

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP  
Form 10-Q  
May 09, 2014  
Table of Contents

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

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the Quarterly Period Ended March 31, 2014

OR

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Commission file number 1-13317

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

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

13-3460176  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

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

80501  
(Zip Code)

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

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

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

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

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

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

The registrant had 59,989,911 shares of common stock, \$0.001 par value, outstanding as of April 30, 2014.

---

Table of Contents

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP.  
 FORM 10-Q  
 For the Quarter Ended March 31, 2014  
 INDEX

<u>Part I. Financial Information</u>	<u>3</u>
Item 1. <u>Financial Statements</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Unaudited condensed consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2014</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive loss for the three months ended March 31, 2013 and 2014</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Unaudited condensed consolidated statements of cash flows for the three months ended March 31, 2013 and 2014</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements</u>	<u>6</u>
Item 2. <u>Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	<u>14</u>
Item 3. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	<u>23</u>
Item 4. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Part II. Other Information</u>	<u>24</u>
Item 1. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	<u>24</u>
Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>24</u>
Item 2. <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>36</u>
Item 3. <u>Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u>	<u>36</u>
Item 4. <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	<u>36</u>
Item 5. <u>Other Information</u>	<u>36</u>
Item 6. <u>Exhibits</u>	<u>37</u>
Signatures	<u>38</u>

Table of Contents

## Part I. Financial Information

## Item 1. Financial Statements

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP.  
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
 (Unaudited)  
 AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND MARCH 31, 2014  
 (In thousands, except par value data)

	December 31, 2013	March 31, 2014
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$40,406	\$40,322
Accounts receivable, net	42,907	33,672
Inventories	6,539	7,664
Prepaid expenses and other assets	7,265	6,106
Total current assets	97,117	87,764
Property and equipment, net	7,565	8,197
Other assets	702	625
Total assets	\$105,384	\$96,586
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$33,255	\$26,259
Accrued compensation	4,922	3,527
Accrued expenses	8,935	7,994
Deferred revenue	4,211	5,012
Credit facility borrowings	2,000	—
Total current liabilities	53,323	42,792
Other long-term liabilities	4,414	4,229
Total liabilities	57,737	47,021
Commitments and Contingencies (Note 8)		
Stockholders' Equity:		
Preferred stock, \$.001 par value, 10,000 shares authorized, no shares issued or outstanding at December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2014	—	—
Common stock, \$.001 par value, 100,000 shares authorized, 59,138 and 59,953 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2014, respectively	59	60
Additional paid-in capital	330,103	332,462
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(3,254	) (3,284
Accumulated deficit	(279,261	) (279,673
Total stockholders' equity	47,647	49,565
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$105,384	\$96,586
See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.		

Table of Contents

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP.  
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS  
 (Unaudited)  
 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2013 AND 2014  
 (In thousands, except per share amounts)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2014
NET REVENUE	\$44,480	\$48,207
COST OF GOODS SOLD	30,040	32,942
GROSS PROFIT	14,440	15,265
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Research and development	8,713	9,476
Sales and marketing	3,108	3,294
General and administrative	3,137	2,898
Total operating expenses	14,958	15,668
OPERATING LOSS	(518	) (403
OTHER INCOME:		
Interest income (expense), net	(7	) (18
Other income (expense), net	(1	) 10
Total other income (expense), net	(8	) (8
LOSS BEFORE INCOME TAXES AND DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS	(526	) (411
INCOME TAX EXPENSE	34	1
LOSS FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	(560	) (412
LOSS FROM DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS	(421	) —
NET LOSS	\$(981	) \$(412
NET INCOME (LOSS) PER SHARE:		
Continuing operations:		
Basic and diluted loss per share	\$(0.01	) \$(0.01
Discontinued operations:		
Basic and diluted loss per share	\$(0.01	) \$—
Net loss:		
Basic and diluted loss per share	\$(0.02	) \$(0.01
WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES USED TO CALCULATE NET INCOME		
(LOSS) PER SHARE:		
Basic	58,001	59,678
Diluted	58,001	59,678
COMPREHENSIVE LOSS:		
Net loss	\$(981	) \$(412
Foreign currency translation adjustment	144	(30
Comprehensive loss	\$(837	) \$(442

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP.  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(Unaudited)  
FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2013 AND 2014  
(In thousands)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2014
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Net loss	\$(981	) \$(412
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	709	959
Stock-based compensation expense	668	578
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	2,521	9,240
Inventories	91	(1,122
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(266	) 1,238
Accounts payable	456	(7,112
Accrued compensation and other expenses	(3,074	) (2,809
Deferred revenue	682	799
Other long-term liabilities	142	(252
Net cash provided by operating activities	948	1,107
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment	(1,195	) (995
Net cash used in investing activities	(1,195	) (995
Cash Flows From Financing Activities:		
Payments on bank borrowings	(2,800	) (2,000
Proceeds from bank borrowings	2,800	—
Shares withheld for tax purposes	(114	) (72
Proceeds from sale of stock to employees	387	1,854
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	273	(218
Effect of Exchange Rate Changes on Cash and Cash Equivalents	(44	) 22
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(18	) (84
Cash and Cash Equivalents, beginning of period	40,315	40,406
Cash and Cash Equivalents, end of period	\$40,297	\$40,322
Supplemental Disclosures of Non-Cash Investing and Financing Activities:		
Property and equipment acquired but not yet paid	\$489	\$995
Supplemental Cash Flow Data:		
Cash paid for income taxes	\$17	\$195
See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.		

Table of Contents

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP.

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The financial statements of Dot Hill Systems Corp. (referred to herein as Dot Hill, we, our or us) contained herein are unaudited and in the opinion of management contain all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring adjustments) necessary for a fair presentation of financial position, results of operations and cash flows for the periods presented. The interim unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, or GAAP, for interim financial information and with the instructions to Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, Form 10-Q and Article 10 of SEC Regulation S-X. They do not include all of the information and disclosures required by GAAP for complete financial statements. The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013. Operating results for the three months ended March 31, 2014 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for future quarters or the year ending December 31, 2014.

Use of Accounting Estimates

The preparation of our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the dates of the financial statements and the reported amounts of net revenue and expenses in the reporting periods. The accounting estimates that require management's most significant and subjective judgments include revenue recognition, inventory valuation, recurring and specific issue warranty obligations (see Note 5), the valuation and recognition of stock-based compensation expense, and the valuation of long-lived assets. In addition, we have other accounting policies that involve estimates such as the determination of useful lives of long-lived assets, accruals for restructuring, and income taxes, including the valuation allowance for deferred tax assets. Actual results may differ from these estimates and such differences could be material.

Revenue Recognition

We derive our revenue from sales of our hardware products, software and services.

Hardware

Hardware product revenue consists of revenue from sales of our AssuredSAN storage systems that are integrated with our OEM customers' industry standard hardware and which become essential to the integrated system product. We recognize hardware product revenue when the following fundamental criteria are met: (i) persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists; (ii) delivery has occurred; (iii) the price is fixed or determinable; and (iv) collectability is reasonably assured. Revenue is recognized for hardware product sales upon transfer of title and risk of loss to the customer. We record reductions to revenue for estimated product returns and pricing adjustments in the same period that the related revenue is recorded. These estimates are based on historical sales returns, analysis of credit memo data and other factors known at the time. If actual future returns and pricing adjustments differ from past experience and our estimates, additional revenue reserves may be required.

We exclude from revenues taxes collected from customers on behalf of governmental authorities.

Software

In accordance with the specific guidance for recognizing software revenue, where applicable, we recognize revenue from perpetual software licenses at the inception of the license term assuming all revenue recognition criteria have been met. We use the relative fair value method to allocate revenue to software licenses at the inception of the license term when vendor-specific objective evidence, or VSOE, of fair value for all elements related to our products is available. We have established VSOE for the fair value of our software licenses and support services as measured by the prices paid by our customers when the licenses and services are sold separately on a standalone basis.

Specific long term software contracts may contain multiple deliverables including software licenses, services, training and post-contract support (PCS) for which we have not established VSOE of fair value of any of the elements. Under specific guidance for recognizing software revenue, we defer all revenue related to each deliverable until the only undelivered element is PCS. We then begin recognizing revenue ratably over the PCS period.



## Table of Contents

We defer all the direct and incremental costs related to the deliverables in these contracts until delivery of all the elements except PCS. The deferred costs are then recognized ratably over the contractual PCS support periods as a component of Costs of Goods Sold.

### Service

Our service revenue primarily includes out-of-warranty repairs and product maintenance contracts. Out-of warranty repairs primarily consist of product repair services performed by our contract manufacturers for those customers that allowed their original product warranty to expire without purchasing one of our higher level support service plans. Revenue from these out-of-warranty repairs, and the associated cost of sales, is recognized in the period these services are provided. Service revenue also consists of product maintenance contracts purchased by our customers as an extension of our standard warranty. Revenue from our product maintenance contracts is deferred and recognized ratably over the contract term, generally 12 to 36 months. Net revenue derived from services was less than 10% of total revenue for all periods presented.

### Revenue Recognition for Arrangements with Multiple Deliverables

For multi-element arrangements that include hardware products containing software essential to the hardware product's functionality, undelivered elements that relate to the hardware product's essential software, and undelivered non-software services (all non-software related elements), we allocate the transaction price to all deliverables based on their relative selling prices. In such circumstances, we use a hierarchy to determine the selling price to be used for allocating the transaction price to deliverables: (i) VSOE of fair value, (ii) third-party evidence of selling price, or TPE, and (iii) best estimate of the selling price, or ESP. VSOE of fair value generally exists only when we sell the deliverable separately and represents the actual price charged by us for that deliverable. ESPs reflect our best estimates of what the selling prices of each of the deliverables would be if they were sold regularly on a standalone basis.

### Revenue Recognition for Sales to Channel Partners

On sales to channel partners, we evaluate whether fees are considered fixed or determinable by considering a number of factors, including our ability to estimate returns, payment terms and our relationship and past history with the particular channel partner. If fees are not considered fixed or determinable at the time of sale to a channel partner, revenue recognition is deferred until there is persuasive evidence indicating the product has sold through to an end-user. Persuasive evidence of sell-through may include reports from channel partners documenting sell-through activity or data indicating an order has shipped to an end-user.

### Deferred Revenue

We defer revenue on upfront nonrefundable payments from our customers and recognize it ratably over the term of the agreement, unless the payment is in exchange for products delivered that represent the culmination of a separate earnings process. When we provide consideration to a customer, we recognize the value of that consideration as a reduction in net revenue. We may be required to maintain inventory with certain of our largest OEM customers, which we refer to as hubbing arrangements. Pursuant to these arrangements we deliver products to a customer or a designated third-party warehouse based upon the customer's projected needs, but do not recognize product revenue unless and until the customer has removed our product from the warehouse to incorporate into its end products.

### Concentration of Customers and Suppliers

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

Table of Contents

Net revenue consists of all product and services revenue. Net revenue by major customer is as follows (as a percentage of total net revenue):

	Three Months Ended			
	March 31,		2014	
	2013	%	2014	%
HP	63	%	49	%
Tektronix	12	%	15	%
Other customers less than 10%	25	%	36	%
Total	100	%	100	%

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

We expect that the sale of our products and services to a limited number of customers will continue to account for a high percentage of net revenue for the foreseeable future. Our Product Purchase Agreement with HP, as amended, terminates on October 30, 2016. HP also holds warrants to purchase 1,602,489 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$2.40 per share, expiring on October 30, 2016.

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

## Cash and Cash Equivalents

We classify investments as cash equivalents if they are readily convertible to cash and have original maturities of three months or less at the time of acquisition. Cash and cash equivalents consist primarily of money market mutual funds issued or managed in the United States. As of December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2014, the carrying value of cash and cash equivalents approximates fair value due to the short period of time to maturity.

As of March 31, 2014, \$3.3 million of the \$40.3 million of cash and cash equivalents was held by our foreign subsidiaries. We currently intend to repatriate approximately \$2.0 million of our cash and cash equivalents held by our Netherlands subsidiary during 2014. We obtained a favorable ruling from one of the foreign jurisdictions and will not be charged foreign taxes on the repatriation and we expect net operating loss carryforwards and foreign tax credits to offset any remaining tax liability. We anticipate that future foreign earnings will be deemed to be permanently reinvested, although we could elect to repatriate funds held in one or more foreign jurisdictions. If applicable, withholding taxes could reduce the net amount repatriated, and we could be required to accrue and remit applicable U.S. income taxes to the extent a tax liability results after the utilization of net operating loss carryforwards and available tax credits.

## Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

We establish an allowance for doubtful accounts for accounts receivable amounts that may not be collectible. We determine the allowance for doubtful accounts based on the aging of our accounts receivable balances and an analysis of our historical experience of bad debt write-offs.

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

	March 31,	March 31,
	2013	2014

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

Balance, beginning of the year	\$240	\$23
Additions to allowance	—	—
Write-offs	—	—
Recoveries	(9	) —
Balance, quarter ended	\$231	\$23

8

---

Table of Contents

## Long-lived Asset Impairment

We periodically review the recoverability of the carrying value of long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying value may not be recoverable. An impairment in the carrying value of an asset group is recognized whenever anticipated future undiscounted cash flows from an asset group are estimated to be less than its carrying value. The amount of impairment recognized is the difference between the carrying value of the asset group and its fair value. Fair value estimates are based on assumptions concerning the amount and timing of estimated future cash flows and assumed discount rates, reflecting varying degrees of perceived risk. There were no impairment charges for the periods ended March 31, 2013 or 2014.

## Recent Accounting Pronouncements

From time to time, new accounting pronouncements are issued that we adopt as of the specified effective date. We believe that the impact of recently issued standards that are not yet effective will not have a material impact on our results of operations and financial position.

## 2. Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share, including continuing and discontinued operations, is calculated by dividing net income (loss) for the period by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share, including continuing and discontinued operations, is computed by dividing net income (loss) for the period by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period and including the dilutive effect of common stock that would be issued assuming conversion or exercise of outstanding warrants, stock options, share based compensation awards and other dilutive securities. No such items were included in the computation of diluted loss per share in the three months ended March 31, 2013 or March 31, 2014 because we incurred net losses in the periods and the effect of inclusion would have been anti-dilutive.

The following is a reconciliation of weighted-average shares outstanding used in the calculation of basic and diluted earnings from continuing operations per share for the three months ended March 31, 2013 and 2014 (in thousands, except per share data):

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2014
Loss from continuing operations	\$ (560)	) \$ (412)
Basic weighted-average common shares outstanding	58,001	59,678
Assumed exercise of dilutive stock options, warrants and restricted stock	—	—
Diluted weighted-average common shares outstanding	58,001	59,678
Loss from continuing operations:		
Basic loss per share	\$ (0.01)	) \$ (0.01)
Diluted loss per share	\$ (0.01)	) \$ (0.01)

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

		Three Months Ended March 31,	
		2013	2014
Number of Potential Shares	Range of Exercise Prices	Number of Potential Shares	Range of Exercise Prices

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

Stock options	9,159,312	\$0.47 - \$16.36	10,923,538	\$0.47 - \$7.84
Unvested stock awards	508,221	\$—	43,220	—
Warrants	1,602,489	\$2.40	1,602,489	2.40

9

---

Table of Contents

## Shares issued

Common stock activity during the period is as follows (in thousands).

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	March 31,
	2013	2014
Shares issued:		
Options exercised	4	632
Shares purchased under stock plan	458	198
Share decreases:		
Shares repurchased for tax purposes	(87	) (15
Restricted stock awards canceled	(23	) —

## 3. Discontinued Operations

During 2011, our primary AssuredUVS customer informed us that the AssuredUVS software would no longer be a component of its business strategy, which would result in a significant decline in revenues for the Company. In February 2012, our Board of Directors approved a plan to exit our AssuredUVS business and close down our Israel Technology Development Center. During the second quarter of 2012, we explored the potential sale of the AssuredUVS business, but were unsuccessful in locating a buyer and ended efforts to sell the business or its component assets as of June 30, 2012. Accordingly, we recognized an impairment of \$0.2 million of property, plant and equipment and \$1.6 million for the remaining value of acquired software as a component of cost of goods sold during the three months ended June 30, 2012. The AssuredUVS business is now recorded in discontinued operations since we ceased all significant ongoing operational activities as of September 30, 2012.

The following is a summary of the components of loss from discontinued operations for the three months ended March 31, 2013 and 2014 (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	2014
	2013	2014
Net revenue	\$20	\$—
Cost of goods sold	131	—
Gross loss	(111	) —
Operating expenses:		
Research and development	—	—
Sales and marketing	—	—
General and administrative	320	—
Restructuring charge	(10	) —
Total operating expenses	310	—
Operating loss	(421	) —
Other expense, net	—	—
Loss from discontinued operations	\$(421	) \$—

The activity in 2013 is limited to the continued support of certain maintenance contracts entered into prior to shutting down the Israel Technology Development Center, as well as expenses related to the resolution of a dispute with the former primary AssuredUVS customer.





Table of Contents

## 4. Inventories

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

	December 31, 2013	March 31, 2014
Purchased parts and materials	\$2,911	\$4,367
Finished goods	3,628	3,297
Total inventory	\$6,539	\$7,664

Inventories are comprised of finished goods and purchased parts and assemblies, which include direct labor and overhead, and are valued at the lower of cost (first-in, first-out method) or market value. The valuation of inventory requires us to estimate excess or obsolete inventory. The determination of excess or obsolete inventory requires us to estimate the future demand for our products. Our customers may require us to purchase and stock material amounts of inventory to ensure availability to meet forecasts, which increases our risk of excess quantities. Because our markets are volatile and are subject to technological risks, price changes and inventory reduction programs by our customers, and because we are required to make last-time buys of certain components on occasion, there is a risk that we will forecast incorrectly and produce excess inventories of particular products or have commitments to purchase excess inventory components from our suppliers. As a result, actual demand will differ from forecasts, and such a difference has in the past and may in the future have a material adverse effect on our gross margin and our results of operations. Any write downs to inventory due to the existence of excess quantities, physical obsolescence, changes in pricing, damage, or other causes result in a new cost basis for the inventory. When we sell or dispose of reserved inventory, the new cost basis is charged to cost of sales.

## 5. Product Warranties

Our standard warranty provides that if our systems do not function to published specifications, we will repair or replace the defective component or system without charge generally for a period of three years. We generally extend to our customers the warranties provided to us by our suppliers, and accordingly, the majority of our warranty obligations to customers are intended to be covered by corresponding supplier warranties. For warranty costs not covered by our suppliers, we provide for estimated warranty costs in the period the revenue is recognized. Estimated liabilities for product warranties are included in accrued expenses.

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

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2014
Balance, beginning of period	\$4,455	\$2,965
Charges to operations	118	414
Deductions for payments made	(1,021	) (175
Changes in estimates	(809	) 40
Balance, end of period	\$2,743	\$3,244

During the first quarter of 2013, we were able to negotiate more favorable rates with a third-party service provider. Accordingly, we adjusted our warranty accrual by \$0.8 million to reflect this change in estimate. In addition, the decrease in deductions for payments made during the three months ended March 31, 2013 as compared to the three months ended March 31, 2014 relates to price concessions and rebates based on sales volumes to a material customer related to a quality issue associated with certain power supply devices.

## 6. Credit Facilities

We maintain a credit facility with Silicon Valley Bank for cash advances and letters of credit of up to an aggregate of \$30 million based upon an advance rate dependent on certain concentration limits within eligible accounts receivable. These limits exclude certain eligible customer receivables if an individual customer account balance exceeds 25, 50 or 85 percent of the total eligible accounts receivable, depending on the customer, as defined by our Loan and Security Agreement with Silicon Valley Bank. Borrowings under the credit facility bear interest at the Silicon Valley Bank's prime rate, which was 4.0% as of March 31, 2014 and are secured by substantially all of our accounts receivable, deposit and securities accounts. The agreement provides for a negative pledge on our inventory and intellectual property, subject to certain exceptions, and contains usual and

Table of Contents

customary covenants for an arrangement of its type, including an obligation that we maintain at all times a net worth, as defined in the agreement. As of March 31, 2014, the Company had significant coverage in regard to this covenant. The agreement also includes provisions to increase the financing facility by \$20 million subject to our meeting certain requirements, including \$40 million in borrowing base for the immediately preceding 90 days, and Silicon Valley Bank locating a lender willing to finance the additional facility. In addition, if our cash and cash equivalents net of the total amount outstanding under the credit facility fall below \$20 million (measured on a rolling three-month basis), the interest rate will increase to the bank's prime rate plus 1% and additional restrictions will apply. The maturity date of the credit facility is July 21, 2015.

As of March 31, 2014, the Company had zero outstanding under the Silicon Valley Bank line of credit. There was \$30.0 million available for borrowing under the agreement as of March 31, 2014. We are currently in compliance with all covenant requirements.

## 7. Fair Value Measurements

The short-term nature of our financial instruments expose the Company to limited credit risk and have no stated maturities or have short-term maturities and carry interest rates that approximate market interest rates. There were no transfers between Level I, II or III inputs for any of our assets measured at fair value during the reporting period.

## Assets Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

Description	December 31, 2013	Fair Value Measurements Using			Total (Losses)
		Quoted Prices for Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
	(in thousands)				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$40,406	\$40,406	\$—	\$—	\$—

Description	March 31, 2014	Fair Value Measurements Using			Total (Losses)
		Quoted Prices for Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
	(in thousands)				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$40,322	\$40,322	\$—	\$—	\$—

## Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The Company's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable and credit facility borrowings. The carrying values on our balance sheet of our cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, and accounts payable approximate their fair values due to the short maturities. The following disclosures relate to financial instruments for which the ending balances at December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2014, are not carried at fair value in their entirety on the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet. This table presents the carrying value and fair value, by fair value hierarchy, of our financial instruments, excluding cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable and accounts payable at December 31, 2013 (in thousands).

Description	December 31, 2013	Fair Value Measurements Using			Total (Losses)
		Quoted Prices for Active	Significant Other	Significant Unobservable	

		Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Inputs (Level 3)	
Credit facility borrowings	\$2,000	\$—	\$2,000	\$—	\$—

The Company had no outstanding borrowings on the credit facility as of March 31, 2014.

The fair value of the Company's debt was estimated using a market approach based on the amount at the measurement date that the Company would receive to enter into the identical liability, since quoted prices for the Company's debt instrument are not available.

Table of Contents

## 8. Commitments and Contingencies

We are not party to any significant legal proceedings, but are involved in certain claims from time to time arising in the ordinary course of business involving our products, suppliers, and/or customers. Although adverse decisions or settlements of such claims may occur, we believe that the final disposition of such matters will not have a material adverse effect on our financial position or results of operations.

## Cumulative Translation Adjustment

If we liquidate any of our foreign subsidiaries, our cumulative translation adjustment recorded in Other Comprehensive Income would be required to be reclassified into earnings. The Company currently anticipates liquidation of its Netherlands operating unit during 2014. The Netherlands operating unit currently has no active operations. Cumulative translation losses of approximately \$2.7 million related to the Netherlands operating unit would be reclassified from other comprehensive loss to operating loss.

## 9. Segment Information

Prior to the first quarter of 2014, our Chief Operating Decision Maker, or CODM, who is our President and Chief Executive Officer, managed our business as one reportable operating segment that included the design, manufacture and marketing of a range of software and hardware storage systems for the entry and midrange storage markets. Beginning in the first quarter of 2014, due to the growth and significance of our vertical markets, our CODM is managing our business in three reportable operating segments. Hence, we changed our reporting segments accordingly. Therefore, beginning with the first quarter of 2014, we have reported in the following three segments: Server OEM, Vertical Markets, and Corporate.

The Server OEM segment consists primarily of large Original Equipment Manufacturers who purchase products from us to sell along with their server products. Our products are typically sold in server led sales into their end-user customers' corporate information technology infrastructure. Major Server OEM customers include HP, Lenovo, Stratus, Dell, and AMD.

The Vertical Markets segment consists of strategically selected Vertical Markets, that have a propensity for high data growth. Some of our target Vertical Markets include Media & Entertainment, Telecommunications Infrastructure, Oil and Gas, Big Data Analytics and Digital Imaging, among others. These customers typically embed their products into their customer solutions which quite often generate revenue for their end-user customers. We sell to these customers through both Vertical Markets OEM partners or embedded solutions integrators, as well as through channel partners. Major Vertical Markets customers include Teradata, CGG, Motorola, Tektronix, Samsung, Concurrent, Autodesk, and Nokia Siemens.

The Corporate segment consists primarily of "platform costs" that support both the Server OEM and Vertical Markets segments.

Segment information for all periods presented has been reclassified to conform to fiscal 2014 presentation.

Net revenues by segment are as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2014
Net revenue:		
Server OEM	\$30,383	\$25,854
Vertical Markets	14,097	22,353

Corporate	\$—	\$—
Consolidated net revenue	\$44,480	\$48,207

Table of Contents

Operating income (loss) is as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2014
Operating income (loss):		
Server OEM	\$7,848	\$5,122
Vertical Markets	4,077	7,407
Corporate	(12,443	) (12,932
Consolidated operating income (loss)	\$(518	) \$(403

The segments use many of the same assets. For internal reporting purposes, we do not allocate assets by segment and therefore asset, depreciation and amortization, or capital expenditure by segment information is not provided to our CODM.

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

### Cautionary Statement for Forward-Looking Information

Certain statements contained in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q, including statements regarding the development, growth and expansion of our business, our intent, belief or current expectations, primarily with respect to our future operating performance and the products we expect to offer, and other statements regarding matters that are not historical facts, are “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, and are subject to the “safe harbor” created by these sections. Because such forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Some of the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements can be found in Part II, Item 1A, “Risk Factors” and in our reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made, and we undertake no obligation to update such statements to reflect events that occur or circumstances that exist after the date on which they are made.

The following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in the preceding pages in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q and our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

### Overview

We design, manufacture and market a range of software and hardware storage systems for the entry and mid-range storage markets. We focus on selling through server-based original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), such as Hewlett-Packard, or HP, Dell Inc. or Dell, Lenovo Group Limited, or Lenovo, Advanced Micro Devices, Inc., or AMD, and Stratus Technologies, or Stratus; as well as into vertical markets through embedded solution OEMs, such as Teradata Corporation or Teradata, CGG Veritas or CGG, Motorola, Inc. or Motorola, Tektronix Inc. or Tektronix, Samsung Electronics or Samsung, Concurrent Computer Corporation or Concurrent, Autodesk Inc. or Autodesk, Imagine Communications and Nokia Siemens Network or Nokia Siemens, which primarily include media and entertainment, telecommunications, high performance computing, digital image archive, big data and oil and gas. Our vertical market customers are OEMs, who embed our products into their solutions, as well as resellers.

Typical customers for our storage systems products, which include our AssuredSAN line of storage array products, include organizations requiring high reliability, high performance networked or direct attached storage and data management solutions in an open systems architecture. Most of our sales through our server-based OEMs go into the IT infrastructure of companies and organizations to support a wide variety of internal applications, including email, Enterprise Resource and Planning, retail transactions and voicemail. On the other hand, much of our product sales into vertical markets support the revenue streams of embedded solution partners' end-user customers, such as the central office infrastructure of telco providers, video editing and streaming appliances, and big data analytics solutions. Our storage solutions consist of integrated hardware, firmware and software products employing a modular system that allows end-users to add various protocol, performance, capacity or data protection schemes as needed. Our broad range of products, from small capacity direct attached to complete multi-hundred terabyte, or TB, storage area networks, or SANs, provide end-users with a cost-effective means of addressing



## Table of Contents

increasing storage demands at compelling price-performance points. Our current product family based on our AssuredSAN architecture provides high performance and large disk array capacities for a broad variety of environments, employing Fibre Channel, Internet Small Computer Systems Interface, or iSCSI or Serial Attached SCSI, or SAS, interconnects to switches and/or hosts. In addition, our Assured family of data protection software products provides additional layers of data protection options to complement our line of storage disk arrays. Our current mainstream AssuredSAN(TM) family of entry-level and mid-range storage products and Just a Bunch of Disks, or JBOD, arrays are targeted primarily at mainstream enterprise and small-to-medium business, or SMB, applications. Some of our AssuredSAN products have been distinguished by certification as Network Equipment Building System, or NEBS, Level 3 (a telecommunications standard for equipment used in central offices) and are MIL-STD-810F (a military standard created by the U.S. government) compliant based on their ruggedness and reliability.

Our products span Price Bands 2 through 5 as defined by International Data Corporation. Our AssuredSAN 2000 and 3000 Series products address the entry level market (bands 2 and 3) and AssuredSAN 4000 and Pro 5000 Series address the mid-range market (bands 4 and 5). AssuredSAN Pro 5000 Series products include RealStor™ software that incorporates autonomic real-time data tiering via a virtualized back-end. With RealStor, businesses gain the advantage of using very high performance Solid State Drives (SSDs) to their maximum benefit, while storing less frequently accessed data on larger and much less expensive hard disk drives (HDDs). Our AssuredSAN 2000 and 3000 Series products are typically, but not exclusively, sold through our Server OEM partners and AssuredSAN 4000 and Pro 5000 Series are typically, but not exclusively, sold through our Vertical Market partners.

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

Our products and services are sold worldwide to facilitate server and SAN storage implementations, primarily through server-based OEMs, vertical markets partners that include embedded solution OEMs that integrate our products into their solutions, and value-added resellers, or VARs. Our storage system products' server-based OEM partners currently include, among others, HP, Lenovo and Stratus, who purchase our AssuredSAN products, and Dell and AMD, who purchase our AssuredVRA products. Our vertical markets partners include Teradata, CGG, Motorola, Tektronix, Samsung, Concurrent, Autodesk, Imagine Communications and Nokia Siemens. Although our products and services are sold worldwide, the majority of our net revenue is derived from our U.S. operations.

We began shipping products to HP in the fourth quarter of 2007. Our products are primarily sold as HP's MSA 2000/P2000 product family. The agreement with HP does not contain any minimum purchase commitments. In October 2011, we extended our supply agreement with HP by five years to expire in October 2016 and also extended the expiration of 1.6 million warrants granted to HP in March 2008 to expire concurrently with the supply agreement in October 2016. Net revenue from HP approximated 63% and 49% of our total net revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2013 and March 31, 2014, respectively. We expect sales to HP to continue to decline as a percentage of total revenue, but we still anticipate it to represent a substantial percentage of our total net revenue in 2014.

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

- our ability to maintain and enhance relationships with our customers, in particular our OEM customers, as well as our ability to win new business;

- our ability to source critical components such as integrated circuits, hard disk drives, memory and other components on a timely basis;
- the amount of field failures resulting in product replacements or recalls;
- our ability to launch new products in accordance with OEM specifications, schedules and milestones;
- our ability to sell Dot Hill branded products through resellers;
- our ability to win new server-based OEM customers and OEMs who embed our products into their solutions;
- general economic and political conditions and specific conditions in the markets we address, including the continuing volatility in the technology sector, current general economic volatility and trends in the data storage markets in various geographic regions;
- the timing, rescheduling or cancellation of significant customer orders and our ability, as well as the ability of our customers, to manage inventory;

## Table of Contents

our customer's product launch timelines and sales cycle; and the inability of certain of our customers who depend on credit to have access to their traditional sources of credit to finance the purchase of products from us, particularly in the current global economic environment, which may lead them to reduce their level of purchases or to seek credit or other accommodations from us.

For these and other reasons, our net revenue and results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and prior periods may not necessarily be indicative of future net revenue and results of operations.

Our manufacturing strategy includes outsourcing substantially all of our manufacturing to third-party manufacturers in order to reduce sales cycle times and manufacturing infrastructure, enhance working capital and improve margins by taking advantage of the third parties' manufacturing and procurement economies of scale. In September 2008, we entered into a manufacturing agreement with Foxconn Technology Group, or Foxconn. Under the terms of the agreement, Foxconn supplies us with manufacturing, assembly and test services from its facilities in China and final integration services including final assembly, testing and configure-to-order services through its worldwide facilities. In November 2011, we amended our agreement with Foxconn to extend the manufacturing agreement for a period of three years. In addition, Foxconn agreed to waive the requirement for a letter of credit and improved our payment terms. The majority of our products sold in 2013 and to date in 2014 were manufactured by Foxconn. We expect Foxconn to manufacture substantially all of our products throughout 2014.

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

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

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

General and administrative expenses consist primarily of compensation to officers and employees performing administrative functions, as well as expenditures for legal, accounting and other administrative services and fluctuations in currency valuations. Restructuring charges are aggregated in the general and administrative expenses line item.

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

## Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

An accounting policy is deemed to be critical if it requires an accounting estimate to be made based on assumptions about matters that are highly uncertain at the time the estimate is made, if different estimates reasonably could have been used, or if changes in the estimate that are reasonably likely to occur could materially impact the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements. Management believes that there have been no significant changes during the three months ended March 31, 2014, to the items that we disclosed as our critical accounting policies and estimates in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013.

## Revenue Recognition

We derive our revenue from sales of our hardware products, software and services.

#### Hardware

Hardware product revenue consists of revenue from sales of our AssuredSAN storage systems that are integrated with our OEM customers' industry standard hardware and which become essential to the integrated system product. We recognize hardware product revenue when the following fundamental criteria are met: (i) persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists; (ii) delivery has occurred; (iii) the price is fixed or determinable; and (iv) collectability is reasonably assured. Revenue is recognized for hardware product sales upon transfer of title and risk of loss to the customer. We record reductions to revenue for estimated product returns and pricing adjustments in the same period that the related revenue is recorded. These estimates

## Table of Contents

are based on historical sales returns, analysis of credit memo data and other factors known at the time. If actual future returns and pricing adjustments differ from past experience and our estimates, additional revenue reserves may be required.

We exclude from revenues taxes collected from customers on behalf of governmental authorities.

### Software

In accordance with the specific guidance for recognizing software revenue, where applicable, we recognize revenue from perpetual software licenses at the inception of the license term assuming all revenue recognition criteria have been met. We use the relative fair value method to allocate revenue to software licenses at the inception of the license term when vendor-specific objective evidence, or VSOE, of fair value for all elements related to our products is available. We have established VSOE for the fair value of our software licenses and support services as measured by the prices paid by our customers when the licenses and services are sold separately on a standalone basis.

Specific long term software contracts may contain multiple deliverables including software licenses, services, training and post-contract support (PCS) for which we have not established VSOE of fair value of any of the elements. Under specific guidance for recognizing software revenue, we defer all revenue related to each deliverable until the only undelivered element is PCS. We then begin recognizing revenue ratably over the PCS period.

We defer all the direct and incremental costs related to the deliverables in these contracts until delivery of all the elements except PCS. The deferred costs are then recognized ratably over the contractual PCS support periods as a component of Costs of Goods Sold.

### Service

Our service revenue primarily includes out-of-warranty repairs and product maintenance contracts. Out-of warranty repairs primarily consist of product repair services performed by our contract manufacturers for those customers that allowed their original product warranty to expire without purchasing one of our higher level support service plans. Revenue from these out-of-warranty repairs, and the associated cost of sales, is recognized in the period these services are provided. Service revenue also consists of product maintenance contracts purchased by our customers as an extension of our standard warranty. Revenue from our product maintenance contracts is deferred and recognized ratably over the contract term, generally 12 to 36 months. Net revenue derived from services was less than 10% of total revenue for all periods presented.

### Revenue Recognition for Arrangements with Multiple Deliverables

For multi-element arrangements that include hardware products containing software essential to the hardware product's functionality, undelivered elements that relate to the hardware product's essential software, and undelivered non-software services (all non-software related elements), we allocate the transaction price to all deliverables based on their relative selling prices. In such circumstances, we use a hierarchy to determine the selling price to be used for allocating the transaction price to deliverables: (i) VSOE of fair value, (ii) third-party evidence of selling price, or TPE, and (iii) best estimate of the selling price, or ESP. VSOE of fair value generally exists only when we sell the deliverable separately and represents the actual price charged by us for that deliverable. ESPs reflect our best estimates of what the selling prices of each of the deliverables would be if they were sold regularly on a standalone basis.

### Revenue Recognition for Sales to Channel Partners

On sales to channel partners, we evaluate whether fees are considered fixed or determinable by considering a number of factors, including our ability to estimate returns, payment terms and our relationship and past history with the particular channel partner. If fees are not considered fixed or determinable at the time of sale to a channel partner, revenue recognition is deferred until there is persuasive evidence indicating the product has sold through to an end-user. Persuasive evidence of sell-through may include reports from channel partners documenting sell-through activity or data indicating an order has shipped to an end-user.

#### Deferred Revenue

We defer revenue on upfront nonrefundable payments from our customers and recognize it ratably over the term of the agreement, unless the payment is in exchange for products delivered that represent the culmination of a separate earnings process. When we provide consideration to a customer, we recognize the value of that consideration as a reduction in net revenue. We may be required to maintain inventory with certain of our largest OEM customers, which we refer to as hubbing arrangements. Pursuant to these arrangements we deliver products to a customer or a designated third-party warehouse based

Table of Contents

upon the customer's projected needs, but do not recognize product revenue unless and until the customer has removed our product from the warehouse to incorporate into its end products.

## Results of Operations

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

	Three Months Ended			
	March 31,			
	2013	2014	%	%
NET REVENUE	100.0	100.0		
COST OF GOODS SOLD	67.5	68.3		
GROSS PROFIT	32.5	31.7		
OPERATING EXPENSES:				
Research and development	19.6	19.7		
Sales and marketing	7.0	6.8		
General and administrative	7.1	6.0		
Total operating expenses	33.7	32.5		
OPERATING LOSS	(1.2)	(0.8)	)	)
Other income (expense), net	(0.0)	(0.0)	)	)
LOSS BEFORE INCOME TAXES AND DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS	(1.2)	(0.8)	)	)
INCOME TAX EXPENSE	0.1	0.0		
LOSS FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	(1.3)	(0.8)	)	)
LOSS FROM DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS	(0.9)	—	)	)
NET LOSS	(2.2)	(0.8)	)%	)%

## Three Months Ended March 31, 2013 Compared to the Three Months Ended March 31, 2014

## Net Revenue

	Three Months Ended March		Increase/(Decrease)	% Change
	2013	2014		
	(in thousands, except percentages)			
Net revenue:				
Server OEM	\$ 30,383	\$ 25,854	\$ (4,529)	(14.9)%
Vertical Markets	14,097	22,353	8,256	58.6%
Consolidated net revenue	\$ 44,480	\$ 48,207	\$ 3,727	8.4%

Server OEM net revenue decreased \$4.5 million from \$30.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013 to \$25.9 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. This decrease was due to a \$4.3 million decrease in revenue from HP from \$27.9 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013 to \$23.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014, along with a decrease of \$0.2 million in sales to various other Server OEM customers. Sales to HP approximated 63% of our net revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2013 compared to 49% of our net revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2014. We expect sales to HP as a percentage of total revenue for the year ending December 31, 2014 to continue to decline relative to the year ended December 31, 2013, but to continue to represent a substantial portion of our net revenue during 2014.

Vertical Markets net revenue increased \$8.3 million from \$14.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013 to \$22.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. The increase in net revenue was primarily due to ramp in

sales to existing Vertical Markets OEM customers. Specifically, sales to Tektronix increased \$2.2 million, from \$5.2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013 to \$7.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014, along with an increase of \$6.1 million in sales to various other Vertical Market customers. Sales to Tektronix approximated 12% of our net revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2013 compared to 15% of our net revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2014. We expect sales to Tektronix to continue to represent a substantial portion of our net revenue during 2014.



Table of Contents

## Cost of Goods Sold

	Three Months Ended March		Increase/(Decrease) % Change		
	31, 2013	2014			
	(in thousands, except percentages)				
Cost of goods sold:					
Server OEM	\$22,100	\$20,250	\$ (1,850	)	(8.4)%
Vertical Markets	7,940	12,692	4,752		59.8%
Consolidated cost of goods sold	\$30,040	\$32,942	\$ 2,902		9.7%

Server OEM cost of goods sold decreased \$1.9 million from \$22.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013 to \$20.2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014, primarily as a result of the decrease in revenue from these customers during the quarter. In addition, cost of goods sold did not decrease at the same rate as revenue due to the allocated fixed costs of goods sold being relatively stable in comparison to the decrease in revenue.

Vertical Markets cost of goods sold increased \$4.8 million from \$7.9 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013 to \$12.7 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014, primarily as a result of the increase in revenue during the quarter.

## Gross Profit

	Three Months Ended March 31,		Increase/(Decrease) % Change		
	2013	% of Revenue	2014	% of Revenue	
	(in thousands, except percentages)				
Gross Profit:					
Server OEM	\$8,283	27.3%	\$5,604	21.7%	\$ (2,679) (32.3)%
Vertical Markets	6,157	43.7%	9,661	43.2%	3,504 56.9%
Consolidated gross profit	\$14,440	32.5%	\$15,265	31.7%	\$ 825 5.7%

Server OEM gross profit decreased from 27.3% for the three months ended March 31, 2013 to 21.7% for the three months ended March 31, 2014. The main driver of the decrease in gross profit margin for Server OEM is the allocated fixed cost of goods sold being relatively stable in comparison to the decrease in revenue.

Vertical Markets gross profit decreased from 43.7% for the three months ended March 31, 2013 to 43.2% for the three months ended March 31, 2014. The main driver of the decrease in gross profit margin for Vertical Markets is the revenue mix of customers.

## Research and Development Expenses

	Three Months Ended March		Increase/(Decrease) % Change		
	31, 2013	2014			
	(in thousands, except percentages)				
Research and development expenses	\$8,713	\$9,476	\$ 763		8.8%

Consolidated research and development expenses increased \$0.8 million from \$8.7 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013 to \$9.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. Research and development expenses are included in the Corporate segment. The increase was primarily due to a \$0.3 million increase in salaries and related expenses due to an increase in headcount and a \$0.1 million increase in project materials and tooling expenses. The

increase in project materials and tooling expenses is due to the scheduling and timing of new product development. In addition, the research and development expenses for the three months ended March 31, 2013 included a non-recurring deferral of \$0.4 million related to a certain software contract.

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

Table of Contents

## Sales and Marketing Expenses

	Three Months Ended March		Increase/(Decrease)% Change		
	31, 2013	2014			
	(in thousands, except percentages)				
Sales and marketing expense:					
Server OEM	\$435	\$482	\$ 47	10.8	%
Vertical Markets	2,080	2,254	174	8.4	%
Corporate	593	558	(35	) (5.9	)%
Consolidated sales and marketing	\$3,108	\$3,294	\$ 186	6.0	%

Vertical Markets sales and marketing expense increased \$0.2 million from \$2.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013 to \$2.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. This increase was primarily due to an increase of \$0.1 million in salaries and related expenses due to an increase in commissions due to higher Vertical Markets revenues and an increase of \$0.1 million in trade shows and other marketing activities.

## General and Administrative Expenses

	Three Months Ended March		Increase/(Decrease)% Change		
	31, 2013	2014			
	(in thousands, except percentages)				
General and administrative expenses	\$3,137	\$2,898	\$ (239	) (7.6	)%

Consolidated general and administrative expense decreased \$0.2 million from \$3.1 million for the three months ended to \$2.9 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. General and administrative expenses are included in the Corporate segment. The decrease was primarily due to a \$0.3 million unrealized currency loss in the first quarter of 2013 as compared to a \$0.1 million unrealized currency gain in the first quarter of 2014. Additionally, there was a \$0.2 million decrease in salaries and related expenses due to lower bonus accruals as compared to 2013. The decrease is partially offset by an increase of \$0.3 million in audit and legal fees and an increase of \$0.1 of stock compensation expense.

## Other Income (Expense), net

Other income (expense), net consists of interest income on our cash and cash equivalents, interest expense related to our note payable and other miscellaneous items.

## Income Taxes

We recorded income tax expense of \$0.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013, as compared to income tax expense of \$0.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. Our current year provision primarily includes estimated liabilities relating to tax expense in certain states and foreign jurisdictions in which we operate, offset partially by a favorable adjustment to settlements for tax liabilities owed to certain foreign jurisdictions.

## Loss From Discontinued Operations

	Three Months Ended March		Increase/(Decrease)% Change		
	31, 2013	2014			
	(in thousands, except percentages)				
Loss from discontinued operations	\$(421	) \$—	\$ 421	100.0	%

Loss from discontinued operations increased \$0.4 million from a loss from discontinued operations of \$0.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013 to no loss from discontinued operations for the three months ended March 31, 2014. The activity in 2013 is limited to the continued support of certain maintenance contracts entered into prior to shutting down the Israel Technology Development Center, as well as expenses related to the resolution of a dispute with the former primary AssuredUVS customer. See Note 3 of Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for more details regarding our discontinued operations.

## Table of Contents

### Liquidity and Capital Resources

The primary drivers affecting cash and liquidity are net loss, working capital requirements and capital expenditures. Historically, the payment terms we have had to offer our customers have been relatively similar to the terms received from our suppliers. If our net revenue increases, it is likely that our accounts receivable balance will also increase. Conversely, if our net revenue decreases, it is likely that our accounts receivable will also decrease. Our accounts receivable could increase if customers, such as large OEM customers, delay their payments. During the fourth quarter of 2013, we increased payment terms to a large OEM customer. We plan to grant an additional but smaller increase in payment terms to the same OEM customer commencing in the second quarter of 2014. While this will likely delay collection of our accounts receivable and correspondingly reduce cash, our net working capital will not be impacted. Our accounts payable also increase or decrease in connection with changes in volumes as well as our cash conservation strategies.

As of March 31, 2014, we had \$40.3 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$45.0 million of working capital compared to \$40.4 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$43.8 million of working capital as of December 31, 2013. The changes in cash and cash equivalents are further described below.

Cash equivalents include highly liquid investments purchased with original maturities of 90 days or less and consist principally of money market funds. As of March 31, 2014, \$3.3 million of the \$40.3 million of cash and cash equivalents was held by our foreign subsidiaries. We currently intend to repatriate approximately \$2.0 million of our cash and cash equivalents held by our Netherlands subsidiary during 2014. We obtained a favorable ruling from one of the foreign jurisdictions and will not be charged foreign taxes on the repatriation and we expect net operating loss carryforwards and foreign tax credits to offset any remaining tax liability. We anticipate that future foreign earnings will be deemed to be permanently reinvested, although we could elect to repatriate funds held in one or more foreign jurisdictions. If applicable, withholding taxes could reduce the net amount repatriated, and we could be required to accrue and remit applicable U.S. income taxes to the extent a tax liability results after the utilization of net operating loss carryforwards and available tax credits.

### Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities for the three months ended March 31, 2013 was \$0.9 million compared to \$1.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. The operating activities that affected cash consisted primarily of net loss, which totaled \$1.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013 compared to \$0.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. The decrease in our net loss was primarily attributable to an increase in revenues. Also, for the three months ended March 31, 2013, we incurred a loss from discontinued operations of \$0.4 million. See Note 3 of Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for more details regarding our discontinued operations.

The adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities for the three months ended March 31, 2014 for items that did not affect cash consisted of depreciation of \$1.0 million and stock-based compensation expense of \$0.6 million.

Cash flows from operations reflects the positive impact of \$9.2 million related to a decrease in accounts receivable from December 31, 2013 to March 31, 2014, which was primarily due to the intra-quarter timing of revenues. This was partially offset by the increase in payment terms to a large OEM customer. The net result was a decrease in the number of days sales outstanding, from 67 days at the end of the fourth quarter of 2013 to 63 days at the end of the first quarter of 2014. Additionally, the balance in accounts receivable at December 31, 2013 was larger due to seasonal year-end demand. Deferred revenue had a \$0.8 million positive impact to cash from operations from December 31, 2013 to March 31, 2014 due to an increase in prepaid maintenance agreements sold through our channel

partners, and the deferral of revenue for certain software contracts, to be recognized over the contract terms. Prepaid expenses and other assets had a \$1.2 million positive impact to cash from operations from December 31, 2013 to March 31, 2014, which was primarily due to increases in non-trade accounts receivable and certain other annual prepaid contracts.

Cash flows from operations reflect a negative impact of \$7.1 million related to a decrease in accounts payable from December 31, 2013 to March 31, 2014, due to a decrease in inventory purchases driven by decreased sales volumes. The change in accrued compensation and other expenses negatively impacted the cash from operations by \$2.8 million due primarily to the payment of accrued bonuses during the first quarter of 2014. The increase in inventory had a \$1.1 million negative impact on operation cash flows. The inventory increase in the first quarter of 2014 primarily relates to strategic inventory purchases. The increase in other long-term liabilities of \$0.3 million was primarily due to a decrease in long-term deferred revenue.

## Table of Contents

### Investing Activities

Cash used in investing activities for the three months ended March 31, 2013 was \$1.2 million compared to 1.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. Cash used in investing activities for the three months ended March 31, 2014 was due to purchases of test and other equipment used at our contract manufacturing partners in the production of our products.

### Financing Activities

Cash provided by financing activities for the three months ended March 31, 2013 was \$0.3 million compared to \$0.2 million of cash used in financing activities for the three months ended March 31, 2014. Cash used in financing activities for the three months ended March 31, 2014 was primarily due to a pay down of our borrowings on our credit facility of \$2.0 million and tax liability payments of \$0.1 million made by Dot Hill associated with employee equity awards. This was partially offset by the sale of stock to employees under our employee stock plans of \$1.9 million.

Based on current macro-economic conditions and conditions in the state of the data storage systems markets, our own organizational structure and our current outlook, we presently expect our cash and cash equivalents will be sufficient to fund our operations, working capital and capital requirements for at least the next 12 months. However, we may deem it necessary to invest in our business, our technologies, or other businesses, in which case we may need to raise additional funds through debt or equity financing. Also, our capital resources could be negatively impacted by unforeseen future events.

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

We maintain a credit facility with Silicon Valley Bank for cash advances and letters of credit of up to an aggregate of \$30 million based upon an advance rate dependent on certain concentration limits within eligible accounts receivable. These limits exclude certain eligible customer receivables if an individual customer account balance exceeds 25, 50 or 85 percent of the total eligible accounts receivable, depending on the customer, as defined by our Loan and Security Agreement with Silicon Valley Bank. Borrowings under the credit facility bear interest at the Silicon Valley Bank's prime rate, which was 4.0% as of March 31, 2014 and are secured by substantially all of our accounts receivable, deposit and securities accounts. The agreement provides for a negative pledge on our inventory and intellectual property, subject to certain exceptions, and contains usual and customary covenants for an arrangement of its type, including an obligation that we maintain at all times a net worth, as defined in the agreement. As of March 31, 2014, the Company had significant coverage in regard to this covenant. The agreement also includes provisions to increase the financing facility by \$20 million subject to our meeting certain requirements, including \$40 million in borrowing base for the immediately preceding 90 days, and Silicon Valley Bank locating a lender willing to finance the additional facility. In addition, if our cash and cash equivalents net of the total amount outstanding under the credit facility fall below \$20 million (measured on a rolling three-month basis), the interest rate will increase to the bank's prime rate plus 1% and additional restrictions will apply. The maturity date of the credit facility is July 21, 2015.

As of March 31, 2014, the Company had zero outstanding under the Silicon Valley Bank line of credit. There was \$30.0 million available for borrowing under the agreement as of March 31, 2014. We are currently in compliance with all covenant requirements.

At March 31, 2014, our long-term commitments had not materially changed from those disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

#### Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

At March 31, 2014, we did not have any relationship with unconsolidated entities or financial partnerships, such as entities often referred to as structured finance variable interest, or special purpose entities, which would have been established for the purpose of facilitating off-balance sheet arrangements or other contractually narrow or limited purposes. In addition, we did not engage in trading activities involving non-exchange traded contracts. As a result, we are not exposed to any financing,



## Table of Contents

liquidity, market or credit risk that could arise if we had engaged in such relationships. We do not have relationships and transactions with persons and entities that derive benefits from their non-independent relationship with us or our related parties except as disclosed herein.

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

### Recent Accounting Pronouncements

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

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

#### Interest Rate Risk

We place our cash equivalents with high-credit-quality financial institutions, investing primarily in money market accounts. We have established guidelines relative to credit ratings, diversification and maturities that seek to maintain safety and liquidity. Our investment strategy generally results in lower yields on investments but reduces the risk to principal in the short term prior to these funds being invested in our business. Our interest income is sensitive to changes in the general level of interest rates. In this regard, changes in interest rates can affect the interest earned on our cash equivalents. A 10% unfavorable change in the interest rate would not materially impact our March 31, 2014 financial statements.

We have a line of credit agreement, which accrues interest on any outstanding balances at the prime rate. As of March 31, 2014, there was zero outstanding under this line. As we make borrowings under this line, we are exposed to interest rate risk on such debt.

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

#### Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Risk

We conduct a portion of our business in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, the currency in which our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements are reported. The most significant foreign currencies that subjected us to foreign currency exchange rate risk for the three months ended March 31, 2014 were the Euro, British Pound and the Japanese Yen. Correspondingly, our operating results could be adversely affected by foreign currency exchange rate volatility relative to the U.S. dollar. Additionally, if we liquidate any of our foreign subsidiaries, our cumulative translation adjustment recorded in Other Comprehensive Income would be required to be reclassified into earnings. The Company currently anticipates liquidation of its Netherlands operating unit during 2014. The Netherlands operating unit currently has no active operations. Cumulative translation losses related to the Netherlands operating unit would be reclassified from other comprehensive loss to operating loss. Although we continue to evaluate strategies to mitigate risks related to the effect of fluctuations in currency exchange rates, we will likely continue to recognize gains or losses from international transactions and foreign currency changes. Although foreign currency transaction gains and losses have not historically been material, we incurred \$0.1 million in foreign currency

transaction gains during the three months ended March 31, 2014. Future changes in foreign currency rates could adversely impact our financial statements. A 10% unfavorable change in exchange rates could result in foreign currency losses of approximately \$0.3 million.

#### Item 4. Controls and Procedures

##### Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Based on management's evaluation (with the participation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer), as of the end of the period covered by this report, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act)), are effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by us in

## Table of Contents

reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms, and is accumulated and communicated to management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

### Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

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

## Part II. Other Information

### Item 1. Legal Proceedings

We are not party to any significant legal proceedings, but are involved in certain claims from time to time arising in the ordinary course of business involving our products, suppliers, and/or customers. Although adverse decisions or settlements of such claims may occur, we believe that the final disposition of such matters will not have a material adverse effect on our financial position or results of operations.

### Item 1A. Risk Factors

The following sets forth risk factors that may affect our future results, including certain revisions to the risk factors included in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013. Our business, results of operations and financial condition may be materially and adversely affected due to any of the following risks. We face risks described but not limited to those detailed below. Additional risks we are not presently aware of or that we currently believe are immaterial may also impair our business operations. The trading price of our common stock could decline due to any of these risks. In assessing these risks, you should also refer to the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q, including our financial statements and related notes.

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

Our business is highly dependent on a limited number of customers. For example, sales to HP and Tektronix accounted for 59% and 13%, respectively, of our net revenue for the year ended December 31, 2013 and 49% and 15%, respectively, of our net revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2014. We expect HP will represent much greater than 10% and Tektronix will represent at least 10% of our net revenue for the year ending December 31, 2014. If our relationship with HP, Tektronix or certain of our other customers were disrupted or declined significantly, we would lose a substantial portion of our anticipated net revenue and our business could be materially harmed. We cannot guarantee that our relationship with HP, Tektronix or our other customers will expand or not otherwise be disrupted.

Going forward, we expect to generate additional revenue from our vertical markets partners and from potential new server-based OEM customers. However, if we are unable to generate sufficient revenue and gross profit from these sources, our financial results could be harmed.

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

Even if the errors are detected before shipment, such errors still could result in the halting of production, delay of shipments, delay of recovery costs, loss of goodwill, tarnishment of reputation and/or a substantial decrease in net revenue. Our standard warranty provides that if our systems do not function to published specifications, we will repair or replace the defective component or system without charge generally for a period of approximately three years. We generally extend to our customers the warranties provided to us by our suppliers, and accordingly, the majority of our warranty obligations to customers are intended to be covered by corresponding supplier warranties. There can be no assurance that our suppliers will continue to provide such warranties to us in the future or that our warranty obligations to our customers will be covered by corresponding warranties from our suppliers, which could have a material adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition. Significant warranty costs could decrease our gross margin and negatively impact our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, defects in our products could result in our customers claiming property damages, consequential damages, or bodily injury, which could also result in loss of customers and goodwill. Our customers may assert claims that our products have failed to meet agreed-to specifications or that they have sustained injuries from our products, and we may be subject to lawsuits relating to these claims. There is a risk that these claims or liabilities may exceed, or fall outside of the scope of our insurance coverage. Significant claims exceeding our expected warranty provisions could distract management's attention from operating our business and, if successful, result in material claims against us that might not be covered by our insurance. The last significant quality issue was discovered in 2009, and was due to a problem with one of our power supply vendors.

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our sales are difficult to forecast because the open systems storage market is rapidly evolving and our sales cycle varies substantially from customer to customer. Customer orders for our products fall into two categories: OEM sales and Dot Hill branded sales through the channel. For the OEM business, the length of time between initial contact with a potential customer and the sale of our product may last from 6 to 36 months. This is particularly true during times of economic slowdown and when selling products that require complex installations. For the branded sales business

through the channel, sales cycles can range from 30 days to three months or more for individual deals. With Dot Hill's new products in the mid-range segment, sales cycles are expected to increase to a range of 60 days to six months. This can increase the time for product decisions in both the OEM and channel business for customers taking our new products.

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

- the amount of time needed for technical evaluations by customers;
- customers' budget constraints and changes to customers' budgets during the course of the sales cycle;
- customers' internal review and testing procedures;
- our engineering work necessary to integrate a storage solution with a customer's system;



## Table of Contents

the complexity of technical challenges that need to be overcome during the development, testing and/or qualification process for new products and/or new customers;

- our ability to meet unique customer specifications and requirements;
- difficulties by our customers in integrating our products and technologies into their own products; and
- the ability of our customers to ramp sales of our products including the desire of customer's to purchase legacy products.

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

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

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

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

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

We primarily sell to HP, Tektronix and other OEMs and thus do not need to make substantial incremental investments in sales and marketing to generate demand for our products to our customers. Additionally, we outsource substantially all of our manufacturing to very large contract manufacturing partners in Asia. Hence, there is little incremental cost required to increase our production capacity. Furthermore, we have an adopted modular architecture to our storage system products and consequently if our customers do not require substantial customization, we are able to launch products based on existing product platforms for new OEMs or channel partners at modest incremental expenditures.

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

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

The storage market is intensely competitive and is characterized by rapidly changing technology. For our AssuredSAN storage hardware products, we compete primarily against independent storage system suppliers, including EMC Corp., or EMC, Hitachi Data Systems Corp., or Hitachi, Infortrend, Promise Technology, Inc., or Promise, NEC and NetApp as a result

Table of Contents

of its acquisition of LSI's Engenio Division in May 2011. We also compete with traditional suppliers of computer systems, including IBM, Oracle, Dell and HP, which market storage systems as well as other computer products.

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

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

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

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

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

Additional pricing pressures are due, in part, to continuing decreases in component prices, such as those of disks, memory, semiconductors and RAID controllers. Decreases in component prices are typically passed on to customers by storage companies through a continuing decrease in the price of storage hardware systems.

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

Pricing pressures also exist from our significant customers that may attempt to change the terms, including pricing, payment terms and post sales obligations with us. For example, during the fourth quarter of 2013, we increased payment terms to a large OEM customer. We plan to grant an additional but smaller increase in payment terms to the same OEM customer commencing in the second quarter of 2014. As our customers are pressured to reduce prices as a

result of competitive factors, we may be required to contractually, or otherwise, commit to price reductions for our products prior to determining if we can implement corresponding cost reductions. If we are unable to achieve such cost reductions, or are unable to pass along cost increases to our customers, and have to reduce the pricing of our products, our gross margin may be negatively impacted which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

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

Our gross margin is determined in large part based on our contract manufacturing costs, our component costs, the timing and magnitude of product cost reductions, and our ability to include RAID controllers and value added features into our products, such as DMS and RealStor, as well as the prices at which we sell our products. The amount of revenue recognized from software and service sales and the relative mix of such sales in comparison to sales of our other products will also impact

## Table of Contents

our gross margin, as the gross margin on sales of software and services is higher than that of our other products. If we are unable to lower production costs to be consistent with our projections or if we experience any decline in selling prices, such as with certain customers with whom we have negotiated periodic price reductions based on specific criteria, our gross margin and results of operations may suffer. Some of the new products we are currently shipping or expect to begin shipping are in the early stages of their life cycle. Our historical experience indicates that gross margin on new products are low initially and increase over time as a result of maturing manufacturing processes, component cost reductions and re-engineering the products to reduce costs. If we fail to achieve these improvements, our gross margin will be negatively impacted and our business, financial condition and results of operations could be significantly harmed.

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

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

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

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

Our efforts to accommodate our customers' aggressive launch and ramp schedules can divert management's attention from the rest of our business and force us to allocate product volumes across many customers due to component shortages, all of which could harm our relations with customers. In addition, we could incur overtime, expedite charges, and other charges such as shipping products by air as opposed to by ocean, as a result of efforts to meet such schedules. Any of these factors could result in lower net revenue and gross margin as well as increased operating expenses which could have an impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Manufacturing and supplier disruptions could harm our business.

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

Due to our use of third-party manufacturers, our ability to control the timing of shipments could decrease. Delayed shipment could result in the deferral or cancellation of purchases of our products. Any significant deferral or cancellation of these sales would harm our results of operations in any particular quarter. Net revenue for a period may be lower than predicted if large orders forecasted for that period are delayed or are not realized, which could also impact cash flow or result in a decline in our stock price. To the extent we establish a relationship with an alternative manufacturer for our products, we may be able

Table of Contents

to partially mitigate potential disruptions to our business. We may also suffer manufacturing disruptions as we ramp up manufacturing processes for newly introduced products, or if our contract manufacturer experiences other disruptions in the manufacturing process, such as disruptions that may be caused by the ongoing move of manufacturing facilities from Longhua, China, to Tianjin, China, there could be delays in the delivery of these products to our customers that adversely affect our results of operations. We also generally extend to our customers the warranties provided to us by our suppliers and, accordingly, the majority of our warranty obligations to customers are covered by supplier warranties. For warranty costs not covered by our suppliers, we reserve for estimated warranty costs in the period the net revenue is recognized. There can be no assurance that our suppliers will continue to provide such warranties to us in the future, or that we have estimated these costs correctly, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

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

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

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

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

For the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2013 we incurred income (loss) from continuing operations of \$(10.4) million and \$5.5 million, respectively. We expect our business to remain volatile as we are often unable to reliably predict net revenue from HP and our other customers. Net revenue from our customers, the mix of products sold to our customers, our ability to introduce new products as planned and our ability to reduce product costs and manage our operating expenses and manufacturing variances will continue to affect our financial results for 2014. Consequently, we cannot assure you that we will be profitable in any future period.

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

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

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



## Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

Our performance depends in significant part on our ability to attract and retain talented senior management and other key personnel. Our key personnel include Dana Kammersgard, our Chief Executive Officer and President, and Hanif Jamal, our Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Corporate Secretary. If either of these individuals were to terminate his employment with us, we would be required to locate and hire a suitable replacement. In addition, if any of our key engineering, sales and general and administrative employees were to terminate their employment with us, our business could be harmed. Competition for attracting talented employees in the technology industry can be intense. We may be unable to identify suitable replacements for any employees that we lose. In addition, even if we are successful in locating suitable replacements, the time and cost involved in recruiting, hiring, training and integrating new employees, particularly key employees responsible for significant portions of our operations, could harm our business by delaying our production schedule, our research and development efforts, our ability to execute on our business strategy and our client development and marketing efforts.

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

Protective provisions in our charter and bylaws could prevent a takeover which could harm our stockholders.

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain a number of provisions that could impede a takeover or prevent us from being acquired, including, but not limited to, a classified board of directors, the elimination of our stockholders'

ability to take action by written consent and limitations on the ability of our stockholders to remove a director from office without cause. Our board of directors may issue additional shares of common stock or establish one or more classes or series of preferred stock with such designations, relative voting rights, dividend rates, liquidation and other rights, preferences and limitations as determined by our board of directors without stockholder approval. Each of these charter and bylaw provisions give our board of directors, acting without stockholder approval, the ability to prevent, or render more difficult or costly, the completion of a takeover transaction that our stockholders might view as being in their best interests.

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

We are subject to income taxes in the United States and various foreign jurisdictions. Our effective income tax rates have recently been and could in the future be adversely affected by changes in tax laws or interpretations of those tax laws, by changes in the mix of earnings in countries with differing statutory tax rates, by discovery of new information in the course of

## Table of Contents

our tax return preparation process, or by changes in the valuation of our deferred tax assets and liabilities. Our effective income tax rates are also affected by intercompany transactions for licenses, services, funding and other items. Additionally, we are subject to the continuous examination of our income tax returns by the Internal Revenue Service and other tax authorities which may result in the assessment of additional income taxes. We regularly assess the likelihood of adverse outcomes resulting from these examinations. However, there can be no assurance that the outcomes from these examinations will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

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

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

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

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

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

- differences between our actual operating results and the published expectations of analysts;
- quarterly fluctuations in our operating results;
- mergers and acquisitions in the data storage marketplace;
- introduction of new products or changes in product pricing policies by our competitors or us;
- conditions in the markets in which we operate;
- changes in market projections by industry forecasters;
- changes in estimates of our earnings by us or industry analysts;
- overall market conditions for high technology equities;
- rumors or dissemination of false information; and
- general economic and geopolitical conditions.

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

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

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

Our system of internal controls may be inadequate.

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

Table of Contents

controls, and/or take other actions that will divert significant financial and managerial resources, as well as be subject to fines and/or other government enforcement actions. Furthermore, the price of our stock could be adversely affected.

Environmental compliance costs could adversely affect our results of operations.

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

We face increasing complexity in our product design and procurement operations as we adjust to new and future requirements relating to the materials composition of our products, including the restrictions on lead and certain other substances that apply to specified electronic products put on the market in the European Union as of July 1, 2006 (Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive, or RoHS). We design our products to ensure that they comply with these requirements as well as related requirements imposed by our customers. We are also working with our suppliers to provide us with compliant materials, parts and components. If our products do not comply with the European substance restrictions, we could become subject to fines, civil or criminal sanctions, and contract damage claims. In addition, we could be prohibited from shipping non-compliant products into the European Union, and required to recall and replace any products already shipped, if such products were found to be non-compliant, which would disrupt our ability to ship products and result in reduced net revenue, increased obsolete or excess inventories and harm to our business and customer relationships. Various other countries and states in the United States have issued, or are in the process of issuing, other environmental regulations that may impose additional restrictions or obligations and require further changes to our products. These regulations could impose a significant cost of doing business in those countries and states.

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

Some of our products are subject to state, federal and international laws governing protection of the environment, governing proper handling and disposal of materials used to manufacture our products, governing human health and safety, regulating the use of certain chemical substances and requiring disclosure of the use of certain "conflict minerals." We endeavor to comply with these environmental and other laws, yet compliance with such laws could increase our product design, development, procurement, manufacturing and administration costs, limit our ability to manage excess and obsolete non-compliant inventory, change our sales activities, damage our reputation if we are required to disclose the use of certain "conflict minerals" or otherwise impact future financial results of our business. Any violation of these laws can subject us to significant liability, including fines, penalties and possible prohibition of sales of our products into one or more states or countries and result in a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

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

Although a substantial portion of our business is located and conducted in the United States, a significant portion of our operations are located outside of the United States. A substantial portion of our products are manufactured outside of the United States, and we have research and development and service centers overseas. Accordingly, our business and our future operating results could be adversely affected by a variety of factors affecting our international operations, some of which are beyond our control, including regulatory, political, or economic conditions in a specific

country or region, trade protection measures and other regulatory requirements, government spending patterns, and acts of terrorism and international conflicts. In addition, we may not be able to maintain or increase international market demand for our products.

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

Table of Contents

variations in sales of products in impacted jurisdictions and could adversely impact demand and revenue growth. In addition, currency variations can adversely affect margins on sales of our products in countries outside the United States.

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

In addition, due to the global nature of our business, we are subject to complex legal, tax and regulatory requirements in the United States and the foreign jurisdictions in which we operate and sell our products, including antitrust and anti-competition laws, rules and regulations, and regulations related to data privacy. We are also subject to the potential loss of proprietary information due to piracy, misappropriation or laws that may be less protective of our intellectual property rights than U.S. laws. Such factors could have an adverse impact on our business, operating results and financial position.

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

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

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

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

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

On July 21, 2010, the President signed into law the Dodd-Frank Act. Many aspects of the Dodd-Frank Act are subject to rulemaking and will take effect over several years, making it difficult to anticipate the overall financial impact on

us. However, as we continue to implement changes in response to this new law and its associated regulations, we expect to incur additional operating costs that could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

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

Because new and modified laws, regulations, and standards are subject to varying interpretations in many cases due to their lack of specificity, their application in practice may evolve over time as new guidance is provided by regulatory and



Table of Contents

governing bodies. This evolution may result in continuing uncertainty regarding compliance matters and additional costs necessitated by ongoing revisions to our disclosure and governance practices.

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

In March 2010, comprehensive health care reform legislation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (HR 3590) and the Health Care Education and Affordability Reconciliation Act (HR 4872) was passed and signed into law. Among other things, the health care reform legislation includes guaranteed coverage requirements, eliminates pre-existing condition exclusions and annual and lifetime maximum limits, restricts the extent to which policies can be rescinded and imposes new and significant taxes on health insurers and health care benefits. Provisions of the health care reform legislation become effective at various dates over the next several years. The Department of Health and Human Services, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, the Department of Labor and the Treasury Department have yet to issue necessary enabling regulations and guidance with respect to the health care reform legislation.

Due to the breadth and complexity of the health care reform legislation, the lack of implementing regulations and interpretive guidance, and the phased-in nature of the implementation, it is difficult to predict the overall impact of the health care reform legislation on our business over the coming years. Our results of operations, financial position and cash flows could be materially adversely affected due to this health care reform legislation. We expect to experience significant increases in health care costs during the remainder of 2014 and into the foreseeable future.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

interrupting or otherwise disrupting the shipment of our product components;

Table of Contents

damaging our reputation;  
forcing us to find alternate component sources;  
reducing demand for our products (for example, through a consumer boycott); or  
exposing us to potential liability for our supplier's wrongdoings.

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

We are heavily dependent on our technology infrastructure, among other functions, to operate our factories, sell our products, fulfill orders, manage inventory and bill, collect and make payments. Our systems are vulnerable to damage or interruption from natural disasters, power loss, telecommunication failures, computer viruses, computer denial-of-service attacks and other events. Our business is also subject to break-ins, sabotage and intentional acts of vandalism by third parties as well as employees. Despite any precautions we may take, such problems could result in, among other consequences, interruptions in our business, which could harm our reputation and financial condition.

Cybersecurity breaches could expose us to liability, damage our reputation, compromise our ability to conduct business, require us to incur significant costs or otherwise adversely affect our financial results.

We retain sensitive data in our secure data centers and on our networks, including intellectual property, proprietary business information and personally identifiable information. We face a number of threats to our data centers and networks from unauthorized access, security breaches and other system disruptions. As with any company with an internet presence, our infrastructure may be vulnerable to attacks by hackers or other disruptive problems. Any such security breach may compromise information stored on our networks and may result in significant data losses or theft of our, our customers', our business partners' or our employees' intellectual property, proprietary business information or personally identifiable information. In addition, we have outsourced a number of our business functions to third party contractors, and any breach of their security systems could adversely affect us.

It is critical to our business strategy that our infrastructure remains secure and is perceived by customers and partners to be secure. A cybersecurity breach could negatively affect our reputation as a trusted provider of information infrastructure by adversely affecting the market's perception of the security or reliability of our products or services. In addition, a cyber-attack could result in other negative consequences, including remediation costs, disruption of internal operations, increased cybersecurity protection costs, lost revenues or litigation.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

None.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

None.

Item 5. Other Information

None.



Table of Contents

Item 6. Exhibits

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

	Agreement and Plan of Merger and Reorganization dated as of January 4, 2010, among Dot Hill Systems Corp., Telluride Acquisition Sub, Inc., Cloverleaf Communications Inc., Cloverleaf Communications (Israel) Ltd., Cloverleaf Communications Corporation (BVI) and E. Shalev Management 2000 (1999) Ltd. (1)
2.1	
3.1	Certificate of Incorporation of Dot Hill Systems Corp. (2)
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Dot Hill Systems Corp. (3)
4.1	Form of Common Stock Certificate. (4)
4.2	Certificate of Designation of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, as filed with the Secretary of State of Delaware on May 19, 2003. (5)
4.3	Form of Rights Certificate. (5)
4.4	Warrant to Purchase Shares of Common Stock dated January 4, 2008. (6)
10.1	Non-Employee Director Compensation Policy.
10.2†	Amendment Fifteen to Product Purchase Agreement dated September 10, 2007 by and between Dot Hill Systems Corp. and Hewlett-Packard Company.
31.1	Certification pursuant to 17 CFR 240.13a-14(a) or 17 CFR 240.15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification pursuant to 17 CFR 240.13a-14(a) or 17 CFR 240.15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1*	Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101.INS**	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.LAB**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

These certifications are being furnished solely to accompany this annual report pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, and are not being filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and are not to be incorporated by reference into any filing of the registrant, whether made before or after the date hereof, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filing.

Pursuant to applicable securities laws and regulations, we are deemed to have complied with the reporting obligation relating to the submission of interactive data files in such exhibits and are not subject to liability under any anti-fraud provisions of the federal securities laws as long as we have made a good faith attempt to comply with the submission requirements and promptly amend the interactive data files after becoming aware that the interactive data files fail to comply with the submission requirements. Users of this data are advised that, pursuant to Rule 460T, these interactive data files are deemed not filed and otherwise are not subject to liability.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Dot Hill Systems Corp.

Date: May 9, 2014

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

Date: May 9, 2014

By: /s/ HANIF I. JAMAL  
Hanif I. Jamal  
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer,  
Treasurer and Corporate Secretary  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)