MINDSPEED TECHNOLOGIES, INC
Form 10-K
November 18, 2011

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)

OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011

Commission file number: 001-31650

MINDSPEED TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	**01-0616769**
(State of incorporation)	*(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)*
4000 MacArthur Boulevard, East Tower Newport Beach, California	**92660-3095**
(Address of principal executive offices)	*(Zip code)*

Registrant s telephone number, including area code:

(949) 579-3000

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

(Title of Each Class)	**(Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered)**
Common Stock $0.01 par value per share (including associated Preferred Share Purchase Rights)	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

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

None

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

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

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 þ 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 þ No ¨

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant s knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. ¨

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

Large accelerated filer ¨ Accelerated filer þ Non-accelerated filer ¨ Smaller reporting company ¨
(Do not check if a 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 þ

The aggregate market value of the registrant s voting and non-voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of the end of its most recently completed second fiscal quarter was approximately $262.5 million. Shares held by each officer and director and each person owning more than 10% of the outstanding voting and non-voting stock have been excluded from this calculation because such persons may be deemed to be affiliates of the registrant. This determination of potential affiliate status is not necessarily a conclusive determination for other purposes. Shares held include shares of which certain of such persons disclaim beneficial ownership.

The number of outstanding shares of the registrant s Common Stock as of October 28, 2011 was 34,496,900.

Documents Incorporated by Reference

Portions of the Registrant s Proxy Statement for the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A within 120 days after the end of the 2011 fiscal year, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains statements relating to Mindspeed Technologies, Inc. (including certain projections and business trends) that are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), and are subject to the safe harbor created by those sections. All statements included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, other than those that are purely historical, are forward-looking statements. Words such as expect, believe, anticipate, could, target, project, intend, plan, seek, estimate, may, and contin of such words and similar expressions, also identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K include, without limitation, statements regarding:

the ability of our relationships with network infrastructure original equipment manufacturers to facilitate early adoption of our products, enhance our ability to obtain design wins and encourage adoption of our technology in the industry;

the growth prospects for the network infrastructure equipment and communications semiconductors markets, including increased demand for network capacity, the upgrade and expansion of existing networks and the build-out of networks in developing countries;

our expectation that original equipment manufacturers will outsource more of their semiconductor component requirements to semiconductor suppliers;

our belief that the markets for semiconductor products addressing the enterprise, broadband access and metro service areas will grow at faster rates than the markets for network infrastructure equipment, in general, and our position to increase our share in those target areas;

our belief that our diverse portfolio of semiconductor solutions has positioned us to capitalize on some of the most significant trends in telecommunications spending;

our belief that we are well-situated in China and that fiber deployments are being rolled out by the country s major telecommunications carriers;

our belief that raw materials, parts and supplies required by our foundry suppliers will remain available in the foreseeable future;

our belief that the loss or termination of any single patent, license, trade secret, know-how, trademark or copyright would not materially affect our business or financial condition;

our plans to make substantial investments in research and development and participate in the formulation of industry standards;

our belief that we can maximize our return on our research and development spending by focusing our investment in what we believe are key growth markets;

the sufficiency of our existing sources of liquidity, along with cash expected from product sales to fund our operations, research and development efforts, anticipated capital expenditures, working capital and other financing requirements, including interest payments on debt obligations, for the next 12 months;

our estimates regarding our minimum future obligations under our operating leases and our anticipated rental income;

our restructuring plans, including timing, expected workforce reductions, the expected cost savings under our restructuring plans and the uses of those savings, the timing and amount of payments, the impact on our business, the amounts of future charges to complete our restructuring plans, including any future plans to reduce operating expenses and/or increase revenue;

our intention to continue to expand our international business activities, including expansion of design and operations centers abroad, and the challenges associated with such expansion;

our belief that our properties are well maintained, are in good sound operating condition and contain all the equipment and facilities to operate at present levels;

our expectations regarding the cyclical nature of the semiconductor industry; and

the impact of recent accounting pronouncements and the adoption of new accounting standards.

Our expectations, beliefs, anticipations, objectives, intentions, plans and strategies regarding the future are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results, and actual events that occur, to differ materially from results contemplated by the forward-looking statement. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to:

worldwide political and economic uncertainties and specific conditions in the markets we address;

fluctuations in our operating results and future operating losses;

constraints in the supply of wafers and other product components from our third-party manufacturers;

fluctuations in the price of our common stock;

successful development and introduction of new products;

pricing pressures and other competitive factors;

loss of or diminished demand from one or more key customers or distributors;

cash requirements and terms and availability of financing;

the expense of and our ability to defend our intellectual property against infringement claims by others;

our ability to attract and retain qualified personnel;

doing business internationally and our ability to successfully and cost effectively establish and manage operations in foreign jurisdictions;

lengthy sales cycles;

business acquisitions and investments;

order and shipment uncertainty;

our ability to obtain design wins and develop revenue from them;

product defects and bugs; and

our ability to utilize our net operating loss carryforwards and certain other tax attributes.

The forward-looking statements in this report are subject to additional risks and uncertainties, including those set forth in Item 1A Risk Factors and those detailed from time to time in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These forward-looking statements are made only as of the date hereof and, except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to update or revise any of them, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Mindspeed®, Mindspeed Technologies®, Comcerto® and Transcede® are registered trademarks or trademarks of Mindspeed Technologies, Inc. Other brands, names and trademarks contained in this report are the property of their respective owners.

PART I

Item 1. ***Business***

Mindspeed Technologies, Inc. (we or Mindspeed) designs, develops and sells semiconductor solutions for communications applications in the wireline and wireless network infrastructure, which includes enterprise networks, broadband access networks (fixed and mobile) and metropolitan and wide area networks. We have organized our solutions for these interrelated and rapidly converging networks into three product families:

communications convergence processing, high-performance analog and wide area networking communications. Our communications convergence processing products include ultra-low-power, multi-core digital signal processor system-on-chip (SoC) solutions for the fixed and mobile (3G/4G) carrier infrastructure and residential and enterprise platforms. Our high-performance analog products include high-density crosspoint switches, optical drivers, equalization and signal-conditioning solutions that solve difficult switching, timing and synchronization challenges in next-generation optical networking, enterprise storage and broadcast video transmission applications. Our wide area networking (WAN) communications portfolio helps optimize today s circuit-switched networks that furnish much of the Internet s underlying long-distance infrastructure.

Our products are sold to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) for use in a variety of network infrastructure equipment, including:

Communications Convergence Processing triple-play access gateways for Voice-over-Internet protocol (VoIP) and data processing platforms; broadband customer premises equipment (CPE) gateways and other equipment that carriers use to deliver voice, data and video services to residential subscribers; Internet protocol (IP) private branch exchange (PBX) equipment and security appliances used in the enterprise and 3G/4G mobile base stations in the carrier infrastructure;

High-Performance Analog next-generation fiber access network equipment (including passive optical networking, or PON, systems); switching and signal conditioning products supporting fiber-to-the-premise, optical transport networks (OTN), storage and server systems and broadcast video, inclusive of routers and other systems that are driving the migration to 3G high-definition (HD) transmission; and

WAN Communications circuit-switched networking equipment that implements asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) and T1/E1 and T3/E3 communications protocols.

Our customers include Alcatel-Lucent, Cisco Systems, Inc., Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd., Hitachi Ltd., LM Ericsson Telephone Company, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Nokia Siemens Networks and Zhongxing Telecom Equipment Corp.

We believe the breadth of our product portfolio, combined with more than three decades of experience in semiconductor hardware, software and communications systems engineering, provides us with a competitive advantage. We have proven expertise in signal, packet and transmission processing technologies, which are critical core competencies for successfully defining, designing and implementing advanced semiconductor products for next-generation network infrastructure equipment. We have cultivated and continue to initiate and foster close relationships with leading network infrastructure OEMs to understand emerging markets, technologies and standards. We focus our research and development efforts on applications in the segments of the telecommunications network which we believe offer the most attractive growth prospects. Our business is fabless, which means we outsource all of our manufacturing needs, and we do not own or operate any semiconductor manufacturing facilities. We believe being fabless allows us to minimize operating infrastructure and capital expenditures, maintain operational flexibility and focus our resources on the design, development and marketing of our products.

Mindspeed was originally incorporated in Delaware in 2001 as a wholly owned subsidiary of Conexant Systems, Inc. On June 27, 2003, Conexant completed the distribution to Conexant stockholders of all outstanding shares of common stock of Mindspeed. Prior to the distribution, Conexant transferred to us the assets and liabilities of its Mindspeed business, including the stock of certain subsidiaries, and certain other assets and liabilities, which were allocated to us under the distribution agreement entered into between us and Conexant. Also, prior to the distribution, Conexant contributed cash to our company in an amount such that at the time of the distribution our cash balance was $100.0 million. We issued to Conexant a warrant to purchase approximately 6.1 million shares of our common stock at a price of $16.74 per share, as adjusted, exercisable for a period of ten years after the distribution. Following the distribution, we began operations as an independent, publicly held company. Our common stock trades on the Nasdaq Global Market under the ticker symbol MSPD.

Industry Overview

Communications semiconductor products are a critical part of network infrastructure equipment. Network infrastructure OEMs require advanced communications semiconductor products such as low-power, multi-core digital signal processor (DSP) SoC solutions, as well as switching and signal timing and conditioning solutions that are highly optimized for the equipment employed by their customers. We seek to provide semiconductor products that enable network infrastructure OEMs to meet the needs of their service provider and enterprise customers in terms of system performance, functionality and time-to-market.

Addressed Markets

Our semiconductor products are primarily focused on network infrastructure equipment applications in three areas of the broadly defined communications network: enterprise networks, broadband access service areas, including wireless and wireline infrastructure networks, and metropolitan and wide area networks. The type and complexity of network infrastructure equipment used in these network areas continues to expand, driven by the need for the processing, transmission and switching of digital voice, data and video traffic over multiple communication media, at numerous transmission data rates and employing different protocols.

Enterprise networks include equipment that enables voice and data communications and access to outside networks, and is deployed primarily in the offices of commercial enterprises, including specialized commercial segments, such as broadcast video production, which have demanding network requirements. An enterprise network may be comprised of many local area networks, as well as client workstations, centralized database management systems, storage area networks (SANs) and other components. In enterprise networks, communications semiconductors facilitate the processing and transmission of voice, data and video traffic in converged IP networks that are replacing the traditional separate telephone, data and video conferencing networks. Typical network infrastructure equipment found in enterprise networks that use our products include voice and media gateways, IP private branch exchanges, SAN routers, director-class switches and emerging enterprise-class wireless base station systems for enhanced mobile enterprise service delivery. In addition, a major trend in the broadcast video segment of the enterprise networking market is the switch from analog to digital television transmission and the conversion from standard-definition television services to high-definition television (HDTV) services featuring more detailed images and digital surround sound. We offer a family of broadcast-video products optimized for high-speed HDTV routing and production switcher applications.

Broadband Access service areas of the telecommunications network refer to the last mile of a telecommunications or cable service provider s physical network (including copper, fiber optic or wireless transmission), including network infrastructure equipment that connects end-users (typically located at a business or residence) with metropolitan and wide area networks. For this portion of the network, infrastructure equipment requires semiconductors that enable reliable, high-speed connectivity capable of aggregating or disaggregating and transporting multiple forms of voice, data and video traffic. In addition, communications semiconductors must accommodate multiple transmission standards and communications protocols to provide a bridge between dissimilar access networks; for example, connecting wireless base station equipment to a wireline network, and enabling the computationally complex processing that is required in order for carriers to meet cellular data service demands with limited available spectrum. Typical network infrastructure equipment found at the edge of the broadband access service area that use our products include optical node units, optical line terminals, remote access concentrators, digital subscriber line (DSL) access multiplexers, broadband customer premises equipment gateways, mixed-media gateways, wireless base stations, digital loop carrier equipment and media converters.

Metropolitan and Wide Area Networks refer to the portion of a service provider s physical network that enables high-speed communications within a city or a larger regional area, including inexpensive mobile backhaul services for wireless communications carriers. In addition, this portion of the network provides the communications link between broadband access service areas and the fiber optic-based, wide area network. For metro equipment applications, our communications semiconductors provide transmission and processing capabilities, as well as information segmentation and classification, and routing and switching functionality, to support high-speed traffic from multiple sources employing different transmission standards and communications

protocols. These functions require signal conversion, signal processing and packet processing expertise to support the design and development of highly integrated mixed-signal devices combining analog and digital functions with communications protocols and application software. Typical network infrastructure equipment found in metro service areas that use our products includes add-drop multiplexers, switches, high-speed routers, digital cross-connect systems, optical edge devices and multiservice provisioning platforms.

The telecommunications network, including the Internet, has evolved into a complex, hybrid series of converging digital and optical networks that connect individuals and businesses globally. These new higher-bandwidth, data-centric networks integrate voice, data and video traffic, operate over both wired and wireless media, link existing voice and data networks and cross traditional enterprise, broadband access, metro and long haul service area boundaries. Network infrastructure OEMs are designing faster, more intelligent and more complex equipment to satisfy the needs of service providers as they continue to expand their network coverage and service offerings while upgrading and connecting or integrating existing networks of disparate types. In this demanding environment, we believe network infrastructure OEMs select as their strategic partners communications semiconductor suppliers who can deliver advanced products that provide increased functionality, lower total system cost and support for a variety of communications media, operating speeds and protocols.

The Mindspeed Approach

We believe the breadth of our product portfolio, combined with our expertise in low-power semiconductor hardware and software and communications systems engineering, provide us with a competitive advantage in designing and selling our products to leading network infrastructure OEMs.

We have proven expertise in signal, packet and transmission processing technologies. Signal processing involves both signal conversion and digital signal processing techniques that convert and compress voice, data and video between analog and digital representations. Packet processing involves bundling or segmenting information traffic using standard protocols such as IP or ATM and enables sharing of transmission bandwidth across a given communication medium. Transmission processing involves the transport and receipt of voice, data and video traffic across copper wire and optical fiber communications media.

These core technology competencies are critical for developing semiconductor networking solutions that enable the processing, transmission and switching of high-speed voice, data and video traffic, employing multiple communications protocols, across disparate communications networks. Our core technology competencies are the foundation for developing our:

- low-power semiconductor device architectures, including mixed-signal devices and application-specific multi-core SoC solutions that combine core central processing units, digital signal processors and programmable hardware-accelerated protocol engines plus analog signal processing capabilities;

- highly optimized signal processing algorithms and communications protocols, which we implement in semiconductor devices, including echo-cancellation, wideband voice and advanced video technologies;

- critical software drivers and application software to perform signal, packet and transmission processing tasks, plus programming tools, which customers can use to add their own proprietary value to designs based on our SoCs;

- integration, transmission and receiving of multi-gigabit serial data streams over optical and copper media to solve difficult system challenges in synchronous optical network (SONET), OTN, dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM) telecommunications equipment, broadcast video systems, and enterprise storage, networking and computing applications; and

- traditional transmission components for the public switched telephone network (PSTN) which continues to provide the underlying long-distance backbone for today s Internet infrastructure.

Increasing Demand for Communications Semiconductors

We believe the market for network infrastructure equipment in general, and for communications semiconductors in particular, offers attractive long-term growth prospects for several reasons:

We anticipate that demand for network capacity will continue to increase, driven by:

Internet user growth;

higher network utilization rates as carriers seek to maximize the return on the capital and operational investments in their network infrastructure; and

growing consumer and business demand for VoIP and other bandwidth-intensive services and applications, such as wireless data transfer and video/multimedia content delivery.

We believe that incumbent telecommunications carriers, integrated communication service providers and cable multiple service operators worldwide will continue to upgrade and expand legacy portions of their networks to accommodate new service offerings and to reduce operating costs. This upgrade and expansion cycle, along with the development of new, next-generation networks, requires the development of a variety of new equipment created from advanced semiconductor solutions.

In certain countries, we expect that service providers will continue the build-out of telecommunication networks, many of which were previously government owned and are now often taking the lead on new technology deployment, ahead of more established regions in terms of creating high-growth market opportunities for the latest advances.

We also believe that many technologies developed to solve high-speed optical networking challenges also apply to challenges in other portions of the network infrastructure. For instance, high-speed backplanes for DWDM equipment have sophisticated timing and signal-conditioning requirements that are similar to those required in enterprise storage and broadcast video transmission applications. In both cases, advanced silicon is a critical enabler for system designs.

Moreover, we expect that network infrastructure OEMs will outsource more of their semiconductor component requirements to semiconductor suppliers, allowing the OEMs to reduce their operating cost structure by shifting their focus and investment from internal application specific integrated circuit semiconductor design and development to more strategic systems development.

Strategy

Our objective is to grow our business profitably and to become the leading supplier of semiconductor networking solutions to leading global network infrastructure OEMs in key enterprise, broadband access and metro service area market segments. To achieve this objective, we are pursuing the following strategies:

Focus on Increasing Share in Growth Applications

We have established strong market positions for our products in the enterprise, broadband access (fixed and mobile) and metro service areas of the telecommunications network. We believe the markets for semiconductor products that address these applications will grow at faster rates than the markets for network infrastructure equipment, in general. This key attribute is expected to make the enterprise, broadband access and metro service areas the most attractive markets for the foreseeable future. We believe that our three core technology competencies, coupled with focused investments in product development, will position us to increase our share in those target areas.

Expand Strategic Relationships with Industry-Leading Global Network Infrastructure OEMs and Maximize Design Win Share

We identify and selectively establish strategic relationships with market leaders in the network infrastructure equipment industry to develop next-generation products and, in some cases, customized solutions

for their specific needs. We have an extensive history of working closely with our customers research and development groups and marketing teams to understand emerging markets, technologies and standards, and we invest our product development resources in those areas. We believe our close relationships with leading network infrastructure OEMs facilitate early adoption of our semiconductor products during development of their system-level products, enhance our ability to obtain design wins from those customers and encourage adoption of our technology throughout the industry.

In North America, we have cultivated close relationships with leading network infrastructure OEMs, including Cisco Systems, Inc. and Genband, Inc. Abroad, we have established close relationships with market leaders such as Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., and Zhongxing Telecom Equipment Corp. in the Asia-Pacific region and Alcatel-Lucent, Nokia Siemens Networks and LM Ericsson Telephone Company in Europe.

Capitalize on the Breadth of Our Product and Intellectual Property Portfolio

We build on the breadth of our product portfolio of physical-layer devices, together with our signal and packet processing devices and communications software expertise, to increase our share of the silicon content in our customers products. We offer a range of complementary products that are optimized to work with each other and provide our customers with complete information receipt, processing and transmission functions. These complementary products allow infrastructure OEMs to source components that provide proven interoperability from a single semiconductor supplier, rather than requiring OEMs to combine and coordinate individual components from multiple vendors.

In addition, we offer highly integrated products, such as our family of Comcerto packet processors that provide our customers with a complete hardware and software solution in a single device. These integrated products perform functions typically requiring multiple discrete components and software, and combine the programmability of alternative general-purpose DSP solutions with the superior performance and power efficiency of a multi-processor solution with selected application-specific fixed-function acceleration. Our multi-core SoC expertise is also becoming increasingly important as network infrastructure equipment requires more and more computational complexity to solve difficult multi-layered signal processing challenges. To enable the integration of more and more processing cores into SoC devices, we have developed proprietary intellectual property for managing large arrays of DSPs, including task-scheduling technology that has been field-proven and steadily enhanced through several generations of triple-play edge gateways used for complex packet-processing applications.

We believe that this strategy of offering both complementary and integrated products increases product performance, speeds time-to-market and lowers the total system cost for our customers. The breadth of our product portfolio also provides a competitive advantage for serving network convergence applications such as multiprotocol wireless-to-wireline connectivity. These applications generally require a combination of processing, transmission or switching functionality to move high-speed voice and data traffic using multiple communications protocols across disparate communications networks.

Through our efforts in building a large product portfolio, we have developed and we maintain a broad intellectual property portfolio consisting of sophisticated algorithms and other specialized technology, such as the advanced echo-cancellation techniques that have been used in voice ports of carrier telecommunications equipment that our products have enabled. We periodically enter into strategic arrangements to leverage our portfolio by licensing or selling our intellectual property.

Additionally, we have aligned with key strategic partners to collaborate on advanced multi-core SoC architectures that we believe are critical for next-generation, ultra-low-power communications processing solutions. For instance, our work with ARM Holdings plc has resulted in 12 generations of power-efficiency advances, initially for carrier-class convergence processors and more recently for triple-play home-gateway platforms, as well as for our Transcede products. Power efficiency is becoming increasingly important as our customers adopt a variety of energy-efficiency initiatives, including the European Union energy-consumption guidelines for broadband equipment.

Provide Outstanding Technical Support and Customer Service

We provide broad-based technical and product design support to our customers through three dedicated teams: field application engineers, product application engineers and technical marketing personnel. We believe that comprehensive service and support are critical to shortening our customers design cycles and maintaining a long-term competitive position within the network infrastructure equipment market. Outstanding customer service and support are important competitive factors for semiconductor component suppliers like us seeking to be the preferred suppliers to leading network infrastructure OEMs.

Products

We provide network infrastructure OEMs with a broad portfolio of advanced semiconductor networking solutions. Our products can be classified into three focused product families: communications convergence processing products, high-performance analog products and WAN communications products. These three product families are found in a variety of networking equipment designed to process, transmit and switch voice, data and video traffic between, and within, the different segments of the communications network.

Communications Convergence Processing Products

Our software-configurable communications convergence processing products serve as bridges for transporting video, voice, fax and modem transmissions between circuit-switched and packet-based fixed and mobile networks, and across network boundaries. Our DSP device architecture combines the performance of a digital-signal processor core with the flexibility of a microcontroller core to support our extensive suite of voice compression techniques, echo cancellers and communications protocols. These products process and translate voice and data and perform various management and reporting functions. They compress the signals to minimize bandwidth consumption and modify or add communications protocols to accommodate transport of the signals across a variety of different networks. Supported services include video and VoIP, Voice-over-ATM (VoATM) and Voice-over-DSL services, as well as wireline-to-wireless connectivity.

Our communications convergence processing products include the eighth-generation Comcerto family for fiber-access service delivery, and our Transcede family of 3G/4G base station baseband processors that extend our proven multi-core processing expertise into the mobile infrastructure.

Our Comcerto family of packet processors includes a full range of software-compatible solutions that enable OEMs to provide scalable systems with customized features for carrier, enterprise and customer premise applications. The high-density members of this family, the Comcerto 5000, 900, 700 and 600 series processors and related software, provide a complete SoC solution for carrier-class video and Voice-over-packet (VoP) applications. All are targeted for use in media gateways designed to bridge wireless, wireline and enterprise networks.

The Comcerto 100 series broadband services processor is designed to support secure triple-play (voice, video and data) networks for residential and small office/home office markets. The Comcerto 100 series processor integrates high-performance security processing, packet processing and quality of service (QoS) capabilities for next-generation broadband customer premises equipment enabling service providers to deliver sophisticated multi-media content to their subscribers.

The Comcerto 300, 500 and 800 series solutions are designed for access and enterprise voice and data processing applications. The Comcerto 300 series is targeted at VoIP integration in lower density access platforms, such as multi-dwelling units (MDUs), digital subscriber line access multiplexer (DSLAM) equipment and multi-service access nodes (MSANs), and are widely deployed in passive optical network/fiber-to-the-building (PON/FTTB) applications. The Comcerto 500 series is a silicon PBX-on-a-chip which supports all required voice processing functionality for up to 128 channels, including encryption. The Comcerto 800 series enables a new class of office-in-a-box systems by combining a high-quality VoP subsystem with a high-performance routing and virtual private network (VPN) engine. The Comcerto 800 series integrates voice processing, packet processing and encryption functionality into a single device for the rapidly

growing market for VoP enterprise networks. This product is targeted for use in enterprise voice gateways, PBXs and integrated access devices.

The Comcerto 1000 series of low-power embedded packet processers address a wide variety of applications ranging from high-end VoIP enabled home gateways and small-to-midsized business high performance security appliances to Ethernet powered 802.11n enterprise access points. The Comcerto 1000 series of processors delivers scalability, high-performance packet handling capabilities, increased VPN and secure sockets layer (SSL) throughput and industry leading QoS hardware features.

Our Transcede family extends our multi-core processor to deliver highly integrated baseband solutions for 3G/4G base stations. Transcede is designed to meet the huge increase in base station diversity and computational complexity caused by the mobile Internet s migration from a voice- to data-centric mobile network. Transcede is designed to enable the development of a wide range of equipment, from picocells and enterprise femtocells serving a relatively small number of subscribers to microcells and macrocells serving hundreds or thousands of subscribers. Demand for this diverse set of platforms is being driven by the need for carriers to offload mobile data traffic and bridge today s 3G coverage and performance gaps, while paving the way for next-generation 4G and long-term evolution (LTE) networks.

The Transcede family includes the T4000, whose processor cores run at 600 MHz, with less than 12 watt power consumption, and the T4020, which features 750 MHz processor cores and typical power consumption less than 15 watts. These devices enable 64-user picocell on a chip, delivering three sectors of LTE processing in a single device, while still providing substantial processing headroom so manufacturers can deploy their own value-added features as part of an overall Transcede-based solution. The Transcede family also includes the Transcede 3000, which is designed for small-cell 3G and 4G base stations supporting up to 32 users. Mindspeed also offers the T4005 for 3G/4G macrocell developers who want to combine Transcede s high-performance Layer One (L1) physical-layer (PHY) processing capabilities with an existing Layer Two (L2) media access control (MAC) processing solution. All other Transcede processors combine L1 PHY and L2 MAC functionality on the same device to deliver the lowest possible system latency.

High-Performance Analog Products

Our high-performance analog transmission devices and switching products support storage area network, fiber-to-the-premise, OTN and broadcast video typically operating at data transmission rates between 155 megabits per second (Mbps) and 10 gigabits per second (Gbps). Our transmission products include laser drivers, transimpedance amplifiers, post amplifiers, clock and data recovery circuits, signal conditioners, serializers/deserializers, video reclockers, cable drivers and line equalizers. These products serve as the connection between a fiber optic or coaxial cable component interface and the remainder of the electrical subsystem in various network equipment and perform a variety of functions, including:

- converting incoming optical signals from fiber optic cables to electrical signals for processing and transport over a wireline medium and vice-versa;
- conditioning the signal to remove unwanted noise;
- combining lower speed signals from multiple parallel paths into higher speed serial paths, and vice-versa, for bandwidth economy; and
- amplifying and equalizing weaker signals as they pass through a particular system s equipment, media or network.

Our switching products include a family of high-speed crosspoint switches capable of switching traffic beyond 8 Gbps within various types of network switching equipment. These crosspoint switches direct, or transfer, a large number of high-speed data input streams, regardless of traffic type, to different connection trunks for rerouting the information to new destination points in the network. Crosspoint switches are often used to provide redundant traffic paths in networking equipment to protect against the loss of critical data from spurious network outages or failures that may occur from time to time. Target equipment applications for our switching

products include OTN systems, add-drop multiplexers, high-density IP switches and storage-area routers. In addition, we offer crosspoint switches optimized for standard and high-definition broadcast video routing and production switching applications.

WAN Communications Products

Our WAN communications products include transmission solutions and high-performance ATM/multi-protocol label switching (MPLS) network processors that facilitate the aggregation, processing and transport of voice and data traffic over copper wire or fiber optic cable to access metropolitan and long-haul networks.

Our high-performance ATM/MPLS network processors, and T1/E1, T3/E3 and SONET carrier devices are designed for use in a variety of equipment including digital loop carriers, DSL access multiplexers, add-drop multiplexers, switches, high-speed routers, digital cross-connect systems, optical edge devices, multiservice provisioning platforms, voice gateways, wireless backhaul and wireless base station controllers.

Customers

We market and sell our semiconductor networking solutions directly to leading network infrastructure OEMs. We also sell our products indirectly through electronic component distributors and third-party electronic manufacturing service providers, which manufacture products incorporating our semiconductor networking solutions for OEMs. Sales to distributors accounted for approximately 60% of our revenue for fiscal 2011. For fiscal 2011, distributor Alltek Technology Corporation accounted for 23% of our net revenue and distributor Avnet, Inc. accounted for 19% of our net revenue.

Our top direct OEM customer for fiscal 2011 was Zhongxing Telecom Equipment Corp. (ZTE), who accounted for 9% of our net revenue. Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. was also a significant direct OEM customer and accounted for a total of 7% of our net revenue. We believe that our significant indirect network infrastructure OEM customers for fiscal 2011 also included Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Oki Electric Industry Co., Ltd and Alcatel-Lucent.

Our customer base is widely dispersed geographically. Revenue derived from customers located in the Americas region was 21%, in the Europe region was 8% and in the Asia-Pacific region was 71% of our total revenue for fiscal 2011. We believe a portion of the products we sell to OEMs and third-party manufacturing service providers in the Asia-Pacific region is ultimately shipped to end-markets in the Americas and Europe. See Item 8 Financial Statements and Supplementary Data, including Note 3 and Note 17 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information on customers and geographic areas.

Sales, Marketing and Technical Support

We have a worldwide sales, marketing and technical support organization that is currently comprised of 87 employees located in three domestic and eight international sales locations. Our marketing, sales and field applications engineering teams, augmented by 12 electronic component distributors and three sales representative organizations, focus on marketing and selling semiconductor networking solutions to worldwide network infrastructure OEMs.

We maintain close working relationships with our customers throughout their lengthy product development cycle. Our customers may need six months or longer to test and evaluate our products and an additional six months or longer to begin volume production of network infrastructure equipment that incorporates our products. During this process, we provide broad-based technical and product design support to our customers through our field application engineers, product application engineers and technical marketing personnel. We believe that providing comprehensive product service and support is critical to shortening our customers design cycles and maintaining a competitive position in the network infrastructure equipment market.

Operations and Manufacturing

We are a fabless company, which means we do not own or operate foundries for wafer fabrication or facilities for device assembly and final test of our products. Instead, we outsource wafer fabrication, assembly

and testing of our semiconductor products to independent, third-party contractors. We use mainstream digital complementary metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS) process technology for the majority of our products; we rely on specialty processes for the remainder of our products. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (TSMC) is our principal foundry supplier of CMOS wafers and die and produces some of our specialty process products. We use several other suppliers for wafers used in older products. We believe that the raw materials, parts and supplies required by our foundry suppliers are generally available at present and will remain available in the foreseeable future.

Semiconductor wafers are usually shipped to third-party contractors for device assembly and packaging where the wafers are cut into individual die, packaged and tested before final shipment to customers. We use Amkor Technology, Inc., Advanced Semiconductor Engineering, Inc. (ASE) and other third-party contractors, located in the Asia-Pacific region, Europe and California, to satisfy a variety of assembly and packaging technology and product testing requirements associated with the back-end portion of the manufacturing process.

We qualify each of our foundry and back-end process providers. This qualification process consists of a detailed technical review of process performance, design rules, process models, tools and support, as well as analysis of the subcontractor s quality system and manufacturing capability. We also participate in quality and reliability monitoring through each stage of the production cycle by reviewing electrical and parametric data from our wafer foundry and back-end providers. We closely monitor wafer foundry production for overall quality, reliability and yield levels.

Competition

The communications semiconductor industry in general, and the markets in which we compete in particular, are intensely competitive. We compete worldwide with a number of United States (U.S.) and international suppliers that are both larger and smaller than us in terms of resources and market share. We expect intense competition to continue.

Our principal competitors are Cavium Networks Inc., Freescale Semiconductor, Inc., Gennum Corporation, Maxim Integrated Products, Inc., PMC-Sierra, Inc., Texas Instruments Inc. and Vitesse Semiconductor Corporation.

We believe that the principal competitive factors for semiconductor suppliers in each of our served markets are:

- time-to-market;
- product quality, reliability and performance;
- customer support;
- price and total system cost;
- new product innovation;
- compliance with industry standards;
- design wins;
- market acceptance of our, or our competitors products;
- production efficiencies; and

general economic conditions.

While we believe that we compete favorably with respect to each of these factors, many of our current and potential competitors have certain advantages over us, including:

stronger financial position and liquidity;

longer, or stronger, presence in key markets;

greater name recognition;

more secure supply chain;

lower cost alternatives to our products;

access to larger customer bases; and

significantly greater sales and marketing, manufacturing, distribution, technical and other resources.

As a result, these competitors may be able to devote greater resources to the development, promotion and sale of their products than we can. Our competitors may also be able to adapt more quickly to new or emerging technologies and changes in customer requirements or may be more able to respond to the cyclical fluctuations or downturns that affect the semiconductor industry from time to time. If we are not successful in assuring our customers of our financial stability, our OEM customers may choose semiconductor suppliers whom they believe have a stronger financial position or liquidity, which may materially adversely affect our business.

Backlog

Our sales are made primarily pursuant to standard purchase orders for delivery of products. Because industry practice allows customers to cancel orders with limited advance notice to us prior to shipment, we believe that backlog as of any particular date is not a reliable indicator of our future revenue levels.

Research and Development

We have significant research, development, engineering and product design capabilities. We currently have 363 employees engaged in research and development activities. On research and development activities, we spent approximately $59.2 million in fiscal 2011, $51.4 million in fiscal 2010 and $50.7 million in fiscal 2009. We perform research and product development activities at our headquarters in Newport Beach, California and at 13 design centers. In order to enhance the cost-effectiveness of our operations, we have increasingly sought to shift portions of our research and development operations to regions with lower cost structures than that available in the United States. Our design centers are strategically located to take advantage of key technical and engineering talent. Our success depends to a substantial degree upon our ability to timely develop and introduce new products and enhancements to our existing products that meet changing customer requirements and emerging industry standards. We have made and plan to make substantial investments in research and development and to participate in the formulation of industry standards. In addition, we actively collaborate with technology leaders to define and develop next-generation technologies.

Intellectual Property

Our success and future revenue growth depend, in part, on the intellectual property that we own and develop, including patents, licenses, trade secrets, know-how, trademarks and copyrights, and on our ability to protect our intellectual property. We continuously review our patent portfolio to maximize its value to us, abandoning or selling inapplicable or less useful patents and filing new patents important to our product roadmap. Our patent portfolio may be used to avoid, defend or settle any potential litigation with respect to various technologies contained in our products. The portfolio may also provide negotiating leverage in attempts to cross-license patents or technologies with third parties. We may also seek to leverage our patent portfolio by licensing or selling our patents or other intellectual property. We rely primarily on patent, copyright, trademark and trade secret laws, as well as employee and third-party nondisclosure and confidentiality agreements and other methods to protect our proprietary technologies and processes. In connection with our participation in the development of various industry standards, we may be required to reasonably license certain of our patents to other parties, including competitors that develop products based upon the adopted industry standards. We have also entered into agreements with certain of our customers and granted these customers the right to use our proprietary technology in the event that we file for bankruptcy protection or take other equivalent actions. While

in the aggregate our intellectual property is important to our operations, we do not believe that any single patent, license, trade secret, know-how, trademark or copyright is considered of such importance that its loss or termination would materially affect our business or financial condition.

Employees

We currently have 541 full-time employees, approximately 378 of whom are engineers. Our employees are not covered by any collective bargaining agreements and we have not experienced a work stoppage in the past eight years since our inception. We believe our future success will depend in large part on our ability to continue to attract, motivate, develop and retain highly skilled and dedicated technical, marketing and management personnel.

Cyclicality

The semiconductor industry is highly cyclical and is characterized by constant and rapid technological change, rapid product obsolescence and price erosion, evolving technical standards, short product life cycles and wide fluctuations in product supply and demand. From time to time, these and other factors, together with changes in general economic conditions, cause significant upturns and downturns in the industry, and in our business in particular.

In addition, our operating results are subject to substantial quarterly and annual fluctuations due to a number of factors, such as demand for network infrastructure equipment, the timing of receipt, reduction or cancellation of significant orders, fluctuations in the levels of component inventories held by our customers, the gain or loss of significant customers, market acceptance of our products and our customers products, our ability to timely develop, introduce and market new products and technologies, the availability and cost of products from our suppliers, new product and technology introductions by competitors, intellectual property disputes and the timing and extent of product development costs.

Available Information

We maintain an Internet website at www.mindspeed.com. Our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to such reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, and other information related to our company, are available free of charge on this site as soon as reasonably practicable after such reports are filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, Guidelines on Corporate Governance and Board Committee Charters are also available on our website. We will provide reasonable quantities of paper copies of filings free of charge upon request. In addition, we will provide a copy of the Board Committee Charters to stockholders upon request. No portion of our website or the information contained in or connected to the website is incorporated into this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Item 1A. ***Risk Factors***

Our business, financial condition and operating results can be affected by a number of factors, including those listed below, any one of which could cause our actual results to vary materially from recent results or from our anticipated future results. Any of these risks could also materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition or the price of our common stock or other securities.

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

We operate in the semiconductor industry, which is cyclical and subject to rapid change and evolving industry standards. From time to time, the semiconductor industry has experienced significant downturns characterized by decreases in product demand, excess customer inventories and accelerated erosion of prices.

The semiconductor industry also periodically experiences increased demand and production capacity constraints, which may affect our ability to ship products. Furthermore, during challenging economic times, our customers and vendors may face issues gaining timely access to sufficient credit, which could impact their ability to make timely payments to us. As a result, we may experience growth patterns that are different than the end demand for products, particularly during periods of high volatility. Accordingly, our operating results may vary significantly as a result of the general conditions in the semiconductor industry, which could cause large fluctuations in our stock price.

We cannot predict the timing, strength or duration of any economic slowdown or the impact it will have on our customers, our vendors or us. The combination of our lengthy sales cycle coupled with challenging macroeconomic conditions could have a compound impact on our business. The impact of market volatility is not limited to revenue, but may also affect our product gross margins and other financial metrics. Any downturns in the semiconductor industry could be severe and prolonged, and any failure of the industry or wired and wireless communications markets to fully recover from downturns could seriously impact our revenue and harm our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our operating results are subject to substantial quarterly and annual fluctuations.

We have incurred significant losses in prior periods. Our net revenue and operating results have fluctuated in the past and may fluctuate in the future and we may incur losses and negative cash flows in future periods. These fluctuations are due to a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control. These factors include, among others:

- changes in end-user demand for the products manufactured and sold by our customers;
- the effects of competitive pricing pressures, including decreases in average selling prices of our products;
- the gain or loss of significant customers;
- market acceptance of our products and our customers products;
- our ability to timely develop, introduce, market and support new products and technologies;
- availability and cost of products from our suppliers;
- intellectual property disputes;
- the timing of receipt, reduction or cancellation of significant orders by customers;
- fluctuations in the levels of component inventories held by our customers and changes in our customers inventory management practices;
- shifts in our product mix and the effect of maturing products;
- the timing and extent of product development costs;

new product and technology introductions by us or our competitors;

fluctuations in manufacturing yields; and

significant warranty claims, including those not covered by our suppliers.

The foregoing factors are difficult to forecast, and these, as well as other factors, could materially and adversely affect our quarterly or annual operating results.

We are entirely dependent upon third parties for the manufacture of our products and are vulnerable to their capacity constraints during times of increasing demand for semiconductor products.

We are entirely dependent upon outside wafer fabrication facilities, known as foundries, for wafer fabrication services. Our principal suppliers of wafer fabrication services are TSMC and Jazz Semiconductor. We

are also dependent upon third parties, including Amkor and ASE, for the assembly and testing of all of our products. Under our fabless business model, our long-term revenue growth is dependent on our ability to obtain sufficient external manufacturing capacity, including wafer production capacity. Periods of upturns in the semiconductor industry may be characterized by rapid increases in demand and a shortage of capacity for wafer fabrication and assembly and test services.

The risks associated with our reliance on third parties for manufacturing services include:

- the lack of assured supply, potential shortages and higher prices;
- the effects of disputes or litigation involving our third-party foundries;
- increased lead times;
- limited control over delivery schedules, manufacturing yields, production costs and product quality; and
- the unavailability of, or delays in obtaining, products or access to key process technologies.

Our standard lead time, or the time required to manufacture our products (including wafer fabrication, assembly and testing), is typically 12 to 16 weeks. During periods of manufacturing capacity shortages, the foundries and other suppliers on whom we rely may devote their limited capacity to fulfill the production requirements of other customers that are larger or better financed than we are, or who have superior contractual rights to enforce the manufacture of their products, including to the exclusion of producing our products.

Additionally, if we are required to seek alternative foundries or assembly and test service providers, we would be subject to longer lead times, indeterminate delivery schedules and increased manufacturing costs, including costs to find and qualify acceptable suppliers. For example, if we choose to use a new foundry, the qualification process may take as long as six months over the standard lead time before we can begin shipping products from the new foundry. Such delays could negatively affect our relationships with our customers.

Wafer fabrication processes are subject to obsolescence, and foundries may discontinue a wafer fabrication process used for certain of our products. In such event, we generally offer our customers a last-time buy program to satisfy their anticipated requirements for our products. Any unanticipated discontinuation of a wafer fabrication process on which we rely may adversely affect our revenue and our customer relationships.

The foundries and other suppliers on whom we rely may experience financial difficulties or suffer disruptions in their operations due to causes beyond our control, including deteriorations in general economic conditions, labor strikes, work stoppages, electrical power outages, fire, earthquake, flooding or other natural disasters. Certain of our suppliers manufacturing facilities are located near major earthquake fault lines in the Asia-Pacific region and in California. Due to cross dependencies, supply chain disruptions could negatively impact demand of our products including, for example, if our customers are unable to obtain sufficient supply of other components required for their end product. In the event of a disruption of the operations of one or more of our suppliers, we may not have an alternate source immediately available. Such an event could cause significant delays in shipments until we are able to shift the products from an affected facility or supplier to another facility or supplier. The manufacturing processes we rely on are specialized and are available from a limited number of suppliers. Alternate sources of manufacturing capacity, particularly wafer production capacity, may not be available to us on a timely basis. Even if alternate manufacturing capacity is available, we may not be able to obtain it on favorable terms, or at all. Difficulties or delays in securing an adequate supply of our products on favorable terms, or at all, could impair our ability to meet our customers requirements and have a material adverse effect on our operating results.

In addition, the highly complex and technologically demanding nature of semiconductor manufacturing has caused foundries to experience, from time to time, lower than anticipated manufacturing yields, particularly in connection with the introduction of new products and the installation and start-up of new process technologies. Lower than anticipated manufacturing yields may affect our ability to fulfill our customers demands for our products on a timely basis. Moreover, lower than anticipated manufacturing yields may adversely affect our gross margin and our results of operations.

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The price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly.

The price of our common stock is volatile and may fluctuate significantly. There can be no assurance as to the prices at which our common stock will trade or that an active trading market in our common stock will be sustained in the future. The market price at which our common stock trades may be influenced by many factors, including:

- our operating and financial performance and prospects, including our ability to achieve sustained profitability;
- the depth and liquidity of the market for our common stock which can impact, among other things, the volatility of our stock price and the availability of market participants to borrow shares;
- investor perception of us and the industry in which we operate;
- the level of research coverage of our common stock;
- changes in earnings estimates or buy/sell recommendations by analysts;
- the issuance and sale of additional shares of common stock;
- limitations placed on our investors by our stockholders rights agreement, which is designed to protect our net operating loss carryforwards;
- general financial and other market conditions; and
- domestic and international economic conditions.

In addition, public stock markets have experienced, and may in the future experience, extreme price and trading volume volatility, particularly in the technology sectors of the market. This volatility has significantly affected the market prices of securities of many technology companies for reasons frequently unrelated to or disproportionately impacted by the operating performance of these companies. These broad market fluctuations may adversely affect the market price of our common stock. If we do not meet the requirements for continued quotation on the Nasdaq Global Select Market (NASDAQ), our common stock could be delisted which would adversely affect the ability of investors to sell shares of our common stock and could otherwise adversely affect our business.

Our success depends on our ability to timely develop competitive new products and keep abreast of the rapid technological changes in our market.

Our operating results will depend largely on our ability to continue to timely introduce new and enhanced semiconductor products, as well as our ability to keep abreast of rapid technological changes in our markets. Our products could become obsolete sooner than we expect because of faster than anticipated, or unanticipated, changes in one or more of the technologies related to our products. The introduction of new technology representing a substantial advance over current technology could adversely affect demand for our existing products. Currently accepted industry standards are also subject to change, which may also contribute to the obsolescence of our products. If we are unable to develop and introduce new or enhanced products in a timely manner, our business may be adversely affected.

Successful product development and introduction depends on numerous factors, including, among others:

our ability to anticipate customer and market requirements and changes in technology and industry standards;

our ability to accurately define new products;

our ability to complete development of new products, and bring our products to market, on a timely basis;

our ability to differentiate our products from offerings of our competitors; and

overall market acceptance of our products.

We may not have sufficient resources to make the substantial investment in research and development in order to develop and bring to market new and enhanced products, particularly if we are required to take further cost reduction actions. Furthermore, we are required to continually evaluate expenditures for planned product development and to choose among alternative technologies based on our expectations of future market growth. We may be unable to timely develop and introduce new or enhanced products, our products may not satisfy customer requirements or achieve market acceptance, or we may be unable to anticipate new industry standards and technological changes. We also may not be able to respond successfully to new product announcements and introductions by competitors.

Research and development projects may experience unanticipated delays related to our internal design efforts. New product development also requires the production of photomask sets and the production and testing of sample devices. In the event we experience delays in obtaining these services from the wafer fabrication and assembly and test vendors on whom we rely, our product introductions may be delayed and our revenue and results of operations may be adversely affected.

We are subject to intense competition.

The communications semiconductor industry in general, and the markets in which we compete in particular, are intensely competitive. We compete worldwide with a number of U.S. and international semiconductor manufacturers that are both larger and smaller than we are in terms of resources and market share. We currently face significant competition in our markets and expect that intense price and product competition will continue. This competition has resulted, and is expected to continue to result, in declining average selling prices for our products.

Many of our current and potential competitors have certain advantages over us, including:

stronger financial position and liquidity;

longer, or stronger, presence in key markets;

greater name recognition;

more secure supply chain;

lower cost alternatives to our products;

access to larger customer bases; and

significantly greater sales and marketing, manufacturing, distribution, technical and other resources.

As a result, these competitors may be able to adapt more quickly to new or emerging technologies and changes in customer requirements or may be able to devote greater resources to the development, promotion and sale of their products than we can. Moreover, we have incurred substantial operating losses and we may in the future incur losses in future periods. We believe that financial stability of suppliers is an important consideration in our customers purchasing decisions. If our OEM customers perceive that we lack adequate financial stability, they may choose semiconductor suppliers that they believe have a stronger financial position or liquidity.

Current and potential competitors also have established or may establish financial or strategic relationships among themselves or with our existing or potential customers, resellers or other third parties. These relationships may affect customers purchasing decisions. Accordingly, it is possible that new competitors or alliances among competitors could emerge and rapidly acquire significant market share. We may not be able to compete successfully against current and potential competitors.

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The loss of one or more key customers or distributors, or the diminished demand for our products from a key customer could significantly reduce our net revenue, gross margin and results of operations.

A relatively small number of end customers and distributors have accounted for a significant portion of our net revenue in any particular period. There has been an increasing trend toward industry consolidation in our markets in recent years, particularly among major network equipment and telecommunications companies. Industry consolidation could decrease the number of significant customers for our products thereby increasing our reliance on key customers. In addition, industry consolidation has generally led, and may continue to lead, to pricing pressures and loss of market share. We have no long-term volume purchase commitments from our key customers. One or more of our key customers or distributors may discontinue operations as a result of consolidation, financial instability, liquidation or otherwise. Reductions, delays and cancellation of orders from our key customers or the loss of one or more key customers could significantly reduce our net revenue and results of operations. We cannot assure you that our current customers will continue to place orders with us, that orders by existing customers will continue at current or historical levels or that we will be able to obtain orders from new customers.

We have substantial cash requirements to fund our operations, research and development efforts and capital expenditures. Our capital resources are limited and capital needed for our business may not be available when we need it.

Although we generated cash through operating activities in fiscal 2011 and fiscal 2010, we have used significant cash in operating activities in previous periods. Our principal sources of liquidity are our existing cash balances and cash generated from product sales. We believe that our existing cash balances, along with cash expected to be generated from product sales will be sufficient to fund our operations, research and development efforts, anticipated capital expenditures, working capital and other financing requirements, including interest payments on our debt obligations, for at least the next 12 months. However, if we incur operating losses and negative cash flows in the future, we may need to further reduce our operating costs or obtain alternate sources of financing, or both. We have completed transactions that involved the issuance of equity and the issuance or incurrence of indebtedness, including credit facilities. Even after completing these transactions, we may need additional capital in the future and may not have access to additional sources of capital on favorable terms or at all. If we raise additional funds through the issuance of equity, equity-based or debt securities, such securities may have rights, preferences or privileges senior to those of our common stock and our stockholders may experience dilution of their ownership interests. In addition, there can be no assurance that we will continue to benefit from the sale or licensing of intellectual property as we have in previous periods.

We may be subject to claims, or we may be required to defend and indemnify customers against claims, of infringement of third-party intellectual property rights or demands that we, or our customers, license third-party technology, which could result in significant expense.

The semiconductor industry is characterized by vigorous protection and pursuit of intellectual property rights. From time to time, third parties have asserted and may in the future assert patent, copyright, trademark and other intellectual property rights against technologies that are important to our business. The resolution or compromise of any litigation or other legal process to enforce such alleged third party rights, including claims arising through our contractual indemnification of our customers, or claims challenging the validity of our patents, regardless of its merit or resolution, could be costly and divert the efforts and attention of our management and technical personnel.

We may not prevail in any such litigation or other legal process or we may compromise or settle such claims because of the complex technical issues and inherent uncertainties in intellectual property disputes and the significant expense in defending such claims. If litigation or other legal process results in adverse rulings, we may be required to:

pay substantial damages for past, present and future use of the infringing technology;

cease the manufacture, use or sale of infringing products;

discontinue the use of infringing technology;

expend significant resources to develop non-infringing technology;

pay substantial damages to our customers or end users to discontinue use or replace infringing technology with non-infringing technology;

license technology from the third party claiming infringement, which license may not be available on commercially reasonable terms, or at all; or

relinquish intellectual property rights associated with one or more of our patent claims, if such claims are held invalid or otherwise unenforceable.

If we are not successful in protecting our intellectual property rights, it may harm our ability to compete.

We rely primarily on patent, copyright, trademark and trade secret laws, as well as employee and third-party nondisclosure and confidentiality agreements and other methods, to protect our proprietary technologies and processes. We may be required to engage in litigation to enforce or protect our intellectual property rights, which may require us to expend significant resources and to divert the efforts and attention of our management from our business operations; in particular:

the steps we take to prevent misappropriation or infringement of our intellectual property may not be successful;

any existing or future patents may be challenged, invalidated or circumvented; or

the measures described above may not provide meaningful protection.

Despite the preventive measures and precautions that we take, a third party could copy or otherwise obtain and use our technology without authorization, develop similar technology independently or design around our patents. We generally enter into confidentiality agreements with our employees, consultants and strategic partners. We also try to control access to and distribution of our technologies, documentation and other proprietary information. Despite these efforts, internal or external parties may attempt to copy, disclose, obtain or use our products, services or technology without our authorization. Also, former employees may seek employment with our business partners, customers or competitors, and the confidential nature of our proprietary information may not be maintained in the course of such future employment. Further, in some countries outside the U.S., patent protection is not available or not reliably enforced. Some countries that do allow registration of patents do not provide meaningful redress for patent violations. As a result, protecting intellectual property in those countries is difficult and competitors may sell products in those countries that have functions and features that infringe on our intellectual property.

We may not be able to attract and retain qualified personnel necessary for the design, development, sale and support of our products. Our success could be negatively affected if key personnel leave.

Our future success depends on our ability to attract, retain and motivate qualified personnel, including executive officers and other key management, technical and support personnel. As the source of our technological and product innovations, our key technical personnel represent a significant asset. The competition for such personnel can be intense in the semiconductor industry. We may not be able to attract and retain qualified management and other personnel necessary for the design, development, sale and support of our products.

In periods of poor operating performance, we have experienced, and may experience in the future, particular difficulty attracting and retaining key personnel. If we are not successful in assuring our employees of our financial stability and our prospects for success, our employees may seek other employment, which may materially and adversely affect our business. We intend to continue to expand our international business activities including expansion of design and operations centers abroad and may have difficulty attracting and maintaining

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international employees. The loss of the services of one or more of our key employees, including Raouf Y. Halim, our chief executive officer, or certain key design and technical personnel, or our inability to attract, retain and motivate qualified personnel could have a material adverse effect on our ability to operate our business.

Some of our engineers are foreign nationals working in the U.S. under work visas. The visas permit qualified foreign nationals working in specialty occupations, such as certain categories of engineers, to reside in the U.S. during their employment. The number of new visas approved each year may be limited and may restrict our ability to hire additional qualified technical employees. In addition, immigration policies are subject to change, and these policies have generally become more stringent since the events of September 11, 2001. Any additional significant changes in immigration laws, rules or regulations may further restrict our ability to retain or hire technical personnel.

We are subject to the risks of doing business internationally.

A significant part of our strategy involves our continued pursuit of growth opportunities in a number of international markets. We market, sell, design and service our products internationally. Products shipped to international destinations, primarily in the Asia-Pacific region and Europe, were approximately 79% of our net revenue for fiscal 2011 and 77% in fiscal 2010. China is a particularly important international market for us, as approximately 38% of our revenue for fiscal 2011 came from customers in China. In addition, we have design centers, customer support centers, and rely on suppliers, located outside the U.S., including foundries and assembly and test service providers located in the Asia-Pacific region. We intend to continue to expand our international business activities and may open other design centers and customer support centers abroad. Our international sales and operations are subject to a number of risks inherent in selling and operating abroad which could adversely impact our international sales and could make our international operations more expensive. These include, but are not limited to, risks regarding:

currency exchange rate fluctuations;

local economic and political conditions;

difficulties in staffing and managing foreign operations;

potential hostilities and changes in diplomatic and trade relationships;

tax laws;

natural disasters, including earthquakes or flooding;

restrictive governmental actions (such as restrictions on the transfer or repatriation of funds and trade protection measures, including export duties and quotas and customs duties and tariffs);

changes in legal or regulatory requirements;

difficulty in obtaining distribution and support;

disruptions of capital and trading markets;

acts of terrorism;

wage inflation;

accounts receivable collection and longer payment cycles;

the laws and policies of the U.S. and other countries affecting trade, foreign investment and loans and import or export licensing requirements;

existing or future environmental laws and regulations governing, among other things, air emissions, wastewater discharges, the contents of our products, the use, handling and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, soil and groundwater contamination and employee health and safety;

limitations on our ability under local laws to protect our intellectual property; and

cultural differences in the conduct of business.

Because most of our international sales are currently denominated in U.S. dollars, our products could become less competitive in international markets if the value of the U.S. dollar increases relative to foreign currencies. As we continue to shift a portion of our operations offshore, more of our expenses are incurred in currencies other than those in which we bill for the related services. An increase in the value of certain currencies, such as the Euro, Japanese yen, Ukrainian hryvnia and Indian rupee, against the U.S. dollar could increase costs of our offshore operations by increasing labor and other costs that are denominated in local currencies.

We may in the future enter into foreign currency forward exchange contracts to mitigate the risk of loss from currency exchange rate fluctuations for foreign currency commitments entered into in the ordinary course of business. We do not enter into foreign currency forward exchange contracts for other purposes. Our financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected by currency fluctuations.

Because of the lengthy sales cycles of many of our products, we may incur significant expenses before we generate any revenue related to those products.

Our customers generally need six months or longer to test and evaluate our products and an additional six months or more to begin volume production of equipment that incorporates our products. These lengthy periods also increase the possibility that a customer may decide to cancel or change product plans, which could reduce or eliminate sales to that customer. As a result of this lengthy sales cycle, we may incur significant research and development and selling, general and administrative expenses before we generate any revenue from new products. We may never generate the anticipated revenue if our customers cancel or change their product plans as customers may increasingly do if economic conditions continue to deteriorate.

We may make business acquisitions or investments, which involve significant risk.

We may, from time to time, make acquisitions, enter into alliances or make investments in other businesses to complement our existing product offerings, augment our market coverage or enhance our technological capabilities. However, any such transactions could result in:

issuances of equity securities dilutive to our existing stockholders;

substantial cash payments;

the incurrence of substantial debt and assumption of unknown liabilities;

large one-time write-offs;

amortization expenses related to intangible assets;

ability to use our net operating loss carryforwards;

the diversion of management s attention from other business concerns; and

the potential loss of key employees, customers and suppliers of the acquired business.

Integrating acquired organizations and their products and services may be expensive, time-consuming and a strain on our resources and our relationships with employees, customers and suppliers, and ultimately may not be successful. The benefits or synergies we may expect from the

acquisition of complementary or supplementary businesses may not be realized to the extent or in the time frame we initially anticipate.

Additionally, in periods subsequent to an acquisition, we must evaluate goodwill and acquisition-related intangible assets for impairment. If such assets are found to be impaired, they will be written down to estimated fair value, with a charge against earnings.

Uncertainties involving the ordering and shipment of our products could adversely affect our business.

Our sales are typically made pursuant to individual purchase orders and we generally do not have long-term supply arrangements with our customers. Generally, our customers may cancel orders until 30 days prior to shipment. In addition, we sell a substantial portion of our products through distributors, some of whom have a right to return unsold products to us. Sales to distributors accounted for approximately 60% of our revenue for fiscal 2011 and 47% of our revenue for fiscal 2010.

Because of the significant lead times for wafer fabrication and assembly and test services, we routinely purchase inventory based on estimates of end-market demand for our customers products. End-market demand may be subject to dramatic changes and is difficult to predict. End-market demand is highly influenced by the timing and extent of carrier capital expenditures which may decrease due to general economic conditions, and uncertainty, over which we have no control. The difficulty in predicting demand may be compounded when we sell to OEMs indirectly through distributors or contract manufacturers, or both, as our forecasts of demand are then based on estimates provided by multiple parties. In addition, our customers may change their inventory practices on short notice for any reason. The cancellation or deferral of product orders, the return of previously sold products or overproduction due to the failure of anticipated orders to materialize could result in our holding excess or obsolete inventory, which could result in write-downs of inventory. Conversely, if we fail to anticipate inventory needs we may be unable to fulfill demand for our products, resulting in a loss of potential revenue.

If network infrastructure OEMs do not design our products into their equipment, we will be unable to sell those products. Moreover, a design win from a customer does not guarantee future sales to that customer.

Our products are not sold directly to the end-user but are components of other products. As a result, we rely on network infrastructure OEMs to select our products from among alternative offerings to be designed into their equipment. We may be unable to achieve these design wins. Without design wins from OEMs, we would be unable to sell our products. Once an OEM designs another supplier s semiconductors into one of its product platforms, it is more difficult for us to achieve future design wins with that OEM s product platform because changing suppliers involves significant cost, time, effort and risk for the OEM. Achieving a design win with a customer does not ensure that we will receive significant revenue from that customer, and we may be unable to convert design wins into actual sales. Even after a design win, the customer is not obligated to purchase our products and can choose at any time to stop using our products if, for example, its own products are not commercially successful.

The complexity of our products may lead to errors, defects and bugs, which could subject us to significant costs or damages and adversely affect market acceptance of our products.

Although we, our customers and our suppliers rigorously test our products, our products are complex and may contain errors, defects or bugs when first introduced or as new versions are released. We have in the past experienced, and may in the future experience, errors, defects and bugs. If any of our products contain production defects or reliability, safety, quality or compatibility problems that are significant to our customers, our reputation may be damaged and customers may be reluctant to buy our products, which could adversely affect our ability to retain existing customers and attract new customers. In addition, these defects or bugs could interrupt or delay sales of affected products to our customers, which could adversely affect our results of operations.

If defects or bugs are discovered after commencement of commercial production of a new product, we may be required to make significant expenditures of capital and other resources to resolve the problems. This could result in significant additional development costs and the diversion of technical and other resources from our other development efforts. We could also incur significant costs to repair or replace defective products, and we could be subject to claims for damages by our customers or others against us. We could also be exposed to product liability claims or indemnification claims by our customers. These costs or damages could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Our ability to utilize our net operating loss carryforwards and certain other tax attributes may be limited.

As of September 30, 2011, we had net operating loss carryforwards of approximately $629.4 million for federal income tax purposes. Under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code, if a corporation undergoes an ownership change, the corporation s ability to use its pre-change net operating loss carryforwards and other pre-change tax attributes to offset its post-change income may be significantly limited. An ownership change is generally defined as a greater than 50% change in equity ownership by value over a three-year period. In August 2009, our board of directors adopted a stockholders rights agreement that is designed to help preserve our ability to utilize fully certain tax assets primarily associated with net operating loss carryforwards under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code. Even with this rights agreement in place, we may experience an ownership change in the future as a result of shifts in our stock ownership, including upon the issuance of our common stock, the exercise of stock options or warrants or as a result of any conversion of our convertible notes into shares of our common stock, among other things. If we were to trigger an ownership change in the future, our ability to use any net operating loss carryforwards existing at that time could be significantly limited.

Our results of operations could vary as a result of the methods, estimates and judgments we use in applying our accounting policies.

The methods, estimates and judgments we use in applying our accounting policies have a significant impact on our results of operations (see Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates in Part I, Item 7 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K). Such methods, estimates and judgments are, by their nature, subject to substantial risks, uncertainties and assumptions, and changes in rule making by various regulatory bodies. Factors may arise over time that lead us to change our methods, estimates and judgments. Changes in those methods, estimates and judgments could significantly affect our results of operations.

Substantial sales of the shares of our common stock issuable upon conversion of our convertible senior notes or exercise of our outstanding warrant and antidilution and other provisions in our outstanding warrant could adversely affect our stock price or our ability to raise additional financing in the public capital markets.

At September 30, 2011, we had $15.0 million aggregate principal amount of convertible senior notes outstanding. These notes are convertible at any time, at the option of the holder, into a total of approximately 3.2 million shares of common stock. The conversion of the notes and subsequent sale of a substantial number of shares of our common stock could also adversely affect demand for, and the market price of, our common stock. Each of these transactions could adversely affect our ability to raise additional financing by issuing equity or equity-based securities in the public capital markets.

A warrant is outstanding to acquire approximately 6.1 million shares of our common stock at a price of $16.74 per share, as adjusted, exercisable through June 27, 2013, representing approximately 13% of our outstanding common stock on a fully diluted basis. The warrant may be transferred or sold in whole or part at any time. If the warrant holder sells the warrant or if it or a transferee of the warrant exercises the warrant and sells a substantial number of shares of our common stock in the future, or if investors perceive that these sales may occur, the market price of our common stock could decline or market demand for our common stock could be sharply reduced.

The warrant contains antidilution provisions that provide for adjustment of the warrant s exercise price, and the number of shares issuable under the warrant, upon the occurrence of certain events. If we issue, or are deemed to have issued, shares of our common stock, or securities convertible into our common stock, at prices below the current market price of our common stock (as defined in the warrant) at the time of the issuance of such securities, the warrant s exercise price will be reduced and the number of shares issuable under the warrant will be increased. The amount of such adjustment if any, will be determined pursuant to a formula specified in the warrant and will depend on the number of shares issued, the offering price and the current market price of our common stock at the time of the issuance of such securities. Adjustments to the warrant pursuant to these antidilution provisions may result in significant dilution to the interests of our existing stockholders and may

adversely affect the market price of our common stock. The antidilution provisions may also limit our ability to obtain additional financing on terms favorable to us.

Moreover, we may not realize any cash proceeds from the exercise of the warrant. The holder of the warrant may opt for a cashless exercise of all or part of the warrant. In a cashless exercise, the holder of the warrant would make no cash payment to us, and would receive a number of shares of our common stock having an aggregate value equal to the excess of the then-current market price of the shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant over the exercise price of the warrant. Such an issuance of common stock would be immediately dilutive to the interests of other stockholders.

Provisions in our organizational documents and stockholders rights agreements and Delaware law will make it more difficult for someone to acquire control of us.

Our restated certificate of incorporation, our amended and restated bylaws, our stockholders rights agreements and the Delaware General Corporation Law contain several provisions that would make more difficult an acquisition of control of us in a transaction not approved by our board of directors. Our restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws include provisions such as:

- the division of our board of directors into three classes to be elected on a staggered basis, one class each year;
- the exclusive responsibility of the board of directors to fill vacancies on the board of directors;
- the ability of our board of directors to issue shares of our preferred stock in one or more series without further authorization of our stockholders;
- a prohibition on stockholder action by written consent;
- a requirement that stockholders provide advance notice of any stockholder nominations of directors or any proposal of new business to be considered at any meeting of stockholders;
- a requirement that a supermajority vote be obtained to remove a director for cause or to amend or repeal certain provisions of our restated certificate of incorporation or amended and restated bylaws;
- elimination of the right of stockholders to call a special meeting of stockholders; and
- a fair price provision.

Our stockholders rights agreements give our stockholders certain rights that would substantially increase the cost of acquiring us in a transaction not approved by our board of directors.

In addition to the stockholders rights agreements and the provisions in our restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws, Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law generally provides that a corporation shall not engage in any business combination with any interested stockholder during the three-year period following the time that such stockholder becomes an interested stockholder, unless a majority of the directors then in office approves either the business combination or the transaction that results in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder or specified stockholder approval requirements are met.

Item 1B. ***Unresolved Staff Comments***

None.

Item 2. ***Properties***

Currently, we occupy our headquarters located in Newport Beach, California (which includes design and sales offices), 13 design centers and 11 sales locations. These facilities had an aggregate floor space of approximately 180,000 square feet, all of which is leased, consisting of approximately 97,000 square feet at our

headquarters, 64,000 square feet at our design centers and 23,000 square feet at our sales locations. The lease on our headquarters extends through December 2012. We may, at our option, extend the lease for an additional five-year term. We believe our properties are well maintained, are in sound operating condition and contain all the equipment and facilities to operate at present levels.

Through our design centers, we provide design engineering and product application support and after-sales service to our OEM customers. The design centers are strategically located to take advantage of key technical and engineering talent worldwide.

Item 3. ***Legal Proceedings***

We are currently not engaged in legal proceedings that require disclosure under this Item. We are, from time to time, subject to legal proceedings and claims that arise in the normal course of our business. We do not believe that the ultimate outcome of any such currently pending matters, if any, arising in the normal course of business will have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

PART II

Item 5. ***Market for Registrant s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities***

Market Information

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol MSPD. The following table lists the high and low closing sales price of our common stock as reported by the Nasdaq Global Market for the periods indicated.

	High	Low
Fiscal 2011		
Quarter ended December 31, 2010	$ 8.21	$ 5.58
Quarter ended April 1, 2011	8.70	6.19
Quarter ended July 1, 2011	9.11	7.37
Quarter ended September 30, 2011	8.31	5.07
Fiscal 2010		
Quarter ended January 1, 2010	$ 4.94	$ 3.10
Quarter ended April 2, 2010	8.56	4.74
Quarter ended July 2, 2010	10.71	6.67
Quarter ended October 1, 2010	9.27	6.09

Recent Share Prices and Holders

The last reported sale price of our common stock on November 16, 2011 was $5.74 and there were approximately 27,316 holders of record of our common stock. However, many holders shares are listed under their brokerage firms names.

Dividend Policy

We have never paid cash dividends on our capital stock. We currently intend to retain any earnings for use in our business and do not anticipate paying cash dividends in the foreseeable future.

Stock Performance Graph

The following graph shows a five-year comparison of the cumulative total stockholder return on our common stock against the cumulative return of the Nasdaq U.S. Index and the Nasdaq Electronic Components Index. The graph assumes that $100 was invested on September 29, 2006, in each of our common stock, the Nasdaq U.S. Index and the Nasdaq Electronic Components Index and that all dividends were reinvested. No cash dividends have been paid or declared on our common stock. We maintain a fifty-two/fifty-three week fiscal year ending on the Friday closest to September 30.

	Cumulative Total Return					
	September 29, 2006	September 28, 2007	October 3, 2008	October 2, 2009	October 1, 2010	September 30, 2011
Mindspeed Technologies, Inc.	$ 100.00	$ 100.00	$ 24.05	$ 35.26	$ 89.36	$ 60.12
Nasdaq U.S. Index	100.00	118.37	87.00	72.31	84.69	88.00
Nasdaq Electronic Components Index	100.00	129.63	82.65	92.31	98.47	112.25

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

	Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased(a)	Average Price Paid per Share (or Unit)	Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares (or Units) that May yet be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
July 2, 2011 to July 29, 2011		$		
July 30, 2011 to August 26, 2011	3,650	$ 6.24		
August 27, 2011 to September 30, 2011	5,808	$ 5.29		
	9,458	$ 5.66		

(a) Represents shares of our common stock withheld from, or delivered by, employees in order to satisfy applicable tax withholding obligations in connection with the vesting of restricted stock. These repurchases were not made pursuant to any publicly announced plan or program.

Item 6. ***Selected Financial Data***

The selected consolidated financial data presented below should be read in conjunction with Item 7, Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto appearing elsewhere in this report. Our consolidated selected financial data have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements.

	September 30, 2011	October 1, 2010	October 2, 2009	October 3, 2008	September 28, 2007
	(in thousands, except per share amounts)				
Statement of Operations Data					
Net revenue:					
Products	$ 159,589	$ 165,379	$ 121,552	$ 144,349	$ 125,805
Intellectual property	2,500	12,800	5,000	16,350	2,000
Total net revenue	162,089	178,179	126,552	160,699	127,805
Cost of goods sold (including impairments and other charges of $3,667 in fiscal 2009)	60,292	59,840	49,981	47,625	42,334
Gross margin	101,797	118,339	76,571	113,074	85,471
Operating expenses:					
Research and development	59,174	51,367	50,650	56,217	57,447
Selling, general and administrative	42,118	41,419	41,582	46,984	43,385
Special charges(1)	1,032	2,684	6,896	211	4,724
Total operating expenses	102,324	95,470	99,128	103,412	105,556
Operating (loss)/income	(527)	22,869	(22,557)	9,662	(20,085)
Interest expense	(1,595)	(1,817)	(3,127)	(5,310)	(5,248)
Other income, net	1,608	424	1,052	544	522
(Loss)/income before income taxes	(514)	21,476	(24,632)	4,896	(24,811)
Provision for income taxes	241	406	482	611	111
Net (loss)/income	$ (755)	$ 21,070	$ (25,114)	$ 4,285	$ (24,922)
Net (loss)/income per share:					
Basic	$ (0.02)	$ 0.70	$ (1.04)	$ 0.19	$ (1.12)
Diluted	$ (0.02)	$ 0.65	$ (1.04)	$ 0.18	$ (1.12)
Shares used in computation of net (loss)/income per share:					
Basic	32,279	30,260	24,156	23,046	22,516
Diluted	32,279	34,579	24,156	23,202	22,516

	September 30, 2011	October 1, 2010	October 2, 2009	October 3, 2008	September 28, 2007
	(in thousands)				
Balance Sheet Data					
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 45,227	$ 43,685	$ 20,891	$ 43,033	$ 25,796
Working capital	50,346	53,762	14,223	50,277	35,814
Total assets	110,611	108,684	62,463	100,413	82,008
Long-term debt	14,216	13,810	13,415	40,749	37,308
Long-term capital leases	111	574	269		
Stockholders equity	69,412	61,636	18,890	32,666	21,904

(1) Special charges consist of asset impairments and restructuring charges.

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Item 7. ***Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations***

Overview

Mindspeed Technologies, Inc. (we or Mindspeed) designs, develops and sells semiconductor solutions for communications applications in the wireline and wireless network infrastructure, which includes enterprise networks, broadband access networks (fixed and mobile) and metropolitan and wide area networks. We have organized our solutions for these interrelated and rapidly converging networks into three product families: communications convergence processing, high-performance analog and wide area networking communications. Our communications convergence processing products include ultra-low-power, multi-core digital signal processor (DSP) system-on-chip (SoC) products for the fixed and mobile (3G/4G) carrier infrastructure and residential and enterprise platforms. Our high-performance analog products include high-density crosspoint switches, optical drivers, equalization and signal-conditioning solutions that solve difficult switching, timing and synchronization challenges in next-generation optical networking, enterprise storage and broadcast video transmission applications. Our WAN communications portfolio helps optimize today s circuit-switched networks that furnish much of the Internet s underlying long-distance infrastructure.

Our products are sold to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) for use in a variety of network infrastructure equipment, including:

Communications Convergence Processing triple-play access gateways for Voice-over-Internet protocol (VoIP) and data processing platforms; broadband customer premises equipment (CPE) gateways and other equipment that carriers use to deliver voice, data and video services to residential subscribers; Internet protocol (IP) private branch exchange (PBX) equipment and security appliances used in the enterprise and 3G/4G mobile base stations in the carrier infrastructure;

High-Performance Analog next-generation fiber access network equipment (including passive optical networking, or PON, systems); switching and signal conditioning products supporting fiber-to-the-premise, optical transport networks (OTN), storage and server systems and broadcast video, inclusive of routers and other systems that are driving the migration to 3G high-definition (HD) transmission; and

WAN communications circuit-switched networking equipment that implements asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) and T1/E1 and T3/E3 communications protocols.

Our customers include Alcatel-Lucent, Cisco Systems, Inc., Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd., Hitachi Ltd., LM Ericsson Telephone Company, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation , Nokia Siemens Networks and Zhongxing Telecom Equipment Corp.

We report on a fifty-two/fifty-three week fiscal year ending on the Friday closest to September 30. Fiscal year 2011 comprised 52 weeks and ended on September 30, 2011. Fiscal year 2010 comprised 52 weeks and ended on October 1, 2010. Fiscal year 2009 comprised 52 weeks and ended on October 2, 2009.

Trends and Factors Affecting Our Business

Our products are components of network infrastructure equipment. As a result, we rely on network infrastructure OEMs to select our products from among alternative offerings to be designed into their equipment. These design wins are an integral part of the long sales cycle for our products. Our customers may need six months or longer to test and evaluate our products and an additional six months or more to begin volume production of equipment that incorporates our products. We believe our close relationships with leading network infrastructure OEMs facilitate early adoption of our products during development of their products, enhance our ability to obtain design wins and encourage adoption of our technology by the industry. We believe our diverse portfolio of semiconductor solutions has us well positioned to capitalize on some of the most significant trends in telecommunications spending, including: next generation network convergence; VoIP/fiber access deployment in developing and developed markets; 3G/4G wireless infrastructure build-out; the adoption of higher speed interconnectivity solutions; and the migration of broadcast video to HD.

We market and sell our semiconductor products directly to network infrastructure OEMs. We also sell our products indirectly through electronic component distributors and third-party electronic manufacturing service providers, who manufacture products incorporating our semiconductor networking solutions for OEMs. Sales to distributors accounted for approximately 60% of our revenue for fiscal 2011. Our revenue is well diversified globally, with 79% of fiscal 2011 revenue coming from outside of the Americas. We believe a portion of the products we sell to OEMs and third-party manufacturing service providers in the Asia-Pacific region is ultimately shipped to end markets in the Americas and Europe. We believe we are well-situated in China, where fiber deployments are being rolled out by the country s major telecommunications carriers. Through our OEM customers, we are shipping into the fiber-to-the-building (FTTB) deployments of China Telecom, China Unicom and China Mobile. Approximately 38% of our revenue for fiscal 2011 was derived from customers in China.

We have significant research, development, engineering and product design capabilities. Our success depends to a substantial degree upon our ability to develop and introduce in a timely fashion new products and enhancements to our existing products that meet changing customer requirements and emerging industry standards. We have made, and plan to make, substantial investments in research and development and to participate in the formulation of industry standards. We spent approximately $59.2 million on research and development in fiscal 2011. We seek to maximize our return on our research and development spending by focusing our research and development investment in what we believe are key growth markets, including VoIP and other high-bandwidth multiservice access applications, high-performance analog applications such as optical networking and broadcast-video transmission, and wireless infrastructure solutions for base station processing. We have developed and maintain a broad intellectual property portfolio, and we may periodically enter into strategic arrangements to leverage our portfolio by licensing or selling our intellectual property.

We are dependent upon third parties for the development, manufacturing, assembly and testing of our products. Our ability to bring new products to market, to fulfill orders and to achieve long-term revenue growth is dependent upon our ability to obtain sufficient external manufacturing capacity, including wafer fabrication capacity. Periods of upturn in the semiconductor industry may be characterized by rapid increases in demand and a shortage of capacity for wafer fabrication and assembly and test services. In such periods, we may experience longer lead times or indeterminate delivery schedules, which may adversely affect our ability to fulfill orders for our products. During periods of capacity shortages for manufacturing, assembly and testing services, our primary foundries and other suppliers may devote their limited capacity to fulfill the requirements of their other customers that are larger than we are, or who have superior contractual rights to enforce manufacture of their products, including to the exclusion of producing our products. The foundries and other suppliers on whom we rely may experience financial difficulties or suffer disruptions in their operations due to causes beyond our control, including deteriorations in general economic conditions, labor strikes, work stoppages, electrical power outages, fire, earthquake, flooding or other natural disasters. We may also incur increased manufacturing costs, including costs of finding acceptable alternative foundries or assembly and test service providers. In order to achieve sustained profitability and positive cash flows from operations, we may need to further reduce operating expenses and/or increase our revenue. We have completed a series of cost reduction actions, which have improved our operating cost structure, and we will continue to perform additional actions, when necessary.

Our ability to achieve revenue growth will depend on increased demand for network infrastructure equipment that incorporates our products, which in turn depends primarily on the level of capital spending by communications service providers, the level of which may decrease due to general economic conditions and uncertainty, over which we have no control. We believe the market for network infrastructure equipment in general, and for communications semiconductors in particular, offers attractive long-term growth prospects due to increasing demand for network capacity, the continued upgrading and expansion of existing networks and the build-out of telecommunication networks in developing countries. However, the semiconductor industry is highly cyclical and is characterized by constant and rapid technological change, rapid product obsolescence and price erosion, evolving technical standards, short product life cycles and wide fluctuations in product supply and demand. In addition, there has been an increasing trend toward industry consolidation, particularly among major network equipment and telecommunications companies. Consolidation in the industry has generally led to pricing pressure and loss of market share. These factors have caused substantial fluctuations in our revenue and our results of operations in the past, and we may experience cyclical fluctuations in our business in the future.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the United States requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Among the significant estimates affecting our consolidated financial statements are those relating to inventories, stock-based compensation, revenue recognition, income taxes and impairment of long-lived assets. We regularly evaluate our estimates and assumptions based upon historical experience and various other factors that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. To the extent actual results differ from those estimates, our future results of operations may be affected.

Inventories We assess the recoverability of our inventories at least quarterly through a review of inventory levels in relation to foreseeable demand (generally over 12 months). Foreseeable demand is based upon all available information, including sales backlog and forecasts, product marketing plans and product life cycles. When the inventory on hand exceeds the foreseeable demand, we write down the value of those inventories which, at the time of our review, we expect to be unable to sell. The amount of the inventory write-down is the excess of historical cost over estimated realizable value. Once established, these write-downs are considered permanent adjustments to the cost basis of the excess inventory.

Our products are used by OEMs that have designed our products into network infrastructure equipment. For many of our products, we gain these design wins through a lengthy sales cycle, which often includes providing technical support to the OEM customer. In the event of the loss of business from existing OEM customers, we may be unable to secure new customers for our existing products without first achieving new design wins. In the event that quantities of inventory on hand exceed foreseeable demand from existing OEM customers into whose products our products have been designed, we generally are unable to sell our excess inventories to others, and the estimated realizable value of such inventories to us is generally zero.

We base our assessment of the recoverability of our inventories, and the amounts of any write-downs, on currently available information and assumptions about future demand and market conditions. Demand for our products may fluctuate significantly over time, and actual demand and market conditions may be more or less favorable than those projected by management. In the event that actual demand is lower than originally projected, additional inventory write-downs may be required.

Stock-Based Compensation We account for stock-based compensation transactions using a fair-value method and recognize the fair value of each award as an expense over the service period. The fair value of restricted stock awards is based upon the market price of our common stock at the grant date. For the majority of our awards, we estimate the fair value of stock option awards, as of the grant date, using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. The use of the Black-Scholes model requires that we make a number of estimates, including the expected option term, the expected volatility in the price of our common stock, the risk-free rate of interest and the dividend yield on our common stock. If our expected option term and stock-price volatility assumptions were different, the resulting determination of the fair value of stock option awards could be materially different. In addition, judgment is also required in estimating the number of share-based awards that we expect will ultimately vest upon the fulfillment of service conditions (such as time-based vesting) or the achievement of specific performance conditions. If the actual number of awards that ultimately vest differs significantly from these estimates, stock-based compensation expense and our results of operations could be materially impacted. We classify compensation expense related to these awards in our consolidated statement of operations based on the department to which the recipient reports.

Revenue Recognition We generate revenue from direct product sales, sales to distributors, maintenance contracts, development agreements and the sale and license of intellectual property. We recognize revenue when the following fundamental criteria are met: (i) persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists; (ii) delivery has occurred; (iii) our price to the customer is fixed or determinable; and (iv) collection of the sales price is reasonably assured. In instances where final acceptance of the product, system, or solution is specified by the

customer, revenue is deferred until all acceptance criteria have been met. Technical support services revenue is deferred and recognized ratably over the period during which the services are to be performed. Advanced services revenue is recognized upon delivery or completion of performance.

We recognize revenue on products shipped directly to customers at the time the products are shipped and title and risk of loss transfer to the customer, in accordance with the terms specified in the arrangement, and the four above mentioned revenue recognition criteria are met.

We recognize revenue on sales to distributors based on the rights granted to these distributors in our distribution agreements. We have certain distributors who have been granted return rights and receive credits for changes in selling prices to end customers, the magnitude of which is not known at the time products are shipped to the distributor. The return rights granted to these distributors consist of limited stock rotation rights, which allow them to rotate up to 10% of the products in their inventory twice a year, as well as certain product return rights if the applicable distribution agreement is terminated. These distributors also receive price concessions because they resell our products to end customers at various negotiated price points which vary by end customer, product, quantity, geography and competitive pricing environments. When a distributor s resale is priced at a discount from the distributor s invoice price, we credit back to the distributor a portion of the distributor s original purchase price after the resale transaction is complete. Thus, a portion of the Deferred income on sales to distributors balance will be credited back to the distributor in the future. Under these agreements, we defer recognition of revenue until the products are resold by the distributor, at which time our final net sales price is fixed and the distributor s right to return the products expires. At the time of shipment to these distributors: (i) we record a trade receivable at the invoiced selling price because there is a legally enforceable obligation from the distributor to pay us currently for product delivered; (ii) we relieve inventory for the carrying value of products shipped because legal title has passed to the distributor; and (iii) we record deferred revenue and deferred cost of inventory under the Deferred income on sales to distributors caption in the liability section of our consolidated balance sheets. We evaluate the deferred cost of inventory component of this account for possible impairment by considering potential obsolescence of products that might be returned to us and by considering the potential of resale prices of these products being below our cost. By reviewing deferred inventory costs in the manners discussed above, we ensure that any portion of deferred inventory costs that are not recoverable from future contractual revenue are charged to cost of sales as an expense. Deferred income on sales to distributors effectively represents the gross margin on sales to distributors; however, the amount of gross margin we recognize in future periods is typically less than the originally recorded deferred income as a result of negotiated price concessions. In recent years, such concessions have exceeded 30% of list price on average. For detail of this account balance, see Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements.

We recognize revenue from other distributors at the time of shipment and when title and risk of loss transfer to the distributor, in accordance with the terms specified in the arrangement, and when the four above mentioned revenue recognition criteria are met. These distributors may also be given business terms to return a portion of inventory, however they do not receive credits for changes in selling prices to end customers. At the time of shipment, product prices are fixed or determinable and the amount of future returns can be reasonably estimated and accrued.

Our products are often integrated with software that is essential to the functionality of the equipment. Additionally, we provide unspecified software upgrades and enhancements through our maintenance contracts for many of our products. Accordingly, we account for revenue in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 985-605, Software Revenue Recognition, and all related interpretations. For sales of products where software is not included or is incidental to the equipment, we apply the provisions of ASC 605, Revenue Recognition, and all related interpretations.

Revenue from the sale and license of intellectual property is recognized when the above mentioned four revenue recognition criteria are met. Development revenue is recognized when services are performed and customer acceptance has been received and was not significant for any of the periods presented.

Deferred Income Taxes and Uncertain Tax Positions We have provided a full valuation allowance against our U.S federal and state deferred tax assets. If sufficient positive evidence of our ability to generate

future U.S federal and/or state taxable income becomes apparent, we may be required to reduce our valuation allowance, resulting in income tax benefits in our statement of operations. We evaluate the realizability of our deferred tax assets and assess the need for a valuation allowance quarterly. We follow ASC 740, Income Taxes, for the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in an entity s financial statements. ASC 740 prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attributes for financial statement disclosure of tax positions taken or expected to be taken on a tax return. Under ASC 740, the impact of an uncertain income tax position on the income tax return must be recognized at the largest amount that is more likely than not to be sustained upon audit by the relevant taxing authority. An uncertain income tax position will not be recognized if it has less than a 50% likelihood of being sustained. Additionally, the new interpretations provide guidance on de-recognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure and transition. The application of tax laws and regulations is subject to legal and factual interpretation, judgment and uncertainty. Tax laws and regulations themselves are subject to change as a result of changes in fiscal policy, changes in legislation, the evolution of regulations and court rulings. Therefore, the actual liability for U.S. or foreign taxes may be materially different from our estimates, which could result in the need to record additional tax liabilities or potentially reverse previously recorded tax liabilities.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets We regularly monitor and review long-lived assets, including fixed assets, goodwill and intangible assets, for impairment including whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of any such asset may not be recoverable. The determination of recoverability is based on an estimate of the undiscounted cash flows expected to result from the use of an asset and its eventual disposition. The estimate of cash flows is based upon, among other things, certain assumptions about expected future operating performance, growth rates and other factors. Our estimates of undiscounted cash flows may differ from actual cash flows due to, among other things, technological changes, economic conditions, changes to our business model or changes in our operating performance. If the sum of the undiscounted cash flows (excluding interest) is less than the carrying value, we recognize an impairment loss, measured as the amount by which the carrying value exceeds the fair value of the asset. See Notes 12 and 13 to our consolidated financial statements for a discussion of the impairment of certain long-lived assets.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2011, the FASB issued guidance regarding the presentation of comprehensive income. The new standard requires the presentation of comprehensive income, the components of net income and the components of other comprehensive income either in a single continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements. The new standard also requires presentation of adjustments for items that are reclassified from other comprehensive income to net income in the statement where the components of net income and the components of other comprehensive income are presented. The updated guidance is effective on a retrospective basis for financial statements issued for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2011. We do not expect the adoption of this guidance to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In May 2011, the FASB issued additional guidance on fair value measurements that clarifies the application of existing guidance and disclosure requirements, changes certain fair value measurement principles and requires additional disclosures about fair value measurements. The updated guidance is effective on a prospective basis for financial statements issued for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2011. We do not expect the adoption of this guidance to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In April 2010, the FASB reached a consensus on the Milestone Method of Revenue Recognition, which provides guidance on the criteria that should be met for determining whether the milestone method of revenue recognition is appropriate. A vendor can recognize consideration that is contingent upon the achievement of a milestone in its entirety as revenue in the period in which the milestone is achieved only if the milestone meets all criteria to be considered substantive. The updated guidance is effective on a prospective basis for milestones achieved in fiscal years, and interim periods within those years beginning on or after June 15, 2010, with early adoption permitted. The adoption of these provisions did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In September 2009, the Emerging Issues Task Force reached a consensus on Accounting Standards Update, or ASU, 2009-13, Revenue Recognition (Topic 605) Multiple-Deliverable Revenue Arrangements, or ASU 2009-13 and ASU 2009-14, Software (Topic 985) Certain Revenue Arrangements That Include Software Elements, or ASU 2009-14. ASU 2009-13 modifies the requirements that must be met for an entity to recognize revenue from the sale of a delivered item that is part of a multiple-element arrangement when other items have not yet been delivered. ASU 2009-13 eliminates the requirement that all undelivered elements must have either: (i) vendor specific objective evidence (VSOE) of fair value; or (ii) third-party evidence (TPE) before an entity can recognize the portion of an overall arrangement consideration that is attributable to items that have already been delivered. In the absence of VSOE or TPE of the standalone selling price for one or more delivered or undelivered elements in a multiple-element arrangement, entities will be required to estimate the selling prices of those elements. Overall arrangement consideration will be allocated to each element (both delivered and undelivered items) based on their relative selling prices, regardless of whether those selling prices are evidenced by VSOE or TPE or are based on the entity s estimated selling price. The residual method of allocating arrangement consideration has been eliminated. ASU 2009-14 modifies the software revenue recognition guidance to exclude from its scope tangible products that contain both software and non-software components that function together to deliver a product s essential functionality. These new updates are effective for revenue arrangements entered into or materially modified in fiscal years beginning on or after June 15, 2010. The adoption of these provisions did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

Results of Operations

Net Revenue

The following table summarizes net revenue by product line for fiscal 2011 compared to fiscal 2010:

	Year Ended					
	September 30, 2011	% of Net Revenue	October 1, 2010	% of Net Revenue	Change $	Change %
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Communications convergence processing	$ 71,652	44%	$ 66,923	38%	$ 4,729	7.1%
High-performance analog	59,240	36%	54,311	30%	4,929	9.1%
WAN communications	28,697	18%	44,145	25%	(15,448)	-35.0%
Total net product revenue	159,589	98%	165,379	93%	(5,790)	-3.5%
Intellectual property	2,500	2%	12,800	7%	(10,300)	-80.5%
Net revenue	$ 162,089	100%	$ 178,179	100%	$ (16,090)	-9.0%

The decrease in our net revenue for fiscal 2011 compared to fiscal 2010 mainly reflects lower sales volumes in our WAN communications products and lower revenue from the sale of intellectual property. These decreases were partially offset by higher sales volume in our communications convergence processing products and our high- performance analog products. Net revenue from our WAN communications products decreased in fiscal 2011 compared to fiscal 2010 due to a slowdown in demand at several large customers, particularly in ATM-based systems. WAN communications products represent a legacy business for us, as we have shifted almost all of our research and development investment into our two growth businesses of communications convergence processing products and high-performance analog products. Net revenue from intellectual property licensing and sales decreased in fiscal 2011 compared to fiscal 2010 due to a decline in intellectual property sales in fiscal 2011. Net revenue from our communications convergence processing products increased in fiscal 2011 when compared to fiscal 2010, due to an increase in shipments of CPE products, which are used in broadband CPE gateways and other equipment that service providers are deploying in order to deliver voice, data and video services to residential subscribers. Within communications convergence processing, we also experienced an increase in shipments for FTTB deployments, particularly to customers in China. Net revenue from high-performance analog products increased in fiscal 2011 when compared to fiscal 2010, primarily due to increased demand for physical media devices, which are primarily used in equipment for fiber-to-the-premise deployments.

The following table summarizes net revenue by product line for fiscal 2010 compared to fiscal 2009:

	Year Ended					
	October 1, 2010	% of Net Revenue	October 2, 2009	% of Net Revenue	Change	
			(in thousands, except percentages)		$	%
Communications convergence processing	$ 66,923	38%	$ 49,452	39%	$ 17,471	35.3%
High-performance analog	54,311	30%	39,084	31%	15,227	39.0%
WAN communications	44,145	25%	33,016	26%	11,129	33.7%
Total net product revenue	165,379	93%	121,552	96%	43,827	36.1%
Intellectual property	12,800	7%	5,000	4%	7,800	156.0%
Net revenue	$ 178,179	100%	$ 126,552	100%	$ 51,627	40.8%

For fiscal 2010, the increase in our net revenue compared to fiscal 2009 primarily reflects higher sales volume in all three of our product families, as well as an increase in the sales and licensing of our intellectual property. Net revenue from our communications convergence processing products increased in fiscal 2010 compared to fiscal 2009, mainly reflecting an increase in shipments of our CPE products, which are used in broadband home gateways and other equipment used by service providers in fiber-to-the-home deployments in order to deliver voice, data and video services to residential subscribers. Within communications convergence processing, we also experienced an increase in shipments for FTTB deployments, particularly to customers in China. Net revenue from our high-performance analog products increased when comparing fiscal 2010 to fiscal 2009 due primarily to increased demand for crosspoint switches primarily related to strength in the optical transport market and broadcast video market, and increased demand for our physical media devices as we expanded into the gigabit passive optical networking (GPON) market. Net revenue from our WAN communications products increased mainly reflecting an increase in shipments of our network processor products and our carrier Ethernet products in fiscal 2010. Net revenue from intellectual property licensing and sales increased in fiscal 2010 compared to fiscal 2009, due to the sale of certain intellectual property in two significant transactions in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010.

Gross Margin

Gross margin represents net revenue less cost of goods sold. As a fabless semiconductor company, we use third parties (including Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Amkor Technology, Inc. and Advanced Semiconductor Engineering, Inc.) for wafer fabrication and assembly and test services. Our cost of goods sold consists predominantly of: purchased finished wafers; assembly and test services; royalty and other intellectual property costs; labor and overhead costs associated with product procurement; amortization of the cost of mask sets purchased; and sustaining engineering expenses pertaining to products sold.

The following table presents gross margin for fiscal 2011 compared to fiscal 2010:

	Year Ended					
	September 30, 2011	% of Net Revenue	October 1, 2010	% of Net Revenue	Change	
			(in thousands, except percentages)		$	%
Gross margin	$ 101,797	63%	$ 118,339	66%	$ (16,542)	-14.0%

Our gross margin for fiscal 2011 decreased from fiscal 2010, principally reflecting a $5.8 million decrease in product sales and a $10.3 million decrease in intellectual property revenue in fiscal 2011. The decrease in our gross margin as a percent of net revenue for fiscal 2011 compared to fiscal 2010 was primarily due to a decrease in the sale of intellectual property, which had little associated cost, as well as a change in product mix.

The following table presents gross margin for fiscal 2010 compared to fiscal 2009:

	Year Ended					
	October 1, 2010	% of Net Revenue	October 2, 2009	% of Net Revenue	Change	
					$	%
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Gross margin	$ 118,339	66%	$ 76,571	61%	$ 41,768	54.5%

Our gross margin for fiscal 2010 increased from fiscal 2009, principally reflecting an increase in both product and intellectual property revenue in fiscal 2010, as well as the effect of asset impairment charges recorded in the second quarter of fiscal 2009. Our fiscal 2010 product sales increased $43.8 million, or 36%, compared to fiscal 2009 and our sale or licensing of intellectual property increased $7.8 million, or 156%. The increase in our gross margin as a percent of net revenue for fiscal 2010 compared to fiscal 2009 was primarily due to the effect of asset impairment charges incurred in fiscal 2009 and increased sales of higher margin intellectual property in fiscal 2010.

Research and Development

Our research and development (R&D) expenses consist principally of direct personnel costs, photomasks, electronic design automation tools and pre-production evaluation and test costs.

The following table presents details of research and development expense for fiscal 2011 compared to fiscal 2010:

	Year Ended					
	September 30, 2011	% of Net Revenue	October 1, 2010	% of Net Revenue	Change	
					$	%
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Personnel-related costs	$ 35,992		$ 32,170		$ 3,822	11.9%
Stock-based compensation	1,783		1,004		779	77.6%
Design and development costs	12,299		9,689		2,610	26.9%
Facilities	5,605		5,928		(323)	-5.4%
Depreciation	2,015		1,299		716	55.1%
Other	1,480		1,277		203	15.9%
Research and development	$ 59,174	37%	$ 51,367	29%	$ 7,807	15.2%

The increase in R&D expenses for fiscal 2011 compared to fiscal 2010 was primarily driven by increased investment in our next generation products in both the wireless and enterprise markets that resulted in an: increase in design and development costs, including engineering tools, contracted engineering services and depreciation on engineering equipment; and increase in personnel costs, including stock-based compensation, as a result of increased headcount.

The following table presents details of research and development expense for fiscal 2010 compared to fiscal 2009:

	Year Ended					
	October 1, 2010	% of Net Revenue	October 2, 2009	% of Net Revenue	Change	
					$	%
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Personnel-related costs	$ 32,170		$ 30,653		$ 1,517	4.9%
Stock-based compensation	1,004		765		239	31.2%
Design and development costs	9,689		9,914		(225)	-2.3%
Facilities	5,928		6,827		(899)	-13.2%

Depreciation	1,299		1,224		75	6.1%
Other	1,277		1,267		10	0.8%
Research and development	$ 51,367	29%	$ 50,650	40%	$ 717	1.4%

The increase in R&D expenses for fiscal 2010 compared to fiscal 2009 was primarily driven by an increase in compensation and personnel-related costs, including stock-based compensation expense. This increase was due to both a management bonus accrual in accordance with our fiscal 2010 cash bonus plan, as well as an increase in headcount within our communications convergence processing and high-performance analog groups. This increase was partially offset by a decrease in the cost of our facilities, which was mainly the result of entering into a new corporate headquarters lease at a more favorable rental rate than we had previously.

Selling, General and Administrative

Our selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses include personnel costs, independent sales representative commissions and product marketing, applications engineering and other marketing costs. Our SG&A expenses also include costs of corporate functions, including accounting, finance, legal, human resources, information systems and communications.

The following table presents details of selling, general and administrative expense for fiscal 2011 compared to fiscal 2010:

	Year Ended				Change	
	September 30, 2011	% of Net Revenue	October 1, 2010	% of Net Revenue	$	%
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Personnel-related costs	$ 25,635		$ 26,756		$ (1,121)	-4.2%
Stock-based compensation	4,046		3,076		970	31.5%
Professional fees and outside services	4,207		3,948		259	6.6%
Facilities	3,285		3,420		(135)	-3.9%
Depreciation	671		549		122	22.2%
Other	4,274		3,670		604	16.5%
Selling, general and administrative	$ 42,118	26%	$ 41,419	23%	$ 699	1.7%

The increase in our SG&A expenses in fiscal 2011 compared to fiscal 2010 was primarily driven by an increase in stock-based compensation expense and other expenses, including primarily business taxes and our provision for bad debt. These increases were partially offset by a decrease in personnel-related costs resulting from headcount reductions associated with our most recent restructuring, as well as a decrease in our accrual for management s bonus.

The following table presents details of selling, general and administrative expense for fiscal 2010 compared to fiscal 2009:

	Year Ended				Change	
	October 1, 2010	% of Net Revenue	October 2, 2009	% of Net Revenue	$	%
	(in thousands, except percentages)					
Personnel-related costs	$ 26,756		$ 27,171	$	(415)	-1.5%
Stock-based compensation	3,076		1,825		1,251	68.5%
Professional fees and outside services	3,948		4,176		(228)	-5.5%
Facilities	3,420		4,017		(597)	-14.9%
Depreciation	549		565		(16)	-2.8%
Other	3,670		3,828		(158)	-4.1%
Selling, general and administrative	$ 41,419	23%	$ 41,582	33%	$ (163)	-0.4%

The decrease in our SG&A expenses in fiscal 2010 compared to fiscal 2009 was primarily due to a decrease in the cost of our facilities, which was primarily due to our entering into a new corporate headquarters lease at a more favorable rental rate than we had previously. In addition, the decrease in SG&A in fiscal 2010 as compared to fiscal 2009 was due to a decrease in the cost of our professional fees and insurance. These decreases in SG&A

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expenses were mostly offset by an increase in compensation, including stock-based compensation expense. The increase in compensation, including stock-based compensation expense, reflected a decrease in costs resulting from headcount reductions associated with our restructuring activities, which was more than offset by an increase in compensation expense related to a management bonus accrual in accordance with our fiscal 2010 cash bonus plan, as well as an increase in stock compensation expense.

Special Charges

Special charges consisted of the following:

	Year Ended		
	September 30, 2011	**October 1, 2010**	**October 2, 2009**
		(in thousands)	
Asset impairments	$	$ 828	$ 2,865
Restructuring charges	1,032	1,856	4,031
Total special charges	$ 1,032	$ 2,684	$ 6,896

Asset Impairments

During fiscal 2011, we did not record any asset impairment charges.

During fiscal 2010, we recorded asset impairment charges of $828,000. These impairment charges consisted of property and equipment that we determined to abandon or scrap.

During fiscal 2009, we recorded asset impairment charges of $2.9 million. Included in this amount were asset impairment charges of approximately $500,000 related to software and property and equipment that we determined to abandon or scrap, as well as asset impairment charges of $2.4 million to write-down the carrying value of goodwill related to our acquisition of certain assets of Ample Communications. In the second quarter of fiscal 2009, our Ample Communications reporting unit experienced a severe decline in sales and profitability due to a significant decline in demand that we believe was a result of the downturn in global economic conditions, as well as a bankruptcy filed by the reporting unit s most significant customer. The drop in market demand resulted in significant declines in unit sales. Due to these market and economic conditions, our Ample Communications reporting unit experienced a significant decline in market value. As a result, we concluded that there were sufficient factual circumstances for interim impairment analyses. Accordingly, in the second quarter of fiscal 2009, we performed a goodwill impairment assessment. Based on the results of our assessment of goodwill for impairment, we determined that the carrying value of the Ample Communications reporting unit exceeded its estimated fair value. Therefore, we performed a second step of the impairment test to estimate the implied fair value of goodwill. The required analysis indicated that there would be no remaining implied value attributable to goodwill in the Ample Communications reporting unit and we impaired the entire goodwill balance of $2.4 million.

We continually monitor and review long-lived assets, including fixed assets and intangible assets, for possible impairment. Future impairment tests may result in significant write-downs of the value of our assets.

Restructuring Charges

We have from time to time, and may in the future, commit to restructuring plans to help manage our costs or to help implement strategic initiatives, among other reasons.

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