

Rubicon Technology, Inc.
Form 10-K
March 13, 2009
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark one)

- Annual report pursuant to section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 or**
- Transition report pursuant to section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the transition period from to**
- Commission file number 001-33834**

RUBICON TECHNOLOGY, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of

36-4419301
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

Incorporation or Organization)

9931 Franklin Avenue

Franklin Park, Illinois
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

60131
(Zip Code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code: (847) 295-7000

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

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, Par Value \$0.001 per share	The NASDAQ Global Market

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

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

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

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

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

As of June 30, 2008, there were 13,690,927 shares of common stock outstanding held by nonaffiliates of the registrant, and the aggregate market value of the common stock (based upon the closing price of these shares on the NASDAQ Global Market) was approximately \$278,199,637 million.

The number of shares of the registrant's common stock outstanding as of the close of business on March 6, 2009 was 21,289,200.

Documents incorporated by reference:

Portions of the Registrant's Proxy Statement for its Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference into Part III, provided, that if such proxy statement is not filed with the Commission within 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Form 10-K, an amendment to this Form 10-K shall be filed no later than the end of such 120-day period.

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PART I

All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K regarding our estimates, expectations, beliefs, intentions, projections or strategies for the future, results of operations, financial position, net sales, projected costs, prospects and plans and objectives of management for future operations may be forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current expectations and projections about future events and financial trends that we believe may affect our financial condition, results of operations, business strategy, short-term and long-term business operations and objectives and financial needs. These forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of terms and phrases such as believe, plan, intend, anticipate, target, estimate, expect, and the like, and/or future-tense or conditional constructions such as will, may, could, and the negative thereof). Items contemplating or making assumptions about actual or potential future sales, market size and trends or operating results also constitute forward-looking statements.

Moreover, we operate in a very competitive and rapidly changing environment. New risks emerge from time to time. It is not possible for our management to predict all risks, nor can we assess the impact of all factors on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements we may make. Before investing in our common stock, investors should be aware that the occurrence of the risks, uncertainties and events described in the section entitled Risk factors and elsewhere in this Annual Report could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, forward-looking statements are inherently subject to known and unknown risks and business, economic and other risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to be materially different from those discussed in these forward-looking statements. Readers are urged not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this Annual Report. We assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statements in order to reflect any event or circumstance that may arise after the date of this Annual Report, other than as may be required by applicable law or regulation. If one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or if the underlying assumptions prove incorrect, our actual results may vary materially from those expected or projected.

This Annual Report also contains statistical data and estimates, including those relating to market size and growth rates of the markets in which we participate, that we obtained from industry publications and reports generated by market research firms. These publications typically indicate that they have obtained their information from sources they believe to be reliable, but do not guarantee the accuracy and completeness of their information. Although we have assessed the information in the publications and found it to be reasonable and believe the publications are reliable, we have not independently verified their data.

You should read this Annual Report and the documents that we reference in this Annual Report and have filed with the SEC as exhibits with the understanding that our actual future results, levels of activity, performance and events and circumstances may be materially different from what we expect.

Unless otherwise indicated, the terms Rubicon, the Company, we, us, and our refer to Rubicon Technology, Inc.

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ITEM 1. BUSINESS OVERVIEW

We are an advanced electronic materials provider that develops, manufactures and sells monocrystalline sapphire and other innovative crystalline products for light-emitting diodes (LEDs), radio frequency integrated circuits (RFICs), blue laser diodes, optoelectronics and other optical applications. The emergence of sapphire in commercial volumes at competitive prices has enabled the development of new technologies such as high brightness (HB) white, blue and green LEDs and highly-integrated RFICs. We apply our proprietary crystal growth technology to produce high-quality sapphire products efficiently to supply our end-markets, and we work closely with our customers to meet their quality and delivery needs. We believe we are the leading supplier of sapphire products to the LED industry.

We are a vertically integrated manufacturer of high-quality sapphire substrates and optical windows that are used in a variety of high-growth, high-volume end-market applications. Our largest product line is two to four inch sapphire wafers for use in LEDs and blue laser diodes for solid state lighting and electronic applications. In addition, we sell six inch sapphire wafers that are used for Silicon-on-Sapphire (SOS) RFICs, as well as products for military, aerospace, sensor and other applications. We have also extended our technology to manufacture six inch products to support next-generation LED, and eight inch products to support next generation RFIC and optical window applications and are developing the capacity to produce even larger products.

Our fully integrated in-house capabilities enable us to design, assemble and maintain proprietary crystal growth furnaces to grow high purity, low-stress, ultra low defect density sapphire crystals. In addition, we possess state-of-the-art capabilities in high precision core drilling, wafer slicing, surface lapping, edge bevel grinding and wafer cleaning processes. We foster a strong sense of innovation and agility in our product development teams in an attempt to develop new products more effectively and to rapidly capture market growth.

We plan to leverage our technological advantage in efficiently producing high-quality, large-diameter sapphire products to maintain our leadership position and capitalize on future growth opportunities. To attain this goal, we are investing in research and development activities, continuing to enhance our operational capabilities, increasing our brand recognition and diversifying into new market segments.

We are a Delaware corporation incorporated on February 7, 2001.

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Integrated circuits and other semiconductor devices have traditionally been fabricated on silicon substrates. However, for certain advanced applications, new electronic materials have emerged as the substrates of choice due to evolving integration and performance considerations. For example, sapphire is the preferred substrate material for HB white, blue and green LED applications due to its crystal lattice compatibility with the aluminum gallium nitride (AlGaN) epitaxial layers, thermal expansion properties, commercial availability and cost efficiency. Other sapphire applications include SOS integrated circuits, optical lenses and windows, and substrates for blue laser diodes.

LED applications

Advancements in solid state lighting utilizing HB white, blue and green LEDs over the past decade represent a disruptive technology in the lighting industry, providing significant performance, environmental and economic improvements compared to traditional incandescent or fluorescent lighting. For example, traditional incandescent lamps are inefficient and costly, emitting over 90% of consumed power as heat and lasting only 1,500 to 2,000 hours. Fluorescent lamps produce light by passing electricity through toxic mercury vapor, which creates an environmental disposal problem. LEDs do not contain mercury or lead and are 4.0 to 6.6 times as efficient as traditional incandescent lamps, while providing 35,000 to 50,000 hours of light. These factors, along with their durability, small form factor, excellent color performance, and decreasing costs, have led to growing

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demand for LEDs in applications such as small displays for mobile devices, flashes for digital cameras, backlighting units (BLUs) for displays used in notebook computers, desktop monitors, LCD televisions, public display signs, automotive lights, traffic signals, and general and specialty lighting. Applications using LEDs have unit volumes in the billions and are expected to grow significantly over the next several years. For instance, from 2007 to 2012, HB LED sales are expected to grow at a 21% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) according to Strategies Unlimited, an independent market research firm. The production volume of HB LEDs is expected to increase from 38.5 billion units in 2007 to 124 billion units in 2012. Further, the percentage of gallium nitride (GaN)-based LEDs, which predominantly use sapphire substrates, is expected to rise from 75% to 84% of the total HB LED production volume in the same time period. Therefore, as the HB LED market grows, we believe the sapphire substrate market will grow as well. However, the worsening recession has had a significantly negative impact on demand for products using LEDs in the second half of 2008 and will continue into 2009.

Mobile devices. LEDs are used in color displays for mobile phones and other portable electronics such as GPS systems, MP3 players and digital camera flashes. According to Strategies Unlimited, the full color display penetration in mobile phones is expected to approach 100% over the next several years. According to a March 2009 report published by Gartner, an independent market research firm, in 2008, the number of mobile phones sold was approximately 1.22 billion units worldwide. LEDs are well-suited for mobile devices due to their low current drain which extends battery life and durability while generating less heat. LEDs used in mobile devices outside of cell phones are expected to grow 30% CAGR from 2007 to 2012 according to Strategies Unlimited.

LED backlighting units for large displays. LED BLUs are beginning to replace conventional fluorescent BLUs in notebook computers, desktop monitors and LCD flat panel televisions. Benefits of LED BLUs in these applications are extended battery life, thinner displays, quicker response time and better color rendition. Displays made with LED BLUs also have no toxic materials, which help electronics manufacturers to comply with environmental regulations. DisplayBank, an independent market research firm, estimates an increase in LED penetration in larger (greater than 10 inch) BLUs from 1% in 2007 to 27% by 2012. The backlight market for large-size LCD screens is estimated to grow by greater than 20% per year, approaching 500 million units by 2010, as forecasted by DisplayBank. According to analyst firm DisplaySearch, 13.4% of notebooks shipped in the fourth quarter 2008 featured BLUs versus 6.3% in the third quarter 2008.

Automotive lighting. Automobile manufacturers are increasingly using LEDs in car and truck headlights, turning and tail light functions as well as interior lighting. Benefits include near-instant response time, reduced power usage and more stylish and effective designs. Uses for LEDs in all automotive applications (exterior and interior) are expected to grow at a CAGR of approximately 17% from 2007 to 2012, according to a report published in October 2008 by Strategies Unlimited. Increased LED usage in other transportation vehicles such as motorcycles and commercial jets offers additional growth potential.

Commercial signage/displays. LEDs are becoming more widely used as light sources on large signs, LED displays and outdoor displays, such as jumbo screens used in sporting arenas and electronic billboard displays. The LED commercial sign/display market will grow at an estimated CAGR of approximately 46% from 2007 to 2012, according to a report published in October 2008 by Strategies Unlimited.

Illumination. LEDs are increasingly being used for replacement lamps, architectural lighting, retail displays commercial and industrial lights, residential lighting, street lights and off grid lighting for developing countries and is expected to be one of the fastest growing applications for HB LEDs. The illumination market is forecasted to grow at an estimated CAGR of approximately 37% from 2007 to 2012 according to a report published in October 2008 by Strategies Unlimited.

SOS RFIC and optical applications

SOS integrated circuits consist of a thin layer of silicon grown on a sapphire substrate and are primarily used in advanced wireless and military applications, such as RFICs. In particular, SOS RFICs are currently used

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in high volumes for mobile phones, broadband television set-top boxes, satellites and radiation-hardened applications for the defense industry. We believe SOS devices also represent a large potential market opportunity for sapphire due to sapphire's outstanding properties as an insulating substrate material with outstanding thermal conductivity and crystal lattice compatibility with silicon, which, among other things, enables monolithic integration in RFICs.

Sapphire and various fluoride materials are utilized for windows and optics for aerospace, sensor, medical and laser applications. Sapphire is used in these applications due to its wide-band transmission, superior strength, scratch resistance and high strength-to-weight ratio. Sapphire's physical properties make it very well suited for jet fighter targeting pod windows, forward-looking infrared (FLIR) windows for commercial and business jets as well as unmanned air vehicles or drones, rocket domes and transparent armor for military vehicles. Sapphire substrates are also used in the production of blue laser diodes. Blue laser diode technology allows much higher data storage for HD-DVD applications. Blue laser diodes are just beginning to penetrate potentially high volume applications, such as the Blu-ray Disc DVD players and leading-edge video game systems.

Sapphire substrate industry supply chain

The production process for sapphire substrates is substantially similar to that of silicon wafers. A typical process flow consists of crystal growth, fabrication, slicing, lapping and polishing steps. Output quality is measured in flatness, desired crystal planar orientation, etch pitch density and crystalline structure uniformity. A great emphasis is placed on continuously improving yields and increasing production capacity to drive costs lower to take advantage of emerging high-volume opportunities. Device manufacturers are seeking larger diameter sapphire wafers to allow them to develop higher performance applications and achieve economies of scale. Historical methods of sapphire crystal growth, which rely on lower-volume batch processes, are less able to meet the needs of leading end-market customers for high quality crystals, demanding dimensional tolerances, high production volumes, cost efficiency and on-time delivery. Sapphire is the base material that feeds the entire value chain.

THE RUBICON SOLUTION

We are an advanced electronic materials provider that develops, manufactures and sells monocrystalline sapphire and other innovative crystalline products for LEDs, RFICs, blue laser diodes, optoelectronics and other optical applications. As a leading producer of sapphire and provider of other crystals, we believe that the following are our principal competitive advantages:

Proprietary technology for crystal growth

We refer to the proprietary technology, equipment and processes we use in the production of our sapphire crystals as ES2, which stands for evolving science, evolving solutions. Due to our understanding of sapphire crystal growth seeding and crystal growth furnace operational parameters, we have developed a full in-house capability to design, build and maintain ES2 crystal growth furnaces with proprietary features. Our ES2 technology enables us to maintain a highly scalable, efficient operation and to produce large diameter sapphire wafers that we believe exceed the quality of any other sapphire producer today. Our competitors primarily employ the Kyropoulos, Czochralski (CZ) or Edge-defined Film-fed Growth (EFG) method to grow sapphire crystals. We believe that our ES2 technology, which employs an enhanced Kyropoulos methodology, significantly outperforms other methods of sapphire production with respect to capital costs, operating costs, throughput, quality and diameter size. Using our ES2 technology, we currently have the capability to produce sapphire products with diameters of up to eight inches in production volumes and we are developing the capability to produce larger diameter sapphire products.

High quality sapphire products

We believe our sapphire crystal wafers are best-in-class in terms of quality. Our quality advantage is exhibited by our ability to produce crystals with an etch pitch density (EPD) of fewer than 100 defects per square centimeter, which is significantly better than the industry standard range. According to Sapphire & Other

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Corundum Crystals by E. Dobrovinskaya, L. Lytvynov, and V. Pishchik (1994), for sapphire grown using other methods, the standard EPD is 5,000 to 100,000 defects per square centimeter. Our sapphire also has ultra high (99.999%) purity levels. Our high purity sapphire helps our customers realize high yields in their processing. In addition, because of the high purity of our products, our customers have the ability to utilize our sapphire for optical applications requiring high transmission in the ultraviolet through mid-infrared spectral ranges. Through our operational expertise in crystal growth, post-growth processing and in-process manufacturing controls of sapphire wafer production, we are able to meet or exceed our customers' key product specifications, such as crystalline quality, dimensional tolerances and crystal orientation, while maintaining high production yields.

Vertical integration

We possess critical know-how and proprietary processes and metrology for crystal growth and sapphire processing. We grow sapphire crystals and have extensive capabilities to process sapphire into products that meet our customers' needs from cores to wafers and window blanks to large diameter epi-polished wafers. In the areas of fabrication and slicing, we employ high volume manufacturing techniques and utilize customized tooling and metrology to hold very tight dimensional and orientation tolerances for sapphire cores and wafers. We also have high precision lapping, edge bevel grinding and annealing capabilities for as ground wafers and window blanks. We have proprietary six and eight inch polishing and ultra-cleaning equipment and processes for SOS RFIC and other applications that demand larger-diameter epi-polished wafers. By vertically integrating our processes, we are able to achieve significant operating efficiencies and produce high-quality, high-precision products that offer cost and quality benefits to our customers. This vertical integration also helps us expand our range of products and protect our technology and manufacturing trade secrets.

High volume and flexible manufacturing capability

We provide a high volume and stable US-based supply of products for our customers. We offer reliable, consistent on-time delivery to our customers through our flexible and scalable production operations. We have developed automated manufacturing and metrology platforms at each stage of our production process that allow us to increase capacity rapidly and to switch products in manufacturing easily so that we can meet our customers' specific product demands.

Lowest total cost for customers

We compete on the quality of our products and our service levels to supplement our competitive pricing. We believe our high sustained yields, our dedication to consistent production and performance and our commitment to lasting customer relationships help assure our customers of a reliable source of high-quality sapphire products at stable prices. Our in-process quality control practices lead to predictable customer process yields, reduced inspection costs and overall high customer satisfaction. In addition, we work closely with our customers to understand their product specifications and then align our operations to meet their needs. Through close collaboration with our customers, we help them develop new applications for our advanced sapphire products and establish ourselves as a preferred supplier. As such, we believe our solution offers the lowest total cost for our customers.

STRATEGY

Our goal is to be the leading global provider of advanced monocrystalline substrate and window materials to the solid state lighting, SOS RFIC, aerospace and optical markets. We currently occupy a leading position among sapphire producers worldwide in market volume for two through four inch sapphire products for LEDs. A key element of our strategy is to increase the proportion of our shipments of four and six inch diameter products. The time elapsed from our beginning product development to shipping commercial volumes in the six inch sapphire substrate market was less than one year. As a result, we now have significant market share in the six inch SOS RFIC sapphire substrate market. In 2008, we developed the capability to produce eight inch diameter products in

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commercial volumes. While there currently is little demand for eight inch substrates, we believe this product will play an important role in future generation LED and SOS products. We have provided eight inch wafers for research and development purposes to both the LED and SOS industry and believe we will begin shipping commercial volumes of eight inch diameter product in 2010.

Our strategy includes the following key elements:

Extend our technology and manufacturing leadership position

We believe our specialized manufacturing processes and proprietary technology and trade secrets provide us with significant competitive advantages. We have designed and developed product, equipment and process technology platforms from which we can rapidly increase capacity and stay flexible to meet our customers' needs. At each phase of our manufacturing process, we have developed and standardized automated equipment that employs similar processes to produce a full range of products. For example, most of our furnaces can grow sapphire crystals of the same size in various orientations to produce two through six inch wafers and cores. This reduces our operating costs and significantly improves our product development cycles. In 2008, we developed the capability to produce larger sapphire crystals from which we have the ability to produce eight inch cores and wafers as well as larger diameter optical material. We intend to continue to develop advanced technology platforms to further increase crystal boule size and offer market-leading product specifications, while maintaining product quality and manufacturing efficiencies.

Capitalize on opportunities in high-growth markets

Our sapphire products are used in multiple applications in the high-growth LED and SOS RFIC markets. We also participate in optical market segments where sapphire and fluoride materials are being adopted rapidly in new applications. We intend to continue to expand our opportunities by adding new categories and sizes of products with the goal of providing our customers in multiple high-growth end markets with a robust set of sapphire solutions. For example, one of the largest market segment opportunities is likely to come from the solid state lighting market, which will require higher brightness, lower-cost white LEDs that require larger-size LED chips. Larger LED chips are increasingly being manufactured in volume on four inch sapphire wafers. Our process to manufacture large diameter, high quality sapphire wafers is well-suited to this market and we believe our processes will help enable its growth. We already produce high volumes of four and six inch sapphire products and we continue to add large diameter sapphire production capacity in anticipation of market growth, as evidenced by the addition of eight inch diameter capabilities in 2008. We expect that next-generation LEDs and SOS RFICs will be produced on six inch and larger sapphire wafers to further drive cost efficiencies.

Enhance operational excellence

Our unique expertise in producing high-quality sapphire products in many sizes gives us a significant edge in process and product technology. We plan to further refine our proprietary ES2 crystal growth techniques, sapphire processing platforms and process controls to produce even higher quality crystals at greater yields. Our engineering efforts focus on the capability to design, build and maintain ES2 crystal growth furnaces with new proprietary features. We seek to continuously improve our sapphire processing and material inspection capabilities. We also promote operational excellence through lowering cycle times, raising yields, and reducing overhead costs. Our ability to understand our customers' design and manufacturing processes enhances our ability to reach these goals. We employ Six Sigma methodologies to continuously improve our operational platforms and we provide extensive training to current and new employees.

Expand our sales and marketing efforts

We plan to enhance our brand recognition worldwide by increasing our marketing and communications programs and resources. For example, we have sponsored several LED conferences and we plan to extend our sponsorships into other markets, such as SOS RFICs and aerospace. We plan to further enhance our website, extend our public relations campaigns and increase our brand visibility in trade publications and with technical organizations. We rely on direct sales for the majority of our business and we use multiple distribution channels to extend the reach of our sales and support teams. Although we have already entered multiple markets globally, we plan to increase the scale and geographical coverage of our sales efforts. In 2008, we added two new members to our sales team who give us added sales capability in the Asian LED market and the domestic optical market.

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Penetrate new market segments

We target high growth market segments where we believe we can gain a leadership position. Although production of sapphire cores and wafers is our focus today, we intend to leverage our crystal growth and processing know-how to develop high-quality crystal products for new substrate and window applications. Sapphire is becoming increasingly popular and is replacing quartz and glass in high-performance and harsh environment applications in the aerospace, petroleum and laser industries. For example, the US military uses sapphire optical windows to construct targeting mechanisms for its jet fighters and drones and transparent armor for land vehicles. We intend to use our proprietary manufacturing technology to produce additional single crystal materials that can be used in optical applications as well as alternative substrates for certain electronic materials applications. As the electronics and optical industries continue to develop new applications that take advantage of the unique properties of both sapphire and other single crystal products, our goal is to be the provider of choice for these applications.

TECHNOLOGY

Our proprietary ES2 crystal growth technique produces high-quality sapphire crystals for use in our sapphire products. ES2 is derived from the standard Kyropoulos method of crystal growth. We developed this technique with the goal of establishing greater control over the crystal growth process while maintaining minimal temperature variations. Unlike other techniques, during the ES2 technique, the growing sapphire crystal exists in an unconstrained, low stress environment inside a closed growth chamber. The closed system allows for enhanced control of the melt, resulting in higher quality crystals. The temperature gradient between the melt and the crystal in the ES2 technique is significantly lower than in other crystal growth techniques. These aspects of the ES2 technique enable us to grow crystals that have a significantly lower dislocation density, higher crystal purity and higher uniformity than sapphire crystals grown using other techniques. The ES2 technique provides an inherent annealing process once the crystal is fully grown. This thermal annealing is an integral means of relieving stress in the crystal during the ES2 process. We believe we can readily scale our ES2 technology in a production environment while maintaining high crystal quality even as crystal boule size is increased. As a result of our proprietary ES2 technology, we believe that we currently offer the most efficient method for manufacturing large form factor, high quality sapphire in the market today.

We have automated the crystal growth process of our proprietary ES2 technique. Our furnace environments are controlled by closed-loop control systems and the overall crystal growth process is run with minimal operator intervention, which reduces the potential for human error. In addition, a single operator can supervise the control of multiple ES2 furnaces simultaneously, which reduces cost.

We believe our proprietary ES2 process provides significant advantages over other crystal growth methods such as CZ and EFG. Unlike the ES2 technique, the CZ and EFG methods grow crystals with much higher levels of stress. This stress can decrease the overall quality of the sapphire crystal and requires increased processing time to relieve this stress, which increases production costs and decreases throughput, especially in larger diameter crystals. During the EFG process, the crystal is grown in a sheet form by pulling it through a die directly from the melt; while in the CZ process, the crystal must be rotated and pulled as the aluminum oxide melt is consumed. These constrained growth environments with higher thermal gradients increase stress and decrease crystal quality.

Our research and development (R&D) activity plays a vital role in supporting our technology, product and revenue roadmaps. For 2008, 2007 and 2006, our R&D expenses totaled \$862,000, \$769,000 and \$679,000, respectively. Our R&D is focused on three key areas: large diameter sapphire growth and fabrication; higher precision sapphire processing; and new crystal development. Our technical staff possesses deep and broad expertise in materials science and engineering. We also develop and utilize sophisticated metrology equipment to perform material and process characterization.

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We offer a wide variety of sapphire products designed to meet the stringent specifications of our customers. Using our proprietary ES2 technology, we grow high-quality sapphire boules. We fabricate our products from the boules and sell them in four general categories: core, as-cut, as-ground and polished. We currently offer two inch, three inch, four inch, six inch and eight inch diameter wafers, in C, R, A, and M planar orientations. A sapphire crystal has multiple orientation planes resulting from its crystalline structure symmetry.

Each orientation of the crystal structure is represented by a letter and differs in lattice structure. These variations result in different chemical, electrical, and physical properties depending on the particular orientation plane. As a result, customers require different orientation planes depending on the intended application. For example, LED manufacturers typically request C plane crystals while SOS manufacturers typically request R plane crystals.

Product	Size	Orientation	Applications
Core	2, 3, 4, 6, 8	C, R, A, M	LED Optical windows Blue laser diode
As-Cut	2, 3, 4, 6, 8	C, R, A, M	Wafers for LED Wafers for blue laser diodes Wafers for SOS RFICs
As-Ground	2, 3, 4, 6, 8	C, R, A, M	Wafers for LED Wafers for SOS RFICs Blanks for optical windows Wafer carriers
Polished	6, 8	C, R, A	Epi-polished wafers for SOS RFICs Polished optical windows Double-side polished wafer carriers

Core

Our core product line consists of our sapphire cores drilled from sapphire boules with high-precision, and is available in two, three, four, six and eight inch diameters and in various lengths and orientations. During fiscal years 2008, 2007 and 2006, sales of core accounted for 37%, 39% and 35% of our revenue.

As-cut

Our as-cut product line consists of sapphire cores sliced using a wire saw machine. We believe we are able to offer our customers one of the highest-precision cut sapphire wafers in the market. This is especially important to customers who require precise orientation planes for applications such as LEDs, SOS, RFICs and blue laser diodes. During fiscal years 2008, 2007 and 2006, sales of as-cut wafers accounted for 24%, 26% and 26% of our revenue.

As-ground

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Our as-ground product line consists of cut sapphire wafers that undergo a double-sided lapping and edge grinding process. The lapping process ensures that the surface of the wafer is flat and smooth and has a high degree of parallelism. The grinding process bevels the edges of the wafers, making them more durable and less susceptible to chipping and cracking. During fiscal year 2006, sales of as-ground wafers accounted for 18% of our revenue. During fiscal years 2008 and 2007, sales of as-ground wafers accounted for less than 15% of our revenue.

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Polished

Our polished product line consists of finely polished, ultra-clean, six and eight inch sapphire wafers. Our polished wafers undergo two polishing phases including both a mechanical and a chemical mechanical planarization phase. We believe we are currently one of very few firms offering six and eight inch, high-quality R-plane polished wafers. During fiscal years 2008 and 2007, sales of polished wafers accounted for 24% and 15% of our revenue. During fiscal year 2006, sales of polished wafers accounted for less than 15% of our revenue.

Other

We also offer optically-polished windows and ground window blanks of sapphire and various fluoride compounds, such as calcium, barium and magnesium fluoride. We provide sapphire and other crystal products in many sizes, shapes and product formats for specialty applications.

MANUFACTURING

The process of growing the crystal begins by heating the raw material, aluminum oxide, until it reaches an ideal temperature above its melting point. This ideal temperature is essential for our process because it allows us to produce high-purity crystals with very low defect rates. Following the heating, a seed rod is inserted in the melted material as the material is being cooled to crystallize into a boule. Following the growth process, each boule is rigorously inspected by using polarized lighting and magnification to find imperfections, such as bubbles, dislocations and granular deposits within the crystal.

We then drill the resulting boules into cores using our custom high-precision crystal orientation equipment and proprietary processes. We use wire saws to slice each core to be of precise size and shape. These wafers are then pre-polished using precision lapping and edge-grinding equipment and then are ready to be polished into epitaxial wafers. All of these processes are performed in clean environments to reduce the chance of crystal contamination. Epi-polishing and wafer cleaning are performed in Class 10,000 and Class 100 clean-room environments, respectively.

We are dedicated to quality assurance throughout our entire operation. We employ detailed material traceability from raw material to finished product. Our quality system is certified as ISO9001:2000 and we have in-house expertise at the Six Sigma Black Belt level.

All of our long-lived assets are located in the US.

SALES AND MARKETING

We market and sell our products through our direct sales force to customers in Asia, North America and Europe. Our direct sales force includes experienced and technically sophisticated sales professionals and engineers who are knowledgeable in the development, manufacturing and use of sapphire substrates, windows and other optical materials. Our sales staff works with customers during all stages of the substrate manufacturing process, from developing the precise composition of the substrate through manufacturing and processing the substrate to the customer's specifications.

A key component of our marketing strategy is developing and maintaining strong relationships with our customers, especially at the senior management level. We achieve this through working closely with our customers to optimize our products for their production processes. In addition, we are able to develop long-term relationships with key customers through offering product specification assistance, providing direct access to enable them to evaluate and audit our operations, delivering high quality products and providing superior customer service. We believe that maintaining close relationships with senior management and providing technical support improves customer satisfaction and provides us with a competitive advantage when selling our products.

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In order to increase brand recognition of our products and of Rubicon in general, we publish technical articles, advertise in trade journals, distribute promotional materials and participate in industry trade shows and conferences.

CUSTOMERS

Our principal customers are wafer polishing companies and semiconductor device manufacturers. A significant portion of our sales have been to relatively few customers. In the year ended December 31, 2008, our top four customers accounted for 68% of our revenue. In 2007 and 2006, our top three customers accounted for approximately 62% and 57% of our revenue. Although we are attempting to diversify and expand our customer base, we expect our sales to continue to be concentrated among a small number of customers. However, we also expect that our significant customers may change from time to time. In the year ended December 31, 2008, sales to Peregrine Semiconductor Corp., Shinkosha Co. Ltd., Crystalwise Technology, Inc., and a fourth customer represented approximately 29%, 17%, 12% and 10% of our revenues, respectively. In 2007, sales to Crystalwise, Shinkosha and Peregrine represented approximately 26%, 21% and 15% of our revenues, respectively. In recent months, Peregrine has begun to accumulate inventory of sapphire wafers. In November 2008, we entered into an agreement with Peregrine pursuant to which its obligation to purchase material from us in 2008 and the first half of 2009 was replaced by a multi-year agreement under which Peregrine has committed to source at least 50% of its sapphire purchases from us through 2010. The agreement may be extended through 2011 upon mutual agreement on pricing. No other customer accounted for 10% or more of our revenues during those periods.

In the year ended December 31, 2008, 53% of our sales were made to customers in Asia, 44% of our sales were made to customers in North America and 3% of sales were made to customers in Europe. In the year ended December 31, 2007, 72% of our sales were made to customers in Asia, 26% of our sales were made to customers in North America and 2% of sales were made to customers in Europe. In the year ended December 31, 2006, 87% of our sales were made to customers in Asia, 11% of our sales were made to customers in North America and 2% of our sales were made to customers in Europe. Our contracts with major customers provide for minimum levels of product sales for the duration of the contract (typically 12 to 24 months) with the potential for higher sales levels depending on such factors as the customer's needs, our available capacity and/or our ability to reach agreement on key terms. Delays in product orders or changes in the timing of shipments under our supply agreements could cause our quarterly revenue to vary significantly. Our standard arrangement with all customers includes 30 day payment terms.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Our ability to compete successfully depends upon our ability to protect our proprietary technologies and other confidential information. We rely primarily upon a combination of trade secret laws and non-disclosure agreements with employees, customers and potential customers to protect our intellectual property. We have four pending patent applications with the United States Patent and Trademark Office covering aspects of our core production, wafer grinding and lapping technologies. However, we believe that factors such as the technological and innovative abilities of our personnel, the success of our ongoing product development efforts and our efforts to maintain trade secret protection are more important than patents in maintaining our competitive position. We pursue the registration of certain of our trademarks in the United States and currently have seven registered trademarks and one trademark application pending.

COMPETITION

We participate in an innovative, specialized and competitive industry. The products we produce must meet certain demanding requirements to succeed in the marketplace. Although we account for a significant percentage of the total market volume today, we face significant competition from other established providers of similar products as well as from potential new entrants into our markets.

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We have a few competitors that compete directly with us that are of similar size or smaller than us. These companies tend to focus on providing core and as-cut products rather than offering polished products. There are a limited number of companies that are substantially larger than us that compete with us in a relatively small segment of their overall business. These larger companies tend to focus on providing polished products to customers rather than providing core, as-cut and as-ground products.

We believe that the key competitive factors in our markets are:

consistently producing high-quality products in the desired size, orientation and finish;

driving innovation through focused research and development efforts;

possessing sufficient supply capacity to meet end-market customer demands;

offering solutions through collaborative efforts with customers;

pricing; and

providing a low total cost-of-ownership for customers.

Although we face significant competition, we believe that our proprietary ES2 crystal growth technology and business practices allow us to compete effectively on all of the above factors.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

In our manufacturing process, we use water, oils, slurries, acids, adhesives and other industrial chemicals. We are subject to a variety of federal, state and local laws regulating the discharge of these materials into the environment or otherwise relating to the protection of the environment. These include statutory and regulatory provisions under which we are responsible for the management of hazardous materials we use and the disposition of hazardous wastes resulting from our manufacturing processes. Failure to comply with such provisions, whether intentional or inadvertent, could result in fines and other liabilities to the government or third parties, injunctions requiring us to suspend or curtail operations or other remedies, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

EMPLOYEES

As of December 31, 2008, we had 99 full-time employees. Of these 99 employees, 84 work in technology and operations. None of our employees is represented by a labor union. We consider our employee relations to be good. We believe that our future success will depend on our continued ability to attract, hire and retain qualified personnel.

OTHER INFORMATION

We file annual and quarterly reports and other information with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. You may read and copy any documents that we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information about the operation of the public reference room. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet website (<http://www.sec.gov>) that contains reports, proxy statements, information statements and other information about issuers that file electronically with the SEC, including Rubicon. You may also access, free of charge, our reports filed with the SEC (for example, our Annual Report on Form 10-K, our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and our Current Reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to those forms) indirectly through our Internet website (www.rubicon-es2.com). Reports filed with or furnished to the SEC will be available as soon as reasonably practicable after they are filed with or furnished to the SEC. Alternatively, if you would like a paper copy of any such SEC report (without exhibits) or document, write to Investor Relations, Rubicon Technology, Inc., 9931 Franklin Avenue, Franklin Park, Illinois 60131, and a copy of such requested

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document will be provided to you, free of charge. The information found on our website is not part of this or any other report filed with or furnished to the SEC.

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ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Our business is subject to a number of important risks and uncertainties, some of which are described below. The risks described below, however, are not the only risks that we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial may also impair our business operations. Any of these risks may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

We have incurred significant losses in prior periods and may incur losses in the future.

We have incurred significant losses in prior periods. In 2007 and 2006, we incurred net losses of \$2.9 million and \$7.6 million, respectively. While we had net income of \$4.4 million in 2008, we incurred a loss of \$1.7 million in the fourth quarter of 2008 and as of December 31, 2008, we had an accumulated deficit of \$149.3 million. There can be no assurance that we will have sufficient revenue growth to offset increased expenses or to achieve profitability in future periods.

Our results of operations, financial condition and business will be harmed if we are unable to effectively match our capacity with customer demand.

The current economic crisis resulted in weak demand for LED and SOS products in late 2008, which has significantly reduced orders for our sapphire substrates. We anticipate that reduced demand for our products will continue at least through early 2009. As a result, our manufacturing facilities are currently underutilized, which negatively impacts our gross margins. There can be no assurance that such sudden market changes will not occur again in the future affecting our profitability.

We anticipate that growth in demand for our products will resume, which will require expansion of our capacity in the future. Our capacity expansion involves significant risks, including the availability of capital equipment and the timing of its installation, availability and timing of required electric power, management of expansion costs, timing of production ramp, qualification of our new equipment and demands on management's time. If our business does not grow fast enough to utilize this new capacity effectively, our business and financial results could be adversely affected. Conversely, delays in expanding our manufacturing capacity could impact our ability to meet future demand for our products. As a result, we might not be able to fulfill customer orders in a timely manner, which could adversely affect our customer relationships and operating results. Moreover, our efforts to increase our production capacity may not succeed in enabling us to manufacture the required quantities of our products in a timely manner or at the gross margins that we achieved in the past. There can be no assurance that we will be able to successfully reach our production, timing and cost goals for our expansion.

If LED lighting does not achieve greater market acceptance, or if alternative technologies are developed and gain market traction, prospects for our growth and profitability would be limited.

Our future success depends on increased market acceptance of LED lighting. Approximately 62% and 73% of our revenue during 2008 and 2007, respectively, was from sales of our products for use in the manufacture of LED products. Potential customers for LED lighting systems may be reluctant to adopt LED lighting as an alternative to traditional lighting technology because of its higher initial cost and relatively low light output per unit in comparison with the most powerful traditional lighting devices. In addition, our potential customers may have substantial investments and know-how related to their existing lighting technologies, and may perceive risks relating to the novelty, complexity, reliability, quality, usefulness and cost-effectiveness of LED products when compared to other lighting sources available in the market. If acceptance of LED lighting does not increase significantly, then opportunities to increase our revenues and operate profitably would be limited.

Moreover, if effective new sources of light other than LED devices are developed, our current products and technologies could become less competitive or obsolete. Any of these factors could have a material and adverse impact on our growth and profitability.

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The technology used in the LED industry continues to change rapidly, and if we are unable to modify our products to adapt to future changes in the LED industry we will be unable to attract or retain customers.

We do not design or manufacture LEDs. Our ability to expand into new applications in the LED market depends on continued advancement in the design and manufacture of LEDs by others. The LED industry has been characterized by a rapid rate of development of new technologies and manufacturing processes, rapid changes in customer requirements, frequent product introductions and ongoing demands for greater functionality. Our future success will likely depend on our ability to develop new products for use in LED applications and to adjust our product specifications, such as our previous development of larger diameter wafers, in response to these developments in a timely manner. If our development efforts are not successful or are delayed, or if our newly developed products do not achieve market acceptance, we may be unable to attract or retain customers and our operating results could be harmed. In addition, although sapphire is currently the preferred substrate material for HB white, blue and green LED applications, we cannot assure you that the LED market will continue to demand the performance attributes of sapphire. Silicon carbide is another substrate material currently used for certain LED applications, including some that also use sapphire substrates. Other substrates being investigated and used in research and development for certain LED applications are aluminum nitride, zinc oxide and bulk gallium nitride. Research is also ongoing for the use of silicon substrates in LED applications. If sapphire is displaced as the substrate of choice for certain LED applications, our financial condition and results of operations would be materially and adversely affected unless we were able to successfully offer the competing substrate material.

Our continuing efforts to enhance our current products and to develop new products involve several risks, including:

our ability to anticipate and respond in a timely manner to changes in customer requirements;

the possibility that sapphire may in the future be replaced as a preferred substrate in certain LED applications;

the significant research and development investment that we may be required to make before market acceptance of a particular new or enhanced product;

the possibility that the LED industry may not accept our new or enhanced products after we have invested a significant amount of resources in development; and

competition from new technologies, processes and products introduced by our current or future competitors.

If the development and acceptance of our products for the SOS RFIC market do not meet our expectations, our future operating results may be harmed.

The level of market acceptance of our SOS RFIC products will impact our future operating results. Our success in the SOS RFIC market depends on a number of factors, including:

the success of our customers' products in current applications; and

the acceptance of SOS RFIC products for newly targeted applications.

In addition, it is possible that other solutions, such as silicon-on-insulator, may become preferred over SOS. We cannot assure you that the RFIC market will continue to require the performance attributes of SOS solutions. If our products are not accepted more broadly in the RFIC market, our results of operations and business may be harmed.

The average selling prices of sapphire products have historically decreased over their life-cycles and continuing price decreases could adversely affect our results of operations.

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Historically, our industry has experienced price decreases for a particular product over the life of that product. We anticipate that the average selling prices of our products may decrease in the future in response to competitive pricing pressures, increased sales discounts and new product introductions by our competitors. To

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lessen the effect of price decreases, we attempt to introduce new products as well as reduce manufacturing costs in order to maintain or improve our margins. However, if we are not able to successfully introduce new products or achieve these cost reductions in a timely manner, we could lose market share which could have a material adverse effect on our operating results.

We depend on a few customers for a major portion of our sales and our results of operations would be adversely impacted if they reduced their order volumes.

Historically, we have earned, and believe that in the future we will continue to earn, a substantial portion of our revenue from a small number of customers. In 2008, four customers each accounted for 10% or more of our revenues. In the year ended December 31, 2007, three customers each accounted for 10% or more of our revenues. In 2008, sales to Peregrine Semiconductor Corp., Shinkosha Co. Ltd., Crystalwise Technology, Inc., and a fourth customer represented approximately 29%, 17%, 12% and 10% of our revenues, respectively. In the year ended December 31, 2007, sales to Crystalwise, Shinkosha and Peregrine represented approximately 26%, 21% and 15% of our revenues, respectively. In late 2008, Peregrine began to accumulate inventory of sapphire wafers. In November 2008, we entered into an agreement with Peregrine pursuant to which its obligation to purchase material from us in 2008 and the first half of 2009 was replaced by a multi-year agreement under which Peregrine has committed to source at least 50% of its sapphire purchases from us through 2010. The agreement may be extended through 2011 upon mutual agreement on pricing. If we were to lose one of our major customers or have a major customer significantly reduce its volume of business with us, our revenues and profitability would be materially reduced unless we are able to replace such demand with other orders promptly. We expect to continue to be dependent on our significant customers, the number and identity of which may change from period to period.

We generally sell our products on the basis of purchase orders. We have agreements for longer-term purchase commitments from a few of our major customers; with certain exceptions, these commitments range from 12 months to 24 months. Delays in product orders or changes in the timing of shipments under our supply agreements could cause our quarterly revenue to vary significantly. Those customers with whom we do not have longer-term purchase commitments could cease purchasing our products with little or no notice and without significant penalties. A number of factors could cause our customers to cancel or defer orders, including interruptions to their operations due to a downturn in their industries, natural disasters, delays in manufacturing their own product offerings into which our products are incorporated, securing other sources for the products that we manufacture or developing such products internally.

Our manufacturing processes may be interrupted or our production may be delayed if we cannot maintain sufficient electrical supply, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition and operating results.

Our manufacturing process requires a stable source of electricity. From time to time, we have experienced limited disruptions in our supply of electricity. Such disruptions, depending upon their duration, could result in a significant drop in throughput and yield of in-process crystal boules and create delays in our production. Although we use generators and other back-up sources of electricity, these replacement sources of electricity are only capable of providing effective back-up for limited periods of time. We cannot assure you that we will be successful in avoiding future disruptions in power or in mitigating the effects of such disruptions. Any material disruption in electrical supply could delay our production and could adversely affect our business, financial condition and operating results.

Our gross margins and profitability may be adversely affected by rising energy costs.

The average cost of electricity increased significantly at the end of 2006 largely due to the deregulation of energy in the State of Illinois. Electricity prices could also increase due to overall changes to the price of energy due to conditions in the Middle East, natural gas shortages in the United States and other economic conditions

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and uncertainties regarding the outcome and implications of such events. If electricity prices increase significantly, we may not be able to pass these price increases through to our customers on a timely basis, if at all, which could adversely affect our gross margins and results of operations.

As a public company, we are now subject to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. Investor confidence and our stock price could decline if we or our independent registered public accountants conclude that our internal control over financial reporting is ineffective.

As a public company, we are required to comply with the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. In this regard, we are required on an annual basis to assess the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting and include a statement as to whether or not our internal control over financial reporting is effective and we are required to have our independent registered public accounting firm issue an attestation report on our internal control over financial reporting. In conducting our annual assessment, we will not be able to conclude that our internal control over financial reporting is effective if we have one or more material weaknesses. If we or our independent registered public accountants conclude that our internal control is not effective, our investors could lose confidence in our financial reports and our stock price could decline. An ineffective internal control environment could also adversely affect our ability to report our financial results in a timely manner and could materially adversely affect our business.

Our future operating results may fluctuate significantly, which makes our future results difficult to predict and could cause our operating results for particular periods to fall below expectations.

Our revenues and operating results have fluctuated in the past and are likely to fluctuate in the future. These fluctuations are due to a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control. These factors include, among others:

timing of orders from and shipments to major customers;

the gain or loss of significant customers;

fluctuations in gross margins as a result of changes in product mix or other factors;

market acceptance of our products and our customers' products;

our ability to develop, introduce and market new products and technologies on a timely basis;

the need to pay higher labor costs as we continue to grow;

announcements of technological innovations, new products or upgrades to existing products by us or our competitors;

competitive market conditions, including pricing actions by our competitors and our customers' competitors;

developments in trade secrets, patent or other proprietary rights by us or our competitors;

announcements by us or our competitors of significant acquisitions, strategic partnerships or divestitures;

interruption of operations at our manufacturing facilities or the facilities of our suppliers;

the level and timing of capital spending of our customers;

additions or departures of key personnel;

potential seasonal fluctuations in our customers' business activities; and

natural disasters, such as floods, hurricanes and earthquakes, as well as interruptions in power supply resulting from such events or due to other causes.

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The foregoing factors are difficult to forecast, and these, as well as other factors, could materially adversely affect our quarterly or annual operating results. If our revenues or operating results fall below the expectations of investors or any securities analysts that may publish research on our company, the price of our common stock would likely decline.

Our gross margins could decline as a result of changes in our product mix and other factors, which may adversely impact our operating results.

We anticipate that our gross margins will fluctuate from period to period as a result of the mix of products that we sell in any given period, with our larger diameter sapphire products generally yielding higher gross margins than our smaller diameter products. If our sales mix shifts to lower margin products in future periods, our overall gross margin levels and operating results would be adversely impacted. Increased competition and the adoption of alternatives to our products, more complex engineering requirements, lower demand and other factors may lead to a further downward shift in our product margins, leading to price erosion and lower revenues for us in the future.

Our proprietary intellectual property rights may not adequately protect our products and technologies, and the failure to protect such rights could harm our competitive position and adversely affect our operating results.

To protect our technology, we have chosen to rely primarily on trade secrets rather than seeking protection through publicly filed patents. Trade secrets are inherently difficult to protect. While we believe we use reasonable efforts to protect our trade secrets, our directors, employees, consultants or contractors may unintentionally or willfully disclose our information to competitors, whether during or after the termination of their services to our company. If we were to seek to enforce a claim that a third party had illegally obtained and was using our trade secrets, it would be expensive and time consuming, and the outcome would be unpredictable. In addition, courts outside the United States are sometimes less willing to protect trade secrets than US courts. Moreover, if our competitors independently develop equivalent knowledge, methods and know-how, it will be more difficult for us to protect our intellectual property and our business could be harmed.

We have no issued patents covering our products and technologies. Although we have filed applications for four patents, there can be no assurance that these patents will be issued or that any patents issued will be of significant value to our business. Our commercial success will depend on obtaining and maintaining trade secret, patent and other intellectual property protection of our products and technologies. We will only be able to protect products and technologies from unauthorized use by third parties to the extent that valid, protectable and enforceable trade secrets, patents or other intellectual property rights cover them.

If we are not able to defend the trade secret or patent protection positions of our products and technologies, then we may not be able to successfully compete with competitors developing or marketing competing products, and we may not generate enough revenue from product sales to justify the cost of development of our products and to achieve or maintain profitability.

The protection of our intellectual property rights and the defense of claims of infringement against us by third parties may subject us to costly litigation.

Other companies might allege that we are infringing certain of their patents or other rights. If we are unable to resolve these matters satisfactorily, or to obtain licenses on acceptable terms, we may face litigation. Any litigation to enforce patents issued to us, to protect trade secrets or know-how possessed by us or to defend us or indemnify others against claimed infringement of the rights of others could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and operating results. Regardless of the validity or successful outcome of any such intellectual property claims, we may need to expend significant time and expense to protect our intellectual property rights or to defend against claims of infringement by third parties, which could have a material adverse

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effect on us. If we lose any such litigation where we are alleged to infringe the rights of others, we may be required to: pay substantial damages; seek licenses from others; or change, or stop manufacturing or selling, some or all of our products. Any of these outcomes could have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

The markets in which we operate are very competitive, and many of our competitors and potential competitors are larger, more established and better capitalized than we are.

The markets for selling high-quality sapphire products are very competitive and have been characterized by rapid technological change. This competition could result in increased pricing pressure, reduced profit margins, increased sales and marketing expenses, and failure to increase, or the loss of, market share or expected market share, any of which would likely seriously harm our business, operating results and financial condition.

Some of our competitors and potential competitors are substantially larger and have greater financial, technical, marketing and other resources than we do. Given their capital resources, the large companies with which we compete, or may compete in the future, are in a better position to substantially increase their manufacturing capacity and research and development efforts or to withstand any significant reduction in orders by customers in our markets. Such larger companies typically have broader product lines and market focus and thus are not as susceptible to downturns in a particular market. In addition, some of our competitors have been in operation much longer than we have and therefore may have more long-standing and established relationships with our current and potential domestic and foreign customers.

We would be at a competitive disadvantage if our competitors bring their products to market earlier, if their products are more technologically capable than ours, or if any of our competitors' products or technologies were to become preferred in the industry. Moreover, we cannot assure you that existing or potential customers will not develop their own products, or acquire companies with products, that are competitive with our products. Any of these competitive threats could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results or financial condition.

We are subject to risks from international sales that may harm our operating results.

In 2008 and 2007, revenue from international sales was approximately 56% and 74%, respectively, of our total revenue. We expect that revenue from international sales will continue to constitute a significant portion of our total revenue for the foreseeable future. Our international sales are subject to a variety of risks, including risks arising from:

trading restrictions, tariffs, trade barriers and taxes;

economic and political risks, wars, acts of terrorism, political unrest, pandemics, such as a recurrence of the SARS outbreak or avian flu, boycotts, curtailments of trade and other business restrictions;

the difficulty of enforcing contracts and collecting receivables through some foreign legal systems;

unexpected changes in regulatory requirements and other governmental approvals, permits and licenses;

sales variability as a result of transacting our foreign sales in US dollars as prices for our products become less competitive in countries with currencies that are low or are declining in value against the US dollar and more competitive in countries with currencies that are high or increasing in value against the US dollar; and

periodic foreign economic downturns.

Our future success will depend on our ability to anticipate and effectively manage these and other risks associated with our international sales. Our failure to manage any of these risks could harm our operating results.

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We are dependent on the continued services and performance of our senior management, the loss of any of whom could adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition.

Our future success is dependent on the continued services and continuing contributions of our senior management who must work together effectively in order to design our products, expand our business, increase our revenues and improve our operating results. The loss of services of senior management, particularly Raja M. Parvez, our president and chief executive officer, William F. Weissman, our chief financial officer, and Hap Hewes, our senior vice president sales and marketing, could significantly delay or prevent the achievement of our development and strategic objectives. In addition, key personnel may be distracted by activities unrelated to our business. The loss of the services, or distraction, of our senior management for any reason could adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition.

If we are unable to attract or retain qualified personnel, our business and product development efforts could be harmed.

Our success depends on our continued ability to identify, attract, hire, train, retain and motivate highly skilled technical, managerial, manufacturing, administrative and sales and marketing personnel. Competition for these individuals is intense, and we may not be able to successfully recruit, assimilate or retain sufficiently qualified personnel. In particular, we may encounter difficulties in recruiting and retaining a sufficient number of qualified technical personnel. The inability to attract and retain necessary technical, managerial, manufacturing, administrative and sales and marketing personnel could harm our ability to obtain new customers and develop new products and could adversely affect our business and operating results.

We rely on a limited number of suppliers for raw materials and key components.

We depend on a small number of suppliers for certain raw materials, components, services and equipment used in manufacturing our products, including key materials such as aluminum oxide and certain furnace components. We generally purchase these items with purchase orders, and we have no guaranteed supply arrangements with such suppliers. We are subject to variations in the cost of raw materials and consumables from period to period. We do not control the time and resources that these suppliers devote to our business, and we cannot be sure that these suppliers will perform their obligations to us or do so on a timely basis. In addition, some of these suppliers are located in regions of the world that may experience periods of political or economic instability.

Any significant delay in product delivery or other interruption or variation in supply from our key suppliers could prevent us from meeting demand for our products and from obtaining future business. If we were to lose key suppliers or our key suppliers were unable to support our demand, our manufacturing operations could be interrupted and we could be required to attempt to establish supply arrangements with other suppliers. In addition, the inability of our suppliers to support our demand could be indicative of a marketwide scarcity of the materials, which could result in even longer interruptions. Any such delay or interruption would impair our ability to meet our customers' needs and, therefore, could damage our customer relationships and have a material adverse effect on our business and operating results.

Our products must meet exacting specifications, and undetected defects may occur, which may cause customers to return or stop buying our products.

Our customers establish demanding specifications for quality, performance, and reliability that our products must meet. While we inspect our products before shipment, they still may contain undetected defects. If defects occur in our products, we could experience lost revenue, increased costs, delays in, or cancellations or rescheduling of orders or shipments, product returns or discounts or damage to our reputation, any of which would harm our operating results and our business. We have from time to time in the past experienced product

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quality, performance or reliability problems. For example, in 2005, before establishing our current manufacturing and quality control processes, we experienced a higher than expected rate of defects in our since discontinued two inch polished wafer product line, which led to an increase in the number and frequency of returns.

We are subject to numerous environmental laws and regulations, which could expose us to environmental liabilities, increase our manufacturing and related compliance costs or otherwise adversely affect our business and operating results.

In our manufacturing process, we use water, oils, slurries, acids, adhesives and other industrial chemicals. We are subject to a variety of foreign, federal, state and local laws and regulations governing the protection of the environment. These environmental laws and regulations include those relating to the use, storage, handling, discharge, emission, disposal and reporting of toxic, volatile or otherwise hazardous materials used in our manufacturing processes. These materials may have been or could be released into the environment at properties currently or previously operated by us, at other locations during the transport of the materials, or at properties to which we send substances for treatment or disposal. If we were to violate or become liable under environmental laws and regulations or become non-compliant with permits required at some of our facilities, we could be held financially responsible and incur substantial costs, including investigation and cleanup costs, fines and civil or criminal sanctions, third-party property damage or personal injury claims. In addition, new laws and regulations or stricter enforcement of existing laws and regulations could give rise to additional compliance costs and liabilities.

Our operations are concentrated in a small number of nearby facilities, and the unavailability of one or more of these facilities could harm our business.

Our manufacturing, research and development, sales and marketing, and administrative activities are concentrated in our facilities in the Chicago metropolitan area. If, for any reason, including as a result of natural disaster, act of terrorism, war, outbreak of disease or other similar event, any of these facilities should be damaged or destroyed or become inaccessible or inoperable, our ability to conduct our business could be adversely affected or interrupted entirely.

We may acquire other businesses, products or technologies; if we do, we may be unable to integrate them with our business effectively or at all, which may adversely affect our business, financial condition and operating results.

If we find appropriate opportunities, we may acquire complementary businesses, product lines or technologies. However, if we acquire a business, product line or technology, the process of integration may produce unforeseen operating difficulties and expenditures and may absorb significant attention of our management that would otherwise be available for the ongoing development of our business. Further, the acquisition of a business may result in the assumption of unknown liabilities or create risks with respect to our existing relationships with suppliers and customers. If we make acquisitions, we may issue shares of stock that dilute other stockholders, expend cash, incur debt, assume contingent liabilities or create additional expenses related to amortizing intangible assets, any of which may adversely affect our business, financial condition or operating results.

Changes in accounting standards issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board or other standard setting bodies may adversely affect our financial condition and operating results.

Our financial statements are subject to the application of US generally accepted accounting principles. From time to time, new accounting standards are issued or existing ones are revised by recognized authorities, including the Financial Accounting Standards Board. We may be required to adopt these new or revised accounting standards. It is possible that future accounting standards could change the current accounting treatment that we apply to our financial statements and such changes may adversely affect our financial condition and operating results.

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RISKS RELATED TO OWNERSHIP OF OUR COMMON STOCK

Our board of directors does not intend to declare or pay any dividends to our stockholders in the foreseeable future.

The declaration, payment and amount of any future dividends will be made at the discretion of our board of directors, and will depend upon, among other things, the results of our operations, cash flows and financial condition, operating and capital requirements, and other factors the board of directors considers relevant. There is no plan to pay dividends in the foreseeable future, and if dividends are paid, there can be no assurance with respect to the amount of any such dividend.

The concentration of our capital stock ownership with our directors and executive officers and their affiliates will limit your ability to influence corporate matters.

Our executive officers and directors and their affiliates together own more than 35% of our outstanding capital stock and voting power. For the foreseeable future, they will have influence over our management and affairs and over all matters requiring stockholder approval, including the election of directors and significant corporate transactions, such as a merger or other sale of our company or our assets. Their ownership may limit your ability to influence corporate matters and, as a result, the market price of our common stock could be adversely affected.

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

The stock market in general, and market prices for the securities of companies like ours, recently have experienced extreme volatility that often has been unrelated to the operating performance of the underlying companies. These broad market and industry fluctuations may adversely affect the market price of our common stock, regardless of our operating performance. When the market price of a stock declines significantly, holders of that stock have sometimes instituted securities class action litigation against the company that issued the stock. If any of our stockholders brought a lawsuit against us, our defense of the lawsuit could be costly and divert the time and attention of our management.

Our certificate of incorporation, bylaws and Delaware law may discourage takeovers and business combinations that our stockholders might consider in their best interests.

A number of provisions in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, as well as anti-takeover provisions of Delaware law, may have the effect of delaying, deterring, preventing or rendering more difficult a change in control of Rubicon that our stockholders might consider in their best interests. These provisions include:

establishment of a classified board of directors;

granting to the board of directors sole power to set the number of directors and to fill any vacancy on the board of directors, whether such vacancy occurs as a result of an increase in the number of directors or otherwise;

limitations on the ability of stockholders to remove directors;

the ability of our board of directors to designate and issue one or more series of preferred stock without stockholder approval, the terms of which may be determined at the sole discretion of the board of directors;

prohibition on stockholders from calling special meetings of stockholders;

prohibition on stockholders from acting by written consent; and

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establishment of advance notice requirements for stockholder proposals and nominations for election to the board of directors at stockholder meetings.

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These provisions may prevent our stockholders from receiving the benefit from any premium to the market price of our common stock offered by a bidder in a takeover context. Even in the absence of a takeover attempt, the existence of these provisions may adversely affect the prevailing market price of our common stock if they are viewed as discouraging takeover attempts in the future.

The foregoing provisions of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws may also make it difficult for stockholders to replace or remove our management. These provisions may facilitate management entrenchment that may delay, deter, render more difficult or prevent a change in our control, which may not be in the best interests of our stockholders.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

Our executive, research and development and manufacturing functions are located on property that we lease in Franklin Park and Bensenville, Illinois. These facilities total approximately 102,600 square feet in seven buildings, which includes 30,000 square feet in our Bensenville, Illinois facility, which was opened in January 2008. The leases for these facilities terminate from July 2010 through August 2015. We believe these facilities are adequate to meet our current and anticipated manufacturing needs and additional space would be available on commercially reasonable terms.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

From time to time we may be named in claims arising in the ordinary course of business. Currently, there are no legal proceedings or claims pending against us or involving us that, in the opinion of our management, could reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition.

ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

No matters were submitted to a vote of our security holders during the fourth quarter of 2008.

Table of Contents**PART II****ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES****Market Information.**

Our common stock began trading on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "RBCN" on November 16, 2007. As of March 6, 2009, our common stock was held by approximately 42 stockholders of record and there were 21,289,200 shares of our common stock outstanding. Because many shares of our common stock are held by brokers and other institutions on behalf of stockholders, we are unable to estimate the total number of beneficial stockholders represented by these record holders. The closing sales price of our common stock on March 12, 2009 was \$5.06 per share as reported by the NASDAQ Global Market. The following table sets forth the high and low sales prices for our common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Market for the periods indicated:

	High	Low
Fiscal year ended December 31, 2007		
Fourth Quarter (beginning November 16, 2007)	\$ 25.75	\$ 14.00
Fiscal year ended December 31, 2008		
First Quarter	\$ 34.94	\$ 19.76
Second Quarter	\$ 30.50	\$ 18.65
Third Quarter	\$ 20.33	\$ 6.50
Fourth Quarter	\$ 8.47	\$ 2.50

Dividend Policy

We have never declared or paid cash dividends on our common stock. We currently intend to retain future earnings to finance the growth and development of our business, and we do not anticipate declaring or paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future.

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Performance Graph

The following graph compares the cumulative total stockholder return on our common stock during the period from November 16, 2007 (the first trading day following our initial public offering) through December 31, 2008, with the cumulative total returns of the NASDAQ Composite Index and the RDG Technology Composite Index. The graph assumes that the value of the investment in our common stock and in each of the indices (including reinvestment of dividends) was \$100 on November 16, 2007.

	11/16/07	12/31/07	3/31/08	6/30/08	9/30/08	12/31/08
Rubicon Technology, Inc.	100.00	135.71	165.60	116.11	41.26	24.34
NASDAQ Composite	100.00	92.28	79.30	80.11	71.09	53.76
RDG Technology Composite	100.00	93.32	78.86	81.39	71.42	52.85

The stock price performance reflected in this graph is not necessarily indicative of future stock price performance.

Table of Contents**Securities Authorized for Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans**

The following table represents securities authorized for issuance under the 2001 Equity Plan and the 2007 Stock Incentive Plan as of December 31, 2008.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

Plan Category	Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (a)	Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (b)	Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuances Under the Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column(a)) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders(1)	1,149,886	\$ 8.03	2,072,170
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	10,961	\$ 4.94	
Total	1,160,847	\$ 8.00	2,072,170

(1) Approved before our initial public offering.

Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities

None

Use of Proceeds

On November 15, 2007, our Registration Statement on Form S-1 (333-145880) covering the initial public offering of our shares of common stock was declared effective by the SEC. We registered 5,500,000 shares of common stock to be sold by us, 1,200,000 shares to be sold by selling stockholders and an additional 1,005,000 shares to be sold by us to cover an overallotment option granted to the underwriters. UBS Securities LLC, Canaccord Adams Inc., CIBC World Markets Corp. and Janney Montgomery Scott LLC acted as underwriters in the offering, and UBS Securities served as sole book-running manager. The closing of the offering was on November 21, 2007, at which time we sold 6,505,000 shares (including the underwriters' overallotment) and the selling stockholders sold 1,200,000 shares.

The shares sold by us and the selling stockholders were sold at a price to the public of \$14.00 per share. Costs incurred in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities registered were as follows:

Underwriting discounts and commissions \$6,374,900

Other expenses \$3,650,000, which included payments for legal services incurred on behalf of certain of the selling stockholders for their participation in the offering, including: Gazelle TechVentures Fund, L.P. and Gazelle Co-Investment Fund, L.P. (the "Gazelle Funds"), which sold approximately 29.56% of the shares sold by the selling stockholders and benefited from offering expenses paid by us on their behalf. Don N. Aquilano, the chairman of our board of directors, is also the managing director and president of Gazelle TechVentures, Inc., the manager of Monument Technology Partners, LLC, which is the general partner of the Gazelle Funds.

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Total expenses \$10,024,900

Except as described above, none of these payments were direct or indirect payments to directors or officers of the Company or their associates or to persons owning 10% or more of any class of equity securities of the

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Company or any of our affiliates. The net offering proceeds to us after deducting the total expenses described above totaled approximately \$81.0 million. We did not receive any portion of the proceeds from the sale of shares by the selling stockholders.

As of December 31, 2008, we had used approximately \$7.6 million of the net proceeds to repay borrowings outstanding under the revolving line of credit financing agreement with Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc. and to pay related fees and expenses. We also used \$3.1 million to repurchase shares of our common stock, \$2.0 million to purchase Series D-1 preferred shares of Peregrine Semiconductor Corp. (one of our key customers) and \$18.7 million on capital expenditures. We intend to use the remaining \$49.6 million of the net proceeds from the offering for working capital and other general corporate purposes including capital expenditures and research and development.

The principal purposes of the offering were to obtain additional capital, establish a public market for our common stock and facilitate our future access to public capital markets.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

In November 2008, we announced a repurchase plan approved by our Board of Directors authorizing the purchase of up to \$15 million of our outstanding common stock over a period of two years. The stock repurchase program authorizes the Company to purchase shares of our common stock in the open market at times and prices considered appropriate by the Company depending upon prevailing market conditions and other corporate considerations.

The following table provides information about purchases made during the quarter ended December 31, 2008, of equity securities that are registered by us pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act:

		Total number of shares purchased (a)	Average price paid per share (b)	Total number of shares purchased as part of publically announced Plans or Programs (c)	Approximate dollar value that may yet be purchased under the Plans or Programs (d)
November 1, 2008	November 30, 2008	248,633	\$ 3.68	248,633	\$ 14,084,043
December 1, 2008	December 31, 2008	482,100	\$ 4.50	482,100	\$ 11,915,160
Total		730,733	\$ 4.22	730,733	\$ 11,915,160

Table of Contents**ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA**

The following selected financial data should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our financial statements and the related notes included elsewhere herein. The balance sheet data as of December 31, 2008 and 2007 and the statements of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 are derived from our audited financial statements included elsewhere herein, which have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States. The balance sheet data as of December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004 and the statements of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 have been derived from our audited financial statements which are not included in this Form 10-K.

SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

	Year ended December 31,				
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
	(In thousands, other than share and per share data)				
Statement of operations data:					
Revenue	\$ 37,838	\$ 34,110	\$ 20,752	\$ 16,315	\$ 16,043
Cost of goods sold	25,746	22,045	18,885	18,508	14,815
Gross profit (loss)	12,092	12,065	1,867	(2,193)	1,228
Operating expenses:					
General and administrative	6,691	6,157	3,298	4,688	3,029
Sales and marketing	968	675	1,062	1,266	1,586
Research and development	862	769	679	861	922
Asset impairment			933		
Loss on disposal of assets	1,215	139	42	383	
Total operating expenses	9,736	7,740	6,014	7,198	5,537
Income (loss) from operations	2,356	4,325	(4,147)	(9,391)	(4,309)
Other income (expense), net	2,003	(7,104)	(3,272)	(2,735)	(1,052)
Income (loss) before income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	4,359	(2,779)	(7,419)	(12,126)	(5,361)
Income taxes	(4)	(75)			
Income (loss) before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	4,355	(2,854)	(7,419)	(12,126)	(5,361)
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle(1)			(221)		
Net income (loss)	4,355	(2,854)	(7,640)	(12,126)	(5,361)
Dividends on preferred stock		(5,625)	(5,563)	(3,924)	(2,631)
Accretion of redeemable preferred stock		(59,934)	(23,416)	4,404	(2,681)
Net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders	\$ 4,355	\$ (68,413)	\$ (36,619)	\$ (11,646)	\$ (10,673)
Net income (loss) per common share attributable to common stockholders					
Basic	\$ 0.21	\$ (27.22)	\$ (146.57)	\$ (47.52)	\$ (46.79)
Diluted	\$ 0.19	\$ (27.22)	\$ (146.57)	\$ (47.52)	\$ (46.79)
Shares used in computing net loss per share attributable to common stockholders					
Basic	20,892,040	2,513,487	249,843	245,073	228,124
Diluted	21,920,861	2,513,487	249,843	245,073	228,124

(1) On January 1, 2006 the Company adopted FSP150-5 Issuer's Accounting under FASB Statement No. 150 For Freestanding Warrants and Other Similar Investments in Shares that are Redeemable and recorded approximately \$221,000 as a cumulative effect of change in accounting principle.

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	As of December 31,				
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
	(In thousands)				
Balance sheet data:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,629	\$ 4,380	\$ 3,638	\$ 1,466	\$ 3,948
Working capital	56,360	76,179	(388)	3,600	1,969
Total assets	112,345	111,411	29,020	28,885	29,082
Convertible preferred stock warrant liability			3,773		
Long-term debt and capital lease obligations, less current portion			2,628	4,741	2,241
Redeemable convertible preferred stock			93,897	59,365	47,427
Total stockholders' equity (deficit)	108,393	105,682	(77,593)	(39,573)	(29,877)

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ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read together with our financial statements and related notes appearing elsewhere in this annual report. This discussion and analysis contains forward-looking statements that involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. You should review the Risk factors section of this annual report for a discussion of important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the results described in or implied by the forward-looking statements described in the following discussion and analysis.

OVERVIEW

We are an advanced electronic materials provider that develops, manufactures and sells monocrystalline sapphire and other innovative crystalline products for Light-Emitting Diodes (LEDs), radio frequency integrated circuits (RFICs), blue laser diodes, optoelectronics and other optical applications. The emergence of sapphire in commercial volumes at competitive prices has enabled the development of new technologies such as high brightness (HB) white, blue and green LEDs and highly-integrated RFICs. We apply our proprietary crystal growth technology to produce high-quality sapphire products efficiently to supply our end-markets, and we work closely with our customers to meet their quality and delivery needs.

We are a vertically-integrated manufacturer of high-quality sapphire substrates and optical windows that are used in a variety of high-growth, high-volume end-market applications. Our largest product line is two inch to four inch sapphire wafers for use in LEDs and blue laser diodes for solid state lighting and electronic applications. In addition, we sell six inch sapphire wafers that are used for Silicon-on-Sapphire (SOS) RFICs, as well as products for military, aerospace, sensor and other applications. We have also extended our technology to manufacture eight inch products to support next-generation LED, RFIC and optical window applications and are developing the capability to produce even larger products.

We sell our products on a global basis. The Asian, North American and European markets accounted for 53%, 44% and 3%, respectively, of our revenue for the year ended December 31, 2008 and 72%, 26% and 2%, respectively, for the year ended December 31, 2007. The increase in revenue from North America in 2008 is the result of a strong demand for six inch polished wafers sold into the silicon-on-sapphire market. Our primary customer in that market is located in the United States. The decrease in revenue from Asia in 2008 is primarily due to a decline in sales of six inch as ground wafers as we shifted six inch as-ground capacity to six inch polished production. Our primary customer for that product is located in Asia.

We provide direct sales from our Franklin Park, Illinois offices. Additionally, we use an independent commission-based sales representative in South Korea to assist in supporting our customers in this country. Customers in South Korea place orders directly with us. Substantially all of our revenue is generated by our direct sales force and we expect this to continue as we expand our sales organization in the future.

We manufacture and ship our products from our facilities in the Chicago metropolitan area. We have approximately 102,600 square feet of manufacturing and office space, which includes 30,000 square feet in our Bensenville, Illinois facility, which opened in January 2008.

Financial operations

Revenue. Our revenue consists of sales of sapphire materials sold in core, as-cut, as-ground and polished forms in two, three, four and six inch diameters as well as optical materials sold as blanks or polished windows. Products are made to varying specifications, such as crystal planar orientations and thicknesses. We have focused on increasing sales of larger diameter substrates, which we define as three inch or greater in diameter, as they generally yield higher gross margins. Revenue from our SOS customers, which use six inch substrates,

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represented 24% of our total revenue for the year ended December 31, 2008, as compared to 16% of our total revenue for the year ended December 31, 2007. Sales of larger diameter substrates to our LED customers also grew faster than sales of two inch diameter substrates over the past twelve months. Much of the sapphire we sell into the marketplace is used in the manufacture of consumer electronic devices. The current state of the global financial economy has had a significant impact on consumer spending, which has resulted in a reduction in demand for our sapphire. We anticipate that reduced demand for our products will continue at least through early 2009. We expect our revenue and earnings to be substantially lower as a result of this reduced demand. The exact extent of that impact is, however, difficult to quantify at this time.

Historically, a significant portion of our revenue has been derived from sales to relatively few customers. For the year ended December 31, 2008, we had four customers that accounted for 29%, 17%, 12% and 10% of our revenue. For the year ended December 31, 2007, we had three customers that accounted for approximately 26%, 21%, and 15% of our revenue. Other than as discussed above, none of our customers accounted for more than 10% of our revenue for such periods. Although we are attempting to diversify and expand our customer base, we expect our revenue to continue to be concentrated among a small number of customers. We expect that our significant customers may change from period to period.

We sell to all customers pursuant to purchase orders and have longer-term (typically 12 to 24 months) supply agreements with a few key customers. We recognize revenue upon shipment to our customers. Delays in product orders or changes to the timing of shipments under our supply agreements could cause our quarterly revenue to vary significantly. We derive a significant portion of our revenue from customers outside of the United States. The majority of our sales are to the Asian market and we expect that region to continue to be a major source of revenue for us. All of our revenue and corresponding accounts receivable are denominated in US dollars.

Research and development revenue is recognized as services are performed. We execute agreements with our customers that clearly describe the scope of the project, the services we will provide, ownership of any tangible or intangible assets generated as part of the project, and the amount of consideration we will receive.

Cost of goods sold. Our cost of goods sold consists primarily of manufacturing materials, labor, manufacturing-related overhead such as utilities, depreciation and rent, provisions for excess and obsolete inventory reserves, freight and warranties. We manufacture our products at our Franklin Park, Illinois and Bensenville, Illinois manufacturing facilities based on customer orders. We purchase materials and supplies to support such demand. We are subject to variations in the cost of raw materials and consumables from period to period because we do not have long-term fixed-price agreements with our suppliers. For the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, utility costs represented approximately 13% and 9% of our cost of goods sold, respectively. On July 25, 2008, we entered into a contract for the period from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010 that provides electricity priced at a new fixed rate per kilowatt hour. The per kilowatt hour cost under this new fixed rate is approximately 22% below the blended average rate in 2008.

Gross profit. Our gross profit has decreased slightly over the past twelve months due to lower sales volume in the fourth quarter resulting in a slightly negative gross profit for the fourth quarter. Our gross profit has been and will continue to be affected by a variety of factors, including average sales prices of our products, product mix, our ability to reduce manufacturing costs and fluctuations in the cost of electricity, raw materials and other supplies.

General and administrative expenses. General and administrative expenses (G&A) consist primarily of salaries and associated costs for employees in finance, human resources, information technology and administrative activities, charges for outside accounting, legal, insurance fees, and stock-based compensation. In 2008, we incurred significant additional accounting, legal, insurance, investor relations and other costs associated with being a public company.

Sales and marketing expenses. Sales and marketing expenses consist primarily of salaries and associated costs for employees engaged in sales activities, commissions paid to third party representatives, product samples,

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charges for participation in trade shows and travel. We expect these expenses to increase in future periods based on planned additions to sales staff and increases in trade show participation and travel to expand our customer base.

Research and development expenses. Research and development (R&D) expenses include costs related to engineering personnel, materials and other product development related costs. R&D is expensed as incurred. We believe our R&D expenses will generally increase as we continue to develop new products.

Other income (expense). Other income (expense) consists of interest expense, change in carrying value of preferred stock warrants, interest income and realized gains and losses on investments. Interest expense consists of interest on debt and for the year ended December 31, 2007 amortization of the fair value of our preferred stock warrants issued as part of debt financing transactions. For the years ended December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2007, interest expense was \$1,562 and \$1,458,000, respectively. We repaid our outstanding indebtedness with a portion of the proceeds from our initial public offering in November 2007. The remaining unamortized debt discount associated with the preferred stock warrants issued as part of debt financing transactions was expensed on the repayment of the debt. Consequently, we do not expect to incur interest expense until such time as we enter into a debt agreement. Proceeds from our initial public offering were invested in available-for-sale, trading securities and short and long term securities.

The change in carrying value of preferred stock warrants is associated with the value of warrants classified as liabilities. These warrants converted into common stock warrants in connection with our initial public offering. We no longer incur this non-cash gain or loss following the conversion of these warrants to common stock warrants. Additional information on our accounting for change in carrying value of preferred stock warrants is provided in Critical accounting policies and estimates.

Provision for income tax. We account for income taxes under the asset and liability method whereby the expected future tax consequences of temporary differences between the book value and the tax basis of assets and liabilities are recognized as deferred tax assets and liabilities, using enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which the differences are expected to be recognized. A full valuation allowance is provided as management cannot conclude that it is more likely than not that our deferred tax assets will be realized. At December 31, 2008, we had \$31.2 million in net operating loss carryforwards (NOLs). We believe that we are not

restricted in our ability to use the full amount of the NOLs, nor is there a limit to the amount of NOLs that may be used in any given year.

Stock-based compensation. The majority of our stock-based compensation relates to administrative personnel and is accounted for as a general and administrative expense. For the years ended December 31, 2008, December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006, our stock-based compensation expense was \$771,000, \$754,000 and \$62,000, respectively.

Table of Contents**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following table sets forth our statements of operations for the periods indicated:

	2008	Year ended December 31, 2007 (in millions)	2006
Revenue	\$ 37.8	\$ 34.1	\$ 20.8
Cost of goods sold	25.7	22.0	18.9
Gross profit	12.1	12.1	1.9
Operating expenses:			
General and administrative	6.7	6.2	3.3
Sales and marketing	1.0	0.7	1.1
Research and development	0.8	0.8	0.7
Asset impairment			0.9
Loss on disposal of assets	1.2	0.1	
Total operating expenses	9.7	7.8	6.0
Income (loss) from operations	2.4	4.3	(4.1)
Other income (expense)	2.0	(7.1)	(3.3)
Income (loss) before income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	4.4	(2.8)	(7.4)
Income taxes		(0.1)	
Income (loss) before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	4.4	(2.9)	(7.4)
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle			(0.2)
Net income (loss)	\$ 4.4	(\$ 2.9)	(\$ 7.6)

The following table sets forth our statements of operations as a percentage of revenue for the periods indicated:

	2008	Year ended December 31, 2007 (percentage of total)	2006
Revenue	100%	100%	100%
Cost of goods sold	68	65	91
Gross profit	32	35	9
Operating expenses:			
General and administrative	18	18	16
Sales and marketing	2	2	5
Research and development	2	2	4
Asset impairment			4
Loss on disposal of assets	3	1	

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Total operating expenses	25	23	29
Income (loss) from operations	7	12	(20)
Other income (expense)	5	(21)	(16)
Income (loss) before income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	12	(9)	(36)
Income taxes			
Income (loss) before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	12	(9)	(36)
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle			(1)
Net income (loss)	12%	(9)%	(37)%

Table of Contents**Comparison of years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007**

Revenue. Revenue was \$37.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 and \$34.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, an increase of \$3.7 million, or 11%. Revenue increased across all product lines except for six inch as ground wafers, which declined by \$2.8 million as we shifted six inch capacity to six inch polished production. Revenue from six inch polished products to the SOS RFIC market increased by \$3.9 million. Our revenue increase is also attributable to an increase in volume shipments of larger diameter substrates to the LED industry resulting in additional revenue of \$1.9 million partially offset by lower pricing of \$1.2 million. We also achieved higher revenue of \$670,000 from optical products due to increased sales of sapphire and fluorides for military, sensor and instrumentation applications as we have continued our efforts to increase our share of this market. We had higher contract research revenue of \$1.1 million as we met deliverables associated with our contract for the development of eight inch wafers. Fourth quarter 2008 revenue from the LED industry was down approximately 55% from both the prior quarter and from the fourth quarter of 2007 as the impact of the worldwide economic crisis resulted in excess inventory throughout the LED supply chain which significantly reduced orders. In addition, the SOS RFIC business is largely dependent upon the consumer electronics market which also had a significant downturn in the fourth quarter of 2008. Consequently, we had no SOS RFIC revenue in the fourth quarter of 2008. In 2009, for us to achieve higher volumes of sapphire wafer sales, inventories in the LED and SOS RFIC industries need to be consumed.

Gross profit. Gross profit was \$12.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 and for the year ended December 31, 2007. Gross profit in 2008 was unchanged from 2007 as sales of higher margin products increased and an increase of \$1.1 million of direct contract revenue which has little direct cost associated with it were partially offset by increased costs of approximately \$1.2 million attributable to lower utilization of equipment and staff as a result of a decreased demand in the fourth quarter of 2008.

General and administrative expenses. G&A expenses were \$6.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 and \$6.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, an increase of \$533,000. The increase was primarily due to \$1.1 million of higher audit, investor related, insurance, legal and board costs associated with operating as a public company, \$729,000 of costs associated with a follow-on public offering, a \$486,000 increase in bad debt expense due to slower customer payments, and a \$93,000 increase in franchise taxes due to increased assets and capitalization of the company, partially offset by a \$1.2 million reduction in bonuses due to lower performance bonuses and no IPO bonuses being paid in 2008. In addition, partially offsetting the increase were \$210,000 of lawsuit settlement payments and \$415,000 of financing fees associated with debt refinancing and extinguishment not incurred in 2008.

Sales and marketing expenses. Sales and marketing expenses were \$968,000 for the year ended December 31, 2008 and \$675,000 for the year ended December 31, 2007, an increase of \$293,000. The increase in sales and marketing expenses is attributable to additional payroll expenses of \$156,000 for new sales personnel to support and grow our optical and substrate businesses and payroll taxes associated with the exercise of stock options. Also marketing expenses associated with efforts to increase our customer base and expand our optical business, increased by \$103,000.

Research and development expenses. R&D expenses were \$862,000 for the year ended December 31, 2008 and \$769,000 for the year ended December 31, 2007, an increase of \$93,000. The increase was primarily attributable to an increase in payroll costs of \$170,000 offset by a decrease of \$78,000 in materials purchased for research projects and other costs.

Other income (expense). Other income (expense) was \$2.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 and \$(7.1) million for the year ended December 31, 2007, an increase in net other income of \$9.1 million. The increase was due in part to the elimination of charges relating to the carrying value of preferred stock warrants, which were \$6.0 million in the year ended December 31, 2007. Interest expense decreased by \$1.5 million as a result of extinguishing our debt, and interest income increased by \$1.7 million on interest earned on invested proceeds from our IPO. Also included in the year ended December 31, 2008 was a recognized net realized loss

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on investments of \$55,000 which was a gain of \$1.6 million representing the initial fair value of auction rate security put options and the changes in the fair value of the put options, partially offset by a loss of \$1.7 million which represented the recognizing of unrealized losses previously recorded in comprehensive income due to the transfer of auction rate securities from available-for-sale to trading securities and the subsequent changes in the fair value of the auction rate securities from the election date to the end of the year.

Comparison of years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006

Revenue. Revenue was \$34.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 and \$20.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2006, an increase of \$13.3 million, or 64%. Revenue increased across all product lines except for six inch as ground wafers, which declined by \$626,000 as we shifted six inch capacity to six inch polished production. Our revenue increase was primarily attributable to an increase in shipments of substrates to the LED industry resulting in additional revenue of \$6.5 million, including initial volume deliveries of four inch sapphire substrates of \$3.4 million, the effect of price increases beginning in the first quarter of 2007 totaling \$1.3 million and an increase in sales of six inch polished products to the SOS RFIC market of \$4.8 million. We also achieved higher revenue of \$913,000 from optical products due to increased sales of sapphire and fluorides for military, aerospace, sensor and other applications.

Gross profit. Gross profit was \$12.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 and \$1.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2006, an increase of \$10.2 million. This increase in gross profit represented an improvement of gross margins from 9% to 35%. The increase in gross profit in 2007 compared to 2006 was primarily due to a shift to higher margin products, including sapphire cores and larger diameter sapphire products, our exit from the two inch polished wafer business on which we realized a negative gross margin, improved operating leverage from higher throughput, increased production yields and lower scrap costs.

General and administrative expenses. G&A expenses were \$6.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 and \$3.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2006, an increase of \$2.9 million. The increase was primarily due to \$919,000 from higher bonus costs, \$692,000 of additional stock-based compensation, \$282,000 from lawsuit settlements, \$262,000 from higher financing fees associated with debt refinancing and extinguishment, \$224,000 from tax and Sarbanes-Oxley Act Section 404 consulting services, \$187,000 in higher legal costs, \$101,000 in higher franchise taxes, \$93,000 from higher expenses associated with fees paid to non-employee members of our board of directors and \$76,000 from higher bad debt expense on higher receivable balances.

Sales and marketing expenses. Sales and marketing expenses were \$675,000 for the year ended December 31, 2007 and \$1.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2006, a decrease of \$387,000. The decrease in sales and marketing expenses, even as revenue increased, is attributable to the elimination of our Japan sales office and tighter control of other selling expenses.

Research and development expenses. R&D expenses were \$769,000 for the year ended December 31, 2007 and \$679,000 for the year ended December 31, 2006, an increase of \$90,000. The increase was primarily attributable to an increase in materials purchased for research projects.

Other income (expense). Other income (expense) was \$(7.1) million for the year ended December 31, 2007 and \$(3.3) million for the year ended December 31, 2006, an increase in net expense of \$3.8 million. The increase was primarily due to an increase in the change in carrying value of preferred stock warrants of \$4.1 million. Interest expense was slightly higher by \$143,000 from higher warrant interest expense of \$417,000 as a result of refinancing and extinguishing our debt facility partially offset by lower interest of \$274,000 on lower average debt and capital lease balances. Interest income increased by \$368,000 as interest was earned on investing proceeds from our initial public offering.

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LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

We historically funded our operations using a combination of issuances of common and preferred stock, a working capital line of credit and term loans and cash generated from our operations. Since our inception, we have raised approximately \$136 million of equity from both private and public issuances of common and preferred stock.

As of December 31, 2008, we had cash and short term investments totaling \$45.0 million, including cash of \$478,000 held in deposits at a major bank, \$7.2 million invested in money market funds and short term investments in commercial paper, state and local bonds, and U.S. treasury securities of \$37.3 million. Our long term investments of \$12.7 million are municipal auction rate securities and put options of \$10.7 million and a \$2 million investment in Peregrine Semiconductor, Corp. (one of our key customers) Series D1 preferred stock. In February 2008, we began experiencing failed auctions of our entire auction rate securities portfolio, resulting in our inability to sell these securities in the short term. All of the auction rate securities are AAA rated by one or more of the major credit rating agencies and have contractual maturities from 2036 to 2045. Further, all of these securities are collateralized by student loans, and approximately 99% of the collateral qualifies under the Federal Family Education Loan Program and is guaranteed by the US government. We are receiving the underlying cash flows on all of our auction rate securities. The auction rate securities have been classified as long-term investments as of December 31, 2008.

In October 2008, we entered into an agreement with UBS, AG, which provides us with certain rights to sell to UBS, AG all of our auction rate securities that were purchased through them. We have the option to sell these securities to UBS, AG at par value from June 10, 2010 through July 2, 2012. UBS, AG, at its discretion, may purchase or sell these securities on our behalf at any time provided we receive par value for the securities sold. The issuers of the auction rate securities continue to have the right to redeem the securities at their discretion. The agreement also permits us to establish a demand revolving credit line in an amount equal to the par value of the securities at a net no cost. If our debt is determined to be rated below investment grade or is not rated, the amount that can be borrowed is limited to 75% of the market value of the auction rate securities. As of December 31, 2008, we had no loans outstanding under this agreement.

Our right to sell the auction rate securities to UBS, AG commencing on June 10, 2010 represents put options for a payment equal to the par value of the auction rate securities. We elected the fair value option under SFAS 159 and recorded the put options in long term investments. We do not expect to need access to the auction rate securities capital prior to the maturity of the auction rate security put options.

Cash flows from operating activities

Cash provided by operating activities was \$1.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2008. During such period, we generated net income of \$4.4 million and we incurred non-cash charges of \$6.5 million, including depreciation expense of \$4.5 million, net loss on disposal of equipment of \$1.2 million, and stock-based compensation expense of \$771,000. We experienced an increase during such period in inventory of \$5.4 million due primarily to an increase in safety stocks of raw material and sapphire boule inventory of \$4.2 million and an increase of \$1.0 million in other work in process and finished goods inventory. There is no shelf life to our raw material and essentially all of our products can be manufactured from any one boule. Therefore, building a safety stock of this inventory enables us to quickly respond to an increase in demand from our customers. We also experienced an increase in spare parts of \$2.4 million due to an increase in furnace material inventory used to support a larger number of furnaces, deferred revenue decreased by \$583,000 due to recognition of revenue deferred on a research and development project, accrued payroll decreased by \$637,000 on a lower performance based bonus accrual and other accrued liabilities decreased by \$252,000 due to timing of payments. The \$5.6 million decrease in cash provided by operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2008, compared to the year ended December 31, 2007, is primarily attributable to an increase of \$7.7 million of raw material, boule and spare parts inventories in the year ended December 31, 2008 compared to an increase of \$1.3 million in the year ended December 31, 2007 as safety stocks were increased. This was partially offset by net income of \$4.4 million

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for the year ended December 31, 2008, compared to a net loss of \$2.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, which included \$6.0 million of non-cash change in carrying value of preferred stock. Net income increased on higher revenue on higher margin larger diameter products but was partially offset by higher production costs attributable to lower utilization of equipment and staff as a result of a decrease in fourth quarter 2008 production as orders and demand declined.

Cash provided by operating activities was \$7.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2007. During such period, we generated a net loss of \$2.9 million and incurred non-cash charges of \$11.1 million, including depreciation expense of \$3.4 million, change in carrying value of preferred stock warrant expense of \$6.0 million, stock-based compensation expense of \$754,000, net loss on disposal of equipment of \$139,000 and interest expense related to debt accretion of \$769,000. We experienced an increase during such period in accounts receivable of \$1.7 million on increased sales, an increase in accounts payable of \$1.1 million and an increase in inventory and spare parts of \$1.3 million due primarily to an increase in safety stock of raw material inventory. We also experienced an increase in corporate income and franchise taxes of \$310,000 due to an increase in assets and capitalization from our initial public offering and an increase in deferred revenue of \$518,000 due to revenue deferral on a research and development project. The \$6.4 million increase in cash provided by operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2007, compared to the year ended December 31, 2006, is primarily attributable to a net loss of \$2.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, compared to a net loss of \$7.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2006, as sales volume and pricing increased and our production costs declined. Further, the non-cash change in carrying value of preferred stock for the year ended December 31, 2007 was \$6.0 million compared to \$2.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2006. As sales increased in 2007, we experienced increases in accounts receivable and inventory partially offset by increases in accounts payable in order to meet the rising customer demands.

Cash provided by operating activities was \$659,000 for the year ended December 31, 2006. During such period, we generated a net loss of \$7.6 million, offset primarily by non-cash charges of \$6.7 million, including depreciation expense of \$3.1 million, change in carrying value of preferred stock warrants of \$2.2 million, interest expense related to debt accretion of \$352,000 and asset impairment of \$933,000. With our exit from the two inch polished wafer business during the second quarter of 2006, we recorded an asset impairment charge to write-down to estimated fair market value certain polishing fixed assets that will no longer be used. Inventory decreased by \$1.4 million as inventory added in 2005 was used to meet demand. We experienced an increase in accounts receivable of \$829,000 as revenue increased in 2006 compared to 2005. Further, accounts payable increased by \$661,000 as additional purchases of consumables were made to support increased production.

Cash flows used in investing activities

Net cash provided by or (used in) investing activities was \$4.3 million, (\$81.5) million, and (\$2.3) million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. In 2008, we used approximately \$12.8 million to purchase components used to construct additional crystal growth furnaces, approximately \$2.0 million for infrastructure changes needed to expand operations in our Bensenville, Illinois facility and approximately \$3.9 million to purchase various equipment used to expand our production capacity in support of our sales growth. We purchased additional investments of \$2.0 million using investment earnings proceeds. This was partially offset by proceeds from sales of investments of \$25.0 million. In 2007, we used approximately \$7.1 million to purchase components used to construct additional crystal growth furnaces, approximately \$1.7 million for infrastructure changes needed to commence operations in our new Bensenville, Illinois facility and approximately \$1.7 million to purchase various equipment used to expand our production capacity in support of our sales growth. Also in 2007, we used the proceeds of our initial public offering to purchase short term investment securities. In 2006, we used approximately \$1.2 million to add crystal growth furnaces and approximately \$1.1 million to upgrade existing capacity in other areas. Because of the current economic environment, it is difficult to predict capital expenditures needed to support or enhance our current operations, but we anticipate it will be between \$5 million and \$12 million in 2009.

Table of Contents**Cash flows from financing activities**

Net cash provided by or (used in) financing activities was (\$2.5) million, \$75.1 million, and \$3.8 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Net cash used in financing activities for 2008 reflects stock repurchases of \$3.1 million, partially offset by proceeds from the exercise of stock options of \$602,000. Net cash provided by financing activities for 2007 reflects net proceeds received from our initial public offering of \$81.1 million, offset by the net repayment of borrowings of \$6.0 million. Net cash provided by financing activities for 2006 reflects proceeds received from the sale of our Series E preferred stock of \$5.6 million, offset by the net repayment of borrowings of \$1.6 million.

Future liquidity requirements

We believe that our existing cash, cash equivalents, investments, and anticipated cash flows from operating activities will be sufficient to meet our anticipated cash needs for at least the next 12 months. Our cash needs include cash required to fund our operations, taking into account anticipated lower revenue and possible slower accounts receivable collections. If the assumptions underlying our business plan regarding future revenues and expenses change, or if unexpected opportunities or needs arise, we may seek to raise additional cash by selling equity or convertible debt securities. If we raise additional funds through the issuance of equity or convertible debt securities, the percentage ownership of our stockholders could be significantly diluted, and these newly-issued securities may have rights, preferences or privileges senior to those of existing stockholders. If we obtain debt financing, a substantial portion of our operating cash flow may be dedicated to the payment of principal and interest on such indebtedness, and the terms of the debt securities issued could impose significant restrictions on our operations. If we are unable to obtain financing on terms favorable to us, we may be unable to successfully execute our business plan.

Contractual obligations

The contractual obligations presented in the table below represent our estimates of future payments under fixed contractual obligations and commitments at December 31, 2008. Changes in our business needs as well as actions by third parties and other factors may cause these estimates to change. Because these estimates are complex and necessarily subjective, our actual payments in future periods are likely to vary from those presented in the table. The following table sets forth information relating to our contractual obligations at December 31, 2008:

	Payments due in				Total
	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years (in millions)	More than 5 years	
Operating lease obligations	\$ 1.3	\$ 2.3	\$ 2.2	\$ 1.2	\$ 7.0
Purchase order obligations	1.0				1.0
Total contractual obligations	\$ 2.3	\$ 2.3	\$ 2.2	\$ 1.2	\$ 8.0

OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

During 2008, 2007 and 2006, we did not engage in any off-balance sheet arrangements. We do not have any interest in entities referred to as variable interest entities, which includes special purpose entities and other structured finance entities.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ABOUT MARKET RISK

Market risk is the risk of loss related to changes in market prices, including interest rates, of financial instruments that may adversely impact our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Foreign currency exchange risk. To date, substantially all of our international sales have been transacted in US dollars. Accordingly, we have limited exposure to foreign currency exchange rates and do not enter into foreign currency hedging transactions.

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Interest rate risk. We do not have any long-term borrowings. Our investments consist of cash, cash equivalents, commercial paper, state and local bonds, and US treasury securities. The primary objective of our investment activities is to preserve principal while maximizing income without significantly increasing risk. We do not enter into investments for speculative purposes. Our investments are exposed to market risk due to a fluctuation in interest rates, which may affect our interest income and the fair market value of our investments. Due to the short-term nature of our investment portfolio, we do not believe an immediate 10% increase or decrease in interest rates would have a material effect on the fair market value of our portfolio, and therefore we do not expect our operating results or cash flows to be materially affected by a sudden change in market interest rates.

Inflation. Our operations have not been, and we do not expect them to be, materially affected by inflation. However, historically, the prices we charge our customers are market driven, and therefore we may not be able to increase our prices to offset any increase in our material or labor costs. Our inability or failure to do so could harm our business, financial condition and results of operations.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires us to make estimates, assumptions and judgments that affect the amounts reported in our financial statements and the accompanying notes. We base our estimates on historical experience and various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable. Although these estimates are based on our present best knowledge of the future impact on the company of current events and actions, actual results may differ from these estimates, assumptions and judgments.

We consider to be critical those accounting policies that require our most subjective or complex judgments, which often result from a need to make estimates about the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain, and that are among the most important of our accounting policies in the portrayal of our financial condition and results of operations. We believe the following to be our critical accounting policies, including the more significant estimates and assumptions used in preparation of our financial statements.

Revenue recognition. We recognize revenue from sales of products when:

Persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists. We require evidence of a purchase order with the customer specifying the terms and specifications of the product to be delivered, typically in the form of a signed quotation or purchase order from the customer.

Title has passed and the product has been delivered. Title passage and product delivery generally occur when the product is delivered to a common carrier.

The price is fixed or determinable. All terms are fixed in the signed quotation or purchase order received from the customer. The purchase orders do not contain rights of cancellation, return, exchanges or refunds.

Collection of the resulting receivable is reasonably assured. Our standard arrangement with customers includes 30 day payment terms. Customers are subject to a credit review process that evaluates each customer's financial position and its ability to pay. We determine collectibility by considering the length of time the customer has been in business and our history of collections with that customer. If it is determined that collection is not probable, no product is shipped and no revenue is recognized unless cash is received in advance.

R&D revenue is recognized as services are performed. We execute agreements with our customers that clearly describe the scope of the project, the services we will provide, ownership of any tangible or intangible assets generated as part of the project, and the amount of consideration we will receive.

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There are no significant judgments or estimates associated with our revenue recognition policies or processes. All of our revenue is denominated in United States dollars.

Inventory. We value our inventory at the lower of cost or market. Market is determined based on net realizable value. Cost is determined for raw materials on a first-in, first-out basis and work in process and finished goods are based on actual costs. We establish inventory reserves when conditions exist that suggest inventory may be in excess of anticipated demand or is obsolete based on customer required specifications. We evaluate the ability to realize the value of our inventory based on a combination of factors, including forecasted sales, estimated current and future market value and changes in customers' product specifications. Recoveries of previously written-down inventory are recognized only when the related inventory is sold and revenue has been recognized. Based on current demand and pricing of our products, we believe that it is unlikely that significant adjustments for inventory obsolescence will occur. Our method of estimating excess and obsolete inventory has remained consistent for all periods presented. However, if our recognition of excess or obsolete inventory is, or if our estimates of our inventory's potential utility become, less favorable than currently expected, additional inventory reserves may be required. In accordance with SFAS 151, *Inventory*, an amendment of ARB No. 43 Chapter 4, we determine our normal operating capacity and record as expense costs attributable to lower utilization of equipment and staff. During 2008, we determined we were not operating at capacity and recorded as expense costs associated with lower utilization of equipment and staff of \$1.2 million.

Investments.

We invest available cash primarily in investment grade commercial paper, corporate notes, government securities and auction rate securities. Investments classified as available-for-sale securities are carried at fair market value with unrealized gains and losses recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). Investments in trading securities are reported at fair value, with both realized and unrealized gains and losses recorded in other income (expense), net in the Statement of Operations. Investments in which we have the ability and intent, if necessary, to liquidate in order to support our current operations are classified as short-term. Our long-term investments consist primarily of auction rate securities and put options.

We review our available for sale securities investments at the end of each quarter for other-than-temporary declines in fair value based on the specific identification method. We consider various factors in determining whether an impairment is other-than-temporary, including the severity and duration of the impairment, changes in underlying credit ratings, forecasted recovery, our ability and intent to hold the investment for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in market value and the probability that the scheduled cash payments will continue to be made. When we conclude that an other-than-temporary impairment has resulted, the difference between the fair value and carrying value is written off and recorded as a charge on the Statement of Operations.

In October 2008, we entered into an agreement that provides us with the right, but not the obligation, to sell all our auction rate securities to UBS AG for par value during the period of June 30, 2010 to July 2, 2012 (the *ARS Put Options*). The ARS Put Options provide us with the opportunity to recover the estimated unrealized loss on our ARS investments. We recorded the fair value of the ARS Put Options upon receipt and included it in other long-term assets on our December 31, 2008 balance sheet. In accordance with SFAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities - Including an Amendment of SFAS No. 115* (SFAS No. 159), which was adopted by us on January 1, 2008, we elected fair value accounting for the ARS Put Options. Unrealized gains and losses related to the ARS Put Options will be recognized in earnings. We value the auction rate securities and ARS Put Options using a discounted cash flow model that weights various factors including interest rates and expected holding period. At December 31, 2008, the fair value recorded on the balance sheet of auction rate securities and ARS Put Options was \$9.1 million and \$1.6 million, respectively.

Allowance for doubtful accounts. We estimate the allowance for doubtful accounts based on an assessment of the collectability of specific customer accounts. The determination of risk for collection is assessed on a customer-by-customer basis considering our historical experience and future orders with the customer, changes

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in payment patterns, and recent information we have about the current status of our accounts receivable balances. If we determine that a specific customer is a risk for collection, we provide a specific allowance for credit losses to reduce the net recognized receivable to the amount we reasonably believe will be collected. We believe that based on the customers to whom we sell and the nature of our agreements with them, our estimates are reasonable. Our method of estimating collectibility has remained consistent for all periods presented and with past collections experience.

Stock-based compensation. Effective January 1, 2006, we adopted SFAS 123R, which amends SFAS 123 Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation (SFAS 123) and requires us to expense stock options based upon the fair market value on the date of grant. We adopted SFAS 123R using the prospective method. Under this transition method, the provisions of SFAS 123R are applied to new awards and to awards modified, repurchased, or cancelled after January 1, 2006. We selected the Black-Scholes option pricing model to determine the fair value of stock options. The determination of the fair value of stock-based payment awards on the date of grant using an option-pricing model will be affected by assumptions regarding a number of complex and subjective variables. These variables include our expected stock volatility over the term of the awards, actual and projected employee stock option exercise behaviors, risk-free interest rates, forfeitures and expected dividends.

The expected term represents the weighted-average period that our stock options are expected to be outstanding and is based upon the vesting term of our options, a review of a peer group of companies, and expected exercise behavior. Until November 2007, we were operating as a private company, and as a result, we were unable to use our actual price volatility data. Therefore, we estimate the volatility of our common stock based on volatility of similar entities over the expected term of our stock options. We base the risk-free interest rate that we use in the option pricing model on US Treasury zero-coupon issues with remaining terms similar to the expected term on the options. We do not anticipate paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future and, therefore, use an expected dividend yield of zero in the option pricing model. We are required to estimate forfeitures at the time of grant and revise those estimates in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates. The current forfeiture rate of 25% was based on our past history of pre-vesting forfeitures and the forfeiture rate has remained constant.

We had a choice of two attribution methods for allocating compensation costs under SFAS 123R, the straight-line method, which allocates expense on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period of the last separately vesting portion of an award, or the graded vesting attribution method, which allocates expense on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period for each separately vesting portion of the award as if the award was, in substance, multiple awards. We chose the former method and amortized the fair value of each option on a straight-line basis over the service period.

Based on the variables affecting the valuation of our common stock and the method used for allocating compensation costs, we recognized \$771,000 in stock-based compensation expense during the year ended December 31, 2008.

With respect to each option grant date for the year ended December 31, 2006, and through November 15, 2007, we determined the deemed fair value of our common stock. As there was no public market for our common stock during these periods, this determination was necessarily subjective. In making this determination, we considered a number of factors, including:

the issuance price of our series of preferred shares to third parties;

the liquidation preference and other rights of the preferred shares; and

the fact that the option grants involved illiquid securities of a private company.

For options granted through November 15, 2007, the board of directors set the exercise price for options granted based upon estimates of fair value. In preparing for our initial public offering, the board of directors determined that the original methodology applied did not fully comply with the requirements in the AICPA s

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Practice Aid Valuation of Privately-Held-Company Equity Securities Issued as Compensation, which we refer to as the practice aid. Revised valuations were prepared which yielded lower fair values for our common stock. See Valuation methodologies employed below for further disclosure of the valuation methodology used in determining fair value per share for financial reporting purposes. Therefore, for financial reporting purposes, we determined that it was appropriate to use \$5.25 for options granted in June and August 2007 as the fair value of our common stock within the Black-Scholes option pricing model consistent with the revised valuation. For stock option grants after our initial public offering, the board of directors set the exercise price at the fair market value per share on the date of grant.

The following table sets forth option grants made during 2007, with the intrinsic value calculated based on grant date fair value.

Date of Grant	Number of options granted	Exercise price	Fair value estimate per share	Intrinsic value per share(1)
June 2007	251,635	8.45	5.25	
August 2007	198,040	8.45	5.25	
November 2007	207,692	14.00	14.00	
December 2007	111,758	17.60-18.50	17.60-18.50	

- (1) The financial reporting intrinsic value per share is the difference between the subsequently reassessed fair value per share for financial statement reporting purposes and the exercise price per share as established on each applicable stock option grant date by our compensation committee and board of directors as described above. There is no intrinsic value because the exercise price per share of each option equaled or exceeded the fair value of the common stock on the date of grant.

Valuation methodologies employed. The valuation methodologies we employed in connection with these option grants were based on various generally accepted valuation methods. Specifically, at each reporting date we analyzed the value of the company, or the business enterprise value, using market and income approaches, and then allocated the business enterprise value using contingent claims analysis, an application of option pricing theory. The allocation of the business enterprise value to convertible preferred stock, common stock, warrants and stock options at September 30, 2007, June 30, 2007 and March 31, 2007 used option pricing theory and considered the probability of an initial public offering.

In determining the business enterprise value at September 30, 2007, June 30, 2007 and March 31, 2007, we used both market and income value approaches. The market approach used both comparable company and transaction valuation methods. The comparable company market approach used revenue multiples observed in active securities markets and the transaction method used both revenue and EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) multiples observed in the mergers and acquisitions market. The income approach determines a business enterprise value using the discounted present value of projected cash flow streams.

The final business enterprise value determined using the market and income approaches was then adjusted for appropriate marketability discounts. These marketability discounts were reduced at each reporting date, beginning with the December 31, 2006 reporting date, to reflect the increased probability of the initial public offering.

The allocation of the business enterprise value to each class of preferred stock and common stock was determined using contingent claims analysis, which is based on the principles of option pricing theory. Specifically, each class of security is modeled as a call option with a unique claim on our assets. The resulting claims allocate the anticipated proceeds between the different securities upon a liquidity event, which in our case was our initial public offering. In modeling each security as a call option, we used the Black-Scholes option pricing model.

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Determining the fair value of our convertible preferred stock, common stock, warrants and stock options involves complex and subjective judgments involving estimates of revenue, earnings, assumed market growth rates and estimated costs, as well as appropriate discount rates. At the time of each valuation, the significant estimates used in the income approach (discounted cash flow model) included estimates of our revenue and revenue growth rates for several years into the future. Although each time we prepared such forecasts in the preparation of a valuation report we did so based on assumptions that we believed to be reasonable and appropriate, there can be no assurance that any such estimates for earlier periods have come to pass or that any such estimates for future periods will prove to be accurate.

The most significant factors contributing to the difference between the fair value of the shares of our common stock subject to our 2007 stock option grants and the initial public offering price are the increase in probability of the completion of an initial public offering of our common stock and positive changes in market conditions. Due to our history of operating losses prior to 2007, including negative gross profit in 2005, our ability to achieve our initial public offering price was highly contingent on achieving current strong operating results. Achieving strong operating results in the quarter ended September 30, 2007 and through completion of our initial public offering validated our financial projections for subsequent periods and resulted in our ability to obtain the estimated initial public offering price.

All option grants made during 2008 were granted at an exercise price per share equal to the closing market price of our common stock on the date of grant. Therefore, there is no intrinsic value because the exercise price per share of each option was equal to the fair value of the common stock on the date of grant.

There was no aggregate intrinsic value of all stock options outstanding at December 31, 2008, based on the fair market value of the common stock at December 31, 2008.

Convertible preferred stock warrant liability. Beginning January 1, 2006, we began accounting for warrants to purchase our preferred stock issued in connection with financing agreements in accordance with FASB Staff Position (FSP) 150-5, Accounting Under SFAS 150 for Freestanding Warrants and Other Similar Instruments on Redeemable Shares (FSP 150-5). Pursuant to FSP 150-5, we evaluate certain specifically identified conditions to determine whether the fair value of these warrants is required to be classified as a liability. The fair value of the warrants that are classified as liabilities are adjusted for changes in fair value at each reporting period, and the corresponding non-cash gain or loss is recorded in current period earnings. We estimated the fair market value of these warrants at the respective balance sheet dates using a Black-Scholes option-pricing model, based on the estimated market value of the underlying preferred stock at the measurement date, the remaining contractual term of the warrant, risk-free interest rates and expected dividends on and expected volatility of the price of the underlying preferred stock. These estimates, especially the market value of the underlying preferred stock and the expected volatility, are highly judgmental. The assumptions used in our Black-Scholes option pricing model for Series E, C, B, B-2 and A warrants at January 1, 2006 upon the adoption of FSP 150-5 were: (i) remaining contractual terms of 2.1 to 9.9 years; (ii) risk-free interest rate of 4.82% to 4.86%; (iii) expected volatility of 50% to 79%; and (iv) no expected dividend yield. The assumptions used in our Black-Scholes option pricing model for Series E, C, B, B-2 and A warrants at December 31, 2006 were: (i) remaining contractual terms of 1.3 to 9.1 years; (ii) risk-free interest rates of 4.70% to 5%; (iii) expected volatility of 47% to 76%; and (iv) no expected dividend yield. In each case, the fair value of the underlying preferred stock was assessed primarily by a valuation prepared by management using the practice aid.

Upon the closing of our initial public offering in November 2007, outstanding warrants to purchase our preferred stock became warrants to purchase shares of our common stock and certain of these warrants to purchase our preferred stock were net exercised. As a result, upon the conversion of the preferred stock warrants to common stock warrants, the warrants were no longer subject to FSP 150-5. The then-current aggregate fair value of these warrants was reclassified from liabilities to additional paid-in-capital, a component of stockholders' equity, and we will cease to record any related periodic fair value adjustments.

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Redeemable convertible preferred stock. Prior to our initial public offering, we issued various classes of preferred stock. The holders of Series A, B, B-2, C, C-2, D, D-2 and E preferred stock had the option to sell their shares back to us at the greater of the original purchase price plus accrued and unpaid dividends or the current fair market value of the shares plus accrued and unpaid dividends. As a result, the carrying value of the preferred stock was increased by an accretion amount each period so that the carrying amounts will equal the greater of fair value plus accrued and unpaid dividends or original purchase price plus accrued and unpaid dividends. The accreted amounts are recorded to accumulated deficit. The option to sell and the related accretion of the preferred shares terminated upon the closing of our initial public offering.

The fair value of our preferred stock was determined based upon the sales price of our preferred stock to third-party investors, and in 2006 and 2007, when transactions in our preferred stock were not available, based upon valuations prepared by management using the methodology set forth in the practice aid. This methodology considered the probability and fair value of the sale of stock in an initial public offering. The valuation methodologies we used to estimate the fair value of our preferred stock have been applied consistently for all periods presented and the assumptions used were based on the best available information at that time. Accordingly, we do not believe that adjustments to amounts recorded in respect of our redeemable convertible preferred stock will be required.

RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS 157, *Fair Value Measurements* (SFAS 157), which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. SFAS 157 was effective at the beginning of fiscal year 2008. In February 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position FAS 157-2, *Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 157*, which delays the effective date of SFAS 157 for nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities, except for items that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a recurring basis (at least annually), to fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008. We do not expect that the adoption of the provisions deferred by FSP FAS 157-2 will have a material impact on our financial position or results of operations. The adoption of FSP FAS 157-3 did not have a material impact on our financial position or results of operations.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities* (SFAS 159). SFAS 159 permits entities to measure at fair value many financial instruments and certain other items on an instrument-by-instrument basis that are not currently required to be measured at fair value. SFAS 159 is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The adoption of SFAS 159 did not have a material impact on our financial position or results of operations.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements* an amendment of Accounting Research Bulletin No. 51 (SFAS No. 160). SFAS No. 160 establishes accounting and reporting standards for ownership interests in subsidiaries held by parties other than the parent, the amount of consolidated net income attributable to the parent and to the noncontrolling interest, changes in a parent's ownership interest, and the valuation of retained noncontrolling equity investments when a subsidiary is deconsolidated. SFAS No. 160 also establishes disclosure requirements that clearly identify and distinguish between the interests of the parent and the interests of the noncontrolling owners. SFAS No. 160 is effective for us beginning January 1, 2009. SFAS 160 is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's financial statements.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141(R), *Business Combinations*. This Statement replaces FASB Statement No. 141, *Business Combinations*. SFAS No. 141(R) establishes principles and requirements for how an acquiring company: recognizes and measures in its financial statements the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, and any non-controlling interest in the acquiree; recognizes and measures the goodwill acquired in the business combination or a gain from a bargain purchase; and determines what

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information to disclose to enable users of the financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination. SFAS No. 141(R) further changes the accounting treatment for certain specific items, including: acquisition costs will be generally expensed as incurred; acquired contingent liabilities will be recorded at fair value at the acquisition date and subsequently measured at either the higher of such amount or the amount determined under existing guidance for non-acquired contingencies; in-process research and development will be recorded at fair value as an indefinite-lived intangible asset at the acquisition date; restructuring costs associated with a business combination will be generally expensed subsequent to the acquisition date; and changes in deferred tax asset valuation allowances and income tax uncertainties after the acquisition date generally will affect income tax expense. SFAS No. 141(R) applies prospectively to any business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after January 1, 2009.

On January 1, 2008, the Company adopted EITF 07-3, Accounting for Nonrefundable Advance Payments for Goods or Services Received for Use in Future Research and Development Activities (EITF 07-3). EITF 07-3 requires that nonrefundable advance payments for goods or services that will be used or rendered for future research and development activities be deferred and capitalized and recognized as an expense as the goods are delivered or the related services are performed. The adoption of EITF 07-03 did not have a material impact on the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

In March 2008, the FASB issued Statement No. 161, Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133 (SFAS 161). SFAS 161 requires disclosures related to objectives and strategies for using derivatives; the fair-value amounts of, and gain and losses on, derivative instruments; and credit risk-related contingent features in derivative agreements. SFAS 161 is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008. SFAS 161 is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's financial statements.

In May 2008, the FASB issued Statement No. 162, The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (SFAS 162). SFAS 162 identifies the sources of accounting principles and the framework for selecting the principles to be used in the preparation of financial statements of non-governmental entities that are presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. SFAS 162 is effective 60 days following the SEC's approval of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board amendments to AU Section 411, The Meaning of Present Fairly in Conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. SFAS 162 is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's financial statements.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Our financial statements, together with the related notes and the report of independent registered public accounting firm, are set forth on the pages indicated in Item 15 in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Management's Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures.

An evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer (together, our certifying officers), of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) as of the end of the year covered by this report. Disclosure controls and procedures are controls and other procedures designed to ensure that information

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required to be disclosed by us in our periodic reports filed with the SEC is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified by the SEC's rules and instructions for Form 10-K, and that the information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including the chief executive officer and chief financial officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Based on their evaluation, our certifying officers concluded that these disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this report.

Refer to management's annual report on internal control over financial reporting and the report of our independent registered public accounting firm on pages F-2 and F-3.

Changes in Internal Controls over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes in our internal controls over financial reporting that occurred during the quarter ended December 31, 2008 that our certifying officers concluded materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal controls over financial reporting.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

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PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Information concerning our directors and executive officers is incorporated by reference to our proxy statement for the 2009 annual meeting of stockholders, provided, that if such proxy statement is not filed with the SEC within 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Form 10-K, an amendment to this Form 10-K shall be filed no later than the end of such 120-day period.

Information concerning compliance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is incorporated by reference to our proxy statement for the 2009 annual meeting of stockholders, provided, that if such proxy statement is not filed with the SEC within 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Form 10-K, an amendment to this Form 10-K shall be filed no later than the end of such 120-day period.

We have adopted a Code of Ethics that applies to all of our employees, officers and directors. A copy of the Code of Ethics is available on our website at www.rubicon-es2.com, and any waiver from the Code of Ethics will be timely disclosed on the Company's website as will any amendments to the Code of Ethics.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Information concerning the compensation of our directors and executive officers is incorporated by reference to our proxy statement for the 2009 annual meeting of stockholders, provided, that if such proxy statement is not filed with the SEC within 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Form 10-K, an amendment to this Form 10-K shall be filed no later than the end of such 120-day period.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

Information concerning the ownership of our equity securities by certain beneficial owners and by management is incorporated by reference to our proxy statement for the 2009 annual meeting of stockholders, provided, that if such proxy statement is not filed with the SEC within 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Form 10-K, an amendment to this Form 10-K shall be filed no later than the end of such 120-day period.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

Information concerning certain relationships and related transactions is incorporated by reference to our proxy statement for the 2009 annual meeting of stockholders, provided, that if such proxy statement is not filed with the SEC within 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Form 10-K, an amendment to this Form 10-K shall be filed no later than the end of such 120-day period.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

Information concerning principal accounting fees and services is incorporated by reference to our proxy statement for the 2009 annual meeting of stockholders, provided, that if such proxy statement is not filed with the SEC within 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Form 10-K, an amendment to this Form 10-K shall be filed no later than the end of such 120-day period.

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PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) Financial statements. The following financial statements are filed as part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

	Page
<u>Management's Assessment of Internal Control over Financial Reporting</u>	F-2
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm on Internal Control over Financial Reporting</u>	F-3
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	F-4
<u>Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2008 and 2007</u>	F-5
<u>Statements of operations for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008</u>	F-6
<u>Statements of redeemable equity and stockholders' equity (deficit) for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008</u>	F-7
<u>Statements of cash flows for each of the three years ended December 31, 2008</u>	F-8
<u>Notes to financial statements</u>	F-9

(b) Exhibits. The exhibits filed or incorporated by reference as a part of this report are listed in the Index to Exhibits which appears following the signature page to this Annual Report on Form 10-K and are incorporated by reference.

(c) Financial statement schedules not listed above have been omitted because they are inapplicable, are not required under applicable provisions of Regulation S-X, or the information that would otherwise be included in such schedules is contained in the registrant's financial statements or accompanying notes.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) 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 on March 13, 2009.

Rubicon Technology, Inc.

By /s/ Raja M. Parvez
Raja M. Parvez

President and Chief Executive Officer

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Raja M. Parvez and William F. Weissman, jointly and severally, his or her attorney-in-fact, with the power of substitution, for him or her in any and all capacities, to sign any amendments to this Annual Report on Form 10-K and to file the same, with exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, hereby ratifying and confirming all that each of said attorneys-in-fact, or his or her substitute or substitutes, may do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities indicated on March 13, 2009.

Signature	Title
/s/ Raja M. Parvez Raja M. Parvez	Director, President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)
/s/ William F. Weissman William F. Weissman	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)
/s/ Don N. Aquilano Don N. Aquilano	Chairman of the Board of Directors
/s/ Donald R. Caldwell Donald R. Caldwell	Director
/s/ Gordon Hunter Gordon Hunter	Director
/s/ Michael E. Mikolajczyk Michael E. Mikolajczyk	Director
/s/ Raymond J. Spencer Raymond J. Spencer	Director

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EXHIBIT INDEX

The Exhibits listed below are filed or incorporated by reference as part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Exhibit No.	Description	Incorporation by Reference
3.1	Eighth Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Rubicon Technology, Inc.	Filed as Exhibit 3.1 to Amendment No. 2, filed on November 1, 2007, to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-145880)
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Rubicon Technology, Inc.	Filed as Exhibit 3.2 to Amendment No. 2, filed on November 1, 2007, to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-145880)
4.1	Specimen Common Stock Certificate	Filed as Exhibit 4.1 to Amendment No. 3, filed on November 13, 2007, to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-145880)
4.2	Fourth Amended and Restated Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of November 30, 2005	Filed as Exhibit 4.2 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
4.3	Third Amended and Restated Stockholders' Agreement, dated as of June 28, 2005, by and among Rubicon Technology, Inc. and the stockholders named therein	Filed as Exhibit 4.3 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
4.4	Series E Stockholders' Agreement, dated as of November 30, 2005, by and among Rubicon Technology, Inc. and the stockholders named therein	Filed as Exhibit 4.4 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
4.5	Form of Warrant to Purchase Shares of Series A preferred stock	Filed as Exhibit 4.5 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
4.6	Form of Investor Warrant to Purchase Shares of Series B preferred stock	Filed as Exhibit 4.6 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
4.7	Warrant to Purchase Shares of Series B preferred stock between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Silicon Valley Bank, dated July 10, 2002	Filed as Exhibit 4.7 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
4.8	Warrant to Purchase Shares of Series B preferred stock between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and GATX Ventures,	Filed as Exhibit 4.8 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1,

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Inc., dated July 10, 2002 (1)

filed on October 11, 2007

(File No. 333-145880)

4.9

Warrant to Purchase Shares of Series B preferred stock
between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and GATX Ventures,
Inc., dated July 10, 2002 (2)

Filed as Exhibit 4.9 to the registrant's
Registration Statement on Form S-1,
filed on October 11, 2007

(File No. 333-145880)

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Exhibit No.	Description	Incorporation by Reference
4.10	Warrant to Purchase Shares of Series B preferred stock between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Atel Ventures, Inc., dated July 28, 2003	Filed as Exhibit 4.10 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
4.11	Warrant to Purchase Shares of Series B preferred stock between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Heller Financial Leasing, Inc., dated October 24, 2003	Filed as Exhibit 4.11 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
4.12	Warrant to Purchase Shares of Series B preferred stock between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Lighthouse Capital Partners IV, L.P., dated October 24, 2003	Filed as Exhibit 4.12 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
4.13	Warrant to Purchase Shares of Series C preferred stock between Rubicon Technology Inc. and Heller Financial Leasing Inc., dated March 31, 2005	Filed as Exhibit 4.13 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
4.14	Form of Investor Warrant to Purchase Shares of Series E preferred stock	Filed as Exhibit 4.14 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
4.15	Warrant to Purchase Shares of Series E preferred stock between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Lighthouse Capital Partners IV, L.P., dated December 20, 2005	Filed as Exhibit 4.15 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
4.16	Warrant to Purchase Shares of Series E preferred stock between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Heller Financial Leasing, Inc., dated December 20, 2005	Filed as Exhibit 4.16 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
4.17	Warrant to Purchase Shares of Series E preferred stock between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc., dated April 9, 2007	Filed as Exhibit 4.17 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.1*	Rubicon Technology, Inc. 2001 Equity Plan, dated as of August 2, 2001	Filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.1(a)*	Amendment No. 1 to the Rubicon Technology, Inc. 2001 Equity Plan, dated as of November 6, 2001	Filed as Exhibit 10.1(a) to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)

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10.1(b)*	Amendment No. 2 to the Rubicon Technology, Inc. 2001 Equity Plan, dated as of May 21, 2002	Filed as Exhibit 10.1(b) to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.1(c)*	Amendment No. 3 to the Rubicon Technology, Inc. 2001 Equity Plan, dated as of May 28, 2004	Filed as Exhibit 10.1(c) to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)

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Exhibit No.	Description	Incorporation by Reference
10.1(d)*	Amendment No. 4 to the Rubicon Technology, Inc. 2001 Equity Plan, dated as of December 6, 2004	Filed as Exhibit 10.1(d) to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.1(e)*	Amendment No. 5 to the Rubicon Technology, Inc. 2001 Equity Plan, dated as of June 28, 2005	Filed as Exhibit 10.1(e) to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.1(f)*	Amendment No. 6 to the Rubicon Technology, Inc. 2001 Equity Plan, dated as of November 30, 2005	Filed as Exhibit 10.1(f) to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.1(g)*	Amendment No. 7 to the Rubicon Technology, Inc. 2001 Equity Plan, dated as of July 26, 2006	Filed as Exhibit 10.1(g) to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.1(h)*	Rubicon Technology, Inc. 2001 Equity Plan Form of Notice of Stock Option Grant and Stock Option Agreement	Filed as Exhibit 10.1(h) to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.2*	Rubicon Technology, Inc. 2007 Stock Incentive Plan dated as of August 29, 2007	Filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.3*	Rubicon Technology, Inc. Management Incentive Bonus Plan, dated as of February 28, 2007	Filed as Exhibit 10.4 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.4*	Amendment No. 1 to Rubicon Technology, Inc. Management Incentive Bonus Plan, dated as of August 29, 2007	Filed as Exhibit 10.4(a) to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.5*	Executive Employment Agreement, dated as of November 17, 2005, by and between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Raja M. Parvez	Filed as Exhibit 10.5 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.5(a)*	Amendment, dated as of July 25, 2007, to Executive Employment Agreement by and between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Raja M. Parvez	Filed as Exhibit 10.5(a) to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1,

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		filed on October 11, 2007
		(File No. 333-145880)
10.6*	Employment Agreement, dated as of March 29, 2004, by and between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Hap Hewes	Filed as Exhibit 10.6 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007
		(File No. 333-145880)
10.7*	Severance Agreement, dated as of September 8, 2005, by and between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Hap R. Hewes	Filed as Exhibit 10.7 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007
		(File No. 333-145880)

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Exhibit No.	Description	Incorporation by Reference
10.8*	Executive Employment Agreement, dated as of July 30, 2007, by and between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and William F. Weissman	Filed as Exhibit 10.8 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.9	Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of April 9, 2007, by and between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc.	Filed as Exhibit 10.9 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.10	Form of Post-IPO Change of Control Severance Agreement	Filed as Exhibit 10.10 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.11	Form of Indemnification Agreement	Filed as Exhibit 10.11 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.12	Commercial Lease, dated as of December 23, 2004, by and between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Bartmanns, Perales & Dolter, LLC	Filed as Exhibit 10.12 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.12(a)	Amendment to Commercial Lease, dated as of May 6, 2005, by and between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Bartmanns, Perales & Dolter, LLC	Filed as Exhibit 10.12(a) to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.13	Industrial Space Lease, dated as of July 29, 2005, by and among Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Radion Mogilevsky and Nanette Mogilevsky	Filed as Exhibit 10.13 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.14	Industrial Building Lease, dated as of July 18, 2007, by and between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Phillip J. Latoria, Jr.	Filed as Exhibit 10.14 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on October 11, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)
10.15	Non-Competition Agreement, dated as of April 6, 2005, by and between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Hap Hewes	Filed as Exhibit 10.15 to Amendment No. 1, filed on October 11, 2007, to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-145880)
10.16	2007 Material Purchase Meeting Record, dated as of November 7, 2006, by and between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Shinkosha Co. Ltd.	Filed as Exhibit 10.16 to Amendment No. 1, filed on October 11, 2007, to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-145880)
10.17	2007 Supply Agreement, dated as of January 5, 2007, by and between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Crystalwise Technology, Inc.	Filed as Exhibit 10.17 to Amendment No. 1, filed on October 11, 2007, to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-145880)
10.18	2008 Sapphire Material Supply Agreement, dated as of May 19, 2007, by and between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Crystalwise Technology, Inc.	Filed as Exhibit 10.18 to Amendment No. 1, filed on October 11, 2007, to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-145880)

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Exhibit No.	Description	Incorporation by Reference
10.19	Supply Agreement, dated as of March 26, 2007, by and between Rubicon Technology, Inc. and Peregrine Semiconductor Corp.	Filed as Exhibit 10.19 to Amendment No. 2, filed on November 1, 2007, to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-145880)
10.20	First Amendment of 2008 Supply Agreement, by and between Crystalwise Technology, Inc. and Rubicon Technology, Inc., effective as of July 7, 2008.	Filed as Exhibit 10.17(a), filed on August 13, 2008, to the registrant's quarterly report on Form 10-Q
10.21+	First Amendment to the 6 Supply Agreement, by and between Peregrine Semiconductor Corp. and Rubicon Technology, Inc., effective as of August 22, 2008.	Filed as Exhibit 10.1, filed on November 13, 2008, to the registrant's quarterly report on Form 10-Q
10.22**	Second Amendment to Supply Agreement, by and between Peregrine Semiconductor Corp. and Rubicon Technology, Inc., effective as of November 25, 2008.	
23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	
24.1	Power of Attorney (incorporated by reference to the signature page of this Annual Report on Form 10-K)	
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2003	
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2003	
32.1	Certifications 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 2003	

* Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement of the Company.

Confidential treatment has been requested and granted for certain provisions of this Exhibit pursuant to Rule 406 promulgated under the Securities Act.

+ Confidential treatment has been requested and granted for certain provisions of this Exhibit pursuant to Rule 24b-2 promulgated under the Exchange Act.

** Confidential treatment has been requested for certain provisions of this Exhibit pursuant to Rule 24b-2 promulgated under the Exchange Act.

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Rubicon Technology, Inc.

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MANAGEMENT'S ASSESSMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

The financial statements were prepared by management, which is responsible for their integrity and objectivity and for establishing and maintaining adequate internal controls over financial reporting.

The Company's internal control over financial reporting is designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The Company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that:

- i. pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and disposition of the assets of the Company;
- ii. provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the Company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the Company; and
- iii. provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

There are inherent limitations in the effectiveness of any internal control, including the possibility of human error and the circumvention or overriding of controls. Accordingly, even effective internal controls can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to the financial statement preparation. Further, because of changes in conditions, the effectiveness of internal controls may vary over time.

Management assessed the design and effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008. In making this assessment, management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework*.

Based on management's assessment using those criteria, as of December 31, 2008, management believes that the Company's internal controls over financial reporting are effective.

Grant Thornton LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, has audited the financial statements of the Company for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 and the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008. Their reports are presented on the following pages.

Rubicon Technology, Inc.

March 13, 2009

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Board of Directors and Stockholders

Rubicon Technology, Inc.

We have audited Rubicon Technology, Inc.'s (a Delaware Corporation) (the Company) internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Assessment of Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that the receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by COSO.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the financial statements of the Company as of and for the year ended December 31, 2008 and our report dated March 13, 2009 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

Madison, Wisconsin

March 13, 2009

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Board of Directors and Stockholders

Rubicon Technology, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of Rubicon Technology, Inc. (a Delaware Corporation) (the Company) as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related statements of operations, redeemable equity and stockholders' equity (deficit), and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on criteria established in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) and our report dated March 13, 2009 expressed an unqualified opinion.

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

Madison, Wisconsin

March 13, 2009

Table of Contents**Rubicon Technology, Inc.****Balance sheets**

	As of December 31,	
	2008	2007
	(in thousands, other than share data)	
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,629	\$ 4,380
Restricted cash	5	10
Short-term investments	37,328	67,765
Accounts receivable, net	2,542	4,673
Inventories, net	7,882	2,522
Spare parts	3,569	1,203
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	1,357	1,355
Total current assets	60,312	81,908
Investments	12,696	3,200
Property and equipment, net	39,337	26,303
Total assets	\$ 112,345	\$ 111,411
Liabilities and stockholders' equity		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,440	\$ 2,572
Capital lease obligations		43
Accrued payroll	677	1,314
Deferred revenue		583
Corporate income and franchise taxes	255	385
Accrued and other current liabilities	580	832
Total current liabilities	3,952	5,729
Commitments and contingencies (Note 11)		
Stockholders' equity		
Preferred stock, \$0.001 par value, 5,000,000 undesignated shares authorized, no shares issued or outstanding		
Common stock, \$0.001 par value, 85,000,000 shares authorized and 21,279,692 and 20,488,608 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2008 and 2007	21	24
Additional paid-in capital	260,581	259,243
Treasury stock, at cost, 730,733 shares at December 31, 2008	(3,084)	
Accumulated other comprehensive income	129	24
Accumulated deficit	(149,254)	(153,609)
Total stockholders' equity	108,393	105,682
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 112,345	\$ 111,411

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Table of Contents**Rubicon Technology, Inc.****Statements of operations**

	Year ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
	(in thousands, other than share and per share data)		
Revenue	\$ 37,838	\$ 34,110	\$ 20,752
Cost of goods sold	25,746	22,045	18,885
Gross profit	12,092	12,065	1,867
Operating expenses:			
General and administrative	6,691	6,157	3,298
Sales and marketing	968	675	1,062
Research and development	862	769	679
Asset impairment			933
Loss on disposal of assets	1,215	139	42
Income (loss) from operations	2,356	4,325	(4,147)
Other income (expense):			
Change in carrying value of convertible preferred stock warrants		(6,019)	(1,962)
Interest income	2,060	373	5
Interest expense	(2)	(1,458)	(1,315)
Realized loss on investments	(55)		
Total other income (expense)	2,003	(7,104)	(3,272)
Income (loss) before income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	4,359	(2,779)	(7,419)
Income taxes	(4)	(75)	
Income (loss) before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	4,355	(2,854)	(7,419)
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle			(221)
Net income (loss)	4,355	(2,854)	(7,640)
Dividends on preferred stock		(5,625)	(5,563)
Accretion of redeemable preferred stock		(59,934)	(23,416)
Net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders	\$ 4,355	\$ (68,413)	\$ (36,619)
Net income (loss) per common share attributable to common stockholders			
Basic	\$ 0.21	\$ (27.22)	\$ (146.57)
Diluted	\$ 0.19	\$ (27.22)	\$ (146.57)
Weighted average common shares outstanding used in computing net loss per share attributable to common stockholders			
Basic	20,892,040	2,513,487	249,843
Diluted	21,920,861	2,513,487	249,843

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Table of Contents**Rubicon Technology, Inc.****Statements of redeemable equity and stockholders equity (deficit)**

	Redeemable equity		Common stock		Treasury Stock		Stockholders equity (deficit)		Total stockholders equity (deficit)	
	Redeemable convertible preferred stock (Notes 7 & 8)		Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount	Additional paid-in capital	Accum Other Comp Inc.		Accum deficit
	Shares	Amount								
	(in thousands other than share data)									
Balance at December 31, 2005	76,351,521	59,365	249,298	3		17,334		(56,910)	(39,573)	
Sale of Series E preferred stock	19,918,625	5,553								
Exercise of stock options			2,885			14			14	
Reclassification of warrants to liability						(1,477)			(1,477)	
Stock-based compensation						62			62	
Dividends on preferred stock		5,563				(5,563)			(5,563)	
Accretion of preferred stock to redemption value		23,416				(10,370)		(13,046)	(23,416)	
Net loss								(7,640)	(7,640)	
Balance at December 31, 2006	96,270,146	93,897	252,183	3				(77,596)	(77,593)	
Exercise of stock options			12,455			21			21	
Reclassification of convertible preferred stock warrants from liability to equity						10,388			10,388	
Repurchase of fractional shares			(17)							
Net exercise of stock warrants			53,903							
Conversion of redeemable preferred stock to common stock	(96,270,146)	(139,045)	9,996,009	10		139,035			139,045	
Conversion of accumulated preferred stock dividends to common stock		(20,411)	3,654,791	4		20,407			20,411	
Beneficial conversion of dividends						30,491		(30,491)		
Dividends on preferred stock		5,625				(5,625)			(5,625)	
Restricted stock grant			14,284							
Stock-based compensation						754			754	
Accretion of preferred stock to redemption value		59,934				(17,266)		(42,668)	(59,934)	
Net proceeds from initial public offering			6,505,000	7		81,038			81,045	
Unrealized gain on investments							24		24	
Net loss								(2,854)	(2,854)	

Comprehensive income