

Rubicon Technology, Inc.  
Form 10-Q  
May 08, 2015  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

**FORM 10-Q**

(Mark one)

**Quarterly report pursuant to section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2015**

**or**

**Transition report pursuant to section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
for the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

**Commission file number 001-33834**

**RUBICON TECHNOLOGY, INC.**

**(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)**

**Delaware**  
**(State or Other Jurisdiction of**  
**Incorporation or Organization)**

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

**900 East Green Street**

**Bensenville, Illinois**  
**(Address of Principal Executive Offices)**

**60106**  
**(Zip Code)**

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

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer

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

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

As of May 5, 2015 the Registrant had 26,197,843 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, outstanding.

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**RUBICON TECHNOLOGY, INC.**

**Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q**

**For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2015**

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**Table of Contents****PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION****ITEM 1. Consolidated Financial Statements  
Rubicon Technology, Inc.****Consolidated balance sheets**

|  | <b>March 31,<br/>2015</b>                        | <b>December 31,<br/>2014</b> |
|--|--|------------------------------|
|  | <b>(unaudited)</b>                               |                              |
|  | <b>(in thousands, other than<br/>share data)</b> |                              |
| <b>Assets</b>                              |  |                              |
| Cash and cash equivalents                  | \$ 25,127  | \$ 24,353                    |
| Restricted cash                            | 179  | 183                          |
| Short-term investments                     | 15,876   | 20,562                       |
| Accounts receivable, net                   | 7,553  | 8,323                        |
| Inventories                                | 21,798   | 22,739                       |
| Other inventory supplies                   | 8,000  | 8,208                        |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets  | 920  | 1,035                        |
| <b>Total current assets</b>                | <b>79,453</b>                                    | <b>85,403</b>                |
| Property and equipment, net                | 104,593  | 107,676                      |
| Other assets                               | 1,604  | 1,827                        |
| <b>Total assets</b>                        | <b>\$ 185,650</b>                                | <b>\$ 194,906</b>            |
| <b>Liabilities and stockholders equity</b> |  |                              |
| Accounts payable                           | \$ 2,640   | \$ 3,754                     |
| Accrued payroll                            | 249  | 514                          |
| Accrued and other current liabilities      | 1,174  | 925                          |
| Corporate income and franchise taxes       | 80   | 270                          |
| Accrued real estate taxes                  | 335  | 280                          |
| Advance payments                           | 7  | 10                           |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>           | <b>4,485</b>                                     | <b>5,753</b>                 |
| Deferred tax liability                     | 622  | 593                          |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>                   | <b>5,107</b>                                     | <b>6,346</b>                 |
| <b>Commitments and contingencies</b>       |  |                              |
| <b>Stockholders equity</b>                 |  |                              |

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|   |                   |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Preferred stock, \$0.001 par value, 5,000,000 undesignated shares authorized, no shares issued or outstanding   |                   |                   |
| Common stock, \$0.001 par value, 40,000,000 shares authorized and 27,972,687 and 27,913,788 shares issued; 26,197,843 and 26,138,944 shares outstanding | 28                | 28                |
| Additional paid-in capital  | 372,644           | 372,319           |
| Treasury stock, at cost, 1,774,844 shares   | (12,148)          | (12,148)          |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss  | (37)              | (43)              |
| Accumulated deficit   | (179,944)         | (171,596)         |
| <b>Total stockholders equity</b>  | <b>180,543</b>    | <b>188,560</b>    |
| <b>Total liabilities and stockholders equity</b>  | <b>\$ 185,650</b> | <b>\$ 194,906</b> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

**Table of Contents****Rubicon Technology, Inc.****Consolidated statements of operations**

|  | <b>Three months ended<br/>March 31,<br/>2015                      2014<br/>(unaudited)<br/>(in thousands, other than<br/>share and per share data)</b> |             |
|--|--|-------------|
| Revenue  | \$ 8,910   | \$ 14,268   |
| Cost of goods sold   | 14,019   | 21,762      |
| Gross loss   | (5,109)  | (7,494)     |
| Operating expenses:  |  |             |
| General and administrative   | 2,068  | 2,388       |
| Sales and marketing  | 338  | 467         |
| Research and development   | 433  | 576         |
| Loss from operations   | (7,948)  | (10,925)    |
| Other income:  |  |             |
| Interest income  | 16   | 21          |
| Interest expense   | (23)   | (23)        |
| Realized (loss) gain on foreign currency translation   | (357)  | 39          |
| Total other (expense) income   | (364)  | 37          |
| Loss before income taxes   | (8,312)  | (10,888)    |
| Income tax expense   | 36   | 6           |
| Net loss   | \$ (8,348)   | \$ (10,894) |
| Net loss per common share  |  |             |
| Basic  | \$ (0.32)  | \$ (0.43)   |
| Diluted  | \$ (0.32)  | \$ (0.43)   |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding used in computing net loss per common share basic and diluted | 26,129,276   | 25,317,147  |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

**Table of Contents****Rubicon Technology, Inc.****Consolidated statements of comprehensive loss**

|   | <b>Three months ended<br/>March 31,<br/>2015      2014<br/>(unaudited)<br/>(in thousands)</b> |             |
|---|---|-------------|
| Net loss  | \$ (8,348)  | \$ (10,894) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss):                |   |             |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on investments, net of tax | 6   | (156)       |
| Unrealized loss on currency translation           |   | 1           |
| Other comprehensive income (loss)                 | 6   | (155)       |
| Comprehensive loss                                | \$ (8,342)  | \$ (11,049) |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

**Table of Contents****Rubicon Technology, Inc.****Consolidated statements of cash flows**

|  | <b>Three months<br/>ended<br/>March 31,<br/>2015      2014<br/>(unaudited)</b> |             |
|--|--|-------------|
|  | <b>(in thousands)</b>  |             |
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>                                |  |             |
| Net loss   | \$ (8,348)   | \$ (10,894) |
| Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities |  |             |
| Depreciation and amortization  | 3,317  | 3,507       |
| Stock-based compensation   | 334  | 448         |
| Deferred taxes   | 29   |             |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities:                               |  |             |
| Accounts receivable  | 770  | (4,597)     |
| Inventories  | 647  | 5,781       |
| Other inventory supplies   | 100  | (140)       |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets  | 332  | (354)       |
| Accounts payable   | (1,050)  | 1,192       |
| Accrued payroll  | (258)  | (56)        |
| Corporate income and franchise taxes                                       | (189)  | (92)        |
| Advanced payments  | (4)  | 347         |
| Accrued and other current liabilities                                      | 313  | 385         |
| Net cash used in operating activities                                      | (4,007)  | (4,473)     |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>                                |  |             |
| Purchases of property and equipment  | (234)  | (1,924)     |
| Purchases of investments   | (307)  | (26,675)    |
| Proceeds from sale of investments  | 5,000  | 4,500       |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities                        | 4,459  | (24,099)    |
| <b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>                                |  |             |
| Proceeds from issuance of common stock, net of issuance costs              |  | 34,961      |
| Proceeds from exercise of options  |  | 256         |
| Taxes paid related to net share settlement of equity awards                | (8)  |             |
| Restricted cash  | 4  | 4           |
| Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities                        | (4)  | 35,221      |
| Net effect of currency translation   | 326  | (39)        |



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|  |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents      | 774       | 6,610     |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period | 24,353    | 21,071    |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period       | \$ 25,127 | \$ 27,681 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

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**Rubicon Technology, Inc.**

**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**March 31, 2015**

**1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

**Interim financial data**

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ( GAAP ) for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and notes required by GAAP for complete consolidated financial statements and should be read in conjunction with Rubicon Technology, Inc. s (the Company ) annual report filed on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (consisting only of adjustments of a normal and recurring nature) considered necessary for a fair presentation of the results of operations have been included. Consolidated operating results for the three month periods ended March 31, 2015 are not necessarily indicative of results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2015.

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Principles of consolidation**

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Rubicon Worldwide LLC and Rubicon Sapphire Technology (Malaysia) SDN BHD. All intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated in consolidation.

**Foreign currency translation and transactions**

Rubicon Worldwide LLC s assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars at exchange rates existing at the respective balance sheet dates and capital accounts at historical exchange rates. The results of operations are translated into U.S. dollars at the average exchange rates during the respective period. Translation adjustments resulting from fluctuations in exchange rates for Rubicon Worldwide LLC are recorded as a separate component of accumulated other comprehensive loss within stockholders equity.

The Company has determined that the functional currency of Rubicon Sapphire Technology (Malaysia) SDN BHD is the U.S. dollar. Rubicon Sapphire Technology (Malaysia) SDN BHD s assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars using the remeasurement method. Non-monetary assets are translated at historical exchange rates and monetary assets are translated at exchange rates existing at the respective balance sheet dates. Translation adjustments for Rubicon Sapphire Technology (Malaysia) SDN BHD are included in determining net income (loss) for the period. The results of operations are translated into U.S. dollars at the average exchange rates during the respective period. The Company records these gains and losses in other income (expense).

Foreign currency transaction gains and losses are generated from the effects of exchange rate changes on transactions denominated in a currency other than the functional currency of the Company, which is the U.S. dollar. Gains and losses on foreign currency transactions are generally required to be recognized in the determination of net loss for the period. The Company records these gains and losses in other income (expense).

## Investments

The Company invests available cash primarily in investment grade commercial paper, corporate notes, FDIC guaranteed certificates of deposits, common stock, and government securities. Investments classified as available-for-sale securities are carried at fair market value with unrealized gains and losses recorded in accumulated other comprehensive loss. Investments in trading securities are reported at fair value, with both realized and unrealized gains and losses recorded in other income (expense), in the Consolidated Statement of Operations. Investments in which the Company has the ability and intent, if necessary, to liquidate in order to support its current operations, are classified as short-term.

The Company reviews its available-for-sale securities investments at the end of each quarter for other-than-temporary declines in fair value based on the specific identification method. The Company considers various factors in determining whether an impairment is other-than-temporary, including the severity and duration of the impairment, changes in underlying credit ratings, forecasted recovery, its ability and intent to hold the investment for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in market value and the probability that the scheduled cash payments will continue to be made. When the Company concludes that an other-than-temporary impairment has resulted, the difference between the fair value and carrying value is written off and recorded as a charge on the Consolidated Statement of Operations. As of March 31, 2015, no impairment was recorded.

**Table of Contents****Accounts receivable**

The majority of the Company's accounts receivable is due from manufacturers serving the LED and optical systems and specialty electronics devices industries. Credit is extended based on an evaluation of the customer's financial condition. Accounts receivable are due based on contract terms and at stated amounts due from customers, net of an allowance for doubtful accounts.

Accounts outstanding longer than the contractual payment terms are considered past due. The Company determines its allowance by considering a number of factors, including the length of time past due, the customer's current ability to pay and the condition of the general economy and industry as a whole. The Company writes off accounts receivable when they are deemed uncollectible, and payments subsequently received on such receivables are recorded as a reduction to bad debt expense. The following table shows the activity of the allowance for doubtful accounts:

|                                       | <b>March 31,<br/>2015</b> | <b>December 31,<br/>2014</b> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
|                                       | <b>(in thousands)</b>     |                              |
| Beginning balance                     | \$ 140                    | \$ 50                        |
| Charges to costs and expenses         | (63)                      | 105                          |
| Accounts charged off, less recoveries |                           | (15)                         |
| Ending balance                        | \$ 77                     | \$ 140                       |

**Inventories**

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost or market. Raw materials cost is determined using the first-in, first-out method, and work-in-process and finished goods costs are determined on a weighted-average cost basis which includes materials, labor and overhead. The Company reduces the carrying value of its inventories for differences between the cost and the estimated net realizable value, taking into account usage, expected demand, technological obsolescence and other information. At times in 2015 and 2014, the Company accepted sales orders for core and wafer products at prices lower than cost. Based on these sales prices, the Company recorded for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, a lower of cost or market adjustment which reduced inventory and increased cost of goods sold by \$252,000 and \$1.1 million, respectively. Inventories are composed of the following:

|                  | <b>March 31,<br/>2015</b> | <b>December 31,<br/>2014</b> |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
|                  | <b>(in thousands)</b>     |                              |
| Raw materials    | \$ 12,913                 | \$ 14,503                    |
| Work in progress | 7,468                     | 6,357                        |
| Finished goods   | 1,417                     | 1,879                        |
|                  | \$ 21,798                 | \$ 22,739                    |

The Company establishes inventory reserves when conditions exist that suggest inventory may be in excess of anticipated demand or is obsolete based on customer specifications. The Company evaluates the ability to realize the

value of its inventory based on a combination of factors, including forecasted sales, estimated current and future market value and changes in customers' product specifications. The Company's method of estimating excess and obsolete inventory has remained consistent for all periods presented.

### Property and equipment

Property and equipment consisted of the following:

|   | <b>March 31,<br/>2015</b> | <b>December 31,<br/>2014</b> |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|
|   | <b>(in thousands)</b>     |                              |
| Land and land improvements                | \$ 4,133                  | \$ 4,133                     |
| Buildings                                 | 32,487                    | 32,482                       |
| Machinery, equipment and tooling          | 127,404                   | 127,158                      |
| Leasehold improvements                    | 7,640                     | 7,640                        |
| Furniture and fixtures                    | 961                       | 961                          |
| Information systems                       | 1,140                     | 1,140                        |
| Construction in progress                  | 3,650                     | 3,734                        |
| Total cost                                | 177,415                   | 177,248                      |
| Accumulated depreciation and amortization | (72,822)                  | (69,572)                     |
| Property and equipment, net               | \$ 104,593                | \$ 107,676                   |

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### **Impairment of long-lived assets**

When circumstances, such as adverse market conditions, indicate that the carrying value of a long-lived asset may be impaired, the Company performs an analysis to review the recoverability of the asset's carrying value. The Company makes estimates of the undiscounted cash flows (excluding interest charges) from the expected future operations of the asset. These estimates consider factors such as expected future operating income, operating trends and prospects, as well as the effects of demand, competition and other factors. If the analysis indicates that the carrying value is not recoverable from future cash flows, an impairment loss is recognized to the extent that the carrying value exceeds the estimated fair value. Any impairment losses are recorded as operating expenses, which reduce net income. In response to the Company's current period operating losses combined with its history of continuing operating losses, the Company evaluated the recoverability of certain property and equipment. Based upon the Company's assessment using its most recent projections, no impairment to these assets was indicated as of March 31, 2015, as the recoverable amount of undiscounted cash flows exceeded the carrying amount of these assets. To the extent these projections are not achieved, there may be a negative effect on the valuation and carrying value of these assets.

There were no impairment losses on long lived assets for the three months ended March 31, 2015.

### **Revenue recognition**

Revenues recognized include product sales and billings for costs and fees for government contracts.

#### Product Sales

The Company recognizes revenue from product sales when earned. Revenue is recognized when, and if, evidence of an arrangement is obtained and the other criteria to support revenue recognition are met, including:

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

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

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

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

#### Government Contracts

The Company recognizes research and development revenue in the period during which the related costs are incurred over the contractually defined period. In July 2012, the Company signed a contract with the Air Force Research Laboratory to produce large-area sapphire windows on a cost plus fixed fee basis. The Company records research and development revenue on a gross basis as costs are incurred plus a portion of the fixed fee. For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, \$141,000 and \$125,000 of revenue was recognized, respectively. The contract is for three years and the total value of the contract is \$4.7 million, of which \$3.4 million has been recognized through March 31, 2015.

The Company does not provide maintenance or other services and it does not have sales that involve multiple elements or deliverables.

### **Net income per common share**

Basic net income per common share is computed by dividing net income by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted net income per common share is computed by dividing net income by the weighted-average number of diluted common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted shares outstanding are calculated by adding to the weighted-average shares any outstanding stock options and warrants based on the treasury stock method.

Diluted net loss per share is the same as basic net loss per share for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014 because the effects of potentially dilutive securities are anti-dilutive.

At March 31, 2015 and 2014, the Company had the following anti-dilutive securities outstanding which were excluded from the calculation of diluted net loss per share:

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|               | <b>March 31,<br/>2015</b> | <b>March 31,<br/>2014</b> |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Warrants      | 38,219                    | 175,832                   |
| Stock options | 21,952                    | 357,511                   |
|               | <b>60,171</b>             | <b>533,343</b>            |

**Other comprehensive loss**

Comprehensive loss is defined as the change in equity of a business enterprise from transactions and other events from non-owner sources. Comprehensive loss includes net earnings (loss) and other non-owner changes in equity that bypass the statement of operations and are reported in a separate component of equity. For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, other comprehensive loss includes the unrealized loss on investments and foreign currency translation adjustments.

The following table summarizes the components of comprehensive loss:

|  | <b>March 31,<br/>2015</b> | <b>December 31,<br/>2014</b> |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|
|  | <b>(in thousands)</b>     |                              |
| Reclassification of unrealized gain included in net loss | \$                        | \$ 388                       |
| Unrealized loss on investments, net of taxes             | (22)                      | (415)                        |
| Unrealized loss on currency translation                  | (15)                      | (16)                         |
| Ending Balance   | \$ (37)                   | \$ (43)                      |

**Recent accounting pronouncement**

In May 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09 ( ASU 2014-09 ), *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, which supersedes most of the current revenue recognition requirements. The underlying principle is that an entity will recognize revenue to depict the transfer of goods or services to customers at an amount that the entity expects to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services. The guidance provides a five-step analysis of transactions to determine when and how revenue is recognized. Other major provisions include capitalization of certain contract costs, consideration of time value of money in the transaction price, and allowing estimates of variable consideration to be recognized before contingencies are resolved in certain circumstances. The guidance also requires enhanced disclosures regarding the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from an entity's contracts with customers. The guidance is effective for the interim and annual periods beginning on or after December 15, 2016 (early adoption is not permitted). The guidance permits the use of either a retrospective or cumulative effect transition method. The adoption of ASU 2014-09 is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In June 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-12 ( ASU 2014-12 ), *Compensation - Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Accounting for Share-Based Payments When the Terms of an Award Provide That a Performance Target Could Be Achieved after the Requisite Service Period* related to stock compensation. The new standard requires that a performance target that affects vesting, and that could be achieved after the requisite service period, be treated as a performance condition. As such, the performance target should not be reflected in estimating



the grant date fair value of the award. This update further clarifies that compensation cost should be recognized in the period in which it becomes probable that the performance target will be achieved and should represent the compensation cost attributable to the periods for which the requisite service has already been rendered. The new standard is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2015 and can be applied either prospectively or retrospectively to all awards outstanding as of the beginning of the earliest annual period presented as an adjustment to opening retained earnings. Early adoption is permitted. The Company is evaluating the impact, if any, of adopting ASU 2014-12 on its financial statements.

In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-15, *Presentation of Financial Statements - Going Concern (Subtopic 205-40): Disclosure of Uncertainties about an Entity's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern*. The standard requires management to evaluate whether there is substantial doubt about an entity's ability to continue as a going concern and to provide related footnote disclosures. Management must evaluate whether it is probable that known conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, would raise substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued. If such conditions or events are identified, the standard requires management's mitigation plans to alleviate the doubt or a statement of the substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern to be disclosed in the financial statements. The standard is effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2016, with early adoption permitted. The Company is evaluating the impact, if any, of adopting ASU 2014-15 on its financial statements.

**Table of Contents****3. SEGMENT INFORMATION**

The Company evaluates operations as one reportable segment, as it only reports profit and loss information on an aggregate basis to its chief operating decision maker.

Revenue is attributed by geographic region based on ship-to location of the Company's customers. The following table summarizes revenue by geographic region:

|               | <b>Three months ended<br/>March 31,<br/>2015      2014<br/>(in thousands)</b> |           |
|---------------|---|-----------|
| China         | \$ 3,351  | \$ 6,450  |
| Taiwan        | 1,701   | 3,764     |
| United States | 1,523   | 1,370     |
| Korea         | 725   | 1,896     |
| Other         | 1,610   | 788       |
| Revenue       | \$ 8,910  | \$ 14,268 |

The following table summarizes revenue by product type:

|                        | <b>Three months ended<br/>March 31,<br/>2015      2014<br/>(in thousands)</b> |           |
|------------------------|---|-----------|
| Core                   | \$ 5,109  | \$ 11,355 |
| Wafer                  | 1,891   | 1,095     |
| Optical                | 1,769   | 1,638     |
| Research & Development | 141   | 125       |
| Other                  |   | 55        |
| Revenue                | \$ 8,910  | \$ 14,268 |

The following table summarizes assets by geographic region:

|               | <b>March 31,<br/>2015</b> | <b>December 31,<br/>2014</b> |
|---------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
|               | <b>(in thousands)</b>     |                              |
| United States | \$ 146,828                | \$ 156,105                   |
| Malaysia      | 38,796                    | 38,765                       |
| Other         | 26                        | 36                           |

Total Assets \$ 185,650 \$ 194,906

#### 4. INVESTMENTS

The Company invests available cash primarily in investment grade commercial paper, corporate notes, FDIC guaranteed certificates of deposits, common stock, and government securities. The Company's short-term investments balance of \$15.9 million as of March 31, 2015, is comprised of corporate notes and bonds of \$12.8 million and FDIC guaranteed certificates of deposit of \$3.1. The Company's investments are classified as available-for-sale securities and are carried at fair market value with unrealized gains and losses recorded in accumulated other comprehensive loss.

The following table presents the amortized cost and gross unrealized gains and losses on all securities at March 31, 2015:

|   | Amortized<br>Cost | Gross<br>Unrealized<br>Gains | Gross<br>Unrealized<br>Losses | Fair<br>Value |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
|   | (in thousands)    |                              |                               |               |
| <b>Short-term Investments:</b>          |                   |                              |                               |               |
| FDIC Guaranteed certificates of deposit | \$ 3,080          | \$                           | \$ 1                          | \$ 3,079      |
| Corporate notes/bonds                   | 12,806            |                              | 9                             | 12,797        |
| Total short-term investments            | \$ 15,886         | \$                           | \$ 10                         | \$ 15,876     |

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The following table presents the amortized cost and gross unrealized gains and losses on all securities at December 31, 2014:

|   | <b>Amortized<br/>Cost</b> | <b>Gross<br/>Unrealized<br/>Gains</b> | <b>Gross<br/>Unrealized<br/>Losses</b> | <b>Fair<br/>Value</b> |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
|   | <b>(in thousands)</b>     |                                       |  |                       |
| <b>Short-term Investments:</b>          |                           |                                       |  |                       |
| FDIC Guaranteed certificates of deposit | \$ 2,120                  | \$                                    | \$ 2                                   | \$ 2,118              |
| Corporate Notes/Bonds                   | 18,458                    |                                       | 14                                     | 18,444                |
| <b>Total short-term investments</b>     | <b>\$ 20,578</b>          | <b>\$</b>                             | <b>\$ 16</b>                           | <b>\$ 20,562</b>      |

The Company values its investments at fair value, defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. Valuation techniques used to measure fair value must maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The standard below describes a fair value hierarchy based on three levels of inputs, of which the first two are considered observable and the last unobservable, that may be used to measure fair value which are the following:

Level 1 Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 Inputs other than Level 1 that are observable, either directly or indirectly, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.

Level 3 Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

The Company's fixed income available-for-sale securities consist of high quality, investment grade commercial paper, corporate notes, FDIC guaranteed certificates of deposits, common stock, and government securities. The Company values these securities based on pricing from pricing vendors, who may use quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1 inputs) or inputs other than quoted prices that are observable either directly or indirectly (Level 2 inputs) in determining fair value. The valuation techniques used to measure the fair value of the Company's financial instruments having Level 2 inputs were derived from non-binding market consensus prices that are corroborated by observable market data, quoted market prices for similar instruments, or pricing models, such as discounted cash flow techniques.

The following table summarizes the Company's financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of March 31, 2015:

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|   | <b>Level 1</b>        | <b>Level 2</b>   | <b>Level 3</b> | <b>Total</b>     |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
|   | <b>(in thousands)</b> |                  |                |                  |
| <b>Cash Equivalents:</b>                |                       |                  |                |                  |
| Money market funds                      | \$ 21,672             | \$               | \$             | \$ 21,672        |
| <b>Investments:</b>                     |                       |                  |                |                  |
| Available-for-sales securities current  |                       |                  |                |                  |
| FDIC Guaranteed certificates of deposit |                       | 3,079            |                | 3,079            |
| Corporate notes/bonds                   |                       | 12,797           |                | 12,797           |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>\$ 21,672</b>      | <b>\$ 15,875</b> | <b>\$</b>      | <b>\$ 37,548</b> |

The following table summarizes the Company's financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2014:

|   | <b>Level 1</b>   | <b>Level 2</b>   | <b>Level 3</b> | <b>Total</b>     |
|---|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Cash Equivalents:</b>                |                  |                  |                |                  |
| Money market funds                      | \$ 21,963        | \$               | \$             | \$ 21,963        |
| <b>Investments:</b>                     |                  |                  |                |                  |
| Available-for-sales securities current: |                  |                  |                |                  |
| FDIC Guaranteed certificates of deposit |                  | 2,118            |                | 2,118            |
| Corporate notes/bonds                   |                  | 18,444           |                | 18,444           |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>\$ 21,963</b> | <b>\$ 20,562</b> | <b>\$</b>      | <b>\$ 42,525</b> |

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In addition to the debt securities noted above, the Company had approximately \$3.5 million and \$2.4 million of time deposits included in cash and cash equivalents as of March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively.

## **5. SIGNIFICANT CUSTOMERS**

For the three months ended March 31, 2015, the Company had one customer individually that accounted for approximately 29% of revenue. For the three months ended March 31, 2014, the Company had four customers individually that accounted for approximately 21%, 14%, 11% and 11% of revenue, respectively.

Customers individually representing more than 10% of trade receivables accounted for approximately 57% and 50% of accounts receivable as of March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively. The Company grants credit to customers based on an evaluation of their financial condition. Losses from credit sales are provided for in the financial statements.

## **6. STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY**

### **Common Stock**

As of March 31, 2015, the Company had reserved 2,418,119 shares of common stock for issuance upon the exercise of outstanding common stock options and vesting of restricted stock units. Also, 1,648,487 shares of the Company's common stock were reserved for future grants of stock options (or other similar equity instruments) under the Company's 2007 Stock Incentive Plan (the 2007 Plan) as of March 31, 2015. In addition, 267,826 shares of the Company's common stock were reserved for future exercise of outstanding warrants as of March 31, 2015.

On January 13, 2014, the Company completed a public offering of common stock in which a total of 3,047,500 shares were sold including 397,500 shares pursuant to the full exercise of the underwriter's over-allotment option, at a price of \$10.65 per share. The Company raised a total of \$32.5 million in gross proceeds from the offering, or approximately \$30.3 million in net proceeds after deducting the underwriting discount and expenses of \$2.3 million.

On March 20, 2014, certain selling stockholders of the Company completed a public offering of 2,875,000 shares of common stock and the Company sold 375,000 shares pursuant to the full exercise of the underwriter's over-allotment option each at a price of \$13.00 per share. The Company raised a total of \$4.9 million in gross proceeds from the offering, or approximately \$4.4 million in net proceeds after deducting the underwriting discount and expenses of \$319,000 and estimated costs of \$148,000.

### **Warrants**

For the three months ended March 31, 2015, no common stock warrants were exercised. At March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, there were 267,826 common stock warrants outstanding.

## **7. STOCK INCENTIVE PLANS**

The Company sponsored a stock option plan, the 2001 Plan, which allowed for the granting of incentive and nonqualified stock options for the purchase of common stock. The maximum number of shares that may be awarded or sold under the 2001 Plan was 1,449,667 shares. Each option entitles the holder to purchase one share of common stock at the specified option exercise price. The exercise price of each incentive stock option granted must not be less than the fair market value on the grant date. At the discretion of management and with the approval of the Board of Directors, the Company granted options under the 2001 Plan. Management and the Board of Directors determined

vesting periods and expiration dates at the time of the grant. On August 2, 2011, the plan expired.

In August 2007, the Company adopted the 2007 Plan, which allows for the grant of incentive stock options, non-statutory stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance awards and bonus shares. The Board of Directors has appointed a committee to administer the plan. The plan committee determines the type of award to be granted, the fair market value, the number of shares covered by the award, and the time when the award vests and may be exercised.

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The Company uses the Black-Scholes option pricing model to value stock options issued after January 1, 2006. For options granted in 2015, the Company uses five year historical data to determine its volatility assumptions and expected term. The assumed risk-free rates were based on U.S. Treasury rates in effect at the time of grant with a term consistent with the expected option lives. The forfeiture rate is based on past history of forfeited options. The expense is being allocated using the straight-line method. For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, the Company recorded \$200,000 and \$289,000, respectively, of stock option compensation expense. As of March 31, 2015, the Company had \$1.7 million of total unrecognized compensation cost related to non-vested stock option awards granted under the Company's stock-based plans that it expects to recognize over a weighted-average period of 2.69 years. The Company accounts for options issued prior to January 1, 2006 under the intrinsic value method.

The following table summarizes the activity of the stock incentive and equity plans as of March 31, 2015 and changes during the three months then ended:

|                     | Shares<br>available<br>for grant | Number of<br>options<br>outstanding | Weighted-<br>average option<br>exercise<br>price | Number of<br>restricted<br>stock and<br>board<br>shares<br>issued | Number of<br>restricted<br>stock<br>units<br>outstanding |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| At January 1, 2015  | 1,772,529                        | 2,238,286                           | \$ 10.31   | 140,653   | 134,731  |
| Granted             | (165,239)                        | 60,000                              | 3.97   | 60,802  | 44,437   |
| Exercised           |                                  |                                     |  |   |  |
| Cancelled/forfeited | 41,197                           | (46,966)                            | 13.72  |   | (12,369)   |
| At March 31, 2015   | 1,648,487                        | 2,251,320                           | \$ 10.09   | 201,455   | 166,799  |

The Company's aggregate intrinsic value is calculated as the difference between the exercise price of the underlying stock options and the fair value of the Company's common stock. Based on the fair market value of the common stock at March 31, 2015 and 2014, there was no intrinsic value for options outstanding. The weighted average fair value per share of options granted for the three months ended March 31, 2015 was \$3.97 and the fair value of each option grant was estimated at the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model using an expected term of 5.5 years, risk-free interest rate of 1.41%, expected volatility of 65% and no dividend yield. The Company used an expected forfeiture rate of 18.56%.

A summary of the Company's non-vested options during the three month period ended March 31, 2015 is presented below:

|                               | Options  | Weighted-<br>average<br>exercise<br>price |
|-------------------------------|----------|---|
| Non-vested at January 1, 2015 | 628,733  | \$ 5.93                                   |
| Granted                       | 60,000   | 3.97                                      |
| Vested                        | (31,375) | 6.81                                      |



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|                              |          |         |
|------------------------------|----------|---------|
| Forfeited                    | (27,699) | 11.40   |
| Non-vested at March 31, 2015 | 629,659  | \$ 5.46 |

For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, the Company recorded \$61,000 and \$25,000, respectively, of restricted stock unit ( RSU ) expense. As of March 31, 2015, there was \$610,000 of unrecognized compensation cost related to the non-vested RSUs. This cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 2.6 years.

A summary of the Company's restricted stock units is as follows:

|  | RSUs<br>outstanding | Weighted average price at<br>time of grant | Aggregate intrinsic<br>value |
|--|---------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Non-vested restricted stock<br>units as of January 1, 2015 | 134,731             | \$ 5.41                                    |                              |
| Granted  | 44,437              | 4.36                                       |                              |
| Cancelled  | (12,369)            | 5.59                                       |                              |
| Non-vested at March 31, 2015                               | 166,799             | \$ 5.12                                    | \$ 657,000                   |

For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, the Company recorded \$73,000 and \$134,000, respectively, of stock compensation expense related to restricted stock.

An analysis of restricted stock issued is as follows:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Non-vested restricted stock as of January 1, 2015 | 12,207  |
| Granted   | 60,802  |
| Vested  | (6,980) |
| Non-vested restricted stock as of March 31, 2015  | 66,029  |

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**8. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

**Purchase Commitments**

The Company has entered into agreements for electricity and to purchase equipment and components to construct furnaces. These agreements will result in the Company purchasing electricity, equipment or components for a total cost of approximately \$3.6 million with deliveries occurring through 2016.

**Litigation**

From time to time, the Company experiences routine litigation in the normal course of its business. The management of the Company does not believe any pending litigation will have a material adverse effect on the financial condition or results of operations of the Company.

**9. INCOME TAXES**

The Company is subject to income taxes in the U.S. and Malaysia. On a quarterly basis, the Company assesses the recoverability of deferred tax assets and the need for a valuation allowance. Such evaluations involve the application of significant judgment and multiple factors, both positive and negative, are considered. For the period ended March 31, 2015, a valuation allowance has been included in the 2015 forecasted effective tax rate. The Company is in a cumulative loss position for the past three years, which is considered significant negative evidence that is difficult to overcome on a more likely than not standard through objectively verifiable data. Under the accounting standards objective verifiable evidence is given greater weight than subjective evidence such as the Company's projections for future growth. Based on an evaluation in accordance with the accounting standards, as of December 31, 2014, a valuation allowance has been recorded against the net U.S. deferred tax assets in order to measure only the portion of the deferred tax assets that are more likely than not to be realized based on the weight of all the available evidence. At March 31, 2015 the Company continues to be in a three year cumulative loss position therefore until an appropriate level of profitability is attained, the Company expects to maintain a full valuation allowance on its U.S. net deferred tax assets. Any U.S. tax benefits or tax expense recorded on the Company's Consolidated Statement of Operations will be offset with a corresponding valuation allowance until such time that the Company changes its determination related to the realization of deferred tax assets. In the event that the Company changes its determination as to the amount of deferred tax assets that can be realized, the Company will adjust its valuation allowance with a corresponding impact to the provision for income taxes in the period in which such determination is made.

The tax provision for the three months ended March 31, 2015 is based on an estimated combined statutory effective tax rate. The Company recorded for the three months ended March 31, 2015 a tax expense of \$36,000 for an effective tax rate of 0.44%. For the three months ended March 31, 2015 the difference between the Company's effective tax rate and the U.S. federal 35% statutory rate and state 6.2% (net of federal benefit) statutory rate was primarily related to a U.S. valuation allowance and profits recorded in the Malaysia operation for which the Company has a tax holiday.

**10. CREDIT FACILITY**

On January 2, 2013, the Company entered into a three-year term agreement with a bank to provide the Company with a senior secured credit facility of up to \$25.0 million. The agreement provides for the Company to borrow up to 80% of the value of eligible accounts receivable and up to 35% of the value of domestically held raw material and finished goods inventory. Advances against inventory are limited to the lesser of 40% of the aggregate outstanding principal on the revolving line of credit and \$10.0 million. The Company has the option to borrow at an interest rate of LIBOR plus 2.75% or the Wall Street Journal prime rate plus 0.50%. If the Company maintains liquidity of \$20.0 million or

greater with the lending institution, then the borrowing interest rate options are LIBOR plus 2.25% or the Wall Street Journal prime rate. There is an unused revolving line facility fee of 0.375% per annum. The facility is secured by a first priority interest in substantially all of the Company's personal property, excluding intellectual property. The Company is required to maintain an adjusted quick ratio of 1.40 to 1.00, maintain operating and other deposit accounts with the bank or bank's affiliates of 25% of the Company's total worldwide cash, securities and investments, and the Company can pay dividends or repurchase capital stock only with the bank's consent during the three year term. For the three months ended March 31, 2015, the Company did not draw on this facility. For each of the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, the Company recorded \$23,000 of interest expense charged on the unused portion of the facility.

## **11. SUBSEQUENT EVENT**

On April 30, 2015, Firerock Global Opportunity Fund LP filed a complaint in the Northern District of Illinois asserting federal securities claims against the Company, certain officers, its directors and the underwriters in the Company's March 2014 stock offering (the "Complaint"). The Complaint seeks as a remedy either money damages or rescission of the March offering, plus attorneys' fees. The Company intends to vigorously defend this lawsuit. Due to the preliminary nature of the lawsuit, at this time, we cannot predict an outcome, nor is it reasonably possible to estimate the amount or range of loss, if any, that would be associated with an adverse decision.

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

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

Moreover, we operate in a very competitive and rapidly changing environment. New risks emerge from time to time. It is not possible for our management to predict all risks, nor can we assess the impact of all factors on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements we may make. Before investing in our common stock, investors should be aware that the occurrence of the risks, uncertainties and events described in the section entitled Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 and elsewhere in this Quarterly Report could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

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

You should read this Quarterly Report, the documents that we reference in this Quarterly Report and have filed with the SEC as exhibits and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 with the understanding that our actual future results, levels of activity, performance and events and circumstances may be materially different from what we expect.

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

**OVERVIEW**

We are a vertically integrated, advanced electronic materials provider specializing in monocrystalline sapphire for applications in light-emitting diodes ( LEDs ), optical systems and specialty electronic devices. Sapphire is also used as an exterior component in mobile devices, specifically camera lens covers, dual flashes and home buttons on certain newer model smartphones and as the crystal covering the faces of certain smart watches. Sapphire was adopted for use on the home button on certain smartphones because of the scratch resistance and increased touch capacitance it offers, which are important characteristics to ensure the effectiveness of the fingerprint recognition security built into the

device. We believe that the use of fingerprint recognition security and other biometrics could become more prevalent in the future, which could become a strong growth driver for sapphire. In addition, some consumer electronics original equipment manufacturers ( OEMs ) are using full sapphire faceplates for smartphones, in limited volume. If sapphire smartphone faceplates were widely adopted, this would become the world's largest application for sapphire. We apply our proprietary crystal growth technology to produce high-quality sapphire products efficiently to supply both high-volume and niche end-markets, and we work closely with our customers to meet their quality and delivery needs.

Our largest product lines are:

sapphire cores, two to six inches in diameter, which our customers further process into wafers for use in LED applications and into components such as lens covers for mobile devices;

four and six-inch sapphire wafers that are used as substrates for the manufacture of LED chips and to a lesser extent for other semiconductor applications such as Silicon-on-Sapphire ( SoS ) Radio Frequency Integrated Circuits ( RFICs );

four, six, and eight-inch patterned sapphire wafers ( PSS ) which are polished wafers that undergo additional processes of photolithography and dry plasma etching to produce a patterned surface which enhances LED light extraction efficiency ( LEE ); and

optical sapphire components in various shapes and sizes, including round and rectangular windows and blanks, domes, tubes and rods. These optical sapphire products are used in equipment for a wide variety of end markets, including defense and aerospace, medical devices, oil and gas drilling, semiconductor manufacturing and other markets.

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The adoption of sapphire in mobile devices continued to expand with the introduction of new products such as the Apple watch, which has sapphire content, as do at least two other smart watches manufactured by others already in the market. In addition, Kyocera has introduced a new smartphone with a sapphire faceplate and a Chinese smartphone manufacturer has announced plans to do the same. However, the industry expectation was that at least one version of the iPhone 6 introduced in the third quarter of 2014 would have a sapphire faceplate. That did not happen and the subsequent bankruptcy filing by GT Advanced Technologies Inc. ( GTAT ) has raised considerable speculation on how the mobile device segment of the sapphire market will continue to evolve. It is difficult to determine the future impact of the GTAT bankruptcy on sapphire supply and demand as it is unknown what will be the disposition of their furnaces and sapphire inventory. While we do not know whether Apple has changed its overall strategy around sapphire, Apple and other mobile device manufacturers continue to expand the use of sapphire in more of their products. We expect this trend to continue, and this segment of the market has the potential to become the largest consumer of sapphire in a relatively short period of time. We have participated in the mobile device market and will continue to participate in that market.

Currently, the LED market remains the largest consumer of sapphire. For the LED market, we currently sell two to six-inch material in core form and four, six and eight-inch material in polished and PSS wafer form. Eight-inch wafers are sold primarily for customers' research and development efforts at this time. We have the ability to produce cores and wafers of up to twelve inches in diameter to support production of chips for next-generation LED and other electronic applications. Larger sapphire also has current applications in the optical markets. In other semiconductor markets, we sell primarily six-inch wafers used in certain RFIC products.

We have been focusing our efforts on a newer product offering, patterned sapphire substrates or PSS . HB LED chip manufacturers etch a pattern onto the surface of the sapphire wafer in the early stages of their production process in order to improve light output. We have leveraged our capability in producing larger diameter sapphire wafers to offer pre-patterned, larger diameter (four-inch and six-inch) wafers to the LED market. PSS sales volumes are expected to increase later this year and into 2016.

We recognize research and development revenue in the period during which the related costs and fees are incurred.

Historically, a significant portion of our revenue has been derived from sales to relatively few customers. For the three months ended March 31, 2015, we had one customer that accounted for approximately 29% of our revenue and for the three months ended March 31, 2014, we had four customers that in aggregate accounted for approximately 57% of our revenue. Other than as discussed above, none of our customers accounted for more than 10% of our revenue for such periods. Although we are continuing to diversify and expand our customer base, we expect our revenue to continue to be concentrated among a small number of customers. We expect that our significant customers may change from period to period.

We recognize revenue based upon shipping terms with our customers and from our government contract as costs and fees are incurred. Delays in product orders or changes to the timing of shipments could cause our quarterly revenue to vary significantly. We derive a significant portion of our revenue from customers outside of the U.S. In most periods, the majority of our sales are to the Asian market and we expect that region to continue to be a major source of revenue for us. All of our revenue and corresponding accounts receivable are denominated in U.S. dollars.

We manufacture and ship our products from our facilities in the Chicago metropolitan area and from our facility in Penang, Malaysia. We have approximately 226,400 square feet of manufacturing and office space in Batavia, Franklin Park and Bensenville, Illinois and a 65,000 square foot facility in Penang, Malaysia, which processes sapphire grown by us in our Illinois facilities into finished cores and wafers. Our Malaysia facility currently finishes the majority of our core, wafer and PSS production. In March 2012, we acquired additional land in Batavia, Illinois to expand our

crystal growth capacity. We have not yet determined when we will begin construction on this facility. Our leased premises at 900 E. Green St., Bensenville, IL are subject to a foreclosure action brought by our property's mortgagee against, amongst other parties, the titleholder of the property. We, as a tenant of the property, are named as a defendant in the action. We do not anticipate that the action will result in us having to vacate the premises.

Our cost of goods sold consists primarily of manufacturing materials, labor, manufacturing-related overhead such as utilities, depreciation and rent, provisions for excess and obsolete inventory reserves, freight and warranties. We purchase materials and supplies to support such current and future demand. We are subject to variations in the cost of raw materials and consumables from period to period because we do not have long-term fixed-price agreements with most of our suppliers. We mitigate the potential impact of fluctuations in energy costs by entering into long-term purchase agreements. Once our current agreements expire, if electricity prices increase significantly, we may not be able to pass these price increases through to our customers on a timely basis, if at all, which could adversely affect our gross margins and results of operations.

Our operating expenses are comprised of sales and marketing, research and development ( R&D ), and general and administrative ( G&A ) expenses. G&A expenses consist primarily of salaries and associated costs for employees in finance, human resources, information technology and administrative activities, charges for accounting, legal, and insurance fees, and stock-based compensation. The majority of our stock-based compensation relates to administrative personnel and is accounted for as a G&A expense.

Other income (expense) consists of interest income, interest expense and realized gains and losses on investments and currency translation.

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We account for income taxes under the asset and liability method whereby the expected future tax consequences of temporary differences between the book value and the tax basis of assets and liabilities are recognized as deferred tax assets and liabilities, using enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which the differences are expected to be recognized. Our analysis of ownership changes that limit the utilization of our net operating loss ( NOL ) carryforwards as of March 31, 2014, shows no ownership change. We believe that an updated analysis will not likely indicate an ownership change that would limit the utilization of net operating losses and tax credits at March 31, 2015. We are in a cumulative loss position for the past three years, which is considered significant negative evidence that is difficult to overcome on a more likely than not standard through objectively verifiable data. Based on an evaluation in accordance with the accounting standards, as of December 31, 2014, a valuation allowance has been recorded against the net U.S. deferred tax assets in order to measure only the portion of the deferred tax assets that are more likely than not to be realized based on the weight of all the available evidence. At March 31, 2015, we continue to be in a three year cumulative loss position therefore a full valuation allowance was provided and no tax benefit will be recorded until we can conclude that it is more likely than not that our deferred tax assets will be realized.

We anticipate our capital expenditures will be between \$2.0 million to \$7.0 million for the full year 2015. These expenditures will be primarily focused on investments in equipment to produce patterned sapphire substrates and to enhance our polishing platform. Our capital expenditures in the three months ended March 31, 2015 were \$234,000.



**Table of Contents****RESULTS OF CONSOLIDATED OPERATIONS THREE MONTHS ENDED March 31, 2015 AND 2014**

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

|                            | <b>Three months ended<br/>March 31,</b> |             |
|----------------------------|---|-------------|
|                            | <b>2015</b>                             | <b>2014</b> |
|                            | <b>(in millions)</b>                    |             |
| Revenue                    | \$ 8.9                                  | \$ 14.3     |
| Cost of goods sold         | 14.0                                    | 21.8        |
| Gross loss                 | (5.1)                                   | (7.5)       |
| Operating expenses:        |   |             |
| General and administrative | 2.1                                     | 2.4         |
| Sales and marketing        | 0.3                                     | 0.4         |
| Research and development   | 0.4                                     | 0.6         |
| Total operating expenses   | 2.8                                     | 3.4         |
| Loss from operations       | (7.9)                                   | (10.9)      |
| Other income (expense)     | (0.4)                                   |             |
| Loss before income taxes   | (8.3)                                   | (10.9)      |
| Income tax expense         |   |             |
| Net loss                   | \$ (8.3)                                | \$ (10.9)   |

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

|                            | <b>Three months ended<br/>March 31,</b> |             |
|----------------------------|---|-------------|
|                            | <b>2015</b>                             | <b>2014</b> |
|                            | <b>(percentage of total)</b>            |             |
| Revenue                    | 100%                                    | 100%        |
| Cost of goods sold         | 157                                     | 152         |
| Gross loss                 | (57)                                    | (52)        |
| Operating expenses:        |   |             |
| General and administrative | 24                                      | 17          |
| Sales and marketing        | 4                                       | 3           |
| Research and development   | 4                                       | 4           |

|                          |       |       |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|
| Total operating expenses | 32    | 24    |
| Loss from operations     | (89)  | (76)  |
| Other income (expense)   | (4)   |       |
| Loss before income taxes | (93)  | (76)  |
| Income tax expense       |       |       |
| Net loss                 | (93)% | (76)% |

*Revenue.* Revenue was \$8.9 million and \$14.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, a decrease of \$5.4 million. We experienced lower revenue from sales of our core products by \$6.2 million, of which \$3.7 million was attributable to a decrease in volume and \$2.5 million was attributable to a decrease in price. We experienced higher revenue from sales of our polished wafers by \$796,000, which was the result of \$552,000 in increased sales of polished wafers sold to the SoS market, and a \$224,000 increase in polished wafers sold to the LED market. Of the \$796,000 increase in revenue, \$647,000 was attributable to higher volume and \$149,000 million was attributed to increased pricing. We also had increased revenue of \$131,000 from optical products due to a slight increase in the sales of sapphire for sensor and instrumentation applications. Demand for our core products was softer in the first quarter 2015 compared to the first quarter 2014, due to decreased demand from the LED general lighting market and excess inventory in the supply chain. Pricing for sapphire cores fluctuated slightly from the fourth quarter 2014 as we experienced a slight improvement of pricing on two-inch core products offset by a decrease in pricing on four-inch core products. We anticipate pricing to remain challenging for at least the next few quarters. We have recently shifted our sales focus away from polished wafers to PSS wafers where we believe there is greater margin opportunity. We expect PSS revenue to grow in the second half of this year as customers move from qualification volumes to production volumes. We operate in an extremely volatile market, so the amount of price or volume change is difficult to predict.

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*Gross loss.* Gross loss was \$5.1 million and \$7.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, a decrease in gross loss of \$2.4 million. For the three months ended March 31, 2015, lower production costs reduced gross loss by \$1.0 million. For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, we were not operating at capacity due to lower demand, and recorded as an expense \$2.2 million and \$2.4 million, respectively of costs associated with the under-utilization of equipment and staff. We have accepted sales orders for core and wafer products at prices below cost. As a result, for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, we recorded a lower of cost or market adjustment which reduced inventory and increased cost of goods sold by \$262,000 and \$1.1 million, respectively.

*General and administrative expenses.* G&A expenses were \$2.1 million and \$2.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, a decrease of \$320,000. The decrease was primarily due to a decrease in legal and financing fees of \$183,000 and a decrease in travel expenses of \$75,000.

*Sales and marketing expenses.* Sales and marketing expenses were \$338,000 and \$467,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, a decrease of \$129,000. The decrease in sales and marketing expenses is primarily attributable to a decrease in marketing services and samples costs of \$66,000 and a decrease in employee compensation costs of \$40,000.

*Research and development expenses.* R&D expenses were \$433,000 and \$576,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, a decrease of \$143,000. The decrease is attributable to decreased project expenses of \$88,000 and decreased employee compensation costs of \$59,000.

*Other income (expense).* Other expense was \$364,000 for the three months ended March 15, 2015, compared to other income of \$37,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2014, an increase in other expense of \$401,000. The increase was primarily due to an increase in the realized loss on foreign currency translation of \$357,000.

*Income tax expense.* In accordance with ASC740 Accounting for Income Taxes (ASC740), we evaluate our deferred income tax assets quarterly to determine if valuation allowances are required or should be adjusted. ASC740 requires that companies assess whether valuation allowances should be established against their deferred tax assets based on consideration of all available evidence, both positive and negative, using a more likely than not standard. We are in a cumulative loss position for the past three years, which is considered significant negative evidence by the accounting standards that is difficult to overcome on a more likely than not standard through objectively verifiable data. The accounting standards attribute greater weight to objective negative evidence than to subjective positive evidence, such as our projections for future growth. Based on this evaluation, as of December 31, 2014, a valuation allowance has been recorded against the net U.S. deferred tax assets in order to measure only the portion of the deferred tax assets that are more likely than not to be realized based on the weight of all the available evidence. At March 31, 2015 we continue to be in a three year cumulative loss position, therefore, until an appropriate level of profitability is attained, we expect to maintain a valuation allowance on net deferred tax assets related to future U.S. tax benefits and will no longer accrue tax benefits or tax expense on our Consolidated Statement of Operations. In the event that we change our determination as to the amount of deferred tax assets that can be realized, we will adjust our valuation allowance with a corresponding impact to the provision for income taxes in the period in which such determination is made. The tax provision for the three months ended March 31, 2015 is based on an estimated combined statutory effective tax rate. For the three months ended March 31, 2015 the difference between the Company's effective tax rate of 0.35% and the U.S. federal 35% statutory rate and state 6.2% (net of federal benefit) statutory rate was primarily related to a U.S. valuation allowance and profits recorded in the Malaysia operation for which the Company has a tax holiday.

**LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

We have historically funded our operations using a combination of issuances of common stock and cash generated from our operations.

As of March 31, 2015, we had cash and short term investments totaling \$41.0 million, including cash of \$3.4 million held in deposits at major banks, \$21.7 million invested in money market funds and \$15.9 million invested in commercial paper, corporate notes and bonds and FDIC guaranteed certificates of deposits.

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

The following table represents the major components of our cash flows from operating activities for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014:

|  | <b>Three months ended<br/>March 31,</b> |                 |
|--|---|-----------------|
|  | <b>2015</b>                             | <b>2014</b>     |
|  | <b>(in millions)</b>                    |                 |
| Net loss                                     | \$ (8.3)                                | \$ (10.9)       |
| <b>Non-cash items:</b>                       |   |                 |
| Depreciation and amortization                | 3.3                                     | 3.5             |
| Stock based compensation and other, net      | 0.3                                     | 0.4             |
| Deferred taxes                               |   |                 |
| <b>Total non-cash items:</b>                 | 3.6                                     | 3.9             |
| <b>Working capital:</b>                      |   |                 |
| Accounts receivable                          | 0.8                                     | (4.6)           |
| Inventories                                  | 0.7                                     | 5.8             |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets            | 0.4                                     | (0.5)           |
| Accounts payable                             | (1.1)                                   | 1.2             |
| Other accruals                               | (0.1)                                   | 0.6             |
| <b>Total working capital items:</b>          | 0.7                                     | 2.5             |
| <b>Net cash used in operating activities</b> | <b>\$ (4.0)</b>                         | <b>\$ (4.5)</b> |

Cash used in operating activities was \$4.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015. During such period, we generated a net loss of \$8.3 million, including non-cash items of \$3.6 million, and an increase in cash from net working capital of \$700,000. The net working capital increase was driven by a decrease in accounts receivable of \$770,000 on timing of customer payments, a decrease in inventory of \$647,000 primarily related to a decrease in raw materials, and a decrease in other prepaid expenses of \$432,000 primarily related to a decrease in prepaid furnace components. These increases were partially offset by a decrease in accounts payable of \$1.1 due to timing of payments.

Cash used in operating activities was \$4.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. During such period, we generated a net loss of \$10.9 million, including non-cash items of \$3.9 million, and an increase in cash from net working capital of \$2.5 million. The net working capital increase was driven by a decrease in inventory of \$5.8 million primarily due to a decrease of raw materials, sapphire boule and core inventory, an increase in accounts payable of \$1.2 million due to timing of payments and an increase in other accruals of \$584,000 primarily due to an increase in advanced payments from customers. These working capital increases were partially offset by an increase in accounts receivable of \$4.6 million on granting of credit terms to customers that previously were on a prepaid basis and an increase in prepaid expenses and other assets of \$494,000 due to an increase in the purchase of furnace replacement components.

**Cash flows from investing activities**

The following table represents the major components of our cash flows from investing activities for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014:

|  | <b>Three months ended</b> |                  |
|--|---------------------------|------------------|
|  | <b>March 31,</b>          |                  |
|  | <b>2015</b>               | <b>2014</b>      |
|  | <b>(in millions)</b>      |                  |
| <b>Purchases of property and equipment:</b>  |                           |                  |
| Machinery & equipment for crystal growth   | \$                        | \$ (0.3)         |
| Polishing platform and PSS machinery and equipment   | (0.2)                     | (1.6)            |
| <b>Total purchases of property and equipment, net of proceeds from disposal of assets:</b> | (0.2)                     | (1.9)            |
| <b>Purchases of investments</b>  | (0.3)                     | (26.7)           |
| Proceeds from sales of investments   | 5.0                       | 4.5              |
| <b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>                                 | <b>\$ 4.5</b>             | <b>\$ (24.1)</b> |

Net cash provided by investing activities was \$4.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, we used approximately \$234,000 for the purchase of equipment, and used proceeds from the sale of investments of \$5.0 million to fund operations, partially offset by purchases of investments of \$307,000.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$24.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. During the three months ended March 31, 2014, we used approximately \$1.9 million for the purchase of equipment. We used proceeds from our common stock offerings of approximately \$26.7 million to purchase investment securities. This was partially offset by the sales of investments of \$4.5 million which were used to fund operations and capital spending.

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We anticipate spending on capital expenditures in 2015 to be between \$2.0 million to \$7.0 million and will primarily be focused on investments in equipment to produce patterned sapphire substrates and to enhance our polishing platform.

### **Cash flows from financing activities**

Net cash used in financing activities was \$4,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and net cash provided by financing activities was \$35.2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. Net cash used in financing activities for the three months ended March 31, 2015 was primarily from cash used to settle net exercise stock based compensation. Net cash provided by financing activities for the three months ended March 31, 2014 represents \$35.0 million in proceeds from the issuance of common stock, net of issuance costs, and \$256,000 in net proceeds from the exercise of stock options.

### **Future liquidity requirements**

We believe that our existing cash, cash equivalents, investments and anticipated cash flows from operating activities and our secured credit facility will be sufficient to meet our anticipated cash needs for at least the next twelve months. Our cash needs include cash required to fund our operations, the capital needed to fund our planned expansion in the U.S. and Asia and investments in new product development. If the assumptions underlying our business plan regarding future revenues and expenses change, or if unexpected opportunities or needs arise, we may seek to raise additional cash by selling equity or convertible debt securities. If we raise additional funds through the issuance of equity or convertible debt securities, the percentage ownership of our stockholders could be significantly diluted, and these newly-issued securities may have rights, preferences or privileges senior to those of existing stockholders. If we obtain additional debt financing or draw on our credit facility, a substantial portion of our operating cash flow may be dedicated to the payment of principal and interest on such indebtedness, and the terms of the debt securities issued could impose significant restrictions on our operations. If we are unable to obtain financing on terms favorable to us, we may be unable to successfully execute our business plan.

## **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES**

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

### **Foreign currency translation and transaction**

Rubicon Worldwide LLC's assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars at exchange rates existing at the respective balance sheet dates and capital accounts at historical exchange rates. The results of operations are translated into U.S. dollars at the average exchange rates during the respective period. Translation adjustments resulting from fluctuations in exchange rates for Rubicon Worldwide LLC are recorded as a separate component of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) within stockholders' equity.

We have determined that the functional currency of Rubicon Sapphire Technology (Malaysia) SDN BHD is the U.S. dollar. Rubicon Sapphire Technology (Malaysia) SDN BHD's assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars using the remeasurement method. Non-monetary assets are translated at historical exchange rates and monetary assets are translated at exchange rates existing at the respective balance sheet dates. Translation adjustments for Rubicon

Sapphire Technology (Malaysia) SDN BHD are included in determining net income (loss) for the period. The results of operations are translated into U.S. dollars at the average exchange rates during the respective period. We record these gains and losses in other income (expense).

Foreign currency transaction gains and losses are generated from the effects of exchange rate changes on transactions denominated in a currency other than our functional currency, which is the U.S. dollar. Gains and losses on foreign currency transactions are generally required to be recognized in the determination of net income (loss) for the period. We record these gains and losses in other income (expense).

### **Revenue recognition**

We recognize revenue from sales of products and billings for costs and fees from government contracts.

#### Product Sales

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



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

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

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

## **Government Contracts**

We recognize research and development revenue in the period during which the related costs are incurred over the contractually defined period. In July 2012, we signed a three year contract with the Air Force Research Laboratory to produce large-area sapphire windows on a cost plus fixed fee basis. We record revenue on a gross basis as costs are incurred plus a portion of the fixed fee. For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, \$141,000 and \$125,000, respectively, of revenue was recognized. We have recognized \$3.4 million of revenue through March 31, 2015 and the total value of the contract is \$4.7 million.

We do not provide maintenance or other services and the Company does not have sales that involve multiple elements or deliverables.

## **Inventory valuation**

We value our inventory at the lower of cost or market. Market is determined based on net realizable value. Cost for raw materials, work in process and finished goods is based on actual costs on a first-in, first-out basis. We establish inventory reserves when conditions exist that suggest inventory may be in excess of anticipated demand or is obsolete based on customer required specifications. We evaluate the ability to realize the value of our inventory based on a combination of factors, including forecasted sales, estimated current and future market value and changes in customers' product specifications. For the three months ended March 31, 2015, we accepted sales orders for core and wafer products at prices lower than our cost. Based on these sales prices, we recorded for the three months ended March 31, 2015 an adjustment which decreased inventory and increased costs of goods sold by \$252,000. We expect pricing to remain challenging for at least the next few quarters. Our method of estimating excess and obsolete inventory has remained consistent for all periods presented. However, if our recognition of excess or obsolete inventory is, or if our estimates of our inventory's potential utility become, less favorable than currently expected, additional inventory reserves may be required. We determine our normal operating capacity and record as an expense costs attributable to lower utilization of equipment and staff. For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, we determined that we were not operating at capacity and recorded costs associated with lower utilization of equipment and staff of \$2.2 million and \$2.4 million, respectively. Although we expect demand to improve throughout the remainder of 2015, it is likely that we will incur additional costs due to lower utilization of equipment and staff.

## **Investments**

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

We review our available-for-sale securities investments at the end of each quarter for other-than-temporary declines in fair value based on the specific identification method. We consider various factors in determining whether an impairment is other-than-temporary, including the severity and duration of the impairment, changes in underlying credit ratings, forecasted recovery, our ability and intent to hold the investment for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in market value and the probability that the scheduled cash payments will continue to be made. When we conclude that an other-than-temporary impairment has resulted, the difference between the fair value and carrying value is written off and recorded as a charge on the Consolidated Statement of Operations. As of March 31, 2015, no impairment was recorded.

### **Allowance for doubtful accounts**

We estimate the allowance for doubtful accounts based on an assessment of the collectability of specific customer accounts. The determination of risk for collection is assessed on a customer-by-customer basis considering our historical experience and expected future orders with the customer, changes in payment patterns, and recent information we have about the current status of our accounts receivable balances. If we determine that a specific customer is a risk for collection, we provide a specific allowance for credit losses to reduce the net recognized receivable to the amount we reasonably believe will be collected. We believe that, based on the customers to whom we sell and the nature of our agreements with them, our estimates are reasonable. Our method of estimating collectability has remained consistent for all periods presented and with past collections experience.

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### **Long-Lived assets**

We review property and equipment for impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate that carrying amounts may not be recoverable. If such events or changes in circumstances occur, we will recognize an impairment loss if the undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the assets are less than the carrying value of the related asset. The impairment loss would adjust the asset to its fair value.

In evaluating the recoverability of long-lived assets, we must make assumptions regarding estimated future cash flows and other factors to determine the fair value of such assets. If our fair value estimates or related assumptions change in the future, we may be required to record impairment charges related to property and equipment. Asset recoverability is first measured by comparing the assets' carrying amount to their expected future undiscounted net cash flows to determine if the assets are impaired. If such assets are considered to be impaired, the impairment recognized is measured based on the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds the fair value.

In response to our current period operating losses combined with our history of continuing operating losses, we evaluated the recoverability of certain property and equipment. Our current estimate of fair value has declined eroding the gap between fair value and carrying value of our long-lived assets. The fair value decline is primarily attributable to declining market conditions, including market prices. While we do not believe our assets are impaired as of March 31, 2015, the confluence of these and other factors has decreased our estimate of our long-lived assets' fair value and increased the risk of impairment. If the trends contributing to our lower estimate of fair value continue, the assets would become impaired. Specifically, if the most sensitive factors affecting our fair value calculations, such as pricing, continue to deteriorate, it is reasonably possible that our estimate of fair value could fall below carrying value. If that occurs, and we determine that the decline is other than temporary, we would record a charge to income for the difference between the estimate of fair value and the carrying amount of our assets.

### **Stock-based compensation**

We grant stock-based compensation in the form of stock options, restricted stock units ( RSUs ) and restricted stock. We expense stock-based compensation based upon the fair market value on the date of grant. We use the Black-Scholes option pricing model to determine the fair value of stock options. The determination of the fair value of stock-based payment awards on the date of grant using an option-pricing model will be affected by assumptions regarding a number of complex and subjective variables. These variables include our expected stock volatility over the term of the awards, actual and projected employee stock option exercise behaviors, risk-free interest rates, forfeitures and expected dividends.

The expected term represents the weighted-average period that our stock options are expected to be outstanding and is based upon five years historical data. We estimate the volatility of our common stock based on a five year historical stock price. We base the risk-free interest rate that we use in the option pricing model on U.S. Treasury zero-coupon issues with remaining terms similar to the expected term on the options. We do not anticipate paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future and, therefore, use an expected dividend yield of zero in the option pricing model. We are required to estimate forfeitures at the time of grant and revise those estimates in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates. The current forfeiture rate of 18.56% was based on our past history of forfeitures.

We allocate stock based compensation costs using a straight-line method which amortizes the fair value of each option on a straight-line basis over the service period. Based on the variables affecting the valuation of our common stock and the method used for allocating compensation costs, we recognized \$334,000 in stock compensation expense during the three months ended March 31, 2015.

All option grants made during the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014 were granted at an exercise price per share equal to the closing market price of our common stock on the day before the date of grant. Therefore, there is no intrinsic value because the exercise price per share of each option was equal to the fair value of the common stock on the date of grant.

Based on the fair market value of the common stock at March 31, 2015, there is no aggregate intrinsic value of all stock options exercisable or outstanding.

### **Income tax valuation allowance**

Evaluating the need for and amount of a valuation allowance for deferred tax assets often requires significant judgment and extensive analysis of all the positive and negative evidence available to determine whether all or some portion of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. A valuation allowance must be established for deferred tax assets when it is more likely than not (a probability level of more than 50 percent) that they will not be realized. In general, realization refers to the incremental benefit achieved through the reduction in future taxes payable or an increase in future taxes refundable from the deferred tax assets, assuming that the underlying deductible differences and carryforwards are the last items to enter into the determination of future taxable income. In determining our valuation allowance, we consider the source of taxable income including taxable income in prior carryback years, future reversals of existing temporary differences, the required use of tax planning strategies, and future taxable income exclusive of reversing temporary differences and carryforwards. We are in a cumulative loss position for the past three years, which is considered significant negative evidence by the accounting standards that is difficult to overcome on a more likely than not standard through objectively verifiable data. Under the accounting standards objective verifiable evidence is given greater weight than subjective evidence, such as our projections for future growth. Based on an evaluation in accordance with the accounting standards, as of December 31, 2014, a valuation allowance has been recorded against the net U.S. deferred tax assets in order to measure only the portion of the deferred tax assets that are more likely than not to be realized based on the weight of all the available evidence. At March 31, 2015 we continue to be in a three year cumulative loss position, therefore until an appropriate level of profitability is attained, we expect to maintain a full valuation allowance on our U.S. net deferred tax assets.

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**Table of Contents****RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENT**

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-09 ( ASU 2014-09), *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, which supersedes most of the current revenue recognition requirements. The underlying principle is that an entity will recognize revenue to depict the transfer of goods or services to customers at an amount that the entity expects to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services. The guidance provides a five-step analysis of transactions to determine when and how revenue is recognized. Other major provisions include capitalization of certain contract costs, consideration of time value of money in the transaction price, and allowing estimates of variable consideration to be recognized before contingencies are resolved in certain circumstances. The guidance also requires enhanced disclosures regarding the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from an entity's contracts with customers. The guidance is effective for the interim and annual periods beginning on or after December 15, 2016 (early adoption is not permitted). The guidance permits the use of either a retrospective or cumulative effect transition method. The adoption of ASU 2014-09 is not expected to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In June 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-12 ( ASU 2014-12 ), *Compensation Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Accounting for Share-Based Payments When the Terms of an Award Provide That a Performance Target Could Be Achieved after the Requisite Service Period* related to stock compensation. The new standard requires that a performance target that affects vesting, and that could be achieved after the requisite service period, be treated as a performance condition. As such, the performance target should not be reflected in estimating the grant date fair value of the award. This update further clarifies that compensation cost should be recognized in the period in which it becomes probable that the performance target will be achieved and should represent the compensation cost attributable to the periods for which the requisite service has already been rendered. The new standard is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2015 and can be applied either prospectively or retrospectively to all awards outstanding as of the beginning of the earliest annual period presented as an adjustment to opening retained earnings. Early adoption is permitted. We are evaluating the impact, if any, of adopting ASU 2014-12 on our financial statements.

In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-15, *Presentation of Financial Statements Going Concern (Subtopic 205-40): Disclosure of Uncertainties about an Entity's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern*. The standard requires management to evaluate whether there is substantial doubt about an entity's ability to continue as a going concern and to provide related footnote disclosures. Management must evaluate whether it is probable that known conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, would raise substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued. If such conditions or events are identified, the standard requires management's mitigation plans to alleviate the doubt or a statement of the substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern to be disclosed in the financial statements. The standard is effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2016, with early adoption permitted. We are evaluating the impact, if any, of adopting ASU 2014-15 on our financial statements.

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**OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS**

We do not have any off-balance sheet arrangements.

**ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ABOUT MARKET RISK**

For the three months ended March 31, 2015, there were no material changes in the information regarding market risk contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014.

**ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

**Management's evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures**

Based on evaluations at March 31, 2015, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer (together, our certifying officers), with the participation of the management team, have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act)) are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the SEC, and that material information relating to the Company is accumulated and communicated to management, including our certifying officers, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures.

**Changes in internal control over financial reporting**

Our certifying officers have concluded that there were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) during the three months ended March 31, 2015 that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

**PART II**

**ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

On April 30, 2015, Firerock Global Opportunity Fund LP filed a complaint in the Northern District of Illinois asserting federal securities claims against the Company, certain officers, its directors and the underwriters in the Company's March 2014 stock offering (the Complaint). The Complaint seeks as a remedy either money damages or rescission of the March offering, plus attorneys' fees. The Company intends to vigorously defend this lawsuit. Due to the preliminary nature of the lawsuit, at this time, we cannot predict an outcome, nor is it reasonably possible to estimate the amount or range of loss, if any, that would be associated with an adverse decision.

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 contains information regarding the foreclosure action on our leased property in Bensenville, Illinois.

**ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

Our business is influenced by many factors that are difficult to predict, involve uncertainties that may materially affect actual results and are often beyond our control. We have identified a number of these risk factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, which factors should be taken into consideration when reviewing the information contained in this report. There have been no material changes with regard to the risk factors previously disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

**ITEM 6. EXHIBITS**

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

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized on May 8, 2015.

Date: May 8, 2015

Rubicon Technology, Inc.

By: /s/ William F. Weissman  
William F. Weissman  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: May 8, 2015

By: /s/ Mardel A. Graffy  
Mardel A. Graffy  
Chief Financial Officer

A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to the registrant and will be retained by the registrant and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.



**Table of Contents****EXHIBIT INDEX**

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

| <b>Exhibit</b> |  |   |
|----------------|--|---|
| <b>No.</b>     | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Incorporation by Reference</b>   |
| 3.1            | Eighth Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Rubicon Technology, Inc.   | Filed as Exhibit 3.1 to Amendment No. 2, to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1/A filed on November 1, 2007 (File No. 333-145880) |
| 3.2            | Amendment No. 1 to Eight Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation   | Filed as Appendix A to the registrant's Definitive Proxy statement on Schedule 14A, filed on April 29, 2011 (File No. 1-33834)                    |
| 3.3            | Amended and Restated Bylaws of Rubicon Technology, Inc.  | Filed as Exhibit 3.2 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1/A filed on November 1, 2007 (File No. 333-145880)                     |
| 10.1           | Form of Indemnification Agreement for Directors and Executive Officers   |   |
| 31.1           | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002          |   |
| 31.2           | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002          |   |
| 32.1           | Certifications of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |   |
| 101.INS**      | XBRL Instance Document   |   |
| 101.SCH**      | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document  |   |
| 101.CAL**      | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document  |   |
| 101.LAB**      | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document  |   |
| 101.PRE**      | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Document  |   |
| 101.DEF**      | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document   |   |

\*\* Filed electronically with this Report on Form 10-Q