

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC

Form 10-Q

April 29, 2010

[Table of Contents](#)

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2010

OR

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

Commission file number: 000-51026

Monolithic Power Systems, Inc.

(EXACT NAME OF REGISTRANT AS SPECIFIED IN ITS CHARTER)

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-Q

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of

77-0466789
(I.R.S. Employer

incorporation or organization)

Identification Number)

6409 Guadalupe Mines Road, San Jose, CA 95120 (408) 826-0600

(ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES, INCLUDING ZIP CODE AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)

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

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

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

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 ☒

There were 36,012,255 shares of the registrant's common stock issued and outstanding as of April 20, 2010.

Table of Contents

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
<u>PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	3
ITEM 1. <u>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	3
<u>CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS</u>	3
<u>CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS</u>	4
<u>CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS</u>	5
<u>NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	6
ITEM 2. <u>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS</u>	17
ITEM 3. <u>QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK</u>	26
ITEM 4. <u>CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES</u>	26
<u>PART II. OTHER INFORMATION</u>	26
ITEM 1. <u>LEGAL PROCEEDINGS</u>	26
ITEM 1A. <u>RISK FACTORS</u>	27
ITEM 6. <u>EXHIBITS</u>	37

Table of Contents**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION****ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****(in thousands, except par value and share amounts)****(Unaudited)**

	March 31, 2010	December 31, 2009
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 48,865	\$ 46,717
Short-term investments	126,724	118,914
Accounts receivable, net of allowances of \$0 in both 2010 and 2009	24,541	15,521
Inventories	14,550	19,616
Deferred income tax assets, net - current	5	5
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	2,491	2,726
Total current assets	217,176	203,499
Property and equipment, net	21,696	17,968
Long-term investments	19,555	19,445
Deferred income tax assets, net - long-term	175	175
Other assets	713	734
Total assets	\$ 259,315	\$ 241,821
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 11,681	\$ 7,787
Accrued compensation and related benefits	6,481	8,454
Accrued liabilities	7,293	7,681
Total current liabilities	25,455	23,922
Non-current income tax liability	4,915	4,915
Other long-term liabilities	58	27
Total liabilities	30,428	28,864
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, \$0.001 par value, \$36 and \$35 in 2010 and 2009, respectively; shares authorized: 150,000,000; shares issued and outstanding: 35,755,150 and 35,165,316 in 2010 and 2009, respectively	184,860	175,518
Retained earnings	43,440	37,085
Accumulated other comprehensive income	587	354

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-Q

Total stockholders' equity	228,887	212,957
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 259,315	\$ 241,821

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS****(in thousands, except per share amounts)****(Unaudited)**

	Three months ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Revenue	\$ 50,250	\$ 29,322
Cost of revenue	20,954	12,431
Gross profit	29,296	16,891
Operating expenses:		
Research and development	11,040	8,117
Selling, general and administrative	10,393	7,808
Litigation expense	1,567	2,046
Total operating expenses	23,000	17,971
Income (loss) from operations	6,296	(1,080)
Other income (expense):		
Interest and other income	347	385
Interest and other expense		(94)
Total other income, net	347	291
Income (loss) before income taxes	6,643	(789)
Income tax provision (benefit)	287	(61)
Net income (loss)	\$ 6,356	\$ (728)
Basic net income (loss) per share	\$ 0.18	\$ (0.02)
Diluted net income (loss) per share	\$ 0.17	\$ (0.02)
Weighted average common shares outstanding	35,421	33,696
Stock options	2,362	
Diluted weighted-average common equivalent shares outstanding	37,783	33,696

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(in thousands)****(Unaudited)**

	Three months ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income (loss)	\$ 6,356	\$ (728)
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	1,723	1,537
Amortization and realized gain (loss) on debt instruments	127	30
Tax benefit from stock option transactions	567	231
Excess tax benefit from stock option transactions	(215)	(9)
Stock-based compensation	4,024	3,413
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(9,019)	(4,252)
Inventories	5,066	326
Prepaid expenses and other assets	238	(165)
Accounts payable	2,032	3,198
Accrued and long-term liabilities	(357)	1,038
Accrued income taxes payable and noncurrent tax liabilities	(353)	(201)
Accrued compensation and related benefits	(1,956)	(3,998)
Net cash provided by operating activities	8,233	420
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Property and equipment purchases	(3,570)	(859)
Purchase of short-term investments	(46,037)	(28,015)
Proceeds from sale of short-term investments	38,148	11,834
Proceeds from sale of long-term investments	75	
Net cash used in investing activities	(11,384)	(17,030)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from issuance of common stock	4,047	587
Proceeds from employee stock purchase plan	1,054	930
Excess tax benefits from stock option transactions	215	9
Net cash provided by financing activities	5,316	1,526
Effect of change in exchange rates	(17)	(88)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	2,148	(15,172)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	46,717	83,266
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 48,865	\$ 68,094

Supplemental disclosures for cash flow information:

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-Q

Cash paid for taxes	\$ 159	\$ 45
Supplemental disclosures of non-cash investing and financing activities:		
Liability accrued for equipment purchases	\$ 2,526	\$ 492
Temporary impairment of auction-rate securities	\$ (185)	\$ 35

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(Unaudited)**

1. Basis of Presentation The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared by Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. (the Company or MPS) in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). Certain information and disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States have been condensed or omitted in accordance with these rules and regulations. The information in this report should be read in conjunction with the Company's audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in its Form 10-K filed with the SEC on February 12, 2010.

In the opinion of management, the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) necessary to present fairly the Company's financial position, results of operations and cash flows for the interim periods presented. The financial statements contained in this Form 10-Q are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2010 or for any other future period.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In October 2009, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2009-13, *Multiple-Deliverable Revenue Arrangements* (ASU 2009-13). The new standard changes the requirements for establishing separate units of accounting in a multiple element arrangement and requires the allocation of arrangement consideration to each deliverable to be based on the relative selling price. ASU 2009-13 is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after June 15, 2010. The Company is currently evaluating ASU 2009-13 and the impact, if any, that it may have on its results of operations or financial position.

In January 2010, the FASB issued ASU No. 2010-06, *Disclosures About Fair Value Measurements*, which amends ASC No. 820, *Fair Value Measurements* to add new requirements for disclosures about transfers into and out of Levels 1 and 2 and separate disclosures about purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements relating to Level 3 measurements. The ASU also clarifies existing fair value disclosures about the level of disaggregation and about inputs and valuation techniques used to measure fair value. This ASU is effective for the first reporting period (including interim periods) beginning after December 15, 2009. The Company has adopted this standard effective January 1, 2010 and has and will make the appropriate disclosures, as required.

2. Stock-Based Compensation The Company has two stock option plans and an employee stock purchase plan the 1998 Stock Option Plan, the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan and the 2004 Employee Stock Purchase Plan. The Company recognized stock-based compensation expenses for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, as follows (in thousands):

	Three months ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Non-Employee	\$ 1	\$ 14
ESPP	227	137
Restricted Stock	1,610	739
Stock Options	2,186	2,523
TOTAL	\$ 4,024	\$ 3,413

Stock Options***1998 Stock Option Plan***

Under the Company's 1998 Stock Option Plan (the 1998 Plan), the Company reserved 11,807,024 shares of common stock for issuance to the Company's employees, directors and consultants. Options granted under the 1998 Plan have a maximum term of ten years and generally vest over four years at the rate of 25 percent one year from the date of grant and 1/48th monthly thereafter. On November 19, 2004, the effective date

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-Q

of the Company's initial public offering, the 1998 Plan was terminated for future grants and the remaining 1,392,750 shares available for grant were moved to the Company's 2004 Equity Incentive Plan (the 2004 Plan). In addition, throughout the year, shares underlying options from the 1998 Plan that are cancelled (for example, upon termination of service) are transferred to the 2004 Plan based on the number of cancellations that occur throughout the year.

Table of Contents**MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(Continued) (Unaudited)***2004 Equity Incentive Plan*

The Company's Board of Directors adopted the Company's 2004 Equity Incentive Plan in March 2004, and the Company's stockholders approved it in November 2004. Options granted under the 2004 Plan have a maximum term of ten years. New hire grants generally vest over four years at the rate of 25 percent one year from the date of grant and 1/48th monthly thereafter. Refresh grants generally vest over four years at the rate of 50 percent two years from the date of grant and 1/48th monthly thereafter. There were 800,000 shares initially reserved for issuance under the 2004 Plan. The 2004 Plan provides for annual increases in the number of shares available for issuance beginning on January 1, 2005 equal to the least of: 5% of the outstanding shares of common stock on the first day of the year, 2,400,000 shares, or a number of shares determined by the Board of Directors. The following is a summary of the 2004 Plan, which includes stock options and restricted stock awards and units:

Available for Grant as of December 31, 2009	2,023,943
2010 Additions to Plan	1,758,265
2010 Grants	(876,340)
2010 Cancellations	144,142
Available for Grant as of March 31, 2010	3,050,010

A summary of the status of the Company's stock option plans at March 31, 2010 and changes during the three months then ended is presented in the table below:

	Stock Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term (Years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Outstanding at December 31, 2009	7,410,914	\$ 13.48	5.04	\$ 77,918,848
Options granted (weighted-average fair value of \$9.24 per share)	207,000	\$ 20.40		
Options exercised	(482,023)	\$ 8.40		
Options forfeited and expired	(143,142)	\$ 17.97		
Outstanding at March 31, 2010	6,992,749	\$ 13.95	4.92	\$ 59,172,134
Options exercisable at March 31, 2010 and expected to become exercisable	6,574,336	\$ 13.75	4.90	\$ 56,885,311
Options vested and exercisable at March 31, 2010	4,191,802	\$ 11.78	4.57	\$ 44,424,952

Table of Contents**MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(Continued) (Unaudited)**

The total fair value of options that vested during the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009 was \$2.2 million and \$2.5 million, respectively. The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009 was \$6.3 million and \$0.7 million, respectively. Net cash proceeds from the exercise of stock options were \$4.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and \$0.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009. At March 31, 2010, unamortized compensation expense related to unvested options was approximately \$14.6 million. The weighted average period over which compensation expense related to these options will be recognized is approximately 2.3 years.

The employee stock-based compensation expense recognized under ASC 718-10-30 *Compensation - Stock Compensation - Overall - Initial Measurement*, was determined using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. Option pricing models require the input of subjective assumptions and these assumptions can vary over time. The Company used the following weighted-average assumptions to determine the fair values of stock option awards granted during the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009:

	Three months ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Expected term (years)	4.1	4.1
Expected volatility	56.3%	60.7%
Risk-free interest rate	1.9%	1.5%
Dividend yield		

In estimating the expected term, the Company considers its historical stock option exercise experience, post vesting cancellations and remaining contractual term of the options outstanding. In estimating the expected volatility, the Company uses its own historical data to determine its estimated expected volatility. The Company uses the U.S. Treasury yield for its risk-free interest rate and a dividend yield of zero as it does not issue dividends. The Company applies a forfeiture rate that is based on options that have been forfeited historically.

Restricted Stock

A portion of the Company's shares of common stock were issued under restricted stock purchase agreements. Under these agreements, in the event of a termination of an employee, the Company has the right to repurchase the common stock at the original issuance price of \$0.001 per share. The repurchase right expires over a 48 month period as the restricted stock award vests. A summary of the Company's restricted stock awards is presented in the table below:

	Restricted Stock Awards	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value Per Share	Weighted Average Remaining Recognition Period (Years)
Outstanding at December 31, 2009	6,550	\$ 16.62	0.14
Awards released	(6,250)	16.54	
Outstanding at March 31, 2010	300	\$ 18.27	0.08

Table of Contents**MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(Continued) (Unaudited)**

The Company also grants restricted stock units, which vest generally over four years as determined by the Company's Compensation Committee, and are issued upon vesting. Before vesting, these restricted stock units are not eligible for dividends, if and when declared. A summary of the restricted stock units is presented in the table below:

		Weighted Average Grant Date	
	Restricted Stock Units	Fair Value Per Share	Weighted Average Remaining Recognition Period (Years)
Outstanding at December 31, 2009	289,896	\$ 18.67	2.22
Awards granted	669,340	20.53	
Awards released	(50,571)	15.22	
Awards forfeited	(1,000)	21.25	
Outstanding at March 31, 2010	907,665	\$ 20.23	3.23

The total fair value of restricted stock awards and units that vested was \$1.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and \$0.7 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009, respectively. The intrinsic value related to restricted stock awards and units released for each of the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009 was \$1.2 million. The intrinsic value related to restricted stock awards and units outstanding at March 31, 2010 and 2009 was \$20.2 million and \$5.8 million, respectively. At March 31, 2010, the unamortized compensation expense related to unvested restricted stock awards and units was approximately \$13.9 million with a weighted average remaining recognition period of 3.2 years.

2004 Employee Stock Purchase Plan

Under the 2004 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the Purchase Plan), eligible employees may purchase common stock through payroll deductions. Participants may not purchase more than 2,000 shares in a six-month offering period or stock having a value greater than \$25,000 in any calendar year as measured at the beginning of the offering period in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code and applicable Treasury Regulations. A total of 200,000 shares of common stock were reserved for issuance under the Purchase Plan. The Purchase Plan provides for an automatic annual increase beginning on January 1, 2005 by an amount equal to the least of: 1,000,000 shares, 2% of the outstanding shares of common stock on the first day of the year, or a number of shares as determined by the Board of Directors. For the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, 57,240 shares and 83,426 shares, respectively, were issued under the Purchase Plan. The following is a summary of the Purchase Plan and changes during the three months ended March 31, 2010:

Available Shares as of December 31, 2009	2,553,012
2010 Additions to Plan	703,306
2010 Purchases	(57,240)
Available Shares as of March 31, 2010	3,199,078

Table of Contents

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Continued) (Unaudited)

The Purchase Plan is considered compensatory under ASC 718-50-25-2, *Compensation Stock Compensation Employee Share Purchase Plans Recognition*, and is accounted for in accordance with ASC 718-50-30-2 *Compensation Stock Compensation Employee Share Purchase Plans Initial Measurement Look-Back Plans*. The intrinsic value for stock purchased was \$0.2 million for each of the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009. The unamortized expense as of March 31, 2010 was \$0.3 million, which will be recognized over 0.4 years. The Black-Scholes option pricing model was used to value the employee stock purchase rights. For the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, the following weighted average assumptions were used in the valuation of the stock purchase rights:

	Three months ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Expected term (years)	0.5	0.5
Expected volatility	41.3%	88.7%
Risk-free interest rate	0.2%	0.5%
Dividend yield		

Cash proceeds from employee stock purchases for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009 was \$1.1 million and \$0.9 million, respectively.

3. Inventories Inventories consist of the following (in thousands):

	March 31, 2010	December 31, 2009
Work in progress	\$ 7,807	\$ 11,082
Finished goods	6,743	8,534
Total inventories	\$ 14,550	\$ 19,616

4. Accrued Liabilities Accrued liabilities consist of the following (in thousands):

	March 31, 2010	December 31, 2009
Deferred revenue and customer prepayments	\$ 1,976	\$ 2,109
Legal expenses and settlement costs	1,961	2,940
Stock rotation reserve	806	864
Warranty	389	294
Professional fees	71	24
Other	2,090	1,450
Total accrued liabilities	\$ 7,293	\$ 7,681

A summary of the warranty reserve at March 31, 2010 and changes during the three months then ended is presented in the table below (in thousands):

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-Q

	Three months ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 294	\$ 764
Reserve adjustments and unused warranty provision	(26)	(96)
Warranty provision for product sales	121	70
Balance at March 31, 2010	\$ 389	\$ 738

Table of Contents**MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(Continued) (Unaudited)**

5. Net Income (Loss) per Share and Comprehensive Income and Loss Basic and diluted net income (loss) per share excludes dilution and is computed by dividing net income (loss) by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted net income per share is calculated using the treasury stock method and reflects the potential dilution that would occur if outstanding securities or other contracts to issue common stock were exercised or converted into common stock. For the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, the Company had securities outstanding, which could potentially dilute basic net income per share in the future, but were excluded from the computation of diluted net income per share in the periods presented, as their effect would have been anti-dilutive. The following table shows the number of shares of common stock issuable upon conversion or exercise of such outstanding stock options:

	Three months ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Stock Options	1,506,316	9,380,801
Restricted Stock		232,142
ESPP		47,323
Total	1,506,316	9,660,266

The following table sets forth the components of other comprehensive income (loss), net of income tax effect (in thousands):

	Three months ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Net income (loss)	\$ 6,356	\$ (728)
Other comprehensive income (loss):		
Change in value of temporary impairment of auction-rate securities	185	(85)
Unrealized gain (loss) on available-for-sale securities	48	(72)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	1	(26)
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$ 6,590	\$ (911)

6. Segment Information

As defined by the requirements of ASC 280-10-50 *Segment Reporting - Overall Disclosure*, the Company operates in one reportable segment: the design, development, marketing and sale of high-performance, mixed-signal analog semiconductors for the communications, computing, consumer, and industrial and automotive markets. Geographic revenue is based on the location to which customer shipments are delivered. For the three months ended March 31, 2010, the Company derived substantially all of its revenue from sales to customers located outside North America. The following is a list of customers whose sales exceeded 10% of revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009.

Customers	Three months ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
A	14%	*
B	11%	13%
C	10%	15%

D

*

10%

(*) represents less than 10%

Table of Contents**MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(Continued) (Unaudited)**

The following is a summary of revenue by geographic region based on customer ship-to location (in thousands):

Country	Three months ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
China	\$ 22,565	\$ 10,469
Korea	8,511	7,279
Taiwan	5,515	3,230
Europe	5,460	4,346
Japan	2,880	1,841
USA	2,843	1,287
Other	2,476	870
Total	\$ 50,250	\$ 29,322

The following is a summary of revenue by product family (in thousands):

Product Family	Three months ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
DC to DC Converters	\$ 40,301	\$ 21,152
Lighting Control Products	7,434	4,686
Audio Amplifiers	2,515	3,484
Total	\$ 50,250	\$ 29,322

The following is a summary of long-lived assets by geographic region (in thousands):

	March 31, 2010	December 31, 2009
China	\$ 18,865	\$ 15,440
United States	2,762	2,484
Japan	86	75
Taiwan	77	75
Other	45	34
TOTAL	\$ 21,835	\$ 18,108

7. Litigation***O2Micro***

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-Q

The Company has been engaged in a number of legal proceedings involving patent infringement claims with O2Micro, Inc. and its parent corporation, O2Micro International Limited (referred to hereinafter as "O2Micro"). Currently there are two proceedings pending, both involving O2Micro's U.S. Patent No. 7,417,382 ("382 patent"). On April 20, 2010, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) overseeing the U.S. International Trade Commission issued an initial determination (ID) finding that none of MPS's products accused by O2Micro infringes the 382 patent. The ALJ's ID can be reviewed by the full Commission. The Commission's final determination is expected to be issued by August 20, 2010.

In addition to the matter before the ITC, a related case is pending before the Northern District of California Court in Oakland, California. On October 1, 2008, MPS brought an action in the Northern District Court seeking a declaratory judgment that none of its products infringed the 382 patent, among others and the patent is invalid. O2Micro brought a counterclaim alleging that MPS's products infringed the 382 patent, among others. O2Micro then withdrew its infringement claims as to the other patents except the 382 patent. The Northern District Court action is scheduled for trial on July 12, 2010. O2Micro seeks damages and an injunction in connection with that action. MPS is not able to reasonably estimate the probability of loss or the range of possible loss in this case.

Table of Contents**MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(Continued) (Unaudited)*****Linear Technology Corporation***

On July 1, 2008, the United States District Court for the District of Delaware held as a matter of law that the Company did not breach its October 1, 2005 Settlement and License Agreement with Linear Technology Corporation (Linear). Based upon that ruling, the Company anticipates filing a motion to seek recovery of its attorney fees when the final judgment is entered. The court has not issued its final judgment concerning the patent validity and enforceability issues.

8. Fair Value Measurements

The Company adopted the provisions of ASC 820-10 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* Overall, which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America, and requires that assets and liabilities carried at fair value be classified and disclosed in one of the three categories noted below. The Company also adopted the provisions of ASC 820-10-35-51 *Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure* Overall Subsequent Measurement Determining Fair Value When the Volume and Level of Activity for the Asset or Liability Have Significantly Decreased and Identifying Transactions That Are Not Orderly, effective April 1, 2009, which provides additional guidance for estimating fair value in accordance with ASC 820-10 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* Overall, when the volume and level of activity for the asset or liability have significantly decreased. Effective January 1, 2010, the Company adopted the provisions of ASU 2010-06, *Disclosures About Fair Value Measurements* , which adds new requirements for disclosures about transfers into and out of Levels 1 and 2 and separate disclosures about purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements relating to Level 3 measurements.

The following table details the fair value measurements as of March 31, 2010 within the fair value hierarchy of the financial assets that are required to be recorded at fair value (in thousands):

	Total	Fair Value Measurements at March 31, 2010 Using		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets	Significant Other Observable Inputs	Significant Unobservable Inputs
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Government Agencies/Treasuries	\$ 112,024	\$ 112,024	\$	\$
Long-term available-for-sale auction-rate securities	19,555			19,555
Short-term trading auction-rate securities	16,135			16,135
Put right	565			565
	\$ 148,279	\$ 112,024	\$	\$ 36,255

At March 31, 2010, the Company had \$112.0 million in US government agencies and treasuries, \$110.0 million of which are classified as short-term investments and \$2.0 million are classified as cash equivalents on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet. At March 31, 2010, there was \$22,000 in unrealized losses from these investments. The impact of gross unrealized gains and losses was not material.

At March 31, 2010, the Company had \$14.6 million invested in money market funds.

Table of Contents**MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(Continued) (Unaudited)**

The face value of the Company's holdings in auction rate securities is \$37.2 million, of which \$20.5 million is currently classified as long-term available-for-sale investments and \$16.7 million is classified as short-term trading investments. The securities that are classified as short-term trading securities have been classified as such because the Company intends to exercise its put option to sell these securities to UBS in June of 2010 (see below). These investments are accounted for in accordance with ASC 320-10, *Investments Debt and Equity Securities Overall*.

The Company adopted the provisions of ASC 320-10-35 *Investments Debt and Equity Securities Overall Subsequent Measurement* and ASC 320-10-50 *Investments Debt and Equity Securities Overall Disclosure*, effective April 1, 2009 and used the guidelines therein to determine whether the impairment on its available-for-sale securities is temporary or other-than-temporary. Temporary impairment charges are recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) within stockholders' equity and have no impact on net income. Other-than-temporary impairment exists when the entity has the intent to sell the security or it will more likely than not be required to sell the security before anticipated recovery or it does not expect to recover the entire amortized cost basis of the security. Other-than-temporary impairment charges are recorded in other income (expense) in the Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations.

The following table provides a reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances for the assets measured at fair value using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) (in thousands):

	Auction-Rate Securities	Put Right	Total
Ending balances at December 31, 2009	\$ 35,570	\$ 725	\$ 36,295
Sales and Settlement	(225)		(225)
Unrealized Gain	185		185
Gain (loss) from UBS auction rate securities and put right	160	(160)	
Ending balances at March 31, 2010	\$ 35,690	\$ 565	\$ 36,255

The Company's Level 3 assets consist of government-backed student loan auction-rate securities and the UBS put right described below. The market for auction-rate securities, with interest rates that reset through a Dutch auction every 7 to 35 days became illiquid in 2008. As of March 31, 2010, the Company's investment portfolio included \$35.7 million, net of impairment charges of \$1.5 million, in government-backed student loan auction-rate securities. The portfolio also included a UBS auction-rate put right, which was valued at \$0.6 million in accordance with the fair value measurement provisions of ASC 825-10-25 *Financial Instruments Overall Recognition*. During the three months ended March 31, 2010, auction rate securities with a face value of \$0.2 million were sold at par through successful auctions. However, the remaining auction rate securities in the portfolio with a face value of approximately \$37.2 million have failed to reset through successful auctions and it is unclear as to when these investments will regain their liquidity. The underlying maturity of these auction-rate securities is up to 38 years and the underlying credit quality of these instruments in which the Company has invested remain generally AAA rated, with \$11.9 million in auction rate securities having been downgraded by Moody's to Aa1-Baa3.

In October 2008, the Company accepted an offer to participate in an auction-rate security rights offering from UBS to sell up to \$18.2 million in face value of eligible auction-rate securities commencing in June 2010. Since then, \$1.5 million of these auction-rate securities were called at par, leaving \$16.7 million in eligible auction-rate securities remaining at UBS. The offer gives the Company the right but not the obligation to sell these securities at par to UBS and allows the Company to borrow up to \$16.7 million, if needed. In accepting the offer, the Company also entered into a release of claims in favor of UBS.

Table of Contents

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Continued) (Unaudited)

Since the Company accepted this put right from UBS in October 2008, the Company classified these as trading securities, and as such, intends to sell these auction-rate securities at par to UBS commencing in June 2010, for which the proceeds from the sale will be received in July 2010. The cumulative impairment related to these auction-rate securities was \$0.6 million and \$0.7 million at March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, respectively. The change in the impairment was recorded in accordance with the provisions of ASC 320-10-35 and ASC 320-10-50 in other income (expense) in the Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations.

Having accepted UBS' rights offering and elected the fair value option under ASC 820-10-35, the Company valued the resulting put right at fair value which was estimated to be equal to the par value of the auction-rate securities less their fair value as determined by management. The value of the put right was \$0.6 million and \$0.7 million, at March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, respectively. The change in the value of the put right has been recorded by the Company in other income (expense) in the Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations.

For the remaining auction-rate securities for which the put right (described above) does not apply, and which have a face value of \$20.5 million and \$20.5 million as of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, respectively, management concluded that as of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, the cumulative impairment of \$0.9 million and \$1.1 million, respectively, was temporary based on the following analysis:

The decline in the fair value of these securities is not largely attributable to adverse conditions specifically related to these securities or to specific conditions in an industry or in a geographic area;

Management possesses both the intent and ability to hold these securities for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in fair value;

Management believes that it is more likely than not that the Company will not have to sell these securities before recovery of its cost basis;

Except for the credit loss of \$70,000 recognized during the year ended December 31, 2009 for the Company's holdings in auction rate securities described below, the Company does not believe that there is any additional credit loss associated with other auction-rate securities because the Company expects to recover the entire amortized cost basis;

The majority of the securities remain AAA rated, with \$8.9 million of the auction rate securities having been downgraded by Moody's to A3-Baa3, during the year ended December 31, 2009 and there have been no downgrades in the three months ended March 31, 2010; and

All scheduled interest payments have been made pursuant to the reset terms and conditions. Based on the guidance of ASC 320-10-35 and ASC 320-10-50, the Company evaluated the potential credit loss of each of the auction-rate securities for which a put right was not provided. Based on such analysis, the Company determined that those securities that are not 100% FFELPS guaranteed are potentially subject to credit risks based on the extent to which the underlying debt is collateralized and the security-specific student-loan default rates. MPS' portfolio includes three such securities, one of which has a senior parity ratio of approximately 115%, which is substantially above the expected student-loan default rate for that security. Conversely, the senior parity ratio for the other two securities is approximately 105%. If, therefore, the student-loan default rate and borrowing rate for these issuers increases, the remaining balance

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-Q

in these trusts may not be sufficient to cover the senior debt. The Company therefore concluded that there is potential credit risk for these two securities and as such, used the discounted cash flow model to determine the amount of credit loss to be recorded. In valuing the potential credit loss, the following parameters were used: 20 year expected term, cash flows based on the 90-day t-bill rates for 20 year forwards and a risk premium of 5.9%, the amount of interest that the Company was receiving on these securities when the market was last active. As of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, the potential credit loss associated with these securities was \$70,000, which the Company deemed other-than-temporarily impaired and recorded in other expense in its Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations during 2009.

Unless another rights offering or other similar offers are made to redeem at par and accepted by the Company, the Company intends to hold the balance of these investments through successful auctions at par, which the Company believes could take approximately 2.0 years.

Table of Contents**MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(Continued) (Unaudited)**

The valuation of the auction-rate securities is subject to fluctuations in the future, which will depend on many factors, including the collateral quality, potential to be called or restructured, underlying final maturity, insurance guaranty, liquidity and market conditions, among others. To determine the fair value of the auction-rate securities at March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, the Company used a discounted cash flow model, for which there are three valuation parameters, including time-to-liquidity, discount rate and expected return. The following are the values used in the discounted cash flow model:

	December 31, 2009	March 31, 2010
Time-to-Liquidity	24months	24months
Expected Return (Based on the 2-year treasury rate, plus a contractual penalty rate)	2.4%	2.4%
Discount Rate (Based on the 2-year LIBOR, the cost of debt and a liquidity risk premium)	5.2% -10.0%, depending on the credit-rating of the security	4.6% -9.4%, depending on the credit-rating of the security

The gross accumulated impairment charge was \$1.5 million as of March 31, 2010, of which \$0.9 million was recorded as temporary and the remaining \$0.6 million was recorded as other-than-temporary. The gross accumulated impairment charge was \$1.8 million as of December 31, 2009, of which \$1.1 million was recorded as temporary and the remaining \$0.7 million was recorded as other-than-temporary.

If the auctions continue to fail, the liquidity of the Company's investment portfolio may be negatively impacted and the value of its investment portfolio could decline.

9. Income Taxes

The income tax provision for the three months ended March 31, 2010 was \$0.3 million or 4.3% of our income before income taxes. This differs from the federal statutory rate of 34% primarily because our foreign income is taxed at lower rates. The income tax provision for the three months ended March 31, 2009 was \$0.1 million or 7.7% of our income before income taxes. This differed from the federal statutory rate of 34% primarily because our foreign income was taxed at lower rates.

Table of Contents

ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

This quarterly report on Form 10-Q contains forward-looking statements that involve many risks and uncertainties. These statements relate to future events and our future performance and are based on current expectations, estimates, forecasts and projections about the industries in which we operate and the beliefs and assumptions of our management. These include statements concerning, among others:

the above-average industry growth of product and market areas that we have targeted,

our plan to introduce additional new products within our existing product families as well as in new product categories and families,

our belief that we will continue to incur significant legal expenses that vary with the level of activity in each of our legal proceedings,

the impact of our outstanding litigation and changing market conditions on the revenue we derive from our CCFL product line,

the effect of auction-rate securities on our liquidity and capital resources,

the application of our products in the computer, consumer electronics, and communications markets continuing to account for a majority of our revenue,

estimates of our future liquidity requirements,

the cyclical nature of the semiconductor industry,

protection of our proprietary technology,

near term business outlook for 2010,

the factors that we believe will impact our ability to achieve revenue growth,

the percentage of our total revenue from various market segments, and

the factors that differentiate us from our competitors.

You can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as *would, could, may, will, should, expect, intend, plan, anticipate, believe, estimate, predict, potential, targets, seek, or continue*, the negative of these terms or other variations of such terms. These statements are only predictions based upon assumptions that we believe to be reasonable at the time made, and are subject to risks and uncertainties. Therefore, actual events or results may differ materially and adversely from those expressed in any forward-looking statement. In evaluating these statements, you should specifically consider the risks described below in the section entitled *Risk Factors*. These factors may cause our actual results to differ materially from any forward-looking statements. Except as required by law, we undertake no

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-Q

obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Overview

We are a fabless semiconductor company that designs, develops, and markets proprietary, advanced analog and mixed-signal semiconductors. We currently offer products that serve multiple markets, including flat panel televisions, wireless communications, telecommunications equipment, general consumer products, notebook computers, cellular handsets, and set top boxes, among others. We believe that we differentiate ourselves by offering solutions that are more highly integrated, smaller in size, more energy efficient, more accurate with respect to performance specifications and, consequently, more cost-effective than many competing solutions. We plan to continue to introduce additional new products within our existing product families, as well as in new product categories.

We operate in the cyclical semiconductor industry where there is seasonal demand for certain of our products. We are not and will not be immune from current and future industry downturns, but we have targeted product and market areas that we believe have the ability to offer above average industry performance over the long term.

We work with third parties to manufacture and assemble our integrated circuits (ICs). This has enabled us to limit our capital expenditures and fixed costs, while focusing our engineering and design resources on our core strengths.

Generally, it is difficult for us to forecast revenue for the following reasons:

Orders in the semiconductor industry can be cancelled or rescheduled without significant penalty to the customer. This is mitigated to a certain extent, as the typical lead times for our orders are fewer than 90 days.

We are not able to predict, with certainty, the sales cycle for new products to gain traction in the market. Generally, it takes six to twelve months to achieve revenue, with volume production achieved three to six months after we receive an initial customer order for a new product.

We derive most of our revenue from sales through distribution arrangements or direct sales to customers in Asia, where the components we produce are incorporated into an end-user product. 83% of our revenue for the quarter ended March 31, 2010 and 80% of our revenue for the quarter ended March 31, 2009 was attributable to direct or indirect sales to customers in Asia. We derive a majority of our revenue from the sales of our DC to DC converter product family which services the consumer electronics, communications and computing markets. We believe our ability to achieve revenue growth will depend, in part, on our ability to develop new products, enter new market segments, gain market share, manage litigation risk, diversify our customer base and successfully secure manufacturing capacity.

Table of Contents

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based upon our condensed consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the U.S. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amount of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. We evaluate our estimates on an on-going basis, including those related to revenue recognition, stock-based compensation, long-term investments, short-term investments, inventories, income taxes, warranty obligations and contingencies. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making the judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Estimates and judgments used in the preparation of our financial statements are, by their nature, uncertain and unpredictable, and depend upon, among other things, many factors outside of our control, such as demand for our products and economic conditions. Accordingly, our estimates and judgments may prove to be incorrect and actual results may differ, perhaps significantly, from these estimates.

We believe the following critical accounting policies reflect our more significant judgments used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements.

Revenue Recognition. We recognize revenue in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 605-10-S25 *Revenue Recognition Overall Recognition*. ASC 605-10-S25 requires that four basic criteria must be met before revenue can be recognized: (1) persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists; (2) delivery has occurred or services have been rendered; (3) the fee is fixed and determinable; and (4) collectibility is reasonably assured. Determination of criteria (3) and (4) are based on management's judgment regarding the fixed nature of the fee charged for products delivered and the collectibility of those fees. The application of these criteria has resulted in our generally recognizing revenue upon shipment (when title passes) to customers. Should changes in conditions cause management to determine these criteria are not met for certain future transactions, revenue recognized for any reporting period could be adversely impacted.

Approximately 90% of our distributor sales are made through distribution arrangements with third parties. These arrangements do not include any special payment terms (our normal payment terms are 30-45 days), price protection or exchange rights. Returns are limited to our standard product warranty. Certain of our large distributors have contracts that include limited stock rotation rights that permit the return of a small percentage of the previous six months' purchases in return for a compensating new order of equal or greater dollar value.

We maintain a sales reserve for stock rotation rights, which is based on historical experience of actual stock rotation returns on a per distributor basis, where available, and information related to products in the distribution channel. This reserve is recorded at the time of sale. In the future, if we are unable to estimate our stock rotation returns accurately, we may not be able to recognize revenue from sales to our distributors based on when we sell inventory to our distributors. Instead, we may have to recognize revenue when the distributor sells through such inventory to an end-customer.

We generally recognize revenue upon shipment of products to the distributor for the following reasons (based on ASC 605-15-25-1 *Revenue Recognition Products Recognition Sales of Products When Right of Return Exists*):

- (1) Our price is fixed and determinable at the date of sale. We do not offer special payment terms, price protection or price adjustments to distributors where we recognize revenue upon shipment
- (2) Our distributors are obligated to pay us and this obligation is not contingent on the resale of our products
- (3) The distributor's obligation is unchanged in the event of theft or physical destruction or damage to the products
- (4) Our distributors have stand-alone economic substance apart from our relationship

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-Q

- (5) We do not have any obligations for future performance to directly bring about the resale of our products by the distributor
- (6) The amount of future returns can be reasonably estimated. We have the ability and the information necessary to track inventory sold to and held at our distributors. We maintain a history of returns and have the ability to estimate the stock rotation returns on a quarterly basis. If we enter into arrangements that have rights of return that are not estimable, we recognize revenue under such arrangements only after the distributor has sold our products to an end customer.

Approximately 10% of our distributor sales are made through small distributors based on purchase orders rather than formal distribution arrangements. These distributors do not receive any stock rotation rights and, as such, hold very little inventory, if any. We do not have a history of accepting returns from these distributors.

Table of Contents

The terms in a majority of our distribution agreements include the non-exclusive right to sell, and the agreement to use best efforts to promote and develop a market for, our products in certain regions of the world and the ability to terminate the distribution agreement by either party with up to three months notice. We provide a one year warranty against defects in materials and workmanship. Under this warranty, we will repair the goods, provide replacements at no charge, or, under certain circumstances, provide a refund to the customer for defective products. Estimated warranty returns and warranty costs are based on historical experience and are recorded at the time product revenue is recognized.

In 2006, we signed a distribution agreement with a U.S. distributor. Revenue from this distributor is recognized upon sale by the distributor to the end customer because the distributor has certain rights of return which management believes are not estimable. The deferred revenue balance from this distributor as of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009 was \$0.3 million and \$0.9 million, respectively.

Warranty Reserves. We currently provide a 12-month warranty against defects in materials and workmanship and will either repair the goods or provide replacement products at no charge to the customer for defective products. We record estimated warranty costs by product, which are based on historical experience over the preceding 12 months, at the time we recognize product revenue. Reserve requirements are recorded in the period of sale and are based on an assessment of the products sold with warranty and historical warranty costs incurred. As the complexity of our products increases, we could experience higher warranty claims relative to sales than we have previously experienced, and we may need to increase these estimated warranty reserves.

Inventory Valuation. We value our inventory at the lower of the standard cost (which approximates actual cost on a first-in, first-out basis) or its current estimated market value. We write down inventory for obsolescence or lack of demand, based on assumptions about future demand and market conditions. If actual market conditions are less favorable than those projected by management, additional inventory write-downs may be required. On the contrary, if market conditions are more favorable, we may be able to sell inventory that was previously reserved.

Accounting for Income Taxes. ASC 740-10 *Income Taxes - Overall* prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. This interpretation also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods and disclosure. In accordance with ASC 740-10, we recognize federal, state and foreign current tax liabilities or assets based on our estimate of taxes payable or refundable in the current fiscal year by tax jurisdiction. We also recognize federal, state and foreign deferred tax assets or liabilities for our estimate of future tax effects attributable to temporary differences and carryforwards. We record a valuation allowance to reduce any deferred tax assets by the amount of any tax benefits that, based on available evidence and judgment, are not expected to be realized.

Our calculation of current and deferred tax assets and liabilities is based on certain estimates and judgments and involves dealing with uncertainties in the application of complex tax laws. Our estimates of current and deferred tax assets and liabilities may change based, in part, on added certainty or finality or uncertainty to an anticipated outcome, changes in accounting or tax laws in the U.S., or foreign jurisdictions where we operate, or changes in other facts or circumstances. In addition, we recognize liabilities for potential U.S. and foreign income tax for uncertain income tax positions taken on our tax returns if it has less than a 50% likelihood of being sustained. If we determine that payment of these amounts is unnecessary or if the recorded tax liability is less than our current assessment, we may be required to recognize an income tax benefit or additional income tax expense in our financial statements in the period such determination is made. We have calculated our uncertain tax positions which were attributable to certain estimates and judgments primarily related to transfer pricing, cost sharing and our international tax structure exposure.

As of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, we had a valuation allowance of \$14.6 million and \$14.6 million, respectively, attributable to management's determination that none of the deferred tax assets will be realized, except for certain deferred tax assets related to uncertain income tax positions. Should it be determined that all or part of the net deferred tax asset will not be realized in the future, an adjustment to increase the deferred tax asset valuation allowance will be charged to income in the period such determination is made. Likewise, in the event we were to determine that we would be able to realize our deferred tax assets in the future in excess of our net recorded amount, an adjustment to the valuation allowance for the deferred tax asset would increase income in the period such determination was made.

Table of Contents

Contingencies. We are engaged in legal proceedings resulting from several patent infringement actions against us. In addition, from time to time, we become aware that we are subject to other contingent liabilities. When this occurs, we will evaluate the appropriate accounting for the potential contingent liabilities using ASC 450-20-25-2 *Contingencies – Loss Contingencies – Recognition* to determine whether a contingent liability should be recorded. In making this determination, management may, depending on the nature of the matter, consult with internal and external legal counsel and technical experts. Based on the facts and circumstances in each matter, we use our judgment to determine whether it is probable that a contingent loss has occurred and whether the amount of such loss can be estimated. If we determine a loss is probable and estimable, we record a contingent loss in accordance with ASC 450-20-25-2. In determining the amount of a contingent loss, we take into account advice received from experts for each specific matter regarding the status of legal proceedings, settlement negotiations (which may be ongoing), prior case history and other factors. Should the judgments and estimates made by management need to be adjusted as additional information becomes available, we may need to record additional contingent losses that could materially and adversely impact our results of operations. Alternatively, if the judgments and estimates made by management are adjusted, for example, if a particular contingent loss does not occur, the contingent loss recorded would be reversed which could result in a favorable impact on our results of operations.

Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation. We have adopted the provisions of ASC 718-10-30 *Compensation – Stock Compensation – Overall Initial Measurement*, under the modified prospective method. ASC 718-10-30 eliminates the alternative of applying the intrinsic value measurement to stock compensation awards issued to employees. Rather, the standard requires us to measure the cost of employee services received in exchange for an award of equity instruments based on the grant-date fair value of the award. That cost will be recognized over the period during which an employee is required to provide services in exchange for the award, known as the requisite service period (usually the vesting period). We currently use the Black-Scholes option-pricing model to estimate the fair value of our share-based payments. The Black-Scholes option-pricing model is based on a number of assumptions, including historical volatility, expected life, risk-free interest rate and expected dividends. If these assumptions change, stock-based compensation may differ significantly from what we have recorded in the past. The amount of stock-based compensation that we recognize is also based on an expected forfeiture rate. If there is a difference between the forfeiture assumptions used in determining stock-based compensation costs and the actual forfeitures which become known over time, we may change the forfeiture rate, which could have a significant impact on our stock-based compensation expense.

Fair Value Instruments. ASC 820-10 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures – Overall* defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America, and requires that assets and liabilities carried at fair value be classified and disclosed in one of the three categories, as follows:

- a. Level 1: Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets;
- b. Level 2: Significant other observable inputs; and
- c. Level 3: Significant unobservable inputs.

ASC 820-10-35-51 *Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure – Overall – Subsequent Measurement – Determining Fair Value When the Volume and Level of Activity for the Asset or Liability Have Significantly Decreased and Identifying Transactions That Are Not Orderly* provides additional guidance for estimating fair value in accordance with ASC 820-10 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures – Overall*, when the volume and level of activity for the asset or liability have significantly decreased.

Our financial instruments include cash and cash equivalents and short-term and long-term investments. Cash equivalents are stated at cost, which approximates fair market value based on quoted market prices. Short-term and long-term investments are stated at their fair market value.

The face value of our holdings in auction rate securities is \$37.2 million, of which \$20.5 million is currently classified as long-term available-for-sale investments and \$16.7 million is classified as short-term trading investments. The securities that are classified as short-term trading securities have been classified as such because the Company intends to exercise its put option to sell these securities to UBS in June of 2010. These investments are accounted for in accordance with ASC 320-10, *Investments – Debt and Equity Securities – Overall*. Investments in available-for-sale securities are recorded at fair value, and unrealized gains or losses (that are deemed to be temporary) are recognized through shareholders' equity, as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income in our consolidated balance sheet. We record an impairment charge to earnings when an available-for-sale investment has experienced a decline in value that is deemed to be other-than-temporary. Investments in trading securities are recorded at fair value and unrealized gains and losses are recognized in other income (expense) in our condensed consolidated statement of operations.

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-Q

We adopted the provisions of ASC 320-10-35 *Investments Debt and Equity Securities Overall Subsequent Measurement* and ASC 320-10-50 *Investments Debt and Equity Securities Overall Disclosure*, effective April 1, 2009 and used the guidelines therein to determine whether the impairment is temporary or other-than temporary. Other-than-temporary impairment charges exists when the entity has the intent to sell the security or it will more likely than not be required to sell the security before anticipated recovery. During the year ended December 31, 2009, we recognized a credit loss of \$70,000, which was deemed to be other-than-temporary in other income (expense) in our Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations.

Table of Contents

The UBS put right is accounted for in accordance with ASC 820-10-35 *Fair Value Measurement and Disclosures – Overall – Subsequent Measurement*. We value the UBS put right at fair value, which is estimated to be equal to the par value of the auction-rate securities less their fair value as determined by management. Refer to Note 8, *Fair Value Measurements*, to our condensed consolidated financial statements for further information.

Based on certain assumptions described in Note 8, *Fair Value Measurements*, to our condensed consolidated financial statements and the Liquidity and Capital Resources section of Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of this quarterly report on Form 10-Q, we recorded impairment charges on our holdings in auction-rate securities. The valuation of these securities is subject to fluctuations in the future, which will depend on many factors, including the collateral quality, potential to be called or restructured, underlying final maturity, insurance guaranty, liquidity and market conditions, among others.

Results of Operations

The table below sets forth the data from our Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations as a percentage of revenue for the periods indicated:

	Three months ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Revenue	100.0%	100.0%
Cost of revenue	41.7%	42.4%
Gross profit	58.3%	57.6%
Operating expenses:		
Research and development	22.0%	27.7%
Selling, general and administrative	20.7%	26.6%
Litigation expense	3.1%	7.0%
Total operating expenses	45.8%	61.3%
Income (loss) from operations	12.5%	(3.7)%
Other income (expense):		
Interest and other income	0.7%	1.3%
Interest and other expense	0.0%	(0.3)%
Total other income, net	0.7%	1.0%
Income (loss) before income taxes	13.2%	(2.7)%
Income tax provision (benefit)	0.6%	(0.2)%
Net income (loss)	12.6%	(2.5)%

Revenue.

	For the three months ended March 31,		
	2010	2009	
	(in thousands)		Change
Revenue	\$ 50,250	\$ 29,322	71.4%

Revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2010 was \$50.3 million, an increase of \$20.9 million, or 71.4%, from \$29.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009. DC to DC product sales increased by 90.5% year over year, primarily because of an increase in the demand for electronic products in the consumer and communications markets. Sales of our lighting control products also increased by 58.6% as a result of greater demand for our WLED solution for consumer electronics products. This was partially offset by a decrease in the year over year sales of

our audio products due to a change in product mix.

Table of Contents

The following table illustrates changes in our revenue by product family:

	For the three months ended March 31, 2010		2009		Change
	(in thousands)	% of	(in thousands)	% of	
	Amount	Revenue	Amount	Revenue	
DC to DC Converters	\$ 40,301	80.2%	\$ 21,152	72.1%	90.5%
Lighting Control Products	7,434	14.8%	4,686	16.0%	58.6%
Audio Amplifiers	2,515	5.0%	3,484	11.9%	(27.8)%
	\$ 50,250	100.0%	\$ 29,322	100.0%	71.4%

Gross Profit. Gross profit as a percentage of revenue, or gross margin, was 58.1% for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 57.6% for the three months ended March 31, 2009. For the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, gross margin improved year-over-year. The increase in the gross margin was a result of increased capacity utilization and a reduction in reserves, offset by declining average selling prices for some of our products.

Research and Development.

	For the three months ended March 31, 2010		Change
	(in thousands)	2009	
Revenue	\$ 50,250	\$ 29,322	71.4%
Research and development (R&D) (including stock-based compensation of \$1,735 and \$1,560 for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively)	11,040	8,117	36.0%
R&D as a percentage of revenue	22.0%	27.7%	

R&D expenses were \$11.0 million, or 22.0% of revenue, for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and \$8.1 million, or 27.7% of revenue, for the three months ended March 31, 2009. The year-over-year increase was primarily due to an increase in personnel and new product development expenses.

Selling, General and Administrative.

	For the three months ended March 31, 2010		Change
	(in thousands)	2009	
Revenue	\$ 50,250	\$ 29,322	71.4%
Selling, general and administrative (SG&A) (including stock-based compensation of \$2,210 and \$1,772 for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively)	10,393	7,808	33.1%
SG&A as a percentage of revenue	20.7%	26.6%	

SG&A expenses were \$10.4 million, or 20.7% of revenue, for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and \$7.8 million, or 26.6% of revenue, for the three months ended March 31, 2009. For the three months ended March 31, 2010, SG&A as a percentage of revenue declined compared to the corresponding period in the prior year due to scaling efficiencies. SG&A expenses, however, increased year over year due to higher stock-based compensation expenses and higher bonus accruals and sales commissions as a result of increased revenue in 2010.

Table of Contents***Litigation Expense.***

	For the three months ended March 31,		
	2010	2009	
	(in thousands)		Change
Revenue	\$ 50,250	\$ 29,322	71.4%
Litigation expense	1,567	2,046	(23.4)%
Litigation expense as a percentage of revenue	3.1%	7.0%	

Litigation expenses were \$1.6 million, or 3.1% of revenue, for the three months ended March 31, 2010 as compared to \$2.0 million, or 7.0% of revenue, for the three months ended March 31, 2009. During the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, we incurred legal expenses primarily for the defense of our lawsuit against O2Micro.

Income Tax Provision. The income tax provision for the three months ended March 31, 2010 was \$0.3 million or 4.3% of our income before income taxes. This differs from the federal statutory rate of 34% primarily because our foreign income is taxed at lower rates. The income tax provision for the three months ended March 31, 2009 was \$0.1 million or 7.7% of our income before income taxes. This differed from the federal statutory rate of 34% primarily because our foreign income was taxed at lower rates.

Liquidity and Capital Resources.

As of March 31, 2010, we had working capital of \$191.7 million, including cash and cash equivalents of \$48.9 million and short-term investments of \$126.7 million compared to working capital of \$179.6 million, including cash and cash equivalents of \$46.7 million and short-term investments of \$118.9 million as of December 31, 2009. We have financed our growth primarily with proceeds from cash generated from operating activities, proceeds from the purchase of shares through the Company's employee stock purchase plan and the exercise of stock options.

For the three months ended March 31, 2010, net cash provided by operating activities was \$8.2 million. Net cash increased primarily due to strong operating results and a reduction in inventory during the first quarter of 2010. This was partially offset by an increase in accounts receivable, primarily from increased shipments at the end of the quarter for which the collections have not been made. For the three months ended March 31, 2009, net cash provided by operating activities was \$0.4 million. Accounts receivable increased due to increased sales at the end of the quarter and accrued compensation decreased due to having paid bonuses in 2009 for the performance in the second half of 2008.

For the three months ended March 31, 2010, net cash used in investing activities was \$11.4 million, primarily related to equipment purchases for our Chengdu facility and the purchase of short-term investments. For the three months ended March 31, 2009, net cash used in investing activities was \$17.0 million, primarily related to the purchase of short-term investments.

We use professional investment management firms to manage the majority of our invested cash. Our fixed income portfolio is primarily invested in municipal bonds, government securities, auction-rate securities and highly rated corporate notes. The balance of the fixed income portfolio is managed internally and invested primarily in money market funds for working capital purposes.

The market for auction-rate securities with interest rates that reset through a Dutch auction every 7 to 35 days became illiquid in 2008. As of March 31, 2010, our investment portfolio included \$35.7 million, net of impairment charges of \$1.5 million, in government-backed student loan auction-rate securities. The portfolio also included a UBS auction-rate put right, which was valued at \$0.6 million in accordance with the fair value measurement provisions of ASC 820-10-35. During the quarter ended March 31, 2010, auction rate securities with a face value of \$0.2 million were sold at par through successful auctions. However, the remaining auction rate securities in the portfolio with a face value of approximately \$37.2 million have failed to reset through successful auctions and it is unclear as to when these investments will regain their liquidity. The underlying maturity of these auction-rate securities is up to 38 years and the underlying credit quality of these instruments in which we have invested remain generally AAA rated, with \$11.9 million of our auction rate securities having been downgraded by Moody's to Aa1-Baa3.

Table of Contents

We adopted the provisions of ASC 320-10-35 *Investments Debt and Equity Securities Overall Subsequent Measurement* and ASC 320-10-50 *Investments Debt and Equity Securities Overall Disclosure*, effective April 1, 2009 and used the guidelines therein to determine whether the impairment is temporary or other-than temporary. Temporary impairment charges are recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) within equity and have no impact on net income. Other-than-temporary impairment charges exist when the entity has the intent to sell the security or it will more likely than not be required to sell the security before anticipated recovery. Other-than-temporary impairment charges are recorded in other income (expenses) in the Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations.

In October 2008, we accepted an offer to participate in an auction-rate security rights offering from UBS to sell up to \$18.2 million in face value amount of eligible auction-rate securities commencing in June 2010, for which the proceeds from the sale will be received in July 2010. Since then, \$1.5 million of these auction-rate securities were called at par, leaving \$16.7 million in eligible auction-rate securities remaining at UBS. The offer gives us the right but not the obligation to sell these securities at par to UBS and allows us to borrow up to \$16.7 million. In accepting the offer, we also entered into a release of claims in favor of UBS.

Since we accepted this put right from UBS, we intend to sell these auction-rate securities at par to UBS commencing in June 2010, for which the proceeds from the sale will be received in July 2010. These securities have been reclassified as trading securities and the cumulative impairment related to these auction-rate securities was \$0.6 million and \$0.7 million at March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, respectively. The change in the impairment was recorded in accordance with the provisions of ASC 320-10-35 and ASC 320-10-50 in other income (expense) in the Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations.

Having accepted UBS' rights offering, we valued the put right at fair value, which was estimated to be equal to the par value of the auction-rate securities less their fair value as determined by management. The value of the put right was \$0.6 million and \$0.7 million, at March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, respectively, the effect of which has been recorded by the Company in other income in the Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations. The UBS rights offering is being accounted for as a fair-value instrument under ASC 820-10-35 and as such, all future changes in the fair value of these instruments will be recognized in other income (expense) in the Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations.

For the remaining auction-rate securities for which the rights offering (described above) does not apply, and which have a face value of \$20.5 million and \$20.5 million as of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, respectively, management concluded that as of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, the cumulative impairment of \$0.9 million and \$1.1 million, respectively, was temporary based on the following analysis:

1. The decline in the fair value of these securities is not attributable to adverse conditions specifically related to these securities or to specific conditions in an industry or in a geographic area;
2. Management possesses both the intent and ability to hold these securities for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in fair value;
3. Management believes that it is more likely than not that the Company will not have to sell these securities before recovery of its cost basis;
4. Except for the credit loss of \$70,000 recognized in year ended December 31, 2009 for the Company's holdings in auction rate securities described below, the Company does not believe that there is any additional credit loss associated with other auction-rate securities because the Company expects to recover the entire amortized cost basis;
5. The majority of the securities remain AAA rated, with \$8.9 million of the auction rate securities having been downgraded by Moody's to A3-Baa3 during the year ended December 31, 2009, and there have been no downgrades in the three months ended March 31, 2010; and

6. All scheduled interest payments have been made pursuant to the reset terms and conditions.

Based on the guidance of ASC 320-10-35 and ASC 320-10-50, the Company evaluated the potential credit loss of each of the auction-rate securities for which a put right was not provided. Based on such analysis, the Company determined that those securities that are not 100% FFELPS guaranteed are potentially subject to credit risks based on the extent to which the underlying debt is collateralized and the security-specific student-loan default rates. MPS portfolio includes three such securities, one of which has a senior parity ratio of approximately 115%, which is substantially above the expected student-loan default rate for that security. Conversely, the senior parity ratio for the other two securities is approximately 105%. If, therefore, the student-loan default rate and borrowing rate increases for these issuers, the remaining balance in these trusts may not be sufficient to cover the senior debt. The Company therefore concluded that there is potential credit risk for these two securities and as such, used the discounted cash flow model to determine the amount of credit loss to be recorded. In valuing the potential credit loss, the following parameters were used: 20 year expected term, cash flows based on the 90-day t-bill rates for 20 year forwards and a risk premium of 5.9%, the amount of interest that the Company was receiving on these securities when the market was last active. As of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, the potential credit loss associated with these securities was \$70,000, which the Company deemed other-than-temporarily impaired and recorded in other expense in its Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations during 2009.

Table of Contents

Unless another rights offering or other similar offers are made to redeem at par and accepted by us, we intend to hold the balance of these investments through successful auctions at par, which we believe could take approximately 2.0 years.

The valuation of the auction-rate securities is subject to fluctuations in the future, which will depend on many factors, including the collateral quality, potential to be called or restructured, underlying final maturity, insurance guaranty, liquidity and market conditions, among others. To determine the fair value of the auction-rate securities at March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, we used a discounted cash flow model, for which there are three valuation parameters, including time-to-liquidity, discount rate and expected return. The following are the values used in the discounted cash flow model:

	December 31, 2009	March 31, 2010
Time-to-Liquidity	24 months	24 months
Expected Return (Based on the requisite treasury rate, plus a contractual penalty rate)	2.4%	2.4%
Discount Rate (Based on the requisite LIBOR, the cost of debt and a liquidity risk premium)	5.2% - 10.0%, depending on the credit-rating of the security	4.6% -9.4%, depending on the credit-rating of the security

From the fourth quarter of 2009 to the first quarter of 2010, we kept the time-to-liquidity constant at 2.0 years. We sold \$0.2 million in auction-rate securities at par. The spread between the 90-day labor and t-bill forward rate decreased by 40 bps and the FFELPs-guaranteed student-loan credit default spread decreased by 13 bps. The net effect of the adjustments was a reduction in the overall impairment from \$1.8 million at December 31, 2009 to \$1.5 million at March 31, 2010.

Net cash provided by financing activities for the three months ended March 31, 2010 was \$5.3 million, primarily from the issuance of common stock in the amount of \$5.1 million. Net cash provided by financing activities for the three months ended March 31, 2009 was \$1.5 million, primarily from the issuance of common stock in the amount of \$1.5 million.

Although cash requirements will fluctuate based on the timing and extent of many factors such as those discussed above, we believe that cash generated from operations, together with the liquidity provided by existing cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments, will be sufficient to satisfy our liquidity requirements for at least the next 12 months. For further details regarding our operating, investing and financing activities, see our Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

Contractual Obligations and Off Balance Sheet Arrangements.

We lease our headquarters and sales offices in San Jose, California under a non-cancelable operating lease which expires in October 2016. Certain of our facility leases provide for periodic rent increases. In September 2004, we signed an agreement with the Chinese local authority to construct a facility in Chengdu, China. We have the option to acquire this facility in Chengdu after a five-year lease term, which option becomes available to us in March 2011. At that time, we will likely enter into a purchase agreement for this facility. We also lease our sales offices in Japan, China, Taiwan and Korea.

As of March 31, 2010, our total outstanding purchase commitments with vendors were \$38.4 million, which includes wafer purchases from our two foundries and the purchase of assembly services primarily from multiple contractors in Asia. This compares to purchase commitments of \$13.2 million as of December 31, 2009.

Table of Contents

Our contractual obligations have not changed significantly from that disclosed in our annual report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on February 12, 2010.

As of March 31, 2010, we had no off-balance sheet arrangements as defined in Item 303(a)(4) of the Securities and Exchange Commission's Regulation S-K.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

For a discussion of market risks at December 31, 2009, refer to Item 7A, "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk" in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 filed with the SEC on February 12, 2010. During the three months ended March 31, 2010, there were no material changes or developments that would materially alter the market risk assessment performed as of December 31, 2009.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures.

Our management, with the participation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Rule 13a-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report on Form 10-Q. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives. In addition, the design of disclosure controls and procedures must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints and that management is required to apply its judgment in evaluating the benefits of possible controls and procedures relative to their costs.

Based on our evaluation, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are designed at a reasonable assurance level and are effective to provide reasonable assurance that information we are required to disclose in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Changes in internal control over financial reporting.

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by this quarterly report on Form 10-Q that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

O2Micro

We have been engaged in a number of legal proceedings involving patent infringement claims with O2Micro, Inc. and its parent corporation, O2Micro International Limited (referred to hereinafter as "O2Micro"). Currently there are two proceedings pending, both involving O2Micro's U.S. Patent No. 7,417,382 ("382 patent"). On April 20, 2010, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) overseeing the U.S. International Trade Commission issued an initial determination (ID) finding that none of MPS's products accused by O2Micro infringes the 382 patent. The ALJ's ID can be reviewed by the full Commission. The Commission's final determination is expected to be issued by August 20, 2010.

In addition to the matter before the ITC, a related case is pending before the Northern District of California Court in Oakland, California. On October 1, 2008, MPS brought an action in the Northern District Court seeking a declaratory judgment that none of its products infringed the 382 patent, among others and the patent is invalid. O2Micro brought a counterclaim alleging that MPS's products infringed the 382 patent, among others. O2Micro then withdrew its infringement claims as to the other patents except the 382 patent. The Northern District Court action is scheduled for trial on July 12, 2010. O2Micro seeks damages and an injunction in connection with that action. We are not able to reasonably

estimate the probability of loss or the range of possible loss in this case.

Table of Contents

Linear Technology Corporation

On July 1, 2008, the United States District Court for the District of Delaware held as a matter of law that we did not breach our October 1, 2005 Settlement and License Agreement with Linear Technology Corporation ("Linear"). Based upon that ruling, we anticipate filing a motion to seek recovery of our attorney fees when the final judgment is entered. The court has not issued its final judgment concerning the patent validity and enforceability issues.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Our business involves risks and uncertainties. You should carefully consider the risks described below, together with all of the other information in this Form 10-Q and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission in evaluating our business. If any of the following risks actually occur, our business, financial condition, operating results and growth prospects would likely be adversely affected. In such an event, the trading price of our common stock could decline, and you could lose all or part of your investment in our common stock. Our past financial performance should not be considered to be a reliable indicator of future performance, and investors should not use historical trends to anticipate results or trends in future periods. These risks involve forward-looking statements and our actual results may differ substantially from those discussed in these forward-looking statements.

If we are unsuccessful in any of the legal proceedings involving us and O2Micro, we could be prevented from selling many of our products and/or be required to pay substantial damages. An unfavorable outcome or an additional award of damages, attorneys' fees or an injunction could cause our revenue to decline significantly and could severely harm our business and operating results.

We are engaged in legal proceedings with O2Micro. These proceedings involve various claims and counterclaims alleging, among other things, patent infringement. O2Micro has also in the past taken legal action against certain of our customers, which we were obligated to indemnify. Other new or existing customers may request similar indemnity from us because of continued legal actions between us and O2Micro. See the section entitled Item 1., "Legal Proceedings" , of this quarterly report on Form 10-Q for more information.

If we are not ultimately successful in any of these proceedings or other litigation that could be brought against us or our customers, or if any of the decisions in our favor are reversed on appeal, we could be ordered to pay monetary fines and/or damages. If we are found liable for willful patent infringement, damages could be doubled or tripled. We and/or our customers could also be prevented from selling some or all of our products. Moreover, our customers and end-users could decide not to use our products or our products or our customers' accounts payable to us could be seized. Finally, interim developments in these proceedings could increase the volatility in our stock price as the market assesses the impact of such developments on the likelihood that we will or will not ultimately prevail in these proceedings.

Given our inability to control the timing and nature of significant events in our legal proceedings, our legal expenses are difficult to forecast and may vary substantially from our publicly-disclosed forecasts with respect to any given quarter, which could contribute to increased volatility in our stock price and business.

Until our legal proceedings with O2Micro and Linear are resolved, we will continue to incur significant legal expenses that vary with the level of activity in each of these proceedings. This level of activity is not entirely within our control as we may need to respond to legal actions by the opposing parties or scheduling decisions by the judges. Consequently, it is difficult for us to forecast our legal expenses for any given quarter, which adversely affects our ability to forecast our expected results of operations in general. If we fail to meet the expectations of securities or industry analysts as a result of unexpected changes in our legal expenses, our stock price could be impacted.

Our ongoing legal proceedings and the potential for additional legal proceedings have diverted, and may continue to divert, financial and management resources.

The semiconductor industry is characterized by frequent claims of infringement and litigation regarding patent and other intellectual property rights, such as our litigation matters with O2Micro and Linear. Patent infringement is an ongoing risk, in part because other companies in our industry could have patent rights that may not be identifiable when we initiate development efforts. Litigation may be necessary to enforce our intellectual property rights, and we may have to defend ourselves against additional infringement claims. Such litigation is very costly. In the event any third party makes a new infringement claim against us or our customers, we could incur additional ongoing legal expenses. Our management team may also be required to devote a great deal of time, effort and energy to these legal proceedings, which could adversely affect our business.

Table of Contents

We expect our operating results to fluctuate from quarter to quarter and year to year, which may make it difficult to predict our future performance and could cause our stock price to decline.

Our revenue, expenses, and results of operations are difficult to predict, have varied significantly in the past and will continue to fluctuate significantly in the future due to a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control. We expect fluctuations to continue for a number of reasons, including:

a deterioration in general demand for electronic products as a result of worldwide financial crises and associated macro-economic slowdowns;

a deterioration in business conditions at our distributors, value-added resellers and/or end-customers;

adverse general economic conditions in the countries where our products are sold or used;

the timing of developments and related expenses in our litigation matters with O2Micro and Linear and any future litigation;

the possibility of additional lost business as a result of customer and prospective customer concerns about adverse outcomes in our litigations or about being litigation targets;

continued dependence on our turns business (orders received and shipped within the same fiscal quarter);

increases in assembly costs due to commodity price increases, such as the price of gold;

the timing of new product introductions by us and our competitors;

the acceptance of our new products in the marketplace;

our ability to develop new process technologies and achieve volume production;

our ability to meet customer product demand in a timely manner;

the scheduling, rescheduling, or cancellation of orders by our customers;

the cyclical nature of demand for our customers' products;

inventory levels and product obsolescence;

seasonality and variability in the computer, consumer electronics, and communications markets;

the availability of adequate manufacturing capacity from our outside suppliers;

changes in manufacturing yields; and

movements in exchange rates, interest rates or tax rates.

Due to the factors noted above and other risks described in this section, many of which are beyond our control, you should not rely on quarter-to-quarter or year-over-year comparisons to predict our future financial performance. Unfavorable changes in any of the above factors may seriously harm our business and cause our stock price to decline.

The market for government-backed student loan auction-rate securities has suffered a decline in liquidity which may impact the liquidity and potential value of our investment portfolio.

The market for government-backed student loan auction-rate securities with interest rates that reset through a Dutch auction every 7 to 35 days, became illiquid in 2008. As of March 31, 2010, the Company's investment portfolio included \$35.7 million, net of impairment charges of \$1.5 million, in government-backed student loan auction-rate securities. As of that date, \$37.2 million, the face value of our auction-rate security investments, have failed to reset through successful auctions and it is unclear as to when these investments will regain their liquidity. The underlying maturity of these auction-rate securities is up to 38 years.

Based on certain assumptions described in Note 8, Fair Value Measurements, to our condensed consolidated financial statements and the Liquidity and Capital Resources section of Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of this quarterly report on Form 10-Q, we recorded temporary and other-than-temporary impairment charges on these investments. The valuation is subject to fluctuations in the future, which will depend on many factors, including the collateral quality, potential to be called or restructured, underlying final maturity, insurance guaranty, liquidity and market conditions, among others. We experienced our first failed auction in mid-February 2008. Although we accepted an offer to participate in an auction-rate securities rights offering from UBS in October 2008 to sell up to \$16.7 million in eligible auction-rate securities held by us at par to UBS commencing in June 2010, if UBS does not follow through on its commitment to purchase the auction-rate securities at par or the auctions continue to fail, the liquidity of our investment portfolio may be negatively impacted and the value of our investment portfolio could decline.

Table of Contents

Should there be further deterioration in the market for auction-rate securities or if the accounting rules for these securities change, the value of our portfolio may decline, which may have an adverse impact on our cash position and our earnings.

We may be unsuccessful in developing and selling new products or in penetrating new markets required to maintain or expand our business.

Our competitiveness and future success depend on our ability to design, develop, manufacture, assemble, test, market, and support new products and enhancements on a timely and cost-effective basis. A fundamental shift in technologies in any of our product markets could have a material adverse effect on our competitive position within these markets. Our failure to timely develop new technologies or to react quickly to changes in existing technologies could materially delay our development of new products, which could result in product obsolescence, decreased revenue, and/or a loss of market share to competitors.

As we develop new product lines, we must adapt to market conditions that are unfamiliar to us, such as competitors and distribution channels that are different from those we have known in the past. Some of our new product lines require us to re-equip our labs to test parameters we have not tested in the past. If we are unable to adapt rapidly to these new and additional conditions, we may not be able to successfully penetrate new markets.

The success of a new product depends on accurate forecasts of long-term market demand and future technological developments, as well as on a variety of specific implementation factors, including:

timely and efficient completion of process design and device structure improvements;

timely and efficient implementation of manufacturing, assembly, and test processes;

the ability to secure and effectively utilize fabrication capacity in different geometries;

product performance;

product availability;

the quality and reliability of the product; and

effective marketing, sales and service.

To the extent that we fail to timely introduce new products or to quickly penetrate new markets, our revenue and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

We may be unsuccessful in developing and selling new products with margins similar to or better than what we have experienced in the past, which would impact our overall gross margin and financial performance.

Our success depends on products that are differentiated in the market, which result in gross margins that have historically been above the industry averages. Should we fail to develop and introduce sufficiently differentiated products that result in higher gross margins than industry averages, our financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

If demand for our products declines in the major end markets that we serve, our revenue will decrease.

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-Q

We believe that the application of our products in the computer, consumer electronics and communications markets will continue to account for the majority of our revenue. If the demand for our products declines in the major end markets that we serve, our revenue will decrease. In addition, as technology evolves, the ability to integrate the functionalities of various components, including our discrete semiconductor products, onto a single chip and/or onto other components of systems containing our products increases. Should our customers require integrated solutions that we do not offer, demand for our products could decrease, and our business and results of operations could be adversely affected.

Certain of our products go into tubes that contain mercury, which is the subject of environmental concerns.

Our CCFL products go into tubes that contain mercury, which is the subject of environmental concerns, particularly in Europe. Should environmental issues impair the widespread use of our CCFL-based products, and should we be unable to produce replacement products based on LED lighting fast enough to compensate for the loss of our CCFL-related business, our business and results of operations could be adversely affected.

Table of Contents

We may not experience growth rates comparable to past years.

In the past, our revenues increased significantly in certain years due to increased sales of certain of our products. Due to increased competition, reduced global electronics demand, end-customer market downturn, market acceptance and penetration of our current and future products and ongoing litigation, we may not experience growth rates comparable to past periods, which could affect our stock price and results of operations.

We may not be profitable on a quarterly or annual basis.

Our profitability is dependent on many factors, including:

our sales, which because of our turns business (i.e., orders received and shipped within the same fiscal quarter), is difficult to accurately forecast;

consumer electronic sales, which has experienced and may continue to experience a downturn as a result of the worldwide economic crisis;

our competition, which could adversely impact our selling prices and our potential sales;

our manufacturing costs, including our ability to negotiate with our vendors and our ability to efficiently run our test facility in China; and

our operating expenses, including general and administrative expenses, selling and marketing expenses, stock-based compensation expenses, litigation expenses, which we expect to be significant due to the litigation in which we are involved, and research and development expenses relating to products that will not be introduced and will not generate revenue until later periods, if at all.

We may not achieve profitability on a quarterly or annual basis in the future. Unfavorable changes in any of the factors noted above may have a material adverse effect on our quarterly or annual profitability.

The future trading price of our common stock could be subject to wide fluctuations in response to a variety of factors.

The future trading price of our common stock is likely to be highly volatile and could be subject to wide fluctuations in price in response to various factors, many of which are beyond our control, including:

our results of operations and financial performance;

general economic, industry and global market conditions;

whether our forward guidance meets the expectations of our investors;

the depth and liquidity of the market for our common stock;

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-Q

developments generally affecting the semiconductor industry;

commencement of or developments relating to our involvement in litigation, including the O2Micro and Linear matters;

investor perceptions of us and our business;

changes in securities analysts' expectations or our failure to meet those expectations;

actions by institutional or other large stockholders;

terrorist acts or acts of war;

actual or anticipated fluctuations in our results of operations;

developments with respect to intellectual property rights;

announcements of technological innovations or significant contracts by us or our competitors;

introduction of new products by us or our competitors;

our sale of common stock or other securities in the future;

conditions and trends in technology industries;

changes in market valuation or earnings of our competitors; and

changes in the estimation of the future size and growth rate of our markets.

Table of Contents

In addition, the stock market in general often experiences substantial volatility that is seemingly unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies. These broad market fluctuations may adversely affect the trading price of our common stock.

The highly cyclical nature of the semiconductor industry, which has produced significant and sometimes prolonged downturns, could materially adversely affect our operating results, financial condition and cash flows.

Historically, the semiconductor industry has been highly cyclical and, at various times, has experienced significant downturns and wide fluctuations in supply and demand. These conditions have caused significant variances in product demand and production capacity, as well as rapid erosion of average selling prices. The industry may experience severe or prolonged downturns in the future, which could result in downward pressure on the price of our products as well as lower demand for our products. Because significant portions of our expenses are fixed in the short term or incurred in advance of anticipated sales, we may not be able to decrease our expenses in a timely manner to offset any sales shortfall. These conditions could have a material adverse effect on our operating results, financial condition and cash flows.

The complexity of calculating our tax provision may result in errors that could result in restatements of our financial statements.

Due to the complexity associated with the calculation of our tax provision, we have hired independent tax advisors to assist us in the calculation. If we or our independent tax advisors fail to resolve or fully understand certain issues, we could be subject to errors, which would result in us having to restate our financial statements. Restatements are generally costly and could adversely impact our results of operations and/or have a negative impact on the trading price of our common stock.

We face risks in connection with our internal control over financial reporting related to income taxes.

Because of the complexity of our tax structure, we have had errors in our financial statements in the calculation of our tax provision that previously resulted in restatements of our prior year financial results. Although we believe that we have implemented appropriate internal control over financial reporting related to the computation of our income tax provision, we cannot be certain that any measures we have taken or may take in the future will ensure that we implement and maintain adequate internal control over financial reporting and that we will avoid any material weakness in the future. In addition, we cannot assure you that we will not in the future identify further material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting related to the calculation of our income tax provision that we have not discovered to date, which may impact the reliability of our financial reporting and financial statements.

Changes in effective tax rates or adverse outcomes resulting from examination of our income tax returns could adversely affect our results

Our future effective tax rates could be adversely affected by earnings being lower than anticipated in countries where we have lower statutory rates and higher than anticipated in countries where we have higher statutory rates, by changes in the valuation of our deferred tax assets and liabilities, or by changes in tax laws, regulations, accounting principles or interpretations thereof. In addition, we are subject to the continuous examination of our income tax returns by the Internal Revenue Service and other tax authorities. We regularly assess the likelihood of adverse outcomes resulting from these examinations to determine the adequacy of our provision for income taxes. There can be no assurance that the outcomes from these continuous examinations will not have an adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition.

We receive a significant portion of our revenue from our distribution channel, and the loss of any one of these distributors or value-added resellers or failure to collect a receivable from them could adversely affect our operations and financial position.

We market our products through distribution arrangements and value-added resellers and through our direct sales and applications support organization to customers that include OEMs, ODMs and electronic manufacturing service providers. Receivables from our customers are generally not secured by any type of collateral and are subject to the risk of being uncollectible. For the three months ended March 31, 2010, sales to our three largest distributors and/or customers accounted for approximately 35% of our total revenue. Significant deterioration in the liquidity or financial condition of any of our major customers or any group of our customers could have a material adverse impact on the collectability of our accounts receivable and our future operating results. We primarily conduct our sales on a purchase order basis, and we do not have any long-term supply contracts.

Table of Contents

Moreover, we believe a high percentage of our products are eventually sold to a number of OEMs. Although we communicate with OEMs in an attempt to achieve design wins, which are decisions by OEMs and/or ODMs to incorporate our products, we do not have purchase commitments from these end users. Therefore, there can be no assurance that the OEMs and/or ODMs will continue to incorporate our ICs into their products. OEM technical specifications and requirements can change rapidly, and we may not have products that fit new specifications from an end-customer for whom we have had previous design wins. We cannot be certain that we will continue to achieve design wins from large OEMs, that our direct customers will continue to be successful in selling to the OEMs, or that the OEMs will be successful in selling products which incorporate our ICs. The loss of any significant customer, any material reduction in orders by any of our significant customers or by their OEM customers, the cancellation of a significant customer order, or the cancellation or delay of a customer's or OEM's significant program or product could reduce our revenue and adversely affect our operations and financial condition.

Failure to protect our proprietary technologies or maintain the right to certain technologies may negatively affect our ability to compete.

We rely heavily on our proprietary technologies. Our future success and competitive position depend in part upon our ability to obtain and maintain protection of certain proprietary technologies used in our products. We pursue patents for some of our new products and unique technologies, and we also rely on a combination of nondisclosure agreements and other contractual provisions, as well as our employees' commitment to confidentiality and loyalty, to protect our technology, know-how, and processes. Despite the precautions we take, it may be possible for unauthorized third parties to copy aspects of our current or future technology or products or to obtain and use information that we regard as proprietary. We intend to continue to protect our proprietary technology, including through patents. However, there can be no assurance that the steps we take will be adequate to protect our proprietary rights, that our patent applications will lead to issued patents, that others will not develop or patent similar or superior products or technologies, or that our patents will not be challenged, invalidated, or circumvented by others. Furthermore, the laws of the countries in which our products are or may be developed, manufactured, or sold may not protect our products and intellectual property rights to the same extent as laws in the United States. Our failure to adequately protect our proprietary technologies could harm our business.

Our products must meet exacting specifications, and undetected defects and failures may occur, which may cause customers to return or stop buying our products and may expose us to product liability risk.

Our customers generally establish demanding specifications for quality, performance, and reliability that our products must meet. Integrated circuits as complex as ours often encounter development delays and may contain undetected defects or failures when first introduced or after commencement of commercial shipments, which might require product replacement or recall. Further, our third-party manufacturing processes or changes thereof, or raw material used in the manufacturing processes may cause our products to fail. We have from time to time in the past experienced product quality, performance or reliability problems. Our standard warranty period is one year, which exposes the company to significant risks of claims for defects and failures. If defects and failures occur in our products, we could experience lost revenue, increased costs, including warranty expense and costs associated with customer support, delays in, cancellations or rescheduling of orders or shipments, and product returns or discounts, any of which would harm our operating results.

In addition, product liability claims may be asserted with respect to our technology or products. Although we currently have insurance, there can be no assurance that we have obtained a sufficient amount of insurance coverage, that asserted claims will be within the scope of coverage of the insurance, or that we will have sufficient resources to satisfy any asserted claims.

We currently depend on two third-party suppliers to provide us with wafers for our products. If any of our wafer suppliers become insolvent and are unable and/or fail to provide us sufficient wafers at acceptable yields and at anticipated costs, our revenue and gross margin may decline or we may not be able to fulfill our customer orders.

We have a supply arrangement with two suppliers for the production of wafers. Should any of our suppliers become insolvent, we may not be able to fulfill our customer orders, which would likely cause a decline in our revenue. In the recent past, as a result of the global economic crisis, many wafer foundries in the semiconductor industry were operating well below normal capacity, including the two suppliers to MPS, potentially impairing our suppliers' ability to meet their financial obligations.

While certain aspects of our relationship with these suppliers are contractual, many important aspects of this relationship depend on our suppliers' continued cooperation and our management relationships. In addition, the fabrication of ICs is a highly complex and precise process. Problems in the fabrication process can cause a substantial percentage of wafers to be rejected or numerous ICs on each wafer to be non-functional. This could potentially reduce yields. The failure of our suppliers to supply us wafers at acceptable yields could prevent us from fulfilling our customer orders for our products and would likely cause a decline in our revenue.

Table of Contents

Although we provide our suppliers with rolling forecasts of our production requirements, their ability to provide wafers to us is limited by the available capacity, particularly capacity in the geometries we require, at the facilities in which they manufacture wafers for us. An increased need for capacity to meet internal demands or demands of other customers could cause our suppliers to reduce capacity available to us. Our suppliers may also require us to pay amounts in excess of contracted or anticipated amounts for wafer deliveries or require us to make other concessions in order to acquire the wafer supply necessary to meet our customer requirements. If our suppliers extend lead times, limit supplies or the types of capacity we require, or increase prices due to capacity constraints or other factors, our revenue and gross margin may decline.

Further, as is common in the semiconductor industry, our customers may reschedule or cancel orders on relatively short notice. Under our agreement with our suppliers, we have an option to order wafers based on a committed forecast that can cover a period of one to six months. If our customers cancel orders after we submit a committed forecast to our suppliers for the corresponding wafers, we may be required to purchase wafers that we may not be able to resell, which would adversely affect our operating results, financial condition, and cash flows.

We might not be able to deliver our products on a timely basis if our relationships with our assembly and test subcontractors are disrupted or terminated.

All of our products are assembled by third-party subcontractors and a portion of our testing is currently performed by third-party subcontractors. We do not have any long-term agreements with these subcontractors. As a result, we may not have direct control over product delivery schedules or product quality. Also, due to the amount of time typically required to qualify assembly and test subcontractors, we could experience delays in the shipment of our products if we were forced to find alternate third parties to assemble or test our products. In addition, events such as the recent global economic crisis may materially impact our assembly supplier's ability to operate. Any future product delivery delays or disruptions in our relationships with our subcontractors could have a material adverse effect on our operating results, financial condition, and cash flows.

We derive most of our revenue from direct or indirect sales to customers in Asia and have significant operations in Asia, which may expose us to political, cultural, regulatory, economic, foreign exchange, and operational risks.

We derive most of our revenue from customers located in Asia through direct or indirect sales through distribution arrangements with parties located in Asia. As a result, we are subject to increased risks due to this geographic concentration of business and operations. For the three months ended March 31, 2010, approximately 83% of our revenue was from customers in Asia. There are risks inherent in doing business in Asia, and internationally in general, including:

changes in, or impositions of, legislative or regulatory requirements, including tax laws in the United States and in the countries in which we manufacture or sell our products;

trade restrictions, including restrictions imposed by the United States government on trading with parties in foreign countries;

currency exchange rate fluctuations impacting intra-company transactions;

transportation delays;

changes in tax regulations in China that may impact our tax status in Chengdu;

multi-tiered distribution channels that lack visibility to end customer pricing and purchase patterns;

international political relationships and threats of war;

terrorism and threats of terrorism;

epidemics and illnesses;

work stoppages and infrastructure problems due to adverse weather conditions or natural disasters;

economic and political instability;

changes in import/export regulations, tariffs, and freight rates;

longer accounts receivable collection cycles and difficulties in collecting accounts receivables;

enforcing contracts generally; and

less effective protection of intellectual property and contractual arrangements.

Table of Contents

The price and availability of commodities (e.g., gold, platinum, copper and silicon) may adversely impact our ability to deliver our products in a timely and cost-effective manner and may affect our business and results of operations.

Our products incorporate commodities such as gold, platinum, copper and silicon. The price and availability of these commodities and other like commodities that we use could negatively impact our business and results of operations.

Devaluation of the U.S. Dollar relative to other foreign currencies, including the Chinese Yuan, may adversely affect results of operations.

Our manufacturing and packaging suppliers are and will continue to be primarily located in China for the foreseeable future. Should the value of the Chinese Yuan continue to rise against the U.S. Dollar, there could be an increase in our manufacturing costs relative to competitors who have manufacturing facilities located in the U.S., which could adversely affect our operations. In addition, because we collect payments from all customers in U.S. dollars, fluctuations in the value of foreign currencies could have an adverse impact on our customers' business, which could negatively impact our business and results of operations.

We and our manufacturing partners are or will be subject to extensive Chinese government regulation, and the benefit of various incentives from Chinese governments that we and our manufacturing partners receive may be reduced or eliminated, which could increase our costs or limit our ability to sell products and conduct activities in China.

Most of our manufacturing partners are located in China. In addition, we have established a facility in China, initially for the testing of our ICs. The Chinese government has broad discretion and authority to regulate the technology industry in China. China's government has implemented policies from time to time to regulate economic expansion in China. It also exercises significant control over China's economic growth through the allocation of resources, controlling payment of foreign currency-denominated obligations, setting monetary policy and providing preferential treatment to particular industries or companies. New regulations or the readjustment of previously implemented regulations could require us and our manufacturing partners to change our business plans, increase our costs, or limit our ability to sell products and conduct activities in China, which could adversely affect our business and operating results.

In addition, the Chinese government and provincial and local governments have provided, and continue to provide, various incentives to encourage the development of the semiconductor industry in China. Such incentives include tax rebates, reduced tax rates, favorable lending policies, and other measures, some or all of which may be available to our manufacturing partners and to us with respect to our facility in China. Any of these incentives could be reduced or eliminated by governmental authorities at any time. Any such reduction or elimination of incentives currently provided to our manufacturing partners could adversely affect our business and operating results.

There are inherent risks associated with the operation of our testing facility in China, which could increase product costs or cause a delay in product shipments.

We have a testing facility in China that began operations in 2006. In addition to the risks discussed elsewhere in this annual report, we face the following risks, among others:

inability to maintain appropriate and acceptable manufacturing controls; and

higher than anticipated overhead and other costs of operation.

If we are unable to continue a fully operational status with appropriate controls, we may incur higher costs than our current expense levels, which would affect our gross margins. In addition, if capacity restraints result in significant delays in product shipments, our business and results of operations would be adversely affected.

Due to the nature of our business as a component supplier, we may have difficulty both in accurately predicting our future revenue and appropriately managing our expenses.

Because we provide components for end products and systems, demand for our products is influenced by our customers' end product demand. As a result, we may have difficulty in accurately forecasting our revenue and expenses. Our revenue depends on the timing, size, and speed of commercial introductions of end products and systems that incorporate our products, all of which are inherently difficult to forecast, as well as the ongoing demand for previously introduced end products and systems. In addition, demand for our products is influenced by our customers

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-Q

ability to manage their inventory. Our sales to distributors are subject to higher volatility because they service demand from multiple levels of the supply chain which, in itself, is inherently difficult to forecast. If our customers, including distributors, do not manage their inventory correctly or misjudge their customers' demand, our shipments to and orders from our customers may vary significantly on a quarterly basis.

Table of Contents

The average selling prices of products in our markets have historically decreased over time and will likely do so in the future, which could harm our revenues and gross profits.

Average selling prices of semiconductor products in the markets we serve have historically decreased over time. Our gross profits and financial results will suffer if we are unable to offset any reductions in our average selling prices by reducing our costs, developing new or enhanced products on a timely basis with higher selling prices or gross profits, or increasing our sales volumes. Additionally, because we do not operate our own manufacturing or assembly facilities, we may not be able to reduce our costs as rapidly as companies that operate their own facilities, and our costs may even increase, which could also reduce our margins.

We purchase inventory in advance based on expected demand for our products, and if demand is not as expected, we may have insufficient or excess inventory, which could adversely impact our financial position.

As a fabless semiconductor company, we purchase our inventory from a third party manufacturer in advance of selling our product. We place orders with our manufacturer based on existing and expected orders from our customers for particular products. While our contracts with our customers and distributors include lead time requirements and cancellation penalties that are designed to protect us from misalignment between customer orders and inventory levels, we must nonetheless make some predictions when we place orders with our manufacturer. In the event that our predictions are inaccurate due to unexpected increases in orders or unavailability of product within the time frame that is required, we may have insufficient inventory to meet our customer demands. In the event that we order products that we are unable to sell due to a decrease in orders, unexpected order cancellations, injunctions due to patent litigations, or product returns, we may have excess inventory which, if not sold, may need to be disposed of. If any of these situations were to arise, it could have a material impact on our business and financial position.

Because of the lengthy sales cycles for our products and the fixed nature of a significant portion of our expenses, we may incur substantial expenses before we earn associated revenue and may not ultimately achieve our forecasted sales for our products.

The introduction of new products presents significant business challenges because product development plans and expenditures must be made up to two years or more in advance of any sales. It takes us up to 12 months or more to design and manufacture a new product prototype. Only after we have a prototype do we introduce the product to the market and begin selling efforts in an attempt to achieve design wins. This sales process, which averages six to twelve months, requires us to expend significant sales and marketing resources without any assurance of success. Volume production of products that use our ICs, if any, may not be achieved for an additional three to six months after an initial sale. Sales cycles for our products are lengthy for a number of reasons:

our customers usually complete an in-depth technical evaluation of our products before they place a purchase order;

the commercial adoption of our products by OEMs and ODMs is typically limited during the initial release of their product to evaluate product performance and consumer demand;

our products must be designed into a customer's product or system; and

the development and commercial introduction of our customers' products incorporating new technologies frequently are delayed. As a result of our lengthy sales cycles, we may incur substantial expenses before we earn associated revenue because a significant portion of our operating expenses is relatively fixed and based on expected revenue. The lengthy sales cycles of our products also make forecasting the volume and timing of orders difficult. In addition, the delays inherent in lengthy sales cycles raise additional risks that customers may cancel or change their orders. Our sales are made by purchase orders. Because industry practice allows customers to reschedule or cancel orders on relatively short notice, backlog is not always a good indicator of our future sales. If customer cancellations or product changes occur, we could lose anticipated sales and not have sufficient time to reduce our inventory and operating expenses.

The loss of any of our key personnel or the failure to attract or retain specialized technical and management personnel could impair our ability to grow our business.

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-Q

Our future success depends upon our ability to attract and retain highly qualified technical and managerial personnel. We are particularly dependent on the continued services of our key executives, including Michael Hsing, our President and Chief Executive Officer, who founded our company and developed our proprietary process technology. In addition, personnel with highly skilled analog and mixed-signal design engineering expertise are scarce and competition for personnel with these skills is intense. There can be no assurance that we will be able to retain existing key employees or that we will be successful in attracting, integrating or retaining other highly qualified personnel with critical capabilities in the future. If we are unable to retain the services of existing key employees or are unsuccessful in attracting new highly qualified employees quickly enough to meet the demands of our business, including design cycles, our business could be harmed.

Table of Contents

If we fail to retain key employees in sales, applications, finance and legal or to make continued improvements to our internal systems, particularly in the accounting and finance area, our business may suffer.

If we fail to continue to adequately staff our sales, applications, financial and legal staff, maintain or upgrade our business systems and maintain internal controls that meet the demands of our business, our ability to operate effectively will suffer. The operation of our business also depends upon our ability to retain these employees, as these employees hold a significant amount of institutional knowledge about us and our products, and, if they were to terminate their employment, our sales and internal control over financial reporting could be adversely affected.

We intend to continue to expand our operations, which may strain our resources and increase our operating expenses.

We plan to continue to expand our domestic and foreign operations through internal growth, strategic relationships, and/or acquisitions. We expect that any such expansion will strain our systems and operational and financial controls. In addition, we are likely to incur significantly higher operating costs. To manage our growth effectively, we must continue to improve and expand our systems and controls, as well as hire experienced administrative and financial personnel. If we fail to do so, our growth will be limited. If we fail to effectively manage our planned expansion of operations, our business and operating results may be harmed.

We may engage in future acquisitions that dilute the ownership interests of our stockholders and cause us to incur debt or to assume contingent liabilities, and we may be unable to successfully integrate these companies into our operations, which would adversely affect our business.

As a part of our business strategy, from time to time we review acquisition prospects that would complement our current product offerings, enhance our design capability or offer other competitive opportunities. In the event of future acquisitions, we could use a significant portion of our available cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments, issue equity securities which would dilute current stockholders' percentage ownership, and/or incur substantial debt or contingent liabilities. Such actions by us could impact our operating results and/or the price of our common stock. In addition, if we are unsuccessful in integrating any acquired company into our operations or if integration is more difficult than anticipated, we may experience disruptions that could harm our business.

We compete against many companies with substantially greater financing and other resources, and our market share may be reduced if we are unable to respond to our competitors effectively.

The analog and mixed-signal semiconductor industry is highly competitive, and we expect competitive pressures to continue. Our ability to compete effectively and to expand our business will depend on our ability to continue to recruit applications and design talent, our ability to introduce new products, and our ability to maintain the rate at which we introduce these new products. We compete with domestic and non-domestic semiconductor companies, many of which have substantially greater financial and other resources with which to pursue engineering, manufacturing, marketing, and distribution of their products. We are in direct and active competition, with respect to one or more of our product lines, with at least 10 manufacturers of such products, of varying size and financial strength. The number of our competitors has grown due to the expansion of the market segments in which we participate. We consider our competitors to include, but not be limited to: Fairchild Semiconductor, Intersil, Linear, Maxim Integrated Products, Micrel, Microsemi, National Semiconductor, O2Micro, RichTek, Rohm, Semtech, STMicroelectronics, Texas Instruments and Volterra. We expect continued competition from existing competitors as well as competition from new entrants in the semiconductor market.

We cannot assure you that our products will continue to compete favorably or that we will be successful in the face of increasing competition from new products and enhancements introduced by existing competitors or new companies entering this market, which would materially and adversely affect our results of operations and our financial condition.

If securities or industry analysts downgrade our stock or do not continue to publish research or reports about our business, our stock price and trading volume could decline.

The trading market for our common stock will depend on the research and reports that industry or securities analysts publish about us or our business. We do not have any control over these analysts. If one or more of the analysts who cover us downgrade our stock, our stock price would likely decline. If one or more of these analysts cease coverage of us or fail to regularly publish reports on us, we could lose visibility in the financial markets, which in turn could cause our stock price or trading volume to decline.

Table of Contents

Because of their significant stock ownership, our officers and directors will be able to exert significant influence over our future direction.

Executive officers, directors, and affiliated entities beneficially owned in aggregate, approximately 15% of our outstanding common stock as of March 31, 2010. These stockholders, if acting together, would be able to significantly influence all matters requiring approval by our stockholders, including the election of directors and the approval of mergers or other business combination transactions.

Major earthquakes or other natural disasters and resulting systems outages may cause us significant losses.

Our corporate headquarters, the production facilities of our third-party wafer supplier, our IC testing facility, a portion of our assembly and research and development activities, and certain other critical business operations are located in or near seismically active regions and are subject to periodic earthquakes. We do not maintain earthquake insurance and could be materially and adversely affected in the event of a major earthquake. Much of our revenue, as well as our manufacturers and assemblers, are concentrated in Asia. Such concentration increases the risk that other natural disasters, labor strikes, terrorism, war, political unrest, epidemics, and/or health advisories could disrupt our operations. In addition, we rely heavily on our internal information and communications systems and on systems or support services from third parties to manage our operations efficiently and effectively. Any of these are subject to failure due to a natural disaster or other disruption. System-wide or local failures that affect our information processing could have material adverse effects on our business, financial condition, operating results, and cash flows.

Our facilities in Chengdu, China are located in a seismically active area, as evidenced by the May 2008 earthquake that was centered in the Sichuan Province of China. Although there was no damage to our facilities as a result of that earthquake, should there be additional earthquakes in the area, we may incur losses and our business, financial condition and/or operating results may suffer.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 3.1(1) | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation |
| 3.2(2) | Amended and Restated Bylaws |
| 31.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 31.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.1* | Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |

- * This exhibit shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filings under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language in any filings.
- (1) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Registrant's Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.
- (2) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.4 of the Registrant's Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.

Table of Contents

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC

SIGNATURE

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

Dated: April 29, 2010

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.

/s/ C. RICHARD NEELY, JR.
C. Richard Neely, Jr.
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

3.1(1)	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation
3.2(2)	Amended and Restated Bylaws
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1*	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

- * This exhibit shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filings under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language in any filings.
- (1) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Registrant's Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.
- (2) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.4 of the Registrant's Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.