

CATALYST SEMICONDUCTOR INC

Form 10-Q

August 27, 2004

**Table of Contents**

---

---

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 10-Q**

---

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

**For the quarterly period ended August 1, 2004 or**

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

**For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ .**

**0-21488**

(Commission File Number)

**CATALYST SEMICONDUCTOR, INC.**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**77-0083129**

(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**1250 Borregas Avenue  
Sunnyvale, California**

(Address of Registrant's principal executive offices)

**94089**

(Zip Code)

**(408) 542-1000**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities 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 is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12(b)(2) of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

The number of shares outstanding of the Registrant's Common Stock as of August 20, 2004 was 18,220,130 exclusive of 3,644,100 shares of treasury stock.

---

---

---

**CATALYST SEMICONDUCTOR, INC.**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<u>Page</u>
<b><u>PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u></b>	
<b><u>Item 1. Financial Statements</u></b>	
<u>Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at July 31, 2004 and April 30, 2004</u>	3
<u>Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three months ended July 31, 2004 and 2003</u>	4
<u>Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the three months ended July 31, 2004 and 2003</u>	5
<u>Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	6
<b><u>Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u></b>	15
<b><u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u></b>	32
<b><u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u></b>	32
<b><u>PART II. OTHER INFORMATION</u></b>	
<b><u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u></b>	33
<b><u>Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K</u></b>	33
<b><u>SIGNATURES</u></b>	34
<b><u>EXHIBIT INDEX</u></b>	35
<u>EXHIBIT 31.1</u>	
<u>EXHIBIT 31.2</u>	
<u>EXHIBIT 32</u>	

**Table of Contents****PART I. Financial Information****Item 1. Financial Statements****CATALYST SEMICONDUCTOR, INC.****UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

	<u>July 31,</u>	<u>April 30,</u>
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>
	(In thousands)	
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 21,934	\$ 17,245
Short term investments	23,911	16,564
Accounts receivable, net	10,736	12,547
Inventories	9,802	6,960
Deferred tax assets	5,024	5,024
Other current assets	773	875
	<u>72,180</u>	<u>59,215</u>
Total current assets		
Property and equipment, net	3,187	3,334
Deferred tax assets	4,098	4,098
Other assets	205	218
	<u>79,670</u>	<u>66,865</u>
Total assets		
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 5,728	\$ 4,879
Accounts payable related parties	690	137
Accrued expenses	4,546	3,782
Deferred gross profit on shipments to distributors	3,634	4,079
	<u>14,598</u>	<u>12,877</u>
Total current liabilities		
Commitments and contingencies (Note 8)		
Stockholders equity:		
Preferred stock, \$.001 par value, 2,000 shares authorized; no shares issued and outstanding		
Common stock, \$.001 par value, 45,000 shares authorized; 21,864 shares issued and 18,220 shares outstanding at July 31, 2004 and 20,057 shares	22	20

Edgar Filing: CATALYST SEMICONDUCTOR INC - Form 10-Q

issued and 16,413 shares outstanding at April 30, 2004

Additional paid-in-capital	68,159	59,228
Treasury stock, 3,644 shares at July 31, 2004 and April 30, 2004	(12,616)	(12,616)
Retained earnings	9,576	7,382
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(69)	(26)
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
 Total stockholders' equity	 <u>65,072</u>	 <u>53,988</u>
 Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	 <u>\$ 79,670</u>	 <u>\$ 66,865</u>

*See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.*

Table of Contents

## CATALYST SEMICONDUCTOR, INC.

## UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

	<u>Three Months Ended July 31,</u>	
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
	(In thousands, except per share data)	
Net revenues	\$ 16,711	\$ 13,847
Cost of revenues	8,036	8,700
Gross profit	8,675	5,147
Operating expenses:		
Research and development	2,143	1,548
Selling, general and administrative	3,158	2,607
Income from operations	3,374	992
Interest income, net	109	90
Income before income taxes	3,483	1,082
Income tax provision	1,289	162
Net income	\$ 2,194	\$ 920
Net income per share:		
Basic	\$ 0.13	\$ 0.06
Diluted	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.05
Weighted average common shares outstanding:		
Basic	16,759	16,358
Diluted	19,022	18,755

*See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.*

Table of Contents

## CATALYST SEMICONDUCTOR, INC.

## UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	Three Months Ended July 31,	
	2004	2003
	(In thousands)	
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net income	\$ 2,194	\$ 920
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation of property and equipment	404	321
Benefit from sale of inventory previously written down	(226)	(744)
Provision for excess and obsolete inventory	155	375
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	235	
Tax benefit of options	577	
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	1,811	(1,546)
Inventories	(2,771)	1,255
Other assets	115	60
Accounts payable (including related parties)	777	343
Accrued expenses	764	(238)
Deferred gross profit on shipments to distributors	(445)	576
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by operating activities	3,590	1,322
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Purchases of short-term investments	(10,635)	(4,708)
Proceeds from sales and maturities of short-term investments	3,245	2,230
Acquisition of property and equipment	(492)	(316)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash used in investing activities	(7,882)	(2,794)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>		
Common stock issuances from exercise of options	369	263
Net proceeds from secondary offering	7,987	
Net payable to Elex for secondary offering	625	
Treasury stock purchases		(215)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by financing activities	8,981	48

	_____	_____
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	4,689	(1,424)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period	17,245	7,828
	_____	_____
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the period	\$ 21,934	\$ 6,404
	_____	_____
Supplemental cash flow disclosures:		
Cash paid during the year for:		
Income taxes	\$ 100	\$
	_____	_____

*See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.*

**Table of Contents**

**CATALYST SEMICONDUCTOR, INC.**

**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Note 1 - Basis of Presentation:**

Catalyst Semiconductor, Inc. (the Company), was founded in October 1985, and designs, develops and markets a broad line of reprogrammable non-volatile memory, analog and mixed-signal products.

In the opinion of the management of the Company, the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements included herein have been prepared on the same basis as the Company's April 30, 2004 audited consolidated financial statements and include all adjustments, consisting of only normal recurring adjustments, necessary to fairly state the information set forth herein. For further information, refer to the consolidated financial statements and footnotes thereto included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended April 30, 2004, as amended. Certain prior period balances have been reclassified to conform to the current period presentation.

The Company's fiscal year is the 52 or 53-week period ending on the Sunday closest to April 30. The Company refers to the fiscal year ended April 27, 2003 as fiscal 2003, the fiscal year ended May 2, 2004 as fiscal 2004 and the fiscal year ending May 1, 2005 as fiscal 2005. In a 52-week year, each fiscal quarter consists of 13 weeks. Fiscal year 2004 was comprised of 53 weeks with the extra week added to the third quarter making it consist of 14 weeks. Fiscal year 2005 will be comprised of 52 weeks. For presentation purposes only, the financial statements and notes refer to April 30 as the Company's fiscal year end and July 31, October 31 and January 31 as the end of the Company's fiscal quarters.

***Principles of Consolidation***

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Catalyst Semiconductor, Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Nippon Catalyst KK (NCKK), a sales organization in Japan, and Catalyst Semiconductor Romania SRL (CSR), a design center in Bucharest, Romania. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions are eliminated in consolidation.

***Uses of Estimates***

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (US GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Estimates in these financial statements include inventory valuation, reserves for price adjustment and stock rotation on sales to distributors, the original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) sales return reserve, allowances for doubtful accounts receivable and income taxes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

***Stock-Based Compensation***

The Company has elected to measure employee stock-based compensation costs using the intrinsic value method prescribed by the Accounting Principles Board Opinion (ABP) No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees and to comply with the pro forma disclosure requirements of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation. Stock-based compensation to employees under SFAS No. 123 is based on the fair value of the option, estimated using the Black-Scholes Option Pricing Model on the date of grant. The related stock-based compensation expense is recognized over the vesting period.

The following weighted average assumptions are included in the estimated fair value calculations for stock option grants:

	<b>Three Months Ended July 31,</b>	
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
Expected life (in years)	4.0	4.0
Risk-free interest rate	3.48%	2.33%
Volatility	68%	68%
Dividend yield		

Table of Contents

**CATALYST SEMICONDUCTOR, INC.**  
**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The following table illustrates the effect on net income and net income per share if the Company had applied the fair value recognition provisions of SFAS No. 123 to stock-based employee compensation:

	<b>Three Months Ended July 31,</b>	
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
	<b>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</b>	
Reported net income	\$ 2,194	\$ 920
Deduct: Stock-based employee compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards, net of tax	(603)	(748)
Pro forma net income	\$ 1,591	\$ 172
Net income per share:		
Basic as reported	\$ 0.13	\$ 0.06
Basic pro forma	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.01
Diluted reported	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.05
Diluted pro forma	\$ 0.08	\$ 0.01

**Note 2 Significant Accounting Policies***Cash and Cash Equivalents*

All highly liquid investments purchased with a remaining maturity of three months or less are considered cash equivalents.

*Short-term Investments*

All of the Company's short-term investments are classified as available-for-sale. Investments in available-for-sale securities are reported at fair value with unrealized gains and losses, net of related tax, as a component of accumulated

other comprehensive income (loss). Refer to Note 4 for details related to available-for-sale securities.

### ***Fair Value of Financial Instruments***

The Company measures its financial assets and liabilities in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. For financial instruments, including cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued expenses, the carrying amounts approximate fair value due to their short maturities.

### ***Foreign Currency Translation***

The Company uses the U.S. dollar as its functional currency. All of the Company's sales and a substantial majority of its costs are transacted in U.S. dollars. The Company purchases wafers from Japan, has test and assembly activities in Thailand and supports sales and marketing activities in various countries outside of the United States. Most of these costs are paid for with U.S. dollars. The research and development personnel costs in Romania are tracked against the euro while all other activities are paid in Romania leu. Foreign currency transaction gains and losses, resulting from remeasuring local currency to the U.S. dollar, are included in determining net income for the period. They were not material for the periods presented.

### ***Recognition of Revenues***

The Company generally recognizes revenues as products are shipped if evidence of an arrangement exists, the customer has taken title to the products, services, if any, have been rendered, the sales price is fixed or determinable, collection of the resulting receivable is reasonably assured and product returns are reasonably estimable.

The Company sells products directly to OEMs customers and indirectly through resellers and distributors. Revenues are recognized upon delivery to OEMs and resellers who have no, or limited, product return rights and no price protection rights. Reserves for estimated returns and allowances are provided against net revenues at the time

**Table of Contents**

**CATALYST SEMICONDUCTOR, INC.  
NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

of recognition of revenues. The Company sells products to certain distributors under agreements which allow certain rights to return the product and price protection rights. These agreements generally permit the distributor to return up to 10%, by value, of the total products they purchased from the Company every six months. As a result of the above, the Company defers recognition of revenues until the time the distributor sells the product to an end-customer. Upon shipment to a distributor, the Company records an accounts receivable from the distributor, relieves inventory for the cost of the product shipped, and records the gross profit, revenues less the cost of revenues, on the consolidated balance sheet as deferred gross profit on shipments to distributors until the inventory is resold by the distributor.

***Inventories***

Inventory is stated at the lower of standard cost or net realizable value. Standard cost approximates actual cost on a first-in, first-out basis. The Company periodically reviews its inventory for slow moving or obsolete items and writes down the related products to estimated net realizable value.

***Shipping and Handling Costs***

The Company charges internal freight shipments within the supply chain and associated handling costs to the cost of revenues on its consolidated statement of operations. The Company charges outbound freight shipments and associated handling costs to selling, general and administrative on its consolidated statement of operations. Such outbound freight costs aggregated to \$154,000 and \$178,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

***Property and Equipment***

Property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and amortization. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets, generally two to five years. Amortization of leasehold improvements is computed on a straight-line basis and amortized over the shorter of the lease term or the estimated useful lives of the assets.

***Concentration of Credit Risk***

Financial instruments, which potentially subject the Company to concentrations of credit risk, consist principally of cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments and accounts receivable. Cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments are maintained with high quality financial institutions. The Company's accounts receivable are denominated in U.S. dollars and are derived from sales to customers located principally in North America, Europe and Asia. The Company performs ongoing credit evaluations of its customers and generally does not require collateral.

As of July 31, 2004, one customer accounted for 14% of gross accounts receivable. As of April 30, 2004, one customer accounted for 15% of gross accounts receivable.

***Concentration of Other Risks***

The semiconductor industry is characterized by rapid technological change, competitive pricing pressures and cyclical market patterns. The Company's financial results are affected by a wide variety of factors, including general economic conditions worldwide, economic conditions specific to the semiconductor industry, the timely implementation of new manufacturing process technologies and the ability to safeguard patents and intellectual

property in a rapidly evolving market. In addition, the semiconductor market has historically been cyclical and subject to significant economic downturns at various times. As a result, the Company may experience significant period-to-period fluctuations in future operating results due to the factors mentioned above or other factors.

*Advertising Costs*

Costs related to advertising and promotional expenditures are charged to selling, general and administrative on its consolidated statement of operations. Such advertising and promotional expenditures were less than \$25,000 in each of the three months ended July 31, 2004 and 2003.

**Table of Contents**

**CATALYST SEMICONDUCTOR, INC.  
NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

***Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)***

Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) includes all changes in equity (net assets) during a period from non-owner sources. Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) for the Company is comprised of unrealized gains (losses) on securities available for sale.

***Segment Reporting***

The Company uses SFAS No. 131, Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information ( SFAS 131 ). SFAS 131 uses the management approach in identifying reportable segments. The management approach designates the internal organization that is used by management for making operating decisions and assessing performance as the source of the company's reportable segments. Based on its operating structure and management reporting, the Company has concluded it has one reporting segment; the semiconductor manufacturing segment.

***New Accounting Pronouncements***

In March 2004, the FASB approved EITF Issue 03-6, Participating Securities and the Two-Class Method under FAS 128. EITF Issue 03-6 supersedes the guidance in Topic No. D-95, Effect of Participating Convertible Securities on the Computation of Basic Earnings per Share, and requires the use of the two-class method of participating securities. The two-class method is an earnings allocation formula that determines earnings per share for each class of common stock and participating security according to dividends declared (or accumulated) and participation rights in undistributed earnings. In addition, EITF Issue 03-6 addresses other forms of participating securities, including options, warrants, forwards and other contracts to issue an entity's common stock, with the exception of stock-based compensation (unvested options and restricted stock) subject to the provisions of Opinion 25 and SFAS 123. EITF Issue 03-6 is effective for reporting periods beginning after March 31, 2004 and should be applied by restating previously reported earnings per share. The Company adopted EITF Issue 03-6 effective April 30, 2004. The standard had no impact on the Company's reported earning per share.

Table of Contents

**CATALYST SEMICONDUCTOR, INC.**  
**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Note 3 Net Income Per Share**

Basic net income per share is computed by dividing net income available to common stockholders (numerator) by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding (denominator) during the period. Diluted net income per share is computed using the weighted number of common and potentially dilutive common shares outstanding during the period under the treasury stock option method. In computing diluted net income per share, the average stock price for the period is used in determining the number of shares assumed to be purchased from the exercise of stock options. A reconciliation of the basic and diluted per share computations is as follows (in thousands, except per share data):

	<b>Three Months Ended July 31,</b>					
	<b>2004</b>			<b>2003</b>		
	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Per Share Amount</b>	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Per Share Amount</b>
Basic	\$2,194	16,759	\$ 0.13	\$920	16,358	\$ 0.06
Effect of stock options	—	2,263	(0.01)	—	2,397	(0.01)
Diluted	\$2,194	19,022	\$ 0.12	\$920	18,755	\$ 0.05

Options to purchase 963,000 shares of common stock at a weighted average exercise price of \$7.31 per share outstanding during the three months ended July 31, 2004 and options to purchase 1,153,000 shares of common stock at a weighted average exercise price of \$6.16 per share outstanding during the quarter ended July 31, 2003 were not included in the computation of diluted income per share because their option price was greater than the average fair market value for the period.



Edgar Filing: CATALYST SEMICONDUCTOR INC - Form 10-Q

Accounts receivable:		
Accounts receivable	\$ 10,874	\$ 12,685
Less: Allowance for doubtful accounts	(138)	(138)
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	\$ 10,736	\$ 12,547
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Inventories:		
Work-in-process	\$ 5,403	\$ 4,939
Finished goods	4,399	2,021
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	\$ 9,802	\$ 6,960
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Property and equipment:		
Engineering and test equipment	\$ 7,463	\$ 7,776
Computer hardware and software	2,122	1,849
Furniture and office equipment	1,509	1,478
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	11,094	11,103
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization	(7,907)	(7,769)
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	\$ 3,187	\$ 3,334
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Accrued expenses:		
Accrued employee compensation	\$ 1,665	\$ 1,704
Accrued income taxes	1,671	1,059
Other	1,210	1,019
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	\$ 4,546	\$ 3,782
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**Note 5 Income Taxes**

The provision for income taxes was \$1.3 million, or 37% of income before taxes, for the quarter ended July 31, 2004. The provision for income taxes was \$162,000, or 15% of income before taxes, for the quarter ended July 31, 2003. The lower provision for income taxes for the three months ended July 31, 2003 reflects the tax benefit associated with the reversal of the valuation allowance against the deferred tax assets in fiscal 2004.

**Note 6 Stockholders Equity**

*Common and Preferred Stock*

The Company completed a secondary public offering of its common stock in July, 2004. The Company sold 1,450,000 common shares at \$6.00 per share. Proceeds to the Company, net of underwriting discounts and

**Table of Contents**

**CATALYST SEMICONDUCTOR, INC.**  
**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

commissions and related offering expenses of \$713,000 were approximately \$8.0 million. In connection with this transaction, Elex N.V., a related party, and other selling stockholders offered 2,850,000 and 300,000 common shares, respectively, at \$6.00 per share. In aggregate, 4.6 million common shares were sold. The Company did not receive any proceeds of the sale of shares by Elex N.V. or any other selling stockholder.

**Note 7 Segment Reporting**

The company operates in one business segment, the semiconductor manufacturing segment. Sales transactions are denominated in U.S. dollars.

Net revenues by product group were as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Three Months Ended July 31,</b>	
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
EEPROM	\$ 14,171	\$ 12,363
Flash	1,774	1,207
Analog and mixed-signal	766	277
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total net revenues	\$ 16,711	\$ 13,847
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Net revenues by geography were as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Three Months Ended July 31,</b>	
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
United States	\$ 2,413	\$ 2,409
Hong Kong/China	4,461	2,538
Japan	3,325	3,111
Europe	2,314	1,547
Korea	1,432	1,032
Taiwan	1,673	1,261
Other Far East	724	1,438
Other Americas	369	511
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total net revenues	\$ 16,711	\$ 13,847
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

Property and equipment geographical breakdown was as follows (in thousands):

	<u>July 31,</u>	<u>April 30</u>
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>
United States	\$ 6,734	\$ 6,733
Thailand	3,887	3,921
Other	473	449
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	11,094	11,103
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization	<u>(7,907)</u>	<u>(7,769)</u>
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Total net property and equipment	<u>\$ 3,187</u>	<u>\$ 3,334</u>

For the three months ended July 31, 2004 and July 31, 2003, ALR Company Limited, a reseller in China, represented 12% and 11%, of the Company's net revenues, respectively. No other customer, distributor or represented 10% or more of the Company's net revenues in either period.

## **Note 8 Commitments and Contingencies**

### ***Purchase Commitments***

Purchase commitments for open purchase orders at July 31, 2004 for which goods and services had not been received were approximately \$7.4 million as compared to approximately \$5.9 million at April 30, 2004. In addition, the Company has committed \$2.3 million for the purchase of a building in Romania.

### ***Contingencies***

In the normal course of business, the Company receives notification of threats of legal action in relation to

**Table of Contents**

**CATALYST SEMICONDUCTOR, INC.  
NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

claims of patent infringement by the Company. Although no assurances can be given as to the results of such claims, management does not believe that any such results will have a material adverse impact on the Company's financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

In November 2002, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 45, "Guarantor's Accounting and Disclosure Requirements for Guarantees, Including Indirect Guarantees of Indebtedness of Others" (FIN 45). The Company applies the disclosure provisions of FIN 45 to its agreements that contain guarantee or indemnification clauses. FIN 45 requires that a liability be recorded in the guarantor's balance sheet upon issuance of a guarantee. In addition, FIN 45 requires disclosures about the guarantees that an entity has issued, including a reconciliation of changes in the entity's product warranty liabilities. These disclosure provisions expand those required by SFAS No. 5 "Accounting for Contingencies" by requiring that guarantors disclose certain types of guarantees, even if the likelihood of requiring the guarantor's performance is remote. The following is a description of significant arrangements through which the Company is a guarantor:

***Indemnification Obligations***

The Company is a party to a variety of agreements pursuant to which it may be obligated to indemnify the other party with respect to certain matters. Typically, these obligations arise in the context of contracts entered into by the Company, under which the Company customarily agrees to hold the other party harmless against losses arising from a breach of representations and covenants related to such matters as title to assets sold, certain intellectual property rights and certain income taxes. Generally, payment by the Company is conditioned on the other party making a claim pursuant to the procedures specified in the particular contract, which procedures typically allow the Company to challenge the other party's claims. Further, the Company's obligations under these agreements may be limited in terms of time and/or amount, and in some instances, the Company may have recourse against third parties for certain payments made by it under these agreements.

It is not possible to predict the maximum potential amount of future payments under these or similar agreements due to the conditional nature of the Company's obligations and the unique facts and circumstances involved in each particular agreement. Historically, payments made by the Company under these agreements have not had a material effect on its business, financial condition, cash flows or results of operations. The Company believes that if it were to incur a loss in any of these matters, such loss should not have a material effect on its business, financial condition, cash flows or results of operations.

***Product Warranties***

The Company estimates its product warranty costs based on historical warranty claim experience and applies this estimate to the revenue stream for products under warranty. Included in the Company's sales returns reserves are estimated return exposures associated with product warranties. Estimated future costs for warranties applicable to revenues recognized in the current period are charged to the Company's cost of revenues. The warranty reserve is reviewed quarterly to verify that it properly reflects the remaining obligations based on the anticipated expenditures over the balance of the obligation period. Adjustments are made when actual claim experience differs from estimates. Warranty costs were less than \$25,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2004.

**Note 9 Related Party Transactions**

*Elex N.V.*

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2000, the Company began taking delivery of wafers fabricated at X-FAB Texas, Inc. ( X-FAB ) a wholly owned subsidiary of Elex N.V. ( Elex ), a Belgian holding company. Roland Duchâtelet, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Elex, serves as a member of the Company s Board of Directors. Elex initially became a related party in 1998 through the purchase of 5.5 million restricted shares from the Company. The wafers provided by X-FAB include most of the Company s analog and mixed-signal products and supplements some of the same EEPROM designs fabricated at Oki Electronic Industry Co., Ltd., in Japan, the Company s principal wafer fab. Other than purchase orders currently open with X-FAB, there is no purchasing agreement in place with X-FAB. During the three months ended July 31, 2004 and 2003, the Company purchased \$366,000 and \$752,000 of wafers, respectively, from X-FAB. As of July 31, 2004, the total amount owed X-FAB

**Table of Contents**

**CATALYST SEMICONDUCTOR, INC.**  
**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

was \$65,000. In the first quarter of fiscal 2005, Elex reduce its holdings from 3,578,700 shares, or 21.8% of the outstanding shares of the Company as of April 30, 2004, to 728,700 shares, or 4.0% of the outstanding shares of the Company as of July 31, 2004.

As of the period ended July 31, 2004, the Company had a net payable amount of \$625,000 to Elex. The Company received a \$1 million deposit from Elex to cover their portion of expenses related to the secondary public offering completed in July 2004 in which the Company sold 1,450,000 shares and Elex sold 2,850,000 shares. The \$625,000 represents the unused portion of that deposit.

**Note 10 Other**

On April 17, 2001, Xicor Corporation (Xicor), a competitor in the nonvolatile and analog/mixed signal semiconductor markets, served a complaint against the Company in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware. The complaint alleged that some of the Company's then recently announced digital potentiometer products infringed on a patent that Xicor obtained in 1988. In June 2002, the Company entered into a settlement agreement with Xicor according to which Catalyst received a license to manufacture the disputed products in exchange for certain royalty payments based upon sales of those products after July 22, 2002. The complaint was dismissed on July 22, 2002. Through July 31, 2004 the royalties paid under this agreement have not been material.

In 1989, the Company entered into a license agreement with Philips Export B.V. and U.S. Philips Corporation (collectively, Philips) to license technology pertinent to their I2C bus technology. The Company paid royalties under this license through 1993, at which point the Company believed that the license became fully paid and no further royalties were owed. In May 2001, the Company received a written communication from Philips claiming that royalties under this license were still owing on certain products. In December 2003, Philips and the Company agreed to amend the license agreement to allow a one-time payment of \$1.65 million for any royalty obligation through August 2004 when the patent expires. In fiscal 2004, the Company charged \$1.4 million to its cost of revenues. In the three months ended July 31, 2004, the Company charged \$100,000 to its cost of revenues. The remaining prepaid royalty cost of \$33,000 will be recognized in second quarter of fiscal 2005.

**Note 11 Other Comprehensive Income**

The components of other comprehensive income, net of tax, are presented in the following table (in thousands):

	<b>Three Months Ended July 31,</b>	
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
Reported net income	\$ 2,194	\$ 920
Other comprehensive income:		
Unrealized loss on available-for-sale investments	(43)	(7)
Total other comprehensive income	\$ 2,151	\$ 913

Accumulated other comprehensive income, as presented in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheets, consists of the unrealized gains and loss on the available-for-sale investments, net of tax.

**Note 12 Subsequent Event**

In August 2004, the board of directors increased the authorized limit for the Company's open market common stock repurchase plan from 2 million shares to 3 million shares. Through July 31, 2004 the Company has repurchased 1.5 million shares under this program.

**Table of Contents**

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

**Forward-Looking Statements**

*This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 which involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors that include, but are not limited to, the risks discussed in Factors Affecting Future Results. These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to: the statements relating to downward pricing trends in the second paragraph of Overview; the statements relating to the increasing portion of our net revenues from analog and mixed-signal products in the third paragraph under Overview; the statements relating to the overestimation of future selling prices under Inventory Reserves; and the statements relating to the sufficiency of our cash resources and cash flows to fund our operating and capital requirements and the risks associated with seeking additional financing under Need for Additional Resources among others. These forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and entail various risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties are set forth below under Factors Affecting Future Operating Results.*

**Overview**

We design, develop and market a broad line of reprogrammable non-volatile memory products and analog and mixed-signal products. Our products are used by manufacturers of electronic products in a wide range of consumer, computing, communications, industrial and automotive applications. We generally target high volume markets for our cost effective, high quality products. We have been a committed long term supplier of memory products even through periods of tight manufacturing capacity and cyclical market downturns.

The market for our non-volatile memory is competitive and market participants have relatively weak pricing power. Although average selling prices of our non-volatile memory products have declined over time, prices are sensitive to conditions in our OEM customers' target markets. For example, the average selling prices for most of our EEPROM products weakened initially but ultimately increased in fiscal 2004, whereas the market conditions improved and average selling prices for our low density flash increased consistently during the same period. In general, we expect the average selling prices for a given memory product to decline in the future, primarily due to market competition, product availability and manufacturing capacity.

We are leveraging our extensive experience in high volume, reprogrammable memory products to develop complementary analog and mixed-signal products that offer our customers a more complete system solution. In fiscal 2003, we strengthened and expanded the expertise of our research and development team by establishing our own development center in Bucharest, Romania and by hiring additional engineers in Romania and in our Sunnyvale, California headquarters. We continue to make substantial investments in research and development to advance our non-volatile memory products, as well as develop a broader solution with our line of analog and mixed-signal products. Although analog and mixed-signal products comprised 4.6% of net revenues in the first quarter of fiscal 2005, we expect net revenues from analog and mixed-signal products to comprise a larger portion of our net revenues in the future.

Our business is less capital intensive than traditional semiconductor companies since we outsource to third parties the manufacturing, assembling and testing of our products. We use Oki Electric Industry Co., Ltd. ( Oki ) and X-FAB Texas, Inc. ( XFAB ) for foundry services and primarily use NS Electronic Bangkok ( NSEB ) for assembly and test services. We strive to maintain long term relationships with our suppliers to ensure stability in our supply of products at a low cost. In addition, in an effort to alleviate any potential wafer capacity constraints, we maintain a supply of

wafers in a die bank for selected high volume products.

We market and sell our products directly through our sales force and indirectly through manufacturers representatives, distributors and resellers. Indirect sales were a majority of our total sales from fiscal 2003 through the first quarter of fiscal 2005. Our original equipment manufacturer ( OEM ) customer base, including end customers of our distributors and resellers, is relatively diverse and during fiscal 2004 consisted of more than 3,000 customers. We have approximately 50 distributors and resellers but the only party that accounted for more than 10% of our net revenues in the three months ended July 31, 2004 was ALR Company Limited, a Chinese reseller, which comprised of approximately 12% of our net revenues.

## **Table of Contents**

Our sales are initiated by purchase orders received from our customers and are typically shipped within a few weeks of receiving the order. Since industry practice allows customers to reschedule or cancel orders on relatively short notice, we do not use backlog to forecast our future net revenues. Cancellations of customer orders or distributor price protection and stock rotation rights, both industry standards, could result in the loss of future net revenues without allowing us sufficient time to reduce our inventory and operating expenses.

Sales to customers outside the United States comprised the vast majority of our net revenues in recent periods. This increasing non-United States growth in net revenues was consistent with the current trend towards outsourcing of the manufacturing process, particularly to companies located in Asia. Substantially all sales of our products are denominated in U.S. dollars, minimizing the effects of currency fluctuations.

## **Description of Operating Accounts**

*Net Revenues.* Net revenues consist of product sales, net of returns and allowances.

*Gross Profit.* Gross profit is net revenues less cost of revenues and is affected by a number of factors, including competitive pricing, product mix, foundry pricing, test and assembly services and yields. Cost of revenues consists primarily of costs of manufacturing, assembly and testing of our products as well as compensation and associated costs related to manufacturing support, logistics and quality assurance personnel. It also can include, on occasion, adjustments to inventory valuations based on demand and average selling prices expected in future periods.

*Research and Development.* Research and development expense consists primarily of compensation and associated costs for engineering, technical and support personnel, contract engineering services, depreciation of equipment and cost of wafers and mask sets used to evaluate new products and new versions of current products.

*Selling, General and Administrative.* Selling, general and administrative expense consists primarily of compensation and associated costs for sales, marketing and administrative personnel, commissions, promotional activities, professional fees and director and officer insurance.

## **Proposed Changes in Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation**

We may be required to expense stock options and other share-based payments to employees and directors, which would mean that we would record a significant charge to earnings. On March 31, 2004, the FASB issued an exposure draft No. 1102-100, *Proposed Statement of Financial Accounting Standards Share-Based Payment*, effective for fiscal periods beginning after December 15, 2004. This exposure draft outlines a methodology for the accounting treatment of stock options and certain other share-based payments. It requires these payments to be recorded as an operating expense. It would supersede SFAS 123, which allows for disclosure of this expense on a pro forma basis in notes to consolidated financial statements. This pro forma compensation expense was \$603,000, net of tax, for the three months ended July 31, 2004. Although the comment period for the exposure draft has expired, no final rules or adoption date have been announced. Adoption of this accounting standard will have a material adverse impact on our consolidated financial statements. We are currently evaluating our stock-based compensation programs to determine what actions we may elect to take to reduce this potential charge if this exposure draft is enacted. If we elect not to issue stock options at the levels we have in the past, we believe we will face a more difficult time in attracting and retaining talented employees. We believe it is likely that any expenses resulting from the implementation of the exposure draft would be included in the income statement line item where the related salary cost for the applicable employee or consultant is recorded, and that as a result, it may be difficult for investors to conduct period to period comparisons of our expenses if this exposure draft is adopted.

## **Critical Accounting Estimates**

The preparation of our consolidated financial statements and related disclosures in conformity with US GAAP requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the amounts reported in our financial statements and accompanying notes. We evaluate our estimates and judgments based on historical experience and apply them on a consistent basis. We believe that such consistent application results in financial statements and accompanying notes that fairly represent our financial condition, operating results and cash flows for all periods presented. However, any factual errors or errors in these estimates and judgments may have a material impact on our financial conditions, operating results and cash flows.

**Table of Contents**

***Recognition of Revenues***

We generally recognize revenues as products are shipped if all of the following criteria are met:

we have evidence that an arrangement exists;

our customer has taken title to the products;

we have performed the services, if any;

the sales price is fixed or determinable;

we believe that collection of the resulting receivable is reasonably assured; and

we can reasonably estimate product returns.

We sell products directly to OEM customers and indirectly through distributors and resellers. We recognize revenues upon delivery to OEM customers and resellers who have no, or limited, product return rights and no price protection rights. We deem that delivery occurs when legal title and the risk of loss transfers to the customer. Delivery is generally defined by the customers' shipping terms, as stated in the related purchase order. If the customers' purchase orders do not define the shipping terms, the shipping terms will be Ex-Works as defined in our invoice. We record an estimated allowance for returns from OEM customers and manufacturers' representatives, based on a percentage of our revenues. This estimate is based on historical averages.

We sell to some of our distributors under agreements which provide for product return and price protection rights. These agreements generally permit the distributor to return up to 10% by value of the total products that the distributor has purchased from us in a specified six month period. We defer recognition of revenues until the time the distributor sells the product to the end customer, at which time the sales price becomes fixed. On a monthly basis, we receive point of sales information from each distributor. Using this information, we determine the amount of revenues to recognize. For distributors who have product return rights, we also record an inventory reserve to address the cost of products we anticipate that we will not be able to resell after their return by the distributors. For distributors who have price protection rights, distributors may take credits immediately and in general, we process the credits one or two months after the credit is taken by the distributor. We record a reserve to cover the estimated liability of those unprocessed credits. We re-evaluate our policies periodically and no less often than annually.

***Inventory Valuation***

We value our inventory at the lower of standard cost or net realizable value. Standard cost approximates actual cost on a first-in, first-out basis. We routinely evaluate the value and quantities of our inventory in light of the current market conditions and market trends and we record reserves for quantities in excess of demand, cost in excess of market value and product age. Our analysis may take into consideration historical usage, expected demand, anticipated sales price, new product development schedules, the effect new products might have on the sales of existing products, product age, customer design activity, customer concentration and other factors. Our forecasts for our inventory may differ from actual inventory use and the time we have held finished goods in inventory. The lives of our products are usually long and obsolescence has not been a significant factor historically in the valuation of our inventories.

We reduce the value of our inventory for quantities in excess of demand equal to the cost of inventory that exceeds expected demand for approximately the next 12 months. If market conditions are less favorable than those we estimate, we may be required to write down inventory. If we overestimate the future selling prices, we will incur

additional losses when the inventory is sold for a lower price or when we establish additional write downs to cover the even lower estimated sales price. Once written down, we do not reverse inventory provisions until the associated inventory has been sold or physically scrapped.

*Allowance for Doubtful Accounts*

We estimate the collectibility of our accounts receivable at the end of each reporting period. We analyze the aging of accounts receivable and the bad debt history, payment history, customer concentration, customer credit worthiness and current economic trends when evaluating the adequacy of the allowance for doubtful accounts. We maintain an allowance for doubtful accounts, which is created by charges to selling, general and administrative expenses. Our accounts receivable balance was \$10.9 million, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$138,000, as of July 31, 2004.

**Table of Contents*****Income Taxes***

As part of the process of preparing our consolidated financial statements, we are required to estimate our income taxes in each of the jurisdictions in which we operate. This process involves estimating our current tax exposure and assessing temporary differences resulting from differing treatment of items, such as deferred revenues, for tax and accounting purposes. These differences result in deferred tax assets and liabilities, which are included on our balance sheet on a net basis. We then assess the likelihood that our deferred tax assets will be recovered from future taxable income and to the extent we establish a valuation allowance or increase this allowance in a period, we include an expense in the tax provision in the statement of operations.

We make significant judgments in determining our provision for income taxes, our deferred tax assets and any valuation allowance recorded against our net deferred tax asset. As of July 31, 2004, our gross deferred tax assets, consisting primarily of net operating loss carryforwards, tax credit carryforwards and nondeductible reserves and accruals, were valued at \$9.1 million and our valuation allowance was zero.

In fiscal 2004, we concluded that all of our deferred tax assets will be realizable, based on available objective evidence and our recent history of income before taxes.

**Results of Operations**

The following table sets forth the percentage of net revenues for certain items in our consolidated statements of operations for the periods indicated:

	<b>Three months ended</b>	
	<b>July 31,</b>	
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
Net revenues	100.0%	100.0%
Gross profit	51.9	37.2
Operating expenses:		
Research and development	12.8	11.2
Selling, general and administrative	18.9	18.8
Income from operations	20.2	7.2
Interest income, net	0.6	0.6
Income before income taxes	20.8	7.8
Income tax provision	7.7	1.2
Net income	13.1%	6.6%

The following table sets forth net revenues (in thousands) and percentage of net revenues by product group:

	<b>Three months ended July 31,</b>			
	<b>2004</b>		<b>2003</b>	
EEPROM	\$14,171	84.8%	\$12,363	89.3%
Flash	1,774	10.6	1,207	8.7
Analog and mixed-signal	766	4.6	277	2.0
Net revenues	<u>\$16,711</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>\$13,847</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

### Comparison of the three months ended July 31, 2004 and July 31, 2003

*Net Revenues.* Our net revenues increased \$2.9 million, or 20.7%, to \$16.7 million for the three months ended July 31, 2004 from \$13.8 million for three months ended July 31, 2003. The increase in net revenues was primarily due to higher average selling prices of approximately 14% in our EEPROM product line. This reflected increasing demand throughout fiscal 2004. Our flash product revenues increased in terms of unit volume and average selling prices. Our analog and mixed-signal product revenues also increased as we introduced more products to market and established product traction with our customer base.

Sales to customers outside the United States represented approximately 86% of net revenues for the three months ended July 31, 2004 as compared to 83% of net revenues for the three months ended July 31, 2003.

*Gross Profit.* Gross profit increased \$3.5 million, or 68.5%, to \$8.7 million for the three months ended July 31, 2004 from \$5.1 million for three months ended July 31, 2003. The increase in gross profit was primarily due to higher average selling prices and lower costs. Inventory provisions were \$155,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2004 and \$375,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2003. Sales of previously written down inventory benefited our cost of revenues by \$226,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2004 and \$744,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2003. The net impact of inventory provisions was an improvement in gross profit of \$71,000 and \$369,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. During the three months ended July 31, 2004 we wrote down production masks by \$135,000.

**Table of Contents**

*Research and Development.* Research and development expense increased \$595,000, or 38.4%, to \$2.1 million for the three months ended July 31, 2004 from \$1.5 million for the three months ended July 31, 2003. As a percentage of net revenues, research and development expense was 12.8% for the three months ended July 31, 2004 and 11.2% for the three months ended July 31, 2003. The increase in research and development expense was primarily attributable to a \$389,000 increase in personnel related expenses, including an increase in headcount. There was an additional charge of \$100,000 related to developmental mask sets. As of July 31, 2004, we employed 70 people in research and development activities, compared to 62 employees as of July 31, 2003.

*Selling, General and Administrative.* Selling, general and administrative expense increased \$551,000, or 21.1%, to \$3.2 million for the three months ended July 31, 2004 from \$2.6 million for the three months ended July 31, 2003. As a percentage of net revenues, selling, general and administrative expense was 18.9% and 18.8% for the three months ended July 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. The increase in absolute dollars was primarily attributable to a \$451,000 increase in selling, general and administration personnel related expenses and an increase in commissions paid to outside representatives of \$83,000. As of July 31, 2004, we employed 55 people in selling, general and administrative activities, compared to 49 persons as of July 31, 2003.

*Net Interest Income and Expense.* We earned net interest income of \$109,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2004 compared to net interest income of \$90,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2003. Our rate of return on our average balance of cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments was approximately 1.2% for the three months ended July 31, 2004 and approximately 1.3% for the three months ended July 31, 2003. The increase in absolute dollars was primarily attributable to the net proceeds from sale of 1.45 million shares by us in a secondary offering that occurred in July 2004 and cash generated from operations. We did not receive any net proceeds of sales of shares by the selling stockholders in the offering.

*Income Tax Provision.* The provision for income taxes was \$1.3 million, or 37% of income before taxes, for the quarter ended July 31, 2004. The provision for income taxes was \$162,000, or 15% of income before taxes, for the quarter ended July 31, 2003. The lower provision for income taxes for the three months ended July 31, 2003 reflects the tax benefit associated with the reversal of the valuation allowance against our deferred tax assets in fiscal 2004.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

At July 31, 2004, we had cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments of \$45.8 million. Our historical sources of cash and capital expenditures have come from our operating activities. In the first quarter of fiscal 2005, we completed a secondary offering that raised net proceeds of \$8.0 million. In fiscal 2003, we began to invest our excess cash in short-term financial instruments to generate interest income. These instruments are U.S. government debt securities, the majority of which have maturities that are less than one year. They are highly liquid and can be converted to cash at any time. They are classified as current assets in the balance sheet but are not considered cash and cash equivalents and are therefore excluded from our analysis of changes to cash and cash equivalents in our consolidated statement of cash flows included in this Form 10-Q.

***Net Cash from Operating Activities***

In the three months ended July 31, 2004, we had operating cash flows of \$3.6 million, which was due primarily to net income of \$2.2 million, adjusted for depreciation and amortization of \$404,000. Non cash items included a net decrease in inventory reserves of \$71,000, disposal of mask sets of \$235,000 related to the migration towards alternate micron process geometries and a tax benefit of \$577,000 related to the exercise of employee stock options. Cash provided by operating activities included a decrease in accounts receivable of \$1.8 million related to higher distributor sell-through and an increase in accounts payable of \$777,000 related to increased wafer purchases and test and assembly services. The net increase in accrued liabilities of \$764,000 is comprised of the 37% income tax provision

and the decrease related to the payout of fiscal 2004 bonuses. Such sources of cash were partially offset by an increase in gross inventory of \$2.8 million as the finished goods build plan was higher than the rate of shipments. Deferred gross distributor profits decreased as distributors lowered aggregate inventories during the first quarter of fiscal 2005.

In the three months ended July 31, 2003, we had operating cash flows of \$1.3 million, which was due primarily to net income of \$920,000, adjusted for depreciation and amortization of \$321,000 and a net decrease in inventory reserves of \$369,000. Cash provided by operations included a decrease in gross inventory of \$1.3 million, an increase in accounts payable of \$343,000 and an increase in deferred distributor profits of \$576,000. Deferred

**Table of Contents**

distributor profits increased due to higher volumes shipped to distributors near the end of the quarter that were unsold to end customers as of July 31, 2003. Such increases were partially offset by a \$1.5 million increase in accounts receivable caused by increased shipments. Accrued expenses decreased \$238,000 due to the payment of fiscal 2003 bonuses.

***Net Cash from Investing Activities***

In the three months ended July 31, 2004, investing activities used \$7.9 million, primarily related to the purchase of short term investments of \$10.6 million and the acquisition of fixed assets of \$492,000, primarily related to our new enterprise resource planning and supply chain management software systems. We received \$3.2 million in proceeds from the sales and maturities of our short-term investments.

In the three months ended July 31, 2003, investing activities used \$2.8 million, primarily related to the purchase of short-term investments of \$4.7 million and the acquisition of equipment for our manufacturing operations of \$316,000. We received \$2.2 million in proceeds from the sales and maturities of our short-term investments.

***Net Cash from Financing Activities***

In the three months ended July 31, 2004, cash provided by financing activities was \$9.0 million, consisting of \$8.0 million in net proceeds from our public offering of 1.45 million shares and \$369,000 in proceeds from the sale of common stock through the exercise of stock options. We did not have any stock repurchases in the three months ended July 31, 2004.

In the three months ended July 31, 2003, cash provided by financing activities was \$48,000, consisting of \$263,000 in proceeds from the sale of common stock through the exercise of stock options less the use of \$215,000 for the repurchase of an aggregate of 74,000 shares of our common stock on the open market through our open market repurchase program.

On June 14, 2004, we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission a registration statement on Form S-3 in connection with a proposed underwritten public offering of up to 1,450,000 newly-issued shares of common stock and up to 3,150,000 shares of our common stock held by certain selling stockholders. The registration statement became effective on July 9, 2004 and all 1,450,000 shares of common stock were issued. The net proceeds from the secondary offering were approximately \$8.0 million, after deducting the underwriters discounts and commissions and other offering related expenses.

***Common Stock Repurchase Plan***

In September 2001, our board of directors authorized a program for the open market repurchase of up to 1.5 million shares of our common stock. In March 2003, the board of directors increased the authorized limit to an aggregate of 2 million shares. In August 2004, the board of directors increased the authorized limit to an aggregate of 3 million shares. The purpose of this share repurchase program is to reduce the long-term potential dilution in earnings per share that might result from issuances under our stock option plans and to take advantage of the relatively low price of our common stock. The following table summarizes the activity of the open market repurchase program through July 31, 2004 and does not include our repurchases of shares from Elex N.V.

**Three months ended  
July 31,**

---

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Shares repurchased in open market		74,000
Total cost of shares		\$ 215,000
Average cost per share		\$ 2.91

***Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments***

The following table summarizes our contractual obligations as of July 31, 2004 and the effects these obligations and commitments are expected to have on our liquidity and cash flows in future periods (in thousands):

**Table of Contents**

	<b>Years Ending April 30,</b>				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
<i>Contractual cash obligations</i>					
Operating leases(1)	\$ 992	\$ 410	\$469	\$113	\$
Sales-purchase promissory agreement(2)	2,300	2,300			
Wafer purchases	6,867	6,867			
Other purchase commitments	523	523			
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<i>Total contractual cash obligations</i>	<u>\$10,682</u>	<u>\$10,100</u>	<u>\$469</u>	<u>\$113</u>	<u>\$</u>

- (1) Our primary facility lease is our business office in Sunnyvale, California. This lease expires in 2006 and allows us to exercise an option to extend the term by an additional five years.
- (2) On November 6, 2003, we entered into a Sale-Purchase Promissory Agreement with S.C. Hathor Impex SRL to purchase a building for Catalyst Semiconductor Romania SRL. We expect to take possession of the building and complete the financial transaction before August 31, 2004.

As part of our ongoing business, we do not participate in transactions that generate relationships with unconsolidated entities of financial partnerships, such as entities often referred to as structured finance or special purpose entities, or SPEs, which would have been established for the purpose of facilitating off-balance sheet arrangements or other contractually narrow or limited purpose. As of July 31, 2004, we were not involved in any SPE transactions.

***Need for Additional Resources***

We believe that our current cash, cash equivalents and available-for-sale securities will be sufficient to meet our anticipated operating and capital requirements for at least the next 12 months. We have no current plans, nor are we currently negotiating, to obtain additional financing. Our long term plan is to finance our core business operations with cash we generate from operations. However, from time to time we may raise additional capital through a variety of sources, including the public equity market, private financings, collaborative arrangements and debt. The additional capital we raise could be used for working capital purposes, to fund our research and development activities or our capital expenditures or to acquire complementary businesses or technologies. If we raise additional capital through the issuance of equity or securities convertible into equity, our stockholders may experience dilution. Those securities may have rights, preferences or privileges senior to those of the holders of the common stock. Additional financing may not be available to us on favorable terms, if at all. If we are unable to obtain financing, or to obtain it on acceptable terms, we may be unable to successfully support our business requirements.

**New Accounting Pronouncements**

In March 2004, the FASB approved EITF Issue 03-6, Participating Securities and the Two-Class Method under FAS 128. EITF Issue 03-6 supersedes the guidance in Topic No. D-95, Effect of Participating Convertible Securities on the Computation of Basic Earnings per Share, and requires the use of the two-class method of participating securities. The two-class method is an earnings allocation formula that determines earnings per share for each class of

common stock and participating security according to dividends declared (or accumulated) and participation rights in undistributed earnings. In addition, EITF Issue 03-6 addresses other forms of participating securities, including options, warrants, forwards and other contracts to issue an entity's common stock, with the exception of stock-based compensation (unvested options and restricted stock) subject to the provisions of Opinion 25 and SFAS 123. EITF Issue 03-6 is effective for reporting periods beginning after March 31, 2004 and should be applied by restating previously reported earnings per share. We adopted EITF Issue 03-6 in April 2004. The standard had no impact on our reported earnings per share.

## **Factors Affecting Future Operating Results**

### ***Risks related to our Business***

*The following lists some, but not all, of the risks and uncertainties which may have a material and adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. The risks and uncertainties set out below are not the only risks and uncertainties we face.*

**Table of Contents**

***Our quarterly operating results may fluctuate due to many factors and are difficult to forecast, which may cause the trading price of our common stock to decline substantially.***

Our operating results have historically been and in the future may be adversely affected or otherwise fluctuate due to factors such as:

fluctuations in customer demand for the electronic devices into which our products are incorporated;

volatility in supply and demand affecting semiconductor prices generally, such as the increases in supply of competitive products and significant declines in average selling prices we experienced most recently in fiscal 2002;

establishment of additional inventory reserves if sales of our inventory fall below our expected sales, or the anticipated selling prices of our products fall below the amounts paid to produce and sell certain parts;

changes in our product mix including product category, density, package type or voltage;

inadequate visibility of future demand for our products;

timing of new product introductions and orders of our products;

increases in expenses associated with new product introductions and promotions, process changes and/or expansion of our sales channels;

increases in wafer prices due to increased market demand and other factors;

increases in prices charged by our suppliers due to increased costs, decreased competition and other factors;

gains or losses of significant OEM customers or indirect channel sellers, such as distributors or resellers;

fluctuations in manufacturing yields;

charges to bad debt expense caused by accounts receivable we deem unlikely to be collected in a reasonable amount of time, if ever; and

general economic conditions.

Our net revenues and operating results are difficult to forecast. We base our expense levels, in significant part, on our expectations of future net revenues and our expenses are therefore relatively fixed in the short term. If our net revenues fall below our forecasts, our operating results are likely to be disproportionately adversely affected because our costs are relatively fixed in the short term.

***We may never realize a material portion of our net revenues from our analog and mixed-signal products, despite our expenditure of a disproportionate amount of our research and development resources on these products.***

Analog and mixed-signal products accounted for 4.6% and 2.0% of net revenues for the three months ended July 31, 2004 and July 31, 2003, respectively. We believe that the growth in our analog and mixed-signal product revenues has been limited due to the small number of products we offer, extended product design cycles and a sales force that has limited experience selling these products. Despite limited product acceptance to date, we continue to invest in and devote research and development and marketing resources to analog and mixed-signal products with the

expectation that our standard analog and mixed-signal products will be accepted by many of our current customers and that we will eventually qualify and sell custom analog and mixed-signal products. Competition is intense as we have initially offered a limited range of products while our more established competitors are offering a much broader array of analog and mixed-signal products. If we are unable to realize more revenues from these products, our total revenues may not grow. In addition, if we devote a disproportionate amount of our research and development resources to analog and mixed-signal products, our development of new non-volatile memory products may suffer and operating results may be harmed.

**Table of Contents**

***We may be unable to fulfill all our customers' orders according to the schedule originally requested due to the constraints in our wafer supply and processing time from die bank to finished goods, which could result in reduced revenues or higher expenses.***

Due to the lead time constraints in our wafer supply, foundry activities and other manufacturing processes, from time to time we have been unable to fulfill all our customers' orders on the schedule originally requested. Although we attempt to anticipate pending orders and maintain an adequate supply of wafers and communicate to our customers delivery dates that we believe we can reasonably expect to meet, our customers may not accept the alternative delivery date or may cancel their outstanding orders. Reductions in orders received or cancellation of outstanding orders would result in lower net revenues and reduced operating results, excess inventories and increased inventory reserves. We may also be required to pay substantially higher per wafer prices to replenish our die bank, which could harm our gross margins. If we were requested to pay rush charges to our manufacturing or foundry partners to meet a customer's requested delivery date, our expenses may increase and harm our operating results.

Due to the lack of adequate product sales history and limited visibility in forecasting future demand, we do not have the same inventory levels of wafers and die bank for our newer products compared to our established products. As a result, we may be unable to meet demand for those newer products if demand exceeds our expectations and we do not have adequate time or capacity to make the additional products.

***We may forecast incorrectly and produce excess or insufficient inventories of particular products, which may adversely affect our results of operations.***

Since we must order products and build inventory substantially in advance of product shipments, we may forecast incorrectly and produce excess or insufficient inventories of particular products. The ability of our customers to reschedule or cancel orders without significant penalty could adversely affect our liquidity, as we may be unable to adjust our purchases from our wafer suppliers to match any customer changes and cancellations. As part of our business strategy, we maintain a substantial inventory of sorted wafers in a die bank but limit our investment in finished goods. We may have adequate wafer inventory to meet customer needs but may be unable to finish the manufacturing process prior to the delivery date specified by the customer. Demand for our products is volatile and customers often place orders with short lead times. Our inventory may not be reduced by the fulfillment of customer orders and in the future we may produce excess quantities of our products.

It is our policy to fully write down all inventories that we do not expect to be sold in a reasonable period of time. During recent fiscal years, as a result of reductions in estimated demand for our various products, we have taken charges for write down of inventories for certain products, primarily our flash and EEPROM products. For example, we took inventory write down charges of \$5.0 million in fiscal 2001, which were partially offset by a benefit of \$2.3 million relating to products that were written off in prior years and sold during fiscal 2001. We may suffer reductions in values of our inventories in the future and we may be unable to liquidate our inventory at acceptable prices. To the extent we have excess inventories of particular products, our operating results could be adversely affected by charges to cost of revenues that we would be required to recognize due to significant reductions in demand for our products or rapid declines in the market value of inventory, resulting in inventory write downs or other related factors.

***We depend on a small number of suppliers for the supply of wafers and we may be unable to meet customer demand due to our inability to obtain wafers.***

We do not manufacture or process the semiconductor wafers used for our products. In 1985, we began a relationship with Oki in Japan. Since 1987, Oki has supplied wafers to us and has been our principal foundry source. At the end of fiscal 2000, an additional foundry, X-FAB, began to provide products to us. We primarily use Oki for fabricating our memory products and X-FAB for fabricating our analog and mixed-signal products. We do not

presently have a wafer supply agreement with Oki or X-FAB and instead purchase wafers on a purchase order and acceptance basis. Our reliance on these independent foundries involves a number of risks, including:

inadequate wafer supplies to meet our production needs;

increased prices charged by these independent foundries;

unavailability of or interruption in access to required or more cost-effective process technologies; and

reduced control over delivery schedules, manufacturing yields and costs.

**Table of Contents**

***We have been unable and in the future we may be unable to obtain sufficient quantities of wafers from Oki and X-FAB to fulfill customer demand.***

To address our wafer supply concerns, we plan to continue expanding our primary foundry capability at Oki by qualifying our products in multiple fabrication plants owned by Oki and to expand our foundry capability with X-FAB. However, we cannot be certain that these efforts will provide us with access to adequate capacity in the future at costs which enable us to remain profitable. Even if such capacity is available from another manufacturer, the qualification process and time required to make the foundry fully operational for us could take many months or longer and be subject to other factors described below and the prices could be materially higher. Our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected by:

the loss of Oki or X-FAB as a supplier;

our inability to obtain additional capacity at Oki or X-FAB;

our inability to qualify Oki or X-FAB for additional products;

our inability to locate and qualify other wafer manufacturers for desired foundry capacity; or

any other circumstances causing a significant interruption in our supply of semiconductor wafers.

***We rely on manufacturers representatives, distributors and resellers for a substantial portion of our net revenues and if our relationships with one or more of those manufacturers representatives, distributors or resellers were to terminate, our operating results may be harmed.***

We market and distribute our products primarily through manufacturers representatives, independent distributors and resellers, which typically offer competing products. These distribution channels have been characterized by rapid change, including consolidations and financial difficulties.

Manufacturers representatives, distributors and resellers have accounted for a significant portion of our net revenues in the past. For the three months ended July 31, 2004 and July 31, 2003, sales to ALR represented 12% and 11% of our net revenues, respectively. No other customer, distributor, manufacturer, representative or reseller accounted for 10% or more of our net revenues in these periods.

In addition, we have experienced and may continue to experience lower margins on sales to distributors and resellers as a result of volume pricing arrangements. We also do not typically enter into long-term arrangements with our distributors and resellers and we cannot be certain as to future order levels from our distributors and resellers. When we do enter into long-term arrangements, the contracts are generally terminable at the convenience of the manufacturers representatives, distributors and resellers and it may be difficult to replace that source of revenues in the short-term upon cancellation.

Our business depends on these third parties to sell our products. As a result, our operating results and financial condition could be materially adversely affected by the loss of one or more of our current manufacturers representatives, distributors and resellers, additional volume pricing arrangements, order cancellations, delay in shipment by one of our major manufacturers representatives, distributors or resellers or the failure of our manufacturer s representatives, distributors or sellers to successfully sell our products.

***If we are required to expense share-based payments to our employees, our financial statements will have a significant material adverse charge.***

If we are required to expense stock options and other share-based payments to employees and directors, we will record a significant charge to earnings. On March 31, 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, issued an exposure draft No. 1102-100, *Proposed Statement of Financial Accounting Standards Share-Based Payment*, effective for fiscal periods beginning after December 15, 2004. This exposure draft outlines a methodology for the accounting treatment of stock options and certain other share-based payments. It requires these payments to be recorded as an operating expense. It would supersede Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123, or SFAS 123, which allows for disclosure of this expense on a pro forma basis in notes to consolidated financial statements. Our pro forma stock compensation expense was \$603,000 and \$748,000, net of tax, for the three months ended July 31, 2004 and July 31, 2003, respectively. Although the comment period for the exposure draft has expired, no final rules or adoption date have been announced. Adoption of this accounting standard will have a

**Table of Contents**

material adverse impact on our consolidated financial statements. We are currently evaluating our stock-based compensation programs to determine what our alternatives may be to reduce this potential charge if this exposure draft is enacted. If we choose not to issue stock options at the levels we have in the past, we believe we will face a more difficult time in attracting and retaining employees.

***We face risks from failures in our manufacturing processes and the processes of our foundries and vendors.***

The fabrication of semiconductors, particularly EEPROM, is a highly complex and precise process. Our products are currently manufactured by two outside foundries and a number of other vendors participate in testing, packaging and other processes. During manufacturing, each wafer is processed to contain numerous EEPROM, flash, analog or mixed-signal products. We may reject or be unable to sell a substantial percentage of wafers or the components on a given wafer because of:

minute impurities;

difficulties in the fabrication process, such as failure of special equipment, operator error or power outages;

defects in the masks used to print circuits on a wafer;

nonconforming electrical and/or optical performance;

breakage in wafers; or

other factors.

We refer to the proportion of final components that have been processed, assembled and tested relative to the gross number of components that could be constructed from the raw materials as our manufacturing yield. We have in the past experienced lower than expected manufacturing yields, which have delayed product shipments and negatively impacted our results of operations. We may experience difficulty maintaining acceptable manufacturing yields in the future.

In addition, the maintenance of our outsourced fabrication, manufacturing and assembly model is subject to risks, including:

the demands of managing and coordinating workflow between geographically separate production facilities;

disruption of production in one facility as a result of a slowdown or shutdown in another facility; and

higher operating costs from managing geographically separate manufacturing facilities.

We depend on certain vendors for foundry services, materials, test and assembly. We maintain stringent policies regarding qualification of these vendors. However, if these vendors' processes vary in reliability or quality, they could negatively affect our products and our results of operations.

***We rely on third party subcontractors to sort, assemble, test and ship our products to customers, which reduces our control over quality, delivery schedules and capacity.***

We outsource all or a portion of our production planning, assembly, test and finish work for our products, as well as our inventory management function to subcontractors who are primarily located in Thailand and the Philippines. We do not have long-term contractual arrangements with these subcontractors. Our reliance on third parties subjects us to risks such as reduced control over delivery schedules and quality, a potential lack of adequate capacity during

periods when demand is high and potential increases in product costs due to factors outside our control such as capacity shortages and pricing changes. Our outsourcing model could lead to delays in product deliveries, lost sales and increased costs which could harm our relationships with OEM customers and indirect sales channels and result in lower operating results. Because we utilize the services of a group of assembly and test providers, this makes our operation highly complex, requiring a high degree of diligence in managing the costs of production and overall logistics of our manufacturing operations.

**Table of Contents**

***International sales comprise a significant portion of our product sales, which exposes us to foreign political and economic risks.***

For the three months ended July 31, 2004 and July 31, 2003, sales outside the United States comprised 86% and 83% of our net revenues, respectively. The increase in percentage of international revenues during the three months ended July 31, 2004 was primarily attributable to our increased sales in all markets outside the United States while demand in the United States continues to be weak due to the trend towards outsourcing of electronic systems manufacturing, primarily to Asia. We expect that sales outside of the United States will continue to represent a significant portion of our net revenues in the future. However, our international operations may be adversely affected by the following factors:

greater fluctuations in demand for our products due to the increased sensitivity to pricing changes in certain markets, particularly Asia;

fluctuations in exchange rates;

longer payment cycles;

imposition of government controls;

political, socioeconomic and financial instability, such as the military actions in Afghanistan and Iraq;

trade restrictions;

the impact of communicable diseases, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome;

changes in regulatory requirements; and

difficulties in staffing international operations.

Our business is also subject to other risks because of our design center in Romania and our relationships with foreign subcontractors including, but not limited to, foreign government regulations and political and financial unrest which may cause disruptions or delays in shipments to our customers or access to our inventories. We do not currently hedge against any foreign currency exchange rate risks.

***We may face increased management costs and other risks due to the establishment of our design group in Romania.***

In January 2003, we formed a wholly owned subsidiary in Romania to perform engineering design services. In November 2003, we entered into a Sale-Purchase Promissory Agreement to purchase a building in Bucharest for use by our Romanian design group at an estimated cost of \$2.3 million, which we expect to complete in August 2004. We have no prior experience in establishing or operating engineering services outside of our headquarters in Sunnyvale, California. Our expansion of engineering design operations to remotely situated offices presents a number of substantial risks that could increase our operating expenses and adversely affect our operating results, financial condition and ability to deliver our products and grow our business, including:

difficulties in staffing and managing foreign operations, in particular attracting and retaining personnel qualified to provide high quality engineering design services;

difficulties in coordinating our engineering operations in Romania with those in California;

diversion of management attention;

difficulties in maintaining uniform standards, controls, procedures and policies with our Romanian subsidiary relative to those of our other locations, including product development management and financial consolidation;

difficulties in owning and operating real property in Romania;

26

---

**Table of Contents**

political and economic instability, which may have an adverse impact on foreign exchange rates of the Romanian leu relative to the U.S. dollar and could impair our ability to conduct our business in Romania; and

inadequacy of the local infrastructure to support our needs.

***Our low density flash memory products may become obsolete.***

A substantial portion of our net revenues has been and continues to be derived from sales of low density flash memory products. Flash memory products represented 10.6% and 8.7% of our net revenues for the three months ended July 31, 2004 and July 31, 2003, respectively. In general, the market for flash memory products has been characterized by intense price competition, long production cycles, inconsistent yields, competing technologies, migration of demand to larger memory sizes and intense overall competition. Other flash memory vendors continue to design, develop and sell flash memory devices with larger memory in reaction to market demand. This transition to larger flash memory sizes is resulting in a limited and shrinking market for the low density flash memory products that we currently offer. We have decided not to develop any of the higher density flash memory devices due to the extreme competition in the medium and high density flash memory market. Due to these and other factors, we are likely to experience declining net revenues from our low density flash memory products, which could harm our operating results.

***Our ability to operate successfully depends upon the continued service of certain key employees and the continued ability to attract and retain additional highly qualified personnel.***

Our ability to operate successfully will depend, to a large extent, upon the continued service of certain key employees and the continued ability to attract and retain additional highly qualified personnel. Competition for these personnel, particularly for highly skilled design, process and test engineers, is intense and we may not be able to retain these personnel or attract other highly qualified personnel. Our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected by the loss of or failure to attract and retain highly qualified personnel.

***We may need to raise additional capital in the future and if we are unable to secure adequate funds on terms acceptable to us, we may be unable to support our business requirements or build our business.***

We currently anticipate that the net proceeds of our July 2004 public offering, together with our current cash, cash equivalents and available-for-sale securities, will be sufficient to meet our anticipated operating and capital requirements for at least the next 12 months. We have no current plans, nor are we currently negotiating, to obtain additional financing. Our long term plan is to finance our core business operations with cash we generate from operations. We may raise additional capital through a variety of sources, including the public equity market, private financings and debt. If we raise additional capital through the issuance of equity or securities convertible into equity, our stockholders may experience dilution. Those securities may have rights, preferences or privileges senior to those of the holders of the common stock. Additional financing may not be available to us on favorable terms, if at all. If we are unable to obtain financing, or to obtain it on acceptable terms, we may be unable to successfully support our business requirements or build our business.

***Risks Related to Our Industry and Competition***

***The semiconductor industry is highly cyclical in nature, which may cause our operating results to fluctuate.***

We operate in a highly cyclical industry that has been subject to significant economic downturns often in connection with, or in anticipation of, maturing product cycles and declines in general economic conditions. These types of downturns occurred in calendar 1996, 1997, 1998 and 2001. In the future, during such downturns, we may experience reduced product demand, accelerated erosion of average selling prices and gross margins and production

overcapacity. These downturns may occur for extended periods. Accordingly, we may experience substantial period to period fluctuations in future operating results.

For example, we experienced accelerated erosion of average selling prices caused by adverse industry wide conditions during fiscal 1998, fiscal 1999 and the first half of fiscal 2000 and incurred substantial losses in fiscal 1998. In addition, during the second half of fiscal 2001 and the first half of fiscal 2002, the market for our products became more competitive as a result of increased availability of products when demand was decreasing. During fiscal 2001, fiscal 2002 and most of fiscal 2003, we experienced lower OEM customer and distributor orders and we

## **Table of Contents**

had to lower our selling prices to remain competitive in the market.

Our continued success depends in large part on the continued growth of various electronics industries that use semiconductors. We attempt to identify changes in market conditions as soon as possible; however, market dynamics make our prediction of and timely reaction to such events difficult. Our business could be harmed in the future by additional cyclical downturns in the semiconductor industry or by slower growth by any of the markets served by our OEM customers products.

***If our products fail to keep pace with the rapid changes in the semiconductor industry, we could lose OEM customers and revenues.***

The markets for our products are characterized by rapidly changing customer demand, over or under utilization of manufacturing capacity and price fluctuations. To compete successfully, we must introduce in a timely manner new products at competitive prices, quality and performance levels. In particular, our future success will depend on our ability to develop and implement new design and process technologies which enable us to reduce product costs. Our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected by delays in developing new products, achievement of volume production and market acceptance of new products, successful completion of technology transitions of our existing products to new process geometries or foundries with acceptable yields and reliability.

***Competition in our markets may lead to reduced average selling prices of our products, reduced sales of our products or gross margins.***

The non-volatile memory market is competitive and has been characterized by rapid price erosion, manufacturing capacity constraints and limited product availability. Average selling prices in the non-volatile memory market generally, and for our products in particular, have fluctuated significantly over the life of each product and, over the long term, the average selling price of each product has tended to decline. Declines in average selling prices for our products, if not offset by reductions in the cost of producing those products or by sales of new products with higher gross margins, would decrease our overall gross margins, could cause a negative adjustment to the value of our inventories and could materially and adversely affect our operating results.

We compete with major domestic and international semiconductor companies, many of which have substantially greater financial, technical, marketing, distribution and other resources. We may not be able to compete successfully in the future. Our more mature products, such as serial and parallel EEPROM devices, compete on the basis of product performance, price, product availability and customer service. Principal competitors for our EEPROM products currently include Atmel, STMicroelectronics and Microchip Technology. Principal competitors for our low density flash products include Silicon Storage Technology and Integrated Silicon Solution. Principal competitors for our analog and mixed-signal products include Maxim Integrated Products, Linear Technology, Intersil, Fairchild Semiconductor, National Semiconductor and Texas Instruments.

### ***Risks Related to Our Intellectual Property***

***Our business may be harmed if we fail to protect our proprietary technology.***

We rely on a combination of patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secret laws, confidentiality procedures and licensing arrangements to protect our intellectual property rights. We currently have patents granted and pending in the United States and intend to seek further United States and international patents on our technology. We cannot be certain that patents will be issued from any of our pending applications, that patents will be issued in all countries where our products can be sold or that any issued patents will be of sufficient scope or strength to provide meaningful

protection or any commercial advantage. Our competitors may also be able to design around our patents. The laws of some countries in which our products are or may be developed, manufactured or sold, may not protect our products or intellectual property rights to the same extent as do the laws of the United States, increasing the possibility of piracy of our technology and products. Although we intend to vigorously defend our intellectual property rights, we may not be able to prevent misappropriation of our technology. Our competitors may also independently develop technologies that are substantially equivalent or superior to our technology.

***Our ability to produce our products may suffer if someone claims we infringe on their intellectual property.***

The semiconductor industry is characterized by vigorous protection and pursuit of intellectual property rights or positions, which have resulted in significant and often protracted and expensive litigation. In addition, it is typical

## **Table of Contents**

for companies in the industry to receive notices from time to time that allege infringement of patents or other intellectual property rights. For example, in April 2001, Xicor, Inc. filed a complaint alleging that some of our DPPs infringed on one of its patents, which complaint we settled in June 2002. We may receive other notices or become a party to other proceedings alleging our infringement of patents or intellectual property rights in the future. If it is necessary or desirable, we may seek licenses under such patents or other intellectual property rights. However, we cannot be certain that licenses will be offered or that we would find the terms of licenses that are offered acceptable or commercially reasonable. Our failure to obtain a license from a third party for technology used by us could cause us to incur substantial liabilities and to suspend the manufacture of products. Furthermore, we may initiate claims or litigation against third parties for infringement of our proprietary rights or to establish the validity of our proprietary rights. Litigation by or against us could result in significant expense and divert the efforts of our technical personnel and management, whether or not the litigation results in a favorable determination. In the event of an adverse result in any litigation, we could be required to:

pay substantial damages;

pay amounts to indemnify our customers;

stop the manufacture, use and sale of the infringing products;

expend significant resources to develop non-infringing technology;

discontinue the use of certain processes; or

obtain licenses to the technology.

We may be unsuccessful in developing non-infringing products or negotiating licenses upon reasonable terms, or at all. These problems might not be resolved in time to avoid harming our results of operations. If any third party makes a successful claim against our customers or us and a license is not made available to us on commercially reasonable terms, our business could be harmed.

***We may be subject to damages resulting from claims that we have wrongfully used the alleged trade secrets of our employees former employers.***

Many of our employees were previously employed at other companies, including our competitors or potential competitors. Although we have no current or pending claims against us, we may be subject to claims that we have relied on information that these employees have inadvertently or otherwise disclosed that represent the trade secrets or other proprietary information of their former employers. Litigation may be necessary to defend against these claims. If we fail in defending such claims, in addition to paying monetary damages, we may lose valuable intellectual property rights or personnel. A loss of key research personnel or their work product could hamper or prevent our ability to develop new products, which could severely harm our business. Even if we are successful, litigation could result in substantial costs and be a distraction to management.

***We may not be able to expand our proprietary technology if we do not acquire rights to use key technologies, consummate potential acquisitions or investments or successfully integrate them with our business.***

To expand our proprietary technologies, we may acquire or make investments in complementary businesses, technologies or products if appropriate opportunities arise. We may be unable to identify suitable acquisition or investment candidates at reasonable prices or on reasonable terms or consummate transactions with such candidates, the failure of which could slow our growth. We may also have difficulty in acquiring licenses to use proprietary technologies of third parties to expand our product lines. We may have difficulty integrating the acquired products,

personnel or technologies of any acquisition we might make. These difficulties could disrupt our ongoing business, limit our future growth, distract our management and employees and increase our expenses.

***Risks Related to Our Stock***

***Our stock is subject to substantial price and volume fluctuations due to a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control, and those fluctuations may prevent our stockholders from reselling our common stock at a profit.***

The trading price of our common stock has in the past been and could in the future be subject to significant

**Table of Contents**

fluctuations in response to:

quarterly variations in our results of operations;

international political, socioeconomic and financial instability, including instability associated with military action in Afghanistan and Iraq or other conflicts;

announcements of technological innovations or new products by us, our customers or competitors;

our failure to achieve the operating results anticipated by analysts or investors;

sales or the perception in the market of possible sales of a large number of shares of our common stock by our directors, officers, employees or principal stockholders;

releases or reports by or changes in security analysts' recommendations; and

developments or disputes concerning patents or proprietary rights or other events.

For example, during the 12 months ended July 31, 2004, the trading price of our common stock on the Nasdaq National Market and the Nasdaq SmallCap Market has ranged from a high of \$9.75 to a low of \$4.60. If our net revenues and results of operations are below the expectations of investors, significant fluctuations in the market price of our common stock could occur. In addition, the securities markets have, from time to time, experienced significant price and volume fluctuations, which have particularly affected the market prices for high technology companies and often are unrelated and disproportionate to the operating performance of particular companies. These broad market fluctuations, as well as general economic, political and market conditions, may negatively affect the market price of our common stock.

***Our charter documents, Delaware law and our stockholder rights plan contain provisions that may inhibit potential acquisition bids, which may adversely affect the market price of our common stock, discourage merger offers or prevent changes in our management.***

Our board of directors has the authority to issue up to 2,000,000 shares of preferred stock and to determine the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions, including voting rights, of the shares without any further vote or action by our stockholders. If we issue any of these shares of preferred stock in the future, the rights of holders of our common stock may be negatively affected. If we issue preferred stock, a change of control of our company could be delayed, deferred or prevented. We have no current plans to issue shares of preferred stock.

Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law restricts certain business combinations with any interested stockholder as defined by that statute. In addition, our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain certain other provisions that may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change of control. These provisions include:

the classification of our board so that only a portion of our directors are elected each year and each director serves a three year term;

the elimination of actions by written consent of stockholders; and

the establishment of an advance notice procedure for stockholder proposals and director nominations to be acted upon at annual meetings of the stockholders.

In 1996, our board of directors adopted a stockholder rights plan. Under this plan, we issued a dividend of one right for each share of our common stock. Each right initially entitles stockholders to purchase one one-thousandth of a

share of our preferred stock for \$18.00. However, the rights are not immediately exercisable. If a person or group acquires, or announces a tender or exchange offer that would result in the acquisition of 15% of our common stock, unless the rights are redeemed by us for \$0.01 per right, the rights will become exercisable by all rights holders, except the acquiring person or group, for shares of our common stock or the stock of the third party acquirer having a value of twice the rights then-current exercise price.

These provisions are designed to encourage potential acquirers to negotiate with our board of directors and give

**Table of Contents**

our board of directors an opportunity to consider various alternatives to increase stockholder value. These provisions are also intended to discourage certain tactics that may be used in proxy contests. However, the potential issuance of preferred stock, our charter and bylaw provisions, the restrictions in Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law and our stockholder rights plan could discourage potential acquisition proposals and could delay or prevent a change in control, which may adversely affect the market price of our stock. These provisions and plans may also have the effect of preventing changes in our management.

***We may be the subject of securities class action litigation due to future stock price volatility.***

In the past, when the market price of a stock has been volatile, holders of that stock have often initiated securities class action litigation against the company that issued the stock. If any of our stockholders brought a lawsuit against us, we could incur substantial costs defending the lawsuit. The lawsuit could also divert the time and attention of our management.

**Table of Contents**

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

*Interest Rate Risk.* We do not use derivative financial instruments in our investment portfolio. Our investment portfolio is generally comprised of U.S. government debt securities and cash deposits. Our policy is to place these investments in instruments that meet high credit quality standards and have maturities of less than two years with an overall average maturity of less than one year. These securities are subject to interest rate risk and could decline in value if interest rates fluctuate. Due to the short duration of the securities in which we invest and the conservative nature of our investment portfolio, a 10% move in interest rates would have an immaterial effect on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

*Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Risk.* The majority of our sales, manufacturing costs, and research and development and marketing expenses are transacted in U.S. dollars. Accordingly, our net profitability is not currently subject to material foreign exchange rate fluctuations. Gains and losses from such fluctuations have not been material to us to date.

**Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

(a) *Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures.* Our management, with the participation of our chief executive officer and our chief financial officer, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) as of the end of the period covered by this Form 10-Q. They have concluded that as of such date, our disclosure controls and procedures were adequate and designed to ensure that material information relating to us and our consolidated subsidiaries would be made known to them by others within those entities so that we are able to record, process, summarize and disclose such information in the reports we file with the SEC within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. It should be noted, however, that the design of any system of controls is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of certain future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions, regardless of how remote.

(b) *Changes in internal controls.* During the first quarter of fiscal 2005, there was no change in our internal controls that materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially effect, our internal controls over financial reporting.

**Table of Contents**

**PART II  
OTHER INFORMATION**

**Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

We are not party to any legal proceedings.

**Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K**

**(a) Exhibits:**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
4.2.6(1)	Amendment No. 6 to Preferred Shares Rights Agreement dated as of June 18, 2004 between the Registrant and Equiserve Trust Company, as rights agent
10.61.3(2)	Second Amended and Restated Standstill Agreement dated as of June 10, 2004 between the Registrant and Elex N.V.
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

(1) Incorporated by reference to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3/A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 22, 2004 (File No. 333-116425).

(2) Incorporated by reference to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 14, 2004 (File No. 333-116425).

**(b) Reports on Form 8-K:**

On May 27, 2004, the Registrant furnished a Current Report on Form 8-K announcing its financial results for the year ended April 30, 2004.

**Table of Contents**

**SIGNATURES**

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

Date: August 27, 2004

By: /s/ Gelu Voicu

---

Gelu Voicu  
President, Chief Executive Officer and Director

Date: August 27, 2004

By: /s/ Thomas E. Gay III

---

Thomas E. Gay III  
Vice President of Finance and Administration  
and Chief Financial Officer

---

**Table of Contents**

**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
4.2.6(1)	Amendment No. 6 to Preferred Shares Rights Agreement dated as of June 18, 2004 between the Registrant and Equiserve Trust Company, as rights agent
10.61.3(2)	Second Amended and Restated Standstill Agreement dated as of June 10, 2004 between the Registrant and Elex N.V.
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

(1) Incorporated by reference to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3/A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 22, 2004 (File No. 333-116425).

(2) Incorporated by reference to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 14, 2004 (File No. 333-116425).