operating results.

Table of Contents

Our ability to maintain or increase our net sales to our key customers depends on a variety of factors, many of which are beyond our control. These factors include our customers continued sales of servers and other computing systems that incorporate our memory subsystems and our customers continued incorporation of our products into their systems. Because of these and other factors, net sales to these customers may not continue and the amount of such net sales may not reach or exceed historical levels in any future period. Because these customers account for a substantial portion of our net sales, the failure of any one of these customers to pay on a timely basis would negatively impact our cash flow. In addition, while we may not be contractually obligated to accept returned products, we may determine that it is in our best interest to accept returns in order to maintain good relations with our customers. As we describe in more detail elsewhere in this Report, we have experienced a significant decline in sales of NVvault to our key customer, Dell, and we did not have any sales of NVvault to Dell during the nine months ended September 27, 2014. This loss of sales to Dell has had a significant impact on our revenues and gross profit.

A limited number of relatively large potential customers dominate the markets for our products.

Our target markets are characterized by a limited number of large companies. Consolidation in one or more of our target markets may further increase this industry concentration. As a result, we anticipate that sales of our products will continue to be concentrated among a limited number of large customers in the foreseeable future. We believe that our financial results will depend in significant part on our success in establishing and maintaining relationships with, and effecting substantial sales to, these potential customers. Even if we establish and successfully maintain these relationships, our financial results will be largely dependent on these customers sales and business results.

If a standardized memory solution which addresses the demands of our customers is developed, our net sales and market share may decline.

Many of our memory subsystems are specifically designed for our OEM customers high performance systems. In a drive to reduce costs and assure supply of their memory module demand, our OEM customers may endeavor to design JEDEC standard DRAM modules into their new products. Although we also manufacture JEDEC modules, this trend could reduce the demand for our higher priced customized memory solutions which in turn would have a negative impact on our financial results. In addition, customers deploying custom memory solutions today may in the future choose to adopt a JEDEC standard, and the adoption of a JEDEC standard module instead of a previously custom module might allow new competitors to participate in a share of our customers memory module business that previously belonged to us.

If our OEM customers were to adopt JEDEC standard modules, our future business may be limited to identifying the next generation of high performance memory demands of OEM customers and developing solutions that addresses such demands. Until fully implemented, this next generation of products may constitute a much smaller market, which may reduce our net sales and market share.

We may not be able to maintain our competitive position because of the intense competition in our targeted markets.

We participate in a highly competitive market, and we expect competition to intensify. Many of our competitors have longer operating histories, significantly greater resources and name recognition, a larger base of customers and longer-standing relationships with customers and suppliers than we have. As a result, some of these competitors are able to devote greater resources to the development, promotion and sale of products and are better positioned than we are to influence customer acceptance of their products over our products. These competitors also may be able to respond better to new or emerging technologies or standards and may be able to deliver products with comparable or superior performance at a lower price. For these reasons, we may not be able to compete successfully against these competitors. We also expect to face competition from

new and emerging companies that may enter our existing or future markets. These potential competitors may have similar or alternative products which may be less costly or provide additional features.

In addition to the competition we face from DRAM and logic suppliers such as SK hynix, Samsung, Micron, Inphi and IDT, some of our OEM customers have their own internal design groups that may develop solutions that compete with ours. These design groups have some advantages over us, including direct access to their respective companies technical information and technology roadmaps. Our OEM customers also have substantially greater resources, financial and otherwise, than we do, and may have lower cost structures than ours. As a result, they may be able to design and manufacture competitive products more efficiently or inexpensively. If any of these OEM customers are successful in competing against us, our sales could decline, our margins could be negatively impacted and we could lose market share, any or all of which could harm our business and results of operations. Further, some of our significant suppliers are also competitors, many of whom have the ability to manufacture competitive products at lower costs as a result of their higher levels of integration.

Table of Contents

We expect our competitors to continue to improve the performance of their current products, reduce their prices and introduce new or enhanced technologies that may offer greater performance and improved pricing. If we are unable to match or exceed the improvements made by our competitors, our market position would deteriorate and our net sales would decline. In addition, our competitors may develop future generations and enhancements of competitive products that may render our technologies obsolete or uncompetitive.

If we fail to protect our proprietary rights, our customers or our competitors might gain access to our proprietary designs, processes and technologies, which could adversely affect our operating results.

We rely on a combination of patent protection, trade secret laws and restrictions on disclosure to protect our intellectual property rights. We have submitted a number of patent applications regarding our proprietary processes and technology. It is not certain when or if any of the claims in the remaining applications will be allowed. As of September 27, 2014, we had 49 U.S. patents issued and 2 foreign patents granted. We intend to continue filing patent applications with respect to most of the new processes and technologies that we develop. However, patent protection may not be available for some of these processes or technologies.

It is possible that our efforts to protect our intellectual property rights may not:

- prevent challenges to, or the invalidation or circumvention of, our existing intellectual property rights;
- prevent our competitors from independently developing similar products, duplicating our products or designing around any patents that may be issued to us;
- prevent disputes with third parties regarding ownership of our intellectual property rights;
- prevent disclosure of our trade secrets and know-how to third parties or into the public domain;
- result in valid patents, including international patents, from any of our pending or future applications; or
- otherwise adequately protect our intellectual property rights.

Others may attempt to reverse engineer, copy or otherwise obtain and use our proprietary technologies without our consent. Monitoring the unauthorized use of our technologies is difficult. We cannot be certain that the steps we have taken will prevent the unauthorized use of our

technologies. This is particularly true in foreign countries, such as the PRC, where we have established a manufacturing facility and where the laws may not protect our proprietary rights to the same extent as applicable U.S. laws.

If some or all of the claims in our patent applications are not allowed, or if any of our intellectual property protections are limited in scope by the USPTO or by a court or circumvented by others, we could face increased competition with regard to our products. Increased competition could significantly harm our business and our operating results.

We are involved in and expect to continue to be involved in costly legal and administrative proceedings to defend against claims that we infringe the intellectual property rights of others or to enforce or protect our intellectual property rights.

As is common to the semiconductor industry, we have experienced substantial litigation regarding patent and other intellectual property rights. Lawsuits claiming that we are infringing others intellectual property rights have been and may in the future be brought against us, and we are currently defending against claims of invalidity in the USPTO. See Note 7 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, included in the Report, for a more detailed description of our legal contingencies.

The process of obtaining and protecting patents is inherently uncertain. In addition to the patent issuance process established by law and the procedures of the USPTO, we must comply with JEDEC administrative procedures in protecting our intellectual property within its industry standard setting process. These procedures evolve over time, are subject to variability in their application, and may be inconsistent with each other. Failure to comply with JEDEC s administrative procedures could jeopardize our ability to claim that our patents have been infringed.

Table of Contents

By making use of new technologies and entering new markets there is an increased likelihood that others might allege that our products infringe on their intellectual property rights. Litigation is inherently uncertain, and an adverse outcome in existing or any future litigation could subject us to significant liability for damages or invalidate our proprietary rights. An adverse outcome also could force us to take specific actions, including causing us to:

- cease manufacturing and/or selling products, or using certain processes, that are claimed to be infringing a third party s intellectual property;

- pay damages (which in some instances may be three times actual damages), including royalties on past or future sales;

- seek a license from the third party intellectual property owner to use their technology in our products, which license may not be available on reasonable terms, or at all; or

- redesign those products that are claimed to be infringing a third party s intellectual property.

If any adverse ruling in any such matter occurs, any resulting limitations in our ability to market our products, or delays and costs associated with redesigning our products or payments of license fees to third parties, or any failure by us to develop or license a substitute technology on commercially reasonable terms could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

There is a limited pool of experienced technical personnel that we can draw upon to meet our hiring needs. As a result, a number of our existing employees have worked for our existing or potential competitors at some point during their careers, and we anticipate that a number of our future employees will have similar work histories. In the past, some of these competitors have claimed that our employees misappropriated their trade secrets or violated non- competition or non-solicitation agreements. Some of our competitors may threaten or bring legal action involving similar claims against us or our existing employees or make such claims in the future to prevent us from hiring qualified candidates. Lawsuits of this type may be brought, even if there is no merit to the claim, simply as a strategy to drain our financial resources and divert management s attention away from our business.

We also may find it necessary to litigate against others, including our competitors, customers and former employees, to enforce our intellectual property, contractual and commercial rights including, in particular, our trade secrets, as well as to challenge the validity and scope of the proprietary rights of others. We could become subject to counterclaims or countersuits against us as a result of this litigation. Moreover, any legal disputes with customers could cause them to cease buying or using our products or delay their purchase of our products and could substantially damage our relationship with them.

Any litigation, regardless of its outcome, would be time consuming and costly to resolve, divert our management s time and attention and negatively impact our results of operations. We cannot assure you that current or future infringement claims by third parties or claims for indemnification by customers or end users of our products resulting from infringement claims will not be asserted in the future or that such

assertions, if proven to be true, will not materially adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Our operating results may be adversely impacted by worldwide economic and political uncertainties and specific conditions in the markets we address, including the cyclical nature of and volatility in the memory market and semiconductor industry.

Adverse changes in domestic and global economic and political conditions have made it extremely difficult for our customers, our vendors and us to accurately forecast and plan future business activities, and they have caused and could continue to cause U.S. and foreign businesses to slow spending on our products and services, which would further delay and lengthen sales cycles. In addition, sales of our products are dependent upon demand in the computing, networking, communications, printer, storage and industrial markets. These markets have been cyclical and are characterized by wide fluctuations in product supply and demand. These markets have experienced significant downturns, often connected with, or in anticipation of, maturing product cycles, reductions in technology spending and declines in general economic conditions. These downturns have been characterized by diminished product demand, production overcapacity, high inventory levels and the erosion of average selling prices.

We may experience substantial period-to-period fluctuations in future operating results due to factors affecting the computing, networking, communications, printers, storage and industrial markets. A decline or significant shortfall in demand in any one of these markets could have a material adverse effect on the demand for our products. As a result, our sales will likely decline during these periods. In addition, because many of our costs and operating expenses are relatively fixed, if we are unable to control our expenses adequately in response to reduced sales, our gross margins, operating income and cash flow would be negatively impacted.

Table of Contents

During challenging economic times our customers may face issues gaining timely access to sufficient credit, which could impair their ability to make timely payments to us. If that were to occur, we may be required to increase our allowance for doubtful accounts and our days sales outstanding would be negatively impacted. Furthermore, our vendors may face similar issues gaining access to credit, which may limit their ability to supply components or provide trade credit to us. We cannot predict the timing, strength or duration of any economic slowdown or subsequent economic recovery, worldwide, or in the memory market and related semiconductor industry. If the economy or markets in which we operate do not continue to improve or if conditions worsen, our business, financial condition and results of operations will likely be materially and adversely affected. Additionally, the combination of our lengthy sales cycle coupled with challenging macroeconomic conditions could compound the negative impact on the results of our operations.

Our lack of a significant backlog of unfilled orders, and the difficulty inherent in forecasting customer demand, makes it difficult to forecast our short-term production requirements to meet that demand, and any failure to optimally calibrate our production capacity and inventory levels to meet customer demand could adversely affect our revenues, gross margins and earnings.

Table of Contents

We make significant decisions regarding the levels of business that we will seek and accept, production schedules, component procurement commitments, personnel needs and other resource requirements, based on our estimates of customer requirements. We do not have long-term purchase agreements with our customers. Instead, our customers often place purchase orders no more than two weeks in advance of their desired delivery date, and these purchase orders generally have no cancellation or rescheduling penalty provisions. The short-term nature of commitments by many of our customers, the fact that our customers may cancel or defer purchase orders for any reason, and the possibility of unexpected changes in demand for our customers products each reduce our ability to accurately estimate future customer requirements for our products. This fact, combined with the quick turn-around times that apply to each order, makes it difficult to forecast our production needs and allocate production capacity efficiently. We attempt to forecast the demand for the DRAM ICs, NAND, and other components needed to manufacture our products. Lead times for components vary significantly and depend on various factors, such as the specific supplier and the demand and supply for a component at a given time.

Our production expense and component purchase levels are based in part on our forecasts of our customers future product requirements and to a large extent are fixed in the short term. As a result, we likely will be unable to adjust spending on a timely basis to compensate for any unexpected shortfall in those orders. If we overestimate customer demand, we may have excess raw material inventory of DRAM ICs and NAND. If there is a subsequent decline in the prices of DRAM ICs or NAND, the value of our inventory will fall. As a result, we may need to write-down the value of our DRAM IC or NAND inventory, which may result in a significant decrease in our gross margin and financial condition. Also, to the extent that we manufacture products in anticipation of future demand that does not materialize, or in the event a customer cancels or reduces outstanding orders, we could experience an unanticipated increase in our finished goods inventory. In the past, we have had to write-down inventory due to obsolescence, excess quantities and declines in market value below our costs. Any significant shortfall of customer orders in relation to our expectations could hurt our operating results, cash flows and financial condition.

Also, any rapid increases in production required by our customers could strain our resources and reduce our margins. If we underestimate customer demand, we may not have sufficient inventory of DRAM ICs and NAND on hand to manufacture enough product to meet that demand. We also may not have sufficient manufacturing capacity at any given time to meet our customers demands for rapid increases in production. These shortages of inventory and capacity will lead to delays in the delivery of our products, and we could forego sales opportunities, lose market share and damage our customer relationships.

Declines in our average sales prices, driven by volatile prices for DRAM ICs and NAND, among other factors, may result in declines in our revenues and gross profit.

Our industry is competitive and historically has been characterized by declines in average sales price, based in part on the market price of DRAM ICs and NAND, which have historically constituted a substantial portion of the total cost of our memory subsystems. Our average sales prices may decline due to several factors, including overcapacity in the worldwide supply of DRAM and NAND memory components as a result of worldwide economic conditions, increased manufacturing efficiencies, implementation of new manufacturing processes and expansion of manufacturing capacity by component suppliers.

Once our prices with a customer are negotiated, we are generally unable to revise pricing with that customer until our next regularly scheduled price adjustment. Consequently, we are exposed to the risks associated with the volatility of the price of DRAM ICs and NAND during that period. If the market prices for DRAM ICs and NAND increase, we generally cannot pass the price increases on to our customers for products purchased under an existing purchase order. As a result, our cost of sales could increase and our gross margins could decrease. Alternatively, if there are declines in the price of DRAM ICs and NAND, we may need to reduce our selling prices for subsequent purchase orders, which may result in a decline in our expected net sales.

In addition, since a large percentage of our sales are to a small number of customers that are primarily distributors and large OEMs, these customers have exerted, and we expect they will continue to exert, pressure on us to make price concessions. If not offset by increases in volume of sales or the sales of newly-developed products with higher margins, decreases in average sales prices would likely have a material adverse effect on our business and operating results.

Our production expense and component purchase levels are based in part on our forecasts of our customers future product requirements and to a large extent are fixed in the short term. As a result, we likely will be unable to adjust spending on a timely basis to compensate for any unexpected shortfall in those orders. If we overestimate customer demand, we may have excess raw material inventory of DRAM ICs and NAND. If there is a subsequent decline in the prices of DRAM ICs or

Table of Contents

NAND, the value of our inventory will fall. As a result, we may need to write-down the value of our DRAM IC or NAND inventory, which may result in a significant decrease in our gross margin and financial condition. Also, to the extent that we manufacture products in anticipation of future demand that does not materialize, or in the event a customer cancels or reduces outstanding orders, we could experience an unanticipated increase in our finished goods inventory. In the past, we have had to write-down inventory due to obsolescence, excess quantities and declines in market value below our costs. Any significant shortfall of customer orders in relation to our expectations could hurt our operating results, cash flows and financial condition.

Also, any rapid increases in production required by our customers could strain our resources and reduce our margins. If we underestimate customer demand, we may not have sufficient inventory of DRAM ICs and NAND on hand to manufacture enough product to meet that demand. We also may not have sufficient manufacturing capacity at any given time to meet our customers demands for rapid increases in production. These shortages of inventory and capacity will lead to delays in the delivery of our products, and we could forego sales opportunities, lose market share and damage our customer relationships.

If the supply of other component materials used to manufacture our products is interrupted, or if our inventory becomes obsolete, our results of operations and financial condition could be adversely affected.

We use consumables and other components, including PCBs, to manufacture our memory subsystems. We sometimes procure PCBs and other components from single or limited sources to take advantage of volume pricing discounts. Material shortages or transportation problems could interrupt the manufacture of our products from time to time in the future. These delays in manufacturing could adversely affect our results of operations.

Frequent technology changes and the introduction of next-generation products also may result in the obsolescence of other items of inventory, such as our custom-built PCBs, which could reduce our gross margin and adversely affect our operating performance and financial condition. We may not be able to sell some products developed for one customer to another customer because our products are often designed to address specific customer requirements, and even if we are able to sell these products to another customer, our margin on such products may be reduced.

A prolonged disruption of our manufacturing facility could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We maintain a manufacturing facility in the PRC for producing most of our products, which allows us to utilize our materials and processes, protect our intellectual property and develop the technology for manufacturing. A prolonged disruption or material malfunction of, interruption in or the loss of operations at our manufacturing facility, or the failure to maintain a sufficient labor force at such facility, could require us to rely on third parties for our manufacturing needs, which generally increases our manufacturing costs and decreases our profit margins, and could limit our capacity to meet customer demand and delay new product development until a replacement facility and equipment, if necessary, were found. The replacement of the manufacturing facility could take an extended amount of time before manufacturing operations could restart. The potential delays and costs resulting from these steps could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. In July 2014, our PRC facility suffered water damage as a result of heavy rain and floods, which forced us to temporarily halt manufacturing at our PRC facility while necessary repairs or replacements were made to our PRC facility and to certain of our manufacturing equipment. This incident caused us to incur additional expenses as we shifted our manufacturing activities to a third-party manufacturing facility in the PRC to enable us to mitigate the disruption in shipments to our customers. While we believe we have contained the disruptions we expect that our relationships with our key customers could be materially harmed if we incur additional manufacturing disruptions in the future. We are currently processing this incident as a claim with our insurer. We are unable to provide assurances that similar events will not occur in

the future or that we will be able to secure alternative manufacturing capabilities if manufacturing at our PRC facility is disrupted.

If we are unable to manufacture our products efficiently, our operating results could suffer.

We must continuously review and improve our manufacturing processes in an effort to maintain satisfactory manufacturing yields and product performance, to lower our costs and to otherwise remain competitive. As we manufacture more complex products, the risk of encountering delays or difficulties increases. The start-up costs associated with implementing new manufacturing technologies, methods and processes, including the purchase of new equipment, and any resulting manufacturing delays and inefficiencies, could negatively impact our results of operations.

Table of Contents

If we need to add manufacturing capacity, an expansion of our existing manufacturing facility or establishment of a new facility could be subject to factory audits by our customers. Any delays or unexpected costs resulting from this audit process could adversely affect our net sales and results of operations. In addition, we cannot be certain that we will be able to increase our manufacturing capacity on a timely basis or meet the standards of any applicable factory audits.

We depend on third-parties to design and manufacture custom components for some of our products.

Significant customized components, such as ASICs, that are used in some of our products such as HyperCloud® are designed and manufactured by third parties. The ability and willingness of such third parties to perform in accordance with their agreements with us is largely outside of our control. If one or more of our design or manufacturing partners fails to perform its obligations in a timely manner or at satisfactory quality levels, our ability to bring products to market or deliver products to our customers, as well as our reputation, could suffer. In the event of any such failures, we may have no readily available alternative source of supply for such products, since, in our experience, the lead time needed to establish a relationship with a new design and/or manufacturing partner is at least 12 months, and the estimated time for our OEM customers to re-qualify our product with components from a new vendor ranges from four to nine months. We cannot assure you that we can redesign, or cause to have redesigned, our customized components to be manufactured by a new manufacturer in a timely manner, nor can we assure you that we will not infringe on the intellectual property of our current design or manufacture partner when we redesign the custom components, or cause such components to be redesigned by a new manufacturer. A manufacturing disruption experienced by our manufacturing partners, the failure of our manufacturing partners to dedicate adequate resources to the production of our products, the financial instability of our manufacturing or design partners, or any other failure of our design or manufacturing partners to perform according to their agreements with us, would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We have many other risks due to our dependence on third-party manufacturers, including: reduced control over delivery schedules, quality, manufacturing yields and cost; the potential lack of adequate capacity during periods of excess demand; limited warranties on products supplied to us; and potential misappropriation of our intellectual property. We are dependent on our manufacturing partners to manufacture products with acceptable quality and manufacturing yields, to deliver those products to us on a timely basis and to allocate a portion of their manufacturing capacity sufficient to meet our needs. Although our products are designed using the process design rules of the particular manufacturers, we cannot assure you that our manufacturing partners will be able to achieve or maintain acceptable yields or deliver sufficient quantities of components on a timely basis or at an acceptable cost. Additionally, we cannot assure you that our manufacturing partners will continue to devote adequate resources to produce our products or continue to advance the process design technologies on which the qualification and manufacturing of our products are based.

If our products do not meet the quality standards of our customers, we may be forced to stop shipments of products until the quality issues are resolved.

Our customers require our products to meet strict quality standards. Should our products not meet such standards, our customers may discontinue purchases from us until we are able to resolve the quality issues that are causing us to not meet the standards. Such quality holds could have a significant adverse impact on our revenues and operating results.

If our products are defective or are used in defective systems, we may be subject to warranty, product recalls or product liability claims.

If our products are defectively manufactured, contain defective components or are used in defective or malfunctioning systems, we could be subject to warranty and product liability claims and product recalls, safety alerts or advisory notices. While we have product liability insurance coverage, it may not be adequate to satisfy claims made against us. We also may be unable to obtain insurance in the future at satisfactory rates or in adequate amounts. Warranty and product liability claims or product recalls, regardless of their ultimate outcome, could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and reputation, and on our ability to attract and retain customers. In addition, we may determine that it is in our best interest to accept product returns in circumstances where we are not contractually obligated to do so in order to maintain good relations with our customers. Accepting product returns may negatively impact our operating results.

We may become involved in non-patent related litigation and administrative proceedings that may materially adversely affect us.

From time to time, we may become involved in various legal proceedings relating to matters incidental to the ordinary course of our business, including commercial, product liability, employment, class action, whistleblower and other

Table of Contents

litigation and claims, and governmental and other regulatory investigations and proceedings. Such matters can be time-consuming, divert management s attention and resources and cause us to incur significant expenses. Furthermore, because litigation is inherently unpredictable, the results of these actions could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

If we are required to obtain licenses to use third party intellectual property and we fail to do so, our business could be harmed.

Although some of the components used in our final products contain the intellectual property of third parties, we believe that our suppliers bear the sole responsibility to obtain any rights and licenses to such third party intellectual property. While we have no knowledge that any third party licensor disputes our belief, we cannot assure you that disputes will not arise in the future. The operation of our business and our ability to compete successfully depends significantly on our continued operation without claims of infringement or demands resulting from such claims, including demands for payments of money in the form of, for example, ongoing licensing fees.

We are also developing products to enter new markets. Similar to our current products, we may use components in these new products that contain the intellectual property of third parties. While we plan to exercise precautions to avoid infringing on the intellectual property rights of third parties, we cannot assure you that disputes will not arise.

If it is determined that we are required to obtain inbound licenses and we fail to obtain licenses, or if such licenses are not available on economically feasible terms, our business, operating results and financial condition could be significantly harmed.

The flash memory market is constantly evolving and competitive, and we may not have rights to manufacture and sell certain types of products utilizing emerging flash formats, or we may be required to pay a royalty to sell products utilizing these formats.

The flash-based storage market is constantly undergoing rapid technological change and evolving industry standards. Many consumer devices, such as digital cameras, PDAs and smartphones, are transitioning to emerging flash memory formats, such as the Memory Stick, and xD Picture Card formats, which we do not currently manufacture and do not have rights to manufacture. Although we do not currently serve the consumer flash market, it is possible that certain OEMs may choose to adopt these higher-volume, lower-cost formats. This could result in a decline in demand, on a relative basis, for other products that we manufacture such as CompactFlash, SD and embedded USB drives. If we decide to manufacture flash memory products utilizing emerging formats such as those mentioned, we will be required to secure licenses to give us the right to manufacture such products that may not be available at reasonable rates or at all. If we are not able to supply flash card formats at competitive prices or if we were to have product shortages, our net sales could be adversely impacted and our customers would likely cancel orders or seek other suppliers to replace us.

Our indemnification obligations for the infringement by our products of the intellectual property rights of others could require us to pay substantial damages.

As is common in the industry, we currently have in effect a number of agreements in which we have agreed to defend, indemnify and hold harmless our customers and suppliers from damages and costs which may arise from the infringement by our products of third-party patents,

trademarks or other proprietary rights. The scope of such indemnity varies, but may, in some instances, include indemnification for damages and expenses, including attorneys fees. Our insurance does not cover intellectual property infringement. The term of these indemnification agreements is generally perpetual any time after execution of the agreement. The maximum potential amount of future payments we could be required to make under these indemnification agreements is unlimited. We may periodically have to respond to claims and litigate these types of indemnification obligations. Although our suppliers may bear responsibility for the intellectual property inherent in the components they sell to us, they may lack the financial ability to stand behind such indemnities. Additionally, it may be costly to enforce any indemnifications that they have granted to us. Accordingly, any indemnification claims by customers could require us to incur significant legal fees and could potentially result in the payment of substantial damages, both of which could result in a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

We depend on a few key employees, and if we lose the services of any of those employees or are unable to hire additional personnel, our business could be harmed.

To date, we have been highly dependent on the experience, relationships and technical knowledge of certain key employees. We believe that our future success will be dependent on our ability to retain the services of these key employees, develop their successors, reduce our reliance on them, and properly manage the transition of their roles should departures

Table of Contents

occur. The loss of these key employees could delay the development and introduction of, and negatively impact our ability to sell, our products and otherwise harm our business. We do not have employment agreements with any of these key employees other than Chun K. Hong, our President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board. We maintain Key Man life insurance on Chun K. Hong; however, we do not carry Key Man life insurance on any of our other key employees.

Our future success also depends on our ability to attract, retain and motivate highly skilled engineering, manufacturing, and other technical and sales personnel. Competition for experienced personnel is intense. We may not be successful in attracting new engineers or other technical personnel, or in retaining or motivating our existing personnel. If we are unable to hire and retain engineers with the skills necessary to keep pace with the evolving technologies in our markets, our ability to continue to provide our current products and to develop new or enhanced products will be negatively impacted, which would harm our business. In addition, the shortage of experienced engineers, and other factors, may lead to increased recruiting, relocation and compensation costs for such engineers, which may exceed our expectations and resources. These increased costs may make hiring new engineers difficult, or may increase our operating expenses.

Historically, a significant portion of our workforce has consisted of contract personnel. We invest considerable time and expense in training these contract employees. We may experience high turnover rates in our contract employee workforce, which may require us to expend additional resources in the future. If we convert any of these contract employees into permanent employees, we may have to pay finder s fees to the contract agency.

We rely on third-party manufacturers representatives and the failure of these manufacturers representatives to perform as expected could reduce our future sales.

We sell some of our products to customers through manufacturers representatives. We are unable to predict the extent to which our manufacturers representatives will be successful in marketing and selling our products. Moreover, many of our manufacturers representatives also market and sell other, potentially competing products. Our representatives may terminate their relationships with us at any time. Our future performance will also depend, in part, on our ability to attract additional manufacturers representatives that will be able to market and support our products effectively, especially in markets in which we have not previously distributed our products. If we cannot retain our current manufacturers representatives or recruit additional or replacement manufacturers representatives, our sales and operating results will be harmed.

The operation of our manufacturing facility in the PRC could expose us to significant risks.

Since 2009, most of our world-wide manufacturing production has been performed at our manufacturing facility in the People s Republic of China, or PRC. Language and cultural differences, as well as the geographic distance from our headquarters in Irvine, California, further compound the difficulties of running a manufacturing operation in the PRC. Our management has limited experience in creating or overseeing foreign operations, and the ongoing management of our PRC facility may require our management team to divert substantial amounts of their time, particularly if we encounter operational difficulties or manufacturing disruptions at our PRC facility. We may not be able to maintain control over product quality, delivery schedules, manufacturing yields and costs. Furthermore, the costs related to having excess capacity have in the past and may in the future continue to have an adverse impact on our gross margins and operating results.

We manage a local workforce that may subject us to regulatory uncertainties. Changes in the labor laws of the PRC could increase the cost of employing the local workforce. The increased industrialization of the PRC, as well as general economic and political conditions in the PRC, could also increase the price of local labor. Any or all combination of these factors could negatively impact the cost savings we currently enjoy from having our manufacturing facility in the PRC.

Economic, political and other risks associated with international sales and operations could adversely affect our net sales.

Part of our growth strategy involves making sales to foreign corporations and delivering our products to facilities located in foreign countries. To facilitate this process and to meet the long-term projected demand for our products, we have set up a manufacturing facility in the PRC. Selling and manufacturing in foreign countries subjects us to additional risks not present with our domestic operations. We are operating in business and regulatory environments in which we have limited previous experience. We will need to continue to overcome language and cultural barriers to effectively conduct our operations in these environments. In addition, the economies of the PRC and other countries have been highly volatile in the past, resulting in significant fluctuations in local currencies and other instabilities. These instabilities affect a number of our customers and suppliers in addition to our foreign operations and continue to exist or may occur again in the future.

Table of Contents

In the future, some of our net sales may be denominated in Chinese Renminbi (RMB). The Chinese government controls the procedures by which RMB is converted into other currencies, and conversion of RMB generally requires government consent. As a result, RMB may not be freely convertible into other currencies at all times. If the Chinese government institutes changes in currency conversion procedures, or imposes restrictions on currency conversion, those actions may negatively impact our operations and could reduce our operating results. In addition, fluctuations in the exchange rate between RMB and U.S. dollars may adversely affect our expenses and results of operations as well as the value of our assets and liabilities. These fluctuations may also adversely affect the comparability of our period-to-period results. If we decide to declare dividends and repatriate funds from our Chinese operations, we will be required to comply with the procedures and regulations of applicable Chinese law. Any changes to these procedures and regulations, or our failure to comply with those procedures and regulations, could prevent us from making dividends and repatriating funds from our Chinese operations, which could adversely affect our financial condition. If we are able to make dividends and repatriate funds from our Chinese operations, these dividends would be subject to U.S. corporate income tax.

International turmoil and the threat of future terrorist attacks, both domestically and internationally, have contributed to an uncertain political and economic climate, both in the U.S. and globally, and have negatively impacted the worldwide economy. The occurrence of one or more of these instabilities could adversely affect our foreign operations and some of our customers or suppliers, each of which could adversely affect our net sales. In addition, our failure to meet applicable regulatory requirements or overcome cultural barriers could result in production delays and increased turn-around times, which would adversely affect our business.

Our international sales are subject to other risks, including regulatory risks, tariffs and other trade barriers, timing and availability of export licenses, political and economic instability, difficulties in accounts receivable collections, difficulties in managing distributors, lack of a significant local sales presence, difficulties in obtaining governmental approvals, compliance with a wide variety of complex foreign laws and treaties and potentially adverse tax consequences. In addition, the U.S. or foreign countries may implement quotas, duties, taxes or other charges or restrictions upon the importation or exportation of our products, leading to a reduction in sales and profitability in that country.

Our operations could be disrupted by power outages, natural disasters or other factors.

Due to the geographic concentration of our manufacturing operations in our PRC facility, and the operations of certain of our suppliers, a disruption resulting from equipment failure, power failures, quality control issues, human error, government intervention or natural disasters, including earthquakes and floods like those that have struck Japan and Thailand, respectively, could interrupt or interfere with our manufacturing operations and consequently harm our business, financial condition and results of operations. Such disruptions would cause significant delays in shipments of our products and adversely affect our operating results. In July 2014, our PRC facility suffered water damage as a result of heavy rain and floods, which forced us to temporarily halt manufacturing at our PRC facility while necessary repairs or replacements were made to our PRC facility and to certain of our manufacturing equipment. This incident caused us to incur additional expenses as we shifted our manufacturing activities to a third-party manufacturing facility in the PRC to enable us to mitigate the disruption in shipments to our customers. While we believe we have contained the disruptions we expect that our relationships with our key customers could be materially harmed if we incur additional manufacturing disruptions in the future. We are currently processing this incident as a claim with our insurer. We are unable to provide assurances that similar events will not occur in the future or that we will be able to secure alternative manufacturing capabilities if manufacturing at our PRC facility is disrupted.

Our failure to comply with environmental laws and regulations could subject us to significant fines and liabilities or cause us to incur significant costs.

We are subject to various and frequently changing U.S. federal, state and local and foreign governmental laws and regulations relating to the protection of the environment, including those governing the discharge of pollutants into the air and water, the management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, the cleanup of contaminated sites and the maintenance of a safe workplace. In particular, some of our manufacturing processes may require us to handle and dispose of hazardous materials from time to time. For example, in the past our manufacturing operations have used lead-based solder in the assembly of our products. Today, we use lead-free soldering technologies in our manufacturing processes, as this is required for products entering the European Union. We could incur substantial costs, including clean-up costs, civil or criminal fines or sanctions and third-party claims for property damage or personal injury, as a result of violations of, or noncompliance with, environmental laws and regulations. These laws and regulations also could require us to incur significant costs to remain in compliance.

Table of Contents

Our internal controls over financial reporting may not be effective, which could have a significant and adverse effect on our business.

Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the related rules and regulations of the SEC, which we collectively refer to as Section 404, require us to evaluate our internal controls over financial reporting to allow management to report on those internal controls as of the end of each year. Effective internal controls are necessary for us to produce reliable financial reports and are important in our effort to prevent financial fraud. In the course of our Section 404 evaluations, we may identify conditions that may result in significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and we may conclude that enhancements, modifications or changes to our internal controls are necessary or desirable. Implementing any such matters would divert the attention of our management, could involve significant costs, and may negatively impact our results of operations.

We note that there are inherent limitations on the effectiveness of internal controls, as they cannot prevent collusion, management override or failure of human judgment. If we fail to maintain an effective system of internal controls or if management or our independent registered public accounting firm were to discover material weaknesses in our internal controls, we may be unable to produce reliable financial reports or prevent fraud, and it could harm our financial condition and results of operations, result in a loss of investor confidence and negatively impact our stock price.

If we do not effectively manage future growth, our resources, systems and controls may be strained and our results of operations may suffer.

Any future growth may strain our resources, management information and telecommunication systems, and operational and financial controls. To manage future growth effectively, including any expansion of volume in our manufacturing facility in the PRC, we must be able to improve and expand our systems and controls. We may not be able to do this in a timely or cost-effective manner, and our current systems and controls may not be adequate to support our future operations. In addition, our officers have relatively limited experience in managing a rapidly growing business. As a result, they may not be able to provide the guidance necessary to manage future growth or maintain future market position. Any failure to manage our growth or improve or expand our existing systems and controls, or unexpected difficulties in doing so, could harm our business.

If we acquire other businesses or technologies in the future, these acquisitions could disrupt our business and harm our operating results and financial condition.

We will evaluate opportunities to acquire businesses or technologies that might complement our current product offerings or enhance our technical capabilities. We have no experience in acquiring other businesses or technologies. Acquisitions entail a number of risks that could adversely affect our business and operating results, including, but not limited to:

- difficulties in integrating the operations, technologies or products of the acquired companies;

- the diversion of management s time and attention from the normal daily operations of the business;

- insufficient increases in net sales to offset increased expenses associated with acquisitions or acquired companies;
- difficulties in retaining business relationships with suppliers and customers of the acquired companies;
- the overestimation of potential synergies or a delay in realizing those synergies;
- entering markets in which we have no or limited experience and in which competitors have stronger market positions; and
- the potential loss of key employees of the acquired companies.

Future acquisitions also could cause us to incur debt or be subject to contingent liabilities. In addition, acquisitions could cause us to issue equity securities that could dilute the ownership percentages of our existing stockholders. Furthermore, acquisitions may result in material charges or adverse tax consequences, substantial depreciation, deferred compensation charges, in-process research and development charges, the amortization of amounts related to deferred stock-based compensation expense and identifiable purchased intangible assets or impairment of goodwill, any or all of which could negatively affect our results of operations.

Table of Contents

Our principal stockholders have significant voting power and may take actions that may not be in the best interest of our other stockholders.

As of October 31, 2014, approximately 13.9% of our outstanding common stock was held by affiliates, including 13.8% held by Chun K. Hong, our chief executive officer and chairman of our board of directors. As a result, Mr. Hong has the ability to exert substantial influence over all matters requiring approval by our stockholders, including the election and removal of directors and any proposed merger, consolidation or sale of all or substantially all of our assets and other corporate transactions. This concentration of control could be disadvantageous to other stockholders with interests different from those of Mr. Hong.

Anti-takeover provisions under our charter documents and Delaware law could delay or prevent a change of control and could also limit the market price of our stock.

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions that could delay or prevent a change of control of our company or changes in our board of directors that our stockholders might consider favorable. In addition, these provisions could limit the price that investors would be willing to pay in the future for shares of our common stock. The following are examples of provisions which are included in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, each as amended:

- our board of directors is authorized, without prior stockholder approval, to designate and issue preferred stock, commonly referred to as blank check preferred stock, with rights senior to those of our common stock;

- stockholder action by written consent is prohibited;

- nominations for election to our board of directors and the submission of matters to be acted upon by stockholders at a meeting are subject to advance notice requirements; and

- our board of directors is expressly authorized to make, alter or repeal our bylaws.

In addition, we are governed by the provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporate Law, which may prohibit certain business combinations with stockholders owning 15% or more of our outstanding voting stock. These and other provisions in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, and of Delaware law, could make it more difficult for stockholders or potential acquirers to obtain control of our board of directors or initiate actions that are opposed by the then-current board of directors, including delaying or impeding a merger, tender offer, or proxy contest or other change of control transaction involving our company. Any delay or prevention of a change of control transaction or changes in our board of directors could prevent the consummation of a transaction in which our stockholders could receive a substantial premium over the then-current market price for their shares.

The price of and volume in trading of our common stock has and may continue to fluctuate significantly.

Our common stock has been publicly traded since November 2006. The price of our common stock and the trading volume of our shares are volatile and have in the past fluctuated significantly. There can be no assurance as to the prices at which our common stock will trade in the future or that an active trading market in our common stock will be sustained in the future. The market price at which our common stock trades may be influenced by many factors, including but not limited to, the following:

- our operating and financial performance and prospects, including our ability to achieve and sustain profitability in the future;
- investor perception of us and the industry in which we operate;
- the availability and level of research coverage of and market making in our common stock;
- changes in earnings estimates or buy/sell recommendations by analysts;
- sales of our newly issued common stock or other securities or the perception that such sales may occur;
- general financial and other market conditions; and
- changing and recently volatile domestic and international economic conditions.

In addition, shares of our common stock and the public stock markets in general, have experienced, and may continue to experience, extreme price and trading volume volatility. These fluctuations may adversely affect the market price of our common stock and a stockholder s ability to sell their shares into the market at the desired time or at the desired price.

In 2007, following a drop in the market price of our common stock, securities litigation was initiated against us. Given the historic volatility of our industry, we may become engaged in this type of litigation in the future. Securities litigation is expensive and time-consuming.

Table of Contents

Item 6. Exhibits

(a)(2) Exhibits

3.1	Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Netlist, Inc. (incorporated by reference to exhibit 3.1 of the registration statement on Form S-1 of the registrant (No. 333-136735) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) on October 23, 2006).
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Netlist, Inc. (incorporated by reference to exhibit number 3.1 of the registrant s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on December 20, 2012).
31.1+	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2+	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32+	Certification by Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101.INS+	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH+	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL+	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.LAB+	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE+	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document
101.DEF+	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document

+ Filed herewith.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

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

Date: November 12, 2014

NETLIST, INC.
a Delaware corporation
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Chun K. Hong
Chun K. Hong
President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board
(Principal Executive Officer)

By: /s/ Gail M. Sasaki
Gail M. Sasaki
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)