

Ceres, Inc.  
Form 10-Q  
January 09, 2014

**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 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 November 30, 2013**

**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: 001-35421**

**Ceres, Inc.**

**(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)**

**Delaware**                                 **33-0727287**  
**(State or Other Jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer**  
**Incorporation or Organization) Identification Number)**

**1535 Rancho Conejo Boulevard**  
**Thousand Oaks, CA 91320**

**(Address of principal executive offices)**

**Telephone: (805) 376-6500**

**(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)**

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer” and “smaller reporting

company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer”  Accelerated filer   
Non-accelerated filer  (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

Under the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012, or the JOBS Act, Ceres, Inc. qualifies as an “emerging growth company,” as defined under the JOBS Act.

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer’s classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Outstanding at January 6, 2014</b>
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share	25,204,602

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**PART I: FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements.****CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY****Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets****(In thousands, except share amounts and par value)****(Unaudited)**

	November 30, 2013	August 31, 2013
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,314	\$ 8,881
Marketable securities	17,127	21,630
Prepaid expenses	779	791
Accounts receivable	901	957
Inventories	-	20
Other current assets	147	157
Total current assets	26,268	32,436
Property and equipment, net	4,632	4,633
Other assets	44	109
Total assets	\$ 30,944	\$ 37,178
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 4,745	\$ 3,825
Other current liabilities	80	18
Current portion of long-term debt	135	154
Total current liabilities	4,960	3,997
Other non-current liabilities	88	93
Long-term debt, net of current portion	60	82
Total liabilities	5,108	4,172
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock and additional paid in capital, \$0.01 par value; 490,000,000 shares authorized; 25,224,269 shares issued and outstanding at November 30, 2013; 24,897,199 shares issued and outstanding at August 31, 2013	309,212	308,286

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Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(587	)	(696	)
Accumulated deficit	(282,789	)	(274,584	)
Total stockholders' equity	25,836		33,006	
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 30,944		\$ 37,178	

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

**CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY****Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations****(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)****(Unaudited)**

	Three months ended November 30,		2012	
	2013			
Revenues:				
Product sales	\$	20	\$	14
Collaborative research and government grants		743		1,952
Total revenues		763		1,966
Cost and operating expenses:				
Cost of product sales		1,309		700
Research and development		4,414		4,343
Selling, general and administrative		3,260		3,844
Total cost and operating expenses		8,983		8,887
Loss from operations		(8,220)		(6,921)
Interest expense		-		(1)
Interest income		16		29
Loss before income taxes		(8,204)		(6,893)
Income tax expense		(1)		(1)
Net loss	\$	(8,205)	\$	(6,894)
Basic and diluted net loss per share attributable to common stockholders	\$	(0.33)	\$	(0.28)
Weighted average outstanding common shares used for net loss per share :				
Basic and diluted		25,106,690		24,693,303

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.





**CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY**

**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Loss**

**(In thousands)**

**(Unaudited)**

	Three months ended November 30,	
	2013	2012
Net loss	\$ (8,205 )	\$ (6,894 )
Other comprehensive income (loss)		
Foreign currency translation adjustments	104	(104 )
Net unrealized gains on marketable securities	5	3
Total comprehensive loss	\$ (8,096 )	\$ (6,995 )

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

**CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY****Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows****(In thousands)****(Unaudited)**

	Three months ended November 30,	
	2013	2012
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net loss	\$ (8,205 )	\$ (6,894 )
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Net (gain) loss on disposal of assets	(54 )	121
Depreciation	414	519
Amortization of premiums on marketable securities	84	185
Non-cash interest income	(99 )	(225 )
Stock compensation	922	767
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Prepaid expenses	66	292
Accounts receivable	57	(723 )
Inventories	21	(213 )
Other assets	20	231
Accounts payables and accrued expenses	904	(162 )
Other liabilities	57	(407 )
Other	137	-
Net cash used in operating activities	(5,676 )	(6,509 )
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment	(406 )	(399 )
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	54	-
Purchases of marketable securities	(5,698 )	(1,988 )
Maturities of marketable securities	10,090	2,524
Net cash provided by investing activities	4,040	137
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayment of debt	(46 )	(271 )
Proceeds from issuance of common stock	-	56
Net cash used in financing activities	(46 )	(215 )
Effect of foreign currency translation on cash	115	(104 )
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(1,567 )	(6,691 )
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	8,881	21,069
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 7,314	\$ 14,378

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

## **CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY**

### **Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)**

**(In thousands, except share and per share data)**

#### **(1) The Company**

Ceres, Inc. (Company) is an agricultural biotechnology company selling seeds to produce dedicated energy crops—renewable bioenergy feedstocks that can enable the large-scale replacement of petroleum and other fossil fuels. The Company uses a combination of advanced plant breeding and biotechnology to develop seed products.

In January 2010, the Company incorporated a subsidiary, Ceres Sementes do Brasil Ltda. The Company's ownership in this subsidiary is 99.9% and the Company's Chief Executive Officer owns the remaining interest.

The Company has incurred substantial net losses from operations since its inception and its accumulated deficit as of November 30, 2013 was \$282,789. Management has taken certain actions to extend the Company's available working capital. The Company expects to incur additional losses related to the continued development and expansion of its business, including research and development, seed production and operations, and sales and marketing. On October 11, 2013, the Company commenced the implementation of a plan (Plan) intended to further align expenditures with the Company's near-term commercial opportunity in Brazil, shift Northern Hemisphere sorghum breeding activities to a more appropriate location, de-emphasize research and development for U.S. cellulosic feedstocks, reduce costs and conserve cash. The actions being taken under the Plan, which include, among others, a workforce reduction that will impact 17 positions in the U.S, are expected to be substantially completed by May 31, 2014. During the three months ended November 30, 2013, the Company recorded approximately \$900 of severance expense related to these workforce reductions, of which \$500, \$300 and \$100 was recorded to research and development expense, cost of sales and general and administrative expense, respectively. During the three months ended November 30, 2013, the Company made cash payments of approximately \$200 related to these expenses. The remaining cash payments of approximately \$700 are expected to be made prior to August 31, 2014. Once fully implemented, the Plan is expected to deliver cash savings of up to approximately \$5.0 million in fiscal year 2014 and up to approximately \$8.0 to \$10.0 million annually thereafter. The Company estimates that it will incur total charges of approximately \$1.6 million during the first nine months of fiscal year 2014 with respect to the workforce reduction in the U.S., including \$0.4 million in continuation of salary and benefits of certain employees until their work is completed and their positions are eliminated and \$1.2 million of one-time severance and other costs, all of which will be cash expenditures. The Company plans to finance its operations for the next 12 months with cash and investments currently on hand, with cash inflows from collaboration and grant funding and from product sales.

#### **(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

### ***Basis of Presentation***

The accompanying interim condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) and with the instructions for Form 10-Q and Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and notes required for complete financial statements. These interim condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto contained in the Company's Form 10-K dated November 26, 2013 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The accompanying interim condensed consolidated financial statements and related disclosures are unaudited, have been prepared on the same basis as the annual consolidated financial statements and, in the opinion of management, reflect all adjustments, which include only normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation of the results of operations for the periods presented. The condensed consolidated results of operations for any interim period are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year or for any other future year or interim period.

### ***Principles of Consolidation***

The condensed consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiary. All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

### ***Use of Estimates***

In preparing the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements, management makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities as of the date of the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions include the valuation of property and equipment, inventory, deferred tax assets, common stock, stock options and warrant liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### ***Cash Equivalents***

The Company considers all highly liquid investments, with an original maturity of three months or less when purchased, to be cash equivalents.

**CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY**

**Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)**

**(In thousands, except share and per share data)**

*Marketable Securities*

Marketable securities are classified as available for sale and are recorded at fair value, with the unrealized gains and losses, if any, net of taxes, reported as a component of stockholders' equity until realized or until a determination is made that an other-than-temporary decline in market value has occurred.

In determining whether an other-than-temporary impairment exists for debt securities, management considers: (1) the length of time and the extent to which the fair value has been less than cost, (2) the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer and (3) the intent and ability of the Company to retain its investment in the issuer for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in fair value. Management has determined that there has been no other-than-temporary impairments of its marketable securities.

The cost of marketable securities sold is based upon the specific identification method and any realized gains or losses on the sale of investments are reflected as a component of interest income or expense. There were no sales of marketable securities during the three months ended November 30, 2013.

The Company classifies marketable securities as current or non-current based upon whether such assets are reasonably expected to be realized in cash or sold or consumed during the normal operating cycle of the business.

*Financial Instruments*

The carrying value of financial instruments such as cash and cash equivalents, receivables, accounts payable, and accrued expenses approximate their fair value due to the short-term nature of these instruments. At each period end, the fair value of the long-term debt approximated carrying value based on interest rates currently available to the Company.

*Fair Value of Financial Instruments*

Assets and liabilities recorded at fair value in the condensed consolidated financial statements are categorized based upon the level of judgment associated with the inputs used to measure their fair value. Hierarchical levels that are directly related to the amount of subjectivity associated with the inputs to the valuation of these assets or liabilities are as follows:

• Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Company has the ability to access at the measurement date.

• Level 2 inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

- Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.



**CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)****(In thousands, except share and per share data)**

The following tables present the Company's financial assets that were measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of November 30, 2013 and August 31, 2013 by level within the fair value hierarchy:

	November 30, 2013			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Financial Assets				
Money Market Funds	\$2,781	\$—	\$ —	\$2,781
Certificates of Deposit—available for sale	—	5,040	—	5,040
Commercial Paper—available for sale	—	1,000	—	1,000
Corporate Bonds—available for sale	—	12,339	—	12,339
Total	\$2,781	\$18,379	\$ —	\$21,160

All of the money market funds, \$240 of the certificates of deposit and \$1,012 of the corporate bonds are included in cash and cash equivalents on the condensed consolidated balance sheets.

	August 31, 2013			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Financial Assets				
Money Market Funds	\$2,310	\$—	\$ —	\$2,310
Certificates of Deposit—available for sale	—	4,555	—	4,555
Commercial Paper—available for sale	—	2,198	—	2,198
Corporate Bonds—available for sale	—	16,076	—	16,076
Total	\$2,310	\$22,829	\$ —	\$25,139

All of the money market funds and \$1,199 of the commercial paper are included in cash and cash equivalents on the consolidated balance sheets.

***Accounts Receivable***

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Accounts receivable represents amounts owed to the Company from product sales and collaborative research and government grants. The Company had no amounts reserved for doubtful accounts at November 30, 2013 and August 31, 2013 as the Company expected full collection of the accounts receivable balances.

Customers representing greater than 10% of accounts receivable were as follows (in percentages):

Customers	As of November 30, 2013	As of August 31, 2013
Customer A	39.5	37.3
Customer B	35.8	23.1
Customer E	11.5	*
Customer F	**	21.8

\* Less than 10%  
\*\* No accounts receivable balance

**CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)****(In thousands, except share and per share data)**

Customers representing greater than 10% of revenues were as follows (in percentages):

Customers	Three Months Ended November 30,	
	2013	2012
Customer A	44.4	14.8
Customer B	33.6	16.1
Customer D	**	38.6
Customer E	13.9	*
Customer F	**	19.8

*	Less than 10%
**	No revenues

***Seed Inventories***

At November 30, 2013, all seed inventory was written-off based on the lower of cost or market, based on the Company's evaluation of such inventory. At August 31, 2013, inventory consisted of work-in-process costs related to sweet sorghum seeds. Seed inventory costs are computed on a first-in, first-out basis and valued at the lower of cost or market with any excess cost recognized during the period within cost of product sales.

***Property and Equipment***

Property and equipment is stated at cost. Depreciation is provided using the straight-line method over the shorter of the estimated useful lives or the remaining life of the lease. Depreciation periods for the Company's property and equipment are as follows:

Automobiles and trucks

3-5 years

Office, laboratory, farm and warehouse equipment and furniture	3-5 years
Leasehold improvements	3-10 years
Buildings	14-39 years

### ***Impairment of Long-Lived Assets***

Long-lived assets, such as property and equipment, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. To the extent that an impairment indicator has occurred, recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its estimated undiscounted future cash flows, an impairment charge is recognized in the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the fair value of the asset. For the reporting periods presented herein there was an indicator that impairment has occurred. However, there was no impairment as the carrying amount of the property and equipment did not exceed the fair value of such assets.

### ***Revenue Recognition***

Revenues are recognized when the following criteria are met: (1) persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists; (2) transfer of product or technology has been completed or services have been rendered; (3) the fee is fixed or determinable; and (4) collectability is reasonably assured. To date, the Company's primary source of revenues has been derived from collaborative research agreements and government grants and to a lesser extent, product sales.

### ***Product Sales***

Product sales are derived from sales of seeds, trait fees, crop management services and biomass sales. Product sales are recognized, net of discounts and allowances, once passage of title and risk of loss have occurred and contractually specified acceptance criteria have been met, provided all other revenue recognition criteria have also been met. To date, product sales have not been significant.

## CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY

### Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)

(In thousands, except share and per share data)

#### *Collaborative Research and Government Grants*

From time to time, the Company enters into research and development collaboration agreements with third parties, including several biofuel producers and government agencies, such as the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The research and development collaboration agreements typically provide the Company with multiple revenue streams, which may include up-front, non-refundable fees for licensing certain of the Company's technologies, government grants and fees for research and development activities and contingent milestone payments based upon achievement of contractual criteria.

*Technology License Fees* — For collaboration agreements in which the Company has continuing involvement, license fees are recognized on a straight-line basis over the term of the arrangement. Licensing fees are non-refundable and not subject to future performance.

*Government Grants* — The Company receives payments from government entities in the form of government grants. Government grants generally provide the Company with partial cost reimbursement for certain types of expenditures in return for research and development activities over a contractually defined period. Revenues from government grants are recognized in the period during which the related costs are incurred, provided that the conditions under which the government grants were provided have been met and the Company has only perfunctory obligations outstanding.

*Research and Development Fees* — Generally, fees for research and development activities are recognized as the services are performed over the performance period, as specified in the respective agreements. Certain of the Company's collaboration agreements require the Company to deliver research data by specific dates and that the collective program plan will result in reaching specific crop characteristics by certain dates. For such arrangements, the Company recognizes revenues based on the approximate percentage of completion of services under the agreement, but the revenue recognized cannot exceed payments received by the Company to date under the agreement. The research and development period is estimated at the inception of each agreement and is periodically evaluated.

*Milestone Fees* — Fees that are contingent based on achievement of substantive performance milestones at inception of the agreement are recognized based on the achievement of the milestone, as defined in the respective agreements.

### *Deferred Revenue*

The Company recognizes deferred revenue to the extent that cash received under the collaboration agreement is in excess of the revenues recognized related to the agreement since the work under the agreement has not yet been performed, or the work has not been fully completed as prescribed in the statement of work at the balance sheet date, which is classified as other current liabilities on the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet.

### *Development and License Agreement*

The development and license agreement between the Company and Campbell Soup Company, dated December 20, 2007, as amended, was terminated and cancelled on November 19, 2012 following Campbell's sale of its vegetable seed assets to a third party in September 2012. In connection with the termination, Campbell paid the Company the amount of \$550 in full and complete satisfaction of all remaining financial obligations under the development and license agreement.

### *Research and Development*

Research and development expenses principally consist of personnel costs related to the Company's research and development staff as well as depreciation of research and development assets. Research and development expenses also include costs incurred for laboratory supplies, reimbursable costs associated with government grants and collaborative agreements, third-party contract payments, consultants, facility and related overhead costs.

### *Stock-Based Compensation*

The Company accounts for stock-based compensation arrangements with employees using a fair value method which requires the recognition of compensation expense for costs related to all stock-based payments including stock options. The fair value method requires the Company to estimate the fair value of stock-based payment awards on the date of grant using an option pricing model. The Company uses an option pricing model to estimate the fair value of options granted that are expensed on a straight-line basis over the vesting period. The Company accounts for stock options issued to non-employees based on the estimated fair value of the awards using the option pricing model. The measurement of stock-based compensation to non-employees is subject to periodic adjustments as the underlying equity instruments vest, and the resulting change in value, if any, is recognized in the Company's condensed consolidated statements of operations during the period the related services are rendered.

## **CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY**

### **Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)**

**(In thousands, except share and per share data)**

#### ***Income Taxes***

Income taxes are accounted for under the asset and liability method. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases and operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date.

Unrecognized tax benefits are recognized when a prescribed minimum probability threshold of a tax position is met. The minimum threshold is defined as a tax position that is more likely than not to be sustained upon examination by the applicable taxing authority, including resolution to any related appeals or litigation, based solely on the technical merits of the position. The Company is currently unaware of any issues under review that could result in significant payments, accruals, or material deviations from its recognized tax positions.

The major jurisdictions in which the Company files income tax returns include the federal and state jurisdictions within the United States and Brazil, where it has a subsidiary. The tax years after 2008 remain open to examination by federal and state taxing jurisdictions and the tax years after 2010 remain open to examination by foreign jurisdictions. However, the Company has net operating loss carryforwards (NOLs) beginning in 1998 which would cause the statute of limitations to remain open for the year in which the NOL was incurred.

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

The Brazilian real is the functional currency of the Company's subsidiary in Brazil. Accordingly, assets and liabilities of those operations are translated into United States dollars using the current exchange rate in effect at the balance sheet date and equity accounts are translated into United States dollars using historical rates. Revenues and expenses are translated at the weighted average rate of exchange during the reporting period. Gains and losses from foreign currency translation adjustments are represented as a component of accumulated other comprehensive loss.

***Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income***

The Company's unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities and foreign currency translation adjustments represents the components of comprehensive income (loss) and have been disclosed in the condensed consolidated balance sheets.

The following summarizes the changes in the balances of each component of accumulated comprehensive income (loss) during the three months ended November 30, 2013:

	Foreign Currency Translation	Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Securities	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss
Balance at August 31, 2013	\$ (684 )	\$ (12 )	\$ (696 )
Comprehensive loss	104	5	109
Balance at November 30, 2013	\$ (580 )	\$ (7 )	\$ (587 )

***Basic and Diluted Net Loss Per Share***

Basic net loss per common share is computed by dividing net loss attributable to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding. Diluted net loss per common share is computed by dividing net loss available to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares and dilutive potential common share equivalents then outstanding, to the extent they are dilutive. Potential common shares consist of shares issuable upon the exercise of stock options and warrants (using the treasury stock method). Dilutive net loss per share is the same as basic net loss per share for all periods presented because the effects of potentially dilutive items were anti-dilutive.



**CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)****(In thousands, except share and per share data)**

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted net loss per common share:

	Three months ended November 30,	
	2013	2012
Net loss	\$(8,205 )	\$(6,894 )
Basic and diluted net loss per common share	\$(0.33 )	\$(0.28 )
Basic and diluted weighted average outstanding common shares used for net loss:	25,106,690	24,693,303

The following potentially dilutive, common share equivalents were excluded from the calculation of diluted net loss per common share because their effect was antidilutive for each of the periods presented:

	November 30,	
	2013	2012
Options to purchase common stock	3,378,818	2,756,223
Warrants to purchase common stock	2,082,045	2,082,045
Total	5,460,863	4,838,268

**CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)****(In thousands, except share and per share data)****(3) Marketable Securities**

Marketable securities classified as available for sale consisted of the following:

	November 30, 2013			
Available for sale securities	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gain	Gross Unrealized Loss	Fair Value
Certificates of Deposit	\$4,804	\$ —	\$ (4)	) \$ 4,800
Commercial Paper	1,000	—	—	) 1,000
Corporate Bonds	11,331	—	(4)	) 11,327
Total	\$17,135	\$ —	\$ (8)	) \$ 17,127

	November 30, 2013	
Marketable securities	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Due in 1 year or less	\$ 17,135	\$ 17,127
	\$ 17,135	\$ 17,127

	August 31, 2013			
Available for sale securities	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gain	Gross Unrealized Loss	Fair Value
Certificates of Deposit	\$4,561	\$ —	\$ (6)	) \$ 4,555
Commercial Paper	1,000	—	(1)	) 999
Corporate Bonds	16,081	2	(7)	) 16,076
Total	\$21,642	\$ 2	\$ (14)	) \$ 21,630

	August 31, 2013	
Marketable securities	Amortized Cost	Fair Value

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Due in 1 year or less	\$21,642	\$ 21,630
	\$21,642	\$ 21,630

**(4) Seed Inventories**

At November 30, 2013, all seed inventory was written-off based on the lower of cost or market, based on the Company's evaluation of such inventory. Inventories at August 31, 2013 consisted of the following:

Work in process	\$20
Seed inventory	—
Total inventories	\$20

**CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)****(In thousands, except share and per share data)****(5) Property and Equipment**

Property and equipment are summarized as follows:

	November 30, 2013	August 31, 2013
Land	\$ 43	\$ 43
Automobiles and trucks	873	796
Buildings	3,180	3,180
Office, laboratory, farm and warehouse equipment and furniture	12,954	14,792
Leasehold improvements	5,728	5,716
	22,778	24,527
Less accumulated depreciation	(18,146)	(19,894)
Property and equipment, net	\$ 4,632	\$ 4,633

**(6) Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses**

Accounts payable and accrued expenses consisted of the following:

	November 30, 2013	August 31, 2013
Accounts payable	\$ 1,236	\$ 1,289
Accrued payroll and related expenses	2,137	1,020
Research and development contracts	1,035	1,098
Accrued grower commitments	99	38
Other	238	380
	\$ 4,745	\$ 3,825

**(7) Long-Term Debt**

Long-term debt is summarized as follows:

	November 30, 2013	August 31, 2013
Capital leases	\$ 195	\$ 236
Less current portion	(135 )	(154 )
Long term debt (capital leases)	\$ 60	\$ 82

The aggregated maturities of debt as of November 30, 2013 are as follows:

Remaining nine months of fiscal year 2014	\$ 113
2015	73
2016	9
	\$ 195

## **(8) Stock-Based Compensation**

### ***Stock Option and Stock Issuance Plans***

The Company has established three equity plans: the Ceres, Inc. 2000 Stock Option/Stock Issuance Plan (2000 Plan), the Ceres, Inc. 2010 Stock Option/Stock Issuance Plan (2010 Plan) and the Amended and Restated Ceres, Inc. 2011 Equity Incentive Plan (2011 Plan, and collectively with the 2000 Plan and the 2010 Plan, Equity Plans). The Equity Plans provide for grants of Incentive Stock Options (ISOs) to employees and Nonqualified Stock Options (NSOs), stock and restricted stock to employees, directors, and consultants. In addition, the 2011 Plan provides for the grant of other equity based awards such as restricted stock units, stock appreciation rights and deferred stock to employees, directors and consultants. The option term, as determined by the Company's Board of Directors, may not exceed ten years. Vesting, also determined by the Company's Board of Directors, generally occurs ratably over four to five years. ISOs and NSOs may be granted at a price per share not less than the fair market value at the date of grant.

**CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)****(In thousands, except share and per share data)**

During September 2012, the Company modified options to purchase 403,333 shares of common stock that were scheduled to expire on December 18, 2012 by extending the terms such that the options now expire on December 18, 2015. A modification charge of \$157 was recorded in September 2012.

The total number of shares reserved for issuance under the Equity Plans is 6,754,999. At the Company's 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the stockholders approved the amendment and restatement of the Ceres, Inc. 2011 Equity Incentive Plan, which increased the maximum aggregate number of shares that may be issued under the plan by 1.5 million shares and prohibits the repricing of stock options without stockholder approval. As of November 30, 2013, the Company had 1,023,937 shares available under the 2011 Plan for future grant. The Company does not intend to make further grants under the 2000 Plan or the 2010 Plan.

***Stock Option Valuation and Compensation***

The Company uses a Black Scholes option pricing model to determine the fair value of stock options. The weighted average grant date fair value of stock option awards was \$0.94 and \$4.24 per option share for the three months ended November 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

The weighted average grant date fair value of the Company's common stock was \$1.31 and \$5.83 per share for the three months ended November 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The fair value of employee stock options was estimated using the following assumptions:

	Three months ended November 30,	
	2013	2012
Expected term (in years)	5.75 – 6.08	6.08
Expected volatility	86.3% – 87.60%	87.2%-88.0%
Risk free interest rate	1.62% - 1.96 %	0.82%-0.93 %
Expected dividend yield	0	% 0 %

*Expected Term* — Because of limited employee share option exercises, the Company uses a simplified method in which the expected term of an award is presumed to be mid-point between the vesting date and the expiration date of the award.

*Expected Volatility* — The Company estimates the volatility of its common stock by using the historical volatility of a group of comparable companies over the option's expected term. The decision to use historical volatility of comparable companies was based upon the fact there is limited history of trading activity of the Company's common stock.

*Risk-Free Interest Rate* — The Company bases the risk-free interest rate used in the option valuation model on U.S. Treasury zero-coupon issues with remaining terms similar to the expected term on the options.

*Expected Dividend Yield* — The Company does not anticipate paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future.

Stock-based compensation expense included in operating expenses and total intrinsic value of stock options exercised are as follows:

	Three months ended November 30,	
	2013	2012
Stock-based compensation costs for stock options	\$ 913	\$ 945
Fair value changes of collaboration warrants	9	(178 )
	\$ 922	\$ 767
Intrinsic value of stock options exercised	\$ —	\$ 79

There were no stock options exercised during the three months ended November 30, 2013.

**CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)****(In thousands, except share and per share data)*****Stock Option Activity***

The following table summarizes the stock option transactions under the Equity Plans during the three months ended November 30, 2013:

	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Options outstanding at August 31, 2013	2,791,556	\$ 7.49
Options granted	675,540	1.31
Options forfeited	(88,278 )	10.25
Options outstanding at November 30, 2013	3,378,818	\$ 6.18

The following table summarizes information about stock options outstanding and exercisable at November 30, 2013:

Range of Exercise Price	Number Outstanding	Average Remaining Contractual Life	Weighted- Average Exercise Price	Number Vested and Exercisable	Average Remaining Contractual Life	Weighted- Average Exercise Price
\$1.95	414,665	2.02	\$ 1.95	414,665	2.02	\$ 1.95
\$3.90 - \$4.05	301,491	2.25	3.91	301,491	2.25	3.91
\$6.75	801,434	5.04	6.75	769,613	4.98	6.75
\$7.32	185,731	7.04	7.32	134,387	7.04	7.32
\$16.77	158,412	7.53	16.77	79,799	7.52	16.77
\$17.16	67,138	7.63	17.16	32,326	7.63	17.16
\$12.71	30,078	8.13	12.71	11,228	8.08	12.71
\$12.10	46,664	8.24	12.10	46,664	8.24	12.10
\$13.00	419,153	8.24	13.00	—	—	—
\$8.97	250	8.55	8.97	90	8.55	8.97
\$6.66	11,666	8.73	6.66	—	—	—
\$3.60 - \$7.70	24,100	8.79	5.60	7,300	8.76	5.87
\$3.94	24,000	9.00	3.94	531	8.94	3.94



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\$3.32	58,330	9.17	3.32	—	—	—
\$3.49	1,500	9.19	3.49	—	—	—
\$1.40 - \$3.30	158,666	9.56	3.16	—	—	—
\$1.24 - \$1.52	675,540	9.85	1.31	—	—	—
	3,378,818			1,798,094		

No tax benefits have been recorded on compensation costs recognized for options exercised. As of November 30, 2013, there was \$5,020 of total unrecognized compensation cost related to stock options. That cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted average of 2.76 years. The Company's policy is to issue new shares for options exercised.

**CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)****(In thousands, except share and per share data)*****Restricted Stock Activity***

The following summarizes the restricted stock transactions under the Equity Plans during the three months ended November 30, 2013:

	Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Restricted stock outstanding and unvested at August 31, 2013	290,700	\$ 5.55
Restricted stock granted	328,260	1.31
Restricted stock vested	(76,396 )	5.64
Restricted stock forfeited	(23,167 )	4.82
Restricted stock outstanding and unvested at November 30, 2013	519,397	\$ 3.11

As of November 30, 2013, there was \$1,015 of total unrecognized compensation cost related to restricted stock awards. That cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted average of 1.82 years.

***Stock Activity***

During the fiscal year 2013, the Company granted 60,000 shares of common stock under the 2011 Plan with a fair market value of \$3.33 per share. The Company recorded \$200 of expense in the year ended August 31, 2013 related to this stock grant. There were no such stock grants during the three months ended November 30, 2013.

**(9) Stockholders' Equity*****Common Stock***

Pursuant to the Company's amended and restated certificate of incorporation, the Company is authorized to issue 490,000,000 shares of common stock. Holders of the Company's common stock are entitled to dividends as and when declared by the Board of Directors, subject to rights and holders of all classes of stock outstanding having priority rights to dividends. There have been no dividends declared to date. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote.

### ***Preferred Stock***

Pursuant to the Company's amended and restated certificate of incorporation, the Company is authorized to issue 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock. The Board of Directors has the authority, without action by the Company's stockholders, to designate and issue shares of preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions thereof.

### ***Warrants issued in connection with Noble Agreement***

In May 2006, the Company entered into a collaboration agreement with The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc. (Noble) (Noble Agreement) to establish a research program (see Note (12)). In connection with this collaboration, the Company granted Noble a warrant to purchase 133,333 shares of the Company's common stock for an exercise price of \$30.00 per share. The original terms were as follows: the warrant vests in equal installments of 33,333 shares on May 19, 2009, May 19, 2011, May 19, 2013, and May 19, 2015, respectively, and shall remain exercisable for a period of two years from the respective vesting dates. These warrants are accounted for at fair value and remeasured until vested. The fair value, including the resulting change in value as a result of remeasurement is being recognized as research and development expense. The inception to date expense recognized with respect to this warrant totals \$626 as of November 30, 2013. At November 30, 2013, 99,999 warrants had vested under this arrangement. The fair value of the warrants not yet vested at November 30, 2013 was \$0.5 using a risk-free rate of 0.56% based on the respective exercise periods of each installment, expected volatility of 63.5%, expected term of 3.47 years based on the respective exercise periods of each installment, which is also the remaining contractual term, and 0% dividend yield.

In June 2011, the Company and Noble agreed to modify the warrants issued to Noble as follows: the warrant vests in equal installments of 33,333 shares on May 19, 2013 and May 19, 2015, respectively and shall remain exercisable until the earliest of a period of five years from the respective vesting dates and May 18, 2017.

## **CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY**

### **Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)**

**(In thousands, except share and per share data)**

#### *Warrants issued in connection with TAMU Agreement*

In August 2007, the Company entered into a sponsored research and intellectual property rights agreement with The Texas A&M University System (TAMU) to establish a research program (see Note (12)). In connection with this collaboration, the Company granted TAMU a warrant to purchase 66,666 shares of the Company's common stock for an exercise price of \$30.00 per share. The warrant vests based on certain research and commercialization milestones being met and shall remain exercisable until August 28, 2017. This warrant is accounted for at fair value and remeasured until the vesting targets are met. The fair value, including the resulting change in value as a result of remeasurement is being recognized as research and development expense. The inception to date expense recognized with respect to this warrant totals \$1.4 as of November 30, 2013. The fair value of the warrants at November 30, 2013 was \$1.7, using a risk-free rate of 0.96%, expected volatility of 64.3%, expected term of 3.74 years and 0% dividend yield. No warrants have vested under this arrangement as of November 30, 2013.

In December 2011, pursuant to an Amended and Restated Intellectual Property Rights Agreement (IP Rights Agreement) (see Note (12)), the Company issued warrants to TAMU to purchase 66,666 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$14.30 per share. The warrants expire on September 24, 2026 and, subject to certain conditions, vest in equal installments on the fifth, tenth and fifteenth anniversary of the IP Rights Agreement. The inception to date expense recognized with respect to this warrant totals \$19.4 as of November 30, 2013. The fair value of the warrants at November 30, 2013 was \$77.2, using a risk-free rate of 2.63%, expected volatility of 85.1%, expected term of 12.81 years and 0% dividend yield. No warrants have vested under this arrangement as of November 30, 2013.

#### **(10) Income Taxes**

No provision for U.S. income taxes has been made, net of the valuation allowance, because the Company has incurred losses since its inception. The Company has deferred tax assets consisting primarily of net operating loss carryforwards that have been fully offset by a valuation allowance.

#### **(11) Commitments and Contingencies**

The Company leases certain of its facilities and equipment under various noncancelable operating leases expiring through 2023. The leases on the facilities contains provisions for future rent increases. The Company records monthly rent expense equal to the total of the payments due over the lease term, divided by the number of months of the lease term. The difference between rent expense recorded and the amount paid is credited or charged to deferred rent, which is included in other current liabilities and other non-current liabilities in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheets as of November 30, 2013 and August 31, 2013.

In connection with one of its facilities leases, the Company received a reimbursement for leasehold improvements of \$270. This reimbursement is a lease incentive which has been recognized as a liability in deferred rent and is being amortized to rent expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Total rental expense recognized was \$66 and \$144 for the three months ended November 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Future minimum payments under noncancelable operating leases as of November 30, 2013 are as follows:

	Operating Leases
Remaining nine months of fiscal year 2014	\$ 470
2015	547
2016	550
2017	559
2018	575
Thereafter	588
Total minimum lease payments	\$ 3,289

## **(12) Research Collaboration Agreements**

The Company has a number of research agreements with academic collaborators, including among others, TAMU, Noble, and the Institute of Crop Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. In connection with these agreements, the Company receives certain exclusive options or licensing rights to technology and intellectual property developed under these agreements. The Company expenses amounts under these agreements to research and development expense in the period in which the services are rendered. The Company also licenses technology from third parties. Initial payments under these license agreements are capitalized and expensed on a straight-line basis over the license term.

## **CERES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY**

### **Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)**

**(In thousands, except share and per share data)**

#### *Noble Agreement*

In May 2006, the Company entered into a collaboration agreement with Noble to establish a research program. Under the Noble Agreement, the Company agreed to fund certain research activities undertaken by Noble in an amount up to \$3,800 through July 31, 2012 and granted Noble a warrant to purchase 133,333 shares of the Company's common stock for an exercise price of \$30.00 per share (see Note (9)). Additional projects may be added under the agreement, if agreed to by both parties.

Under the collaboration agreement, in August 2012 the Company agreed to fund certain research activities undertaken by Noble through July 31, 2013 and 2014 of \$82.7 and \$85.3 per year, respectively.

#### *TAMU Agreement*

In August 2007, the Company entered into a Sponsored Research and Intellectual Property Rights agreement with TAMU to establish a research program. Under the agreement, the Company agreed to fund certain research activities undertaken by TAMU in an amount up to \$5,100 through 2012 and granted TAMU a warrant to purchase 66,666 shares of the Company's common stock for an exercise price of \$30.00 per share (see Note (9)).

On September 24, 2011, the Company entered into an Amended and Restated Sponsored Research Agreement and the IP Rights Agreement with TAMU which both expire on September 23, 2026. The specific research projects and budgets undertaken pursuant to such agreement will be determined by an Executive Committee comprised of two members from each of TAMU and the Company as set forth in the Amended and Restated Sponsored Research Agreement. In December 2011, pursuant to the IP Rights Agreement, the Company issued warrants to TAMU to purchase 66,666 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$14.30 per share (see Note (9)).

Future minimum payments under the Company's research collaboration agreements as of November 30, 2013 are as follows:

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Remaining nine months of fiscal year 2014	\$2,622
2015	2,977
2016	2,966
2017	613
	\$9,178

## ITEM 2. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

### Forward-Looking Statements

*The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read together with our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and the other financial information appearing elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and the information under the heading “Risk Factors” and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 26, 2013. This discussion contains “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. All statements, other than statements of historical facts contained in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, including statements regarding our efforts to develop and commercialize our products, anticipated yields and product performance, our short-term and long-term business strategies, market and industry expectations and future results of operations and financial position, including anticipated cost savings from our plan to align expenditures, are forward-looking statements. In many cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as “may”, “will”, “should”, “expect”, “plan”, “anticipate”, “could”, “intend”, “target”, “project”, “contemplate”, “believe”, “estimate”, “potential”, “continue” or other similar words. We based these forward-looking statements largely on our current expectations and projections about future events or trends that we believe may affect our business and financial performance. These forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to materially differ from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. We have described in the “Risk Factors” section in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 26, 2013 and elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q the material risks and uncertainties that we believe could cause actual results to differ from these forward-looking statements. Because forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, some of which we cannot predict or quantify, you should not rely on these forward-looking statements as guarantees of future results, performance or achievements. The forward-looking statements in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q represent our views as of the date of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. We undertake no obligation to update publicly, except to the extent required by law, any forward-looking statements for any reason after the date we file this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with the SEC to conform these statements to actual results or to changes in our expectations.*

### Overview

We are an agricultural biotechnology company selling seeds to produce dedicated energy crops – renewable bioenergy feedstocks that can enable the large-scale replacement of petroleum and other fossil fuels. We use a combination of advanced plant breeding and biotechnology to develop seed products that we believe address the limitations of first-generation bioenergy feedstocks, such as corn and sugarcane, increase crop productivity, reduce crop inputs and improve cultivation on marginal land.



Our largest immediate commercial opportunity is in Brazil where we market sweet sorghum hybrids that can be used as a “drop-in” feedstock to complement existing feedstock supplies and extend the operating season of Brazilian sugarcane-to-ethanol mills. Our dedicated energy crops can also be used for the production of second-generation biofuels and bio-based chemicals, including cellulosic ethanol, butanol, jet fuel, diesel-like molecules and gasoline-like molecules, from non-food biomass. Utility-scale electric power can also be generated from the biomass feedstocks grown from our seeds.

The seed industry has historically required very little capital to produce, condition and package seeds, and seeds have typically been priced based on a share of the value they create and thus have generated high gross margins. As a producer of proprietary seeds, we believe we are in one of the most attractive segments of the bioenergy value chain — upstream from the capital-intensive refining and conversion of biomass. Therefore, we believe our success is tied to adoption of our products rather than the relative profitability of downstream participants. Our upstream position in the bioenergy value chain also allows us to be largely independent of the success of any particular conversion technology or end use.

Due to the nature of biotechnology, we believe other crops, such as corn, rice and soybean, can benefit from many of the traits and genetic technologies we are developing for dedicated energy crops, such as traits that provide drought tolerance. We have also generated many biotech traits specifically for cereal crops, such as rice, that increase grain yields and provide greater yield stability across different environments. Our strategy is to focus on genes that have shown large, step increases in performance, and whose benefits are maintained across multiple species. To date, our field evaluations have largely confirmed previous results obtained in greenhouse and laboratory settings, and we believe that based on these multiple confirmations, we have an industry leading biotech trait technology pipeline, with applications in our energy crops as well as other crops.

We believe that the strength of our technology has been validated by our receipt of multiple competitive grants and collaborations, including a United States Agency for International Development, or USAID, grant and one of the U.S. Department of Energy’s first Advanced Research Project Agency for Energy, or ARPA-E, grants in 2009, as well as a \$137 million multi-year collaboration with Monsanto Company signed in 2002. We also have significant intellectual property rights to our technology platforms, traits and seed products. We have out-licensed a portion of our traits and gene technology to existing market participants and continue to pursue opportunities to out-license these technologies.

We operate in one segment, and accordingly, our results of operations are presented on a consolidated basis. To date the majority of our revenue and expense has been denominated in U.S. dollars and foreign currency fluctuations have not had a significant impact on our historical results of operations. As we continue to penetrate the Brazilian market and enter markets outside the United States, we expect our product sales will be made in local currencies and accordingly, that foreign currency fluctuations will have a greater impact on our operating results.

We generate our revenues from government grants, research and development collaboration agreements and from product sales. We began selling products in 2008 and, while our product sales have been minimal to date, we expect product sales to eventually become the primary source of our revenues. We expect future product revenues to include a combination of seed sales and trait fees, similar to current business models used for food crops incorporating biotech traits. As we continue to develop traits for our products, we expect that a significant portion of our product revenues will be generated from the sale of seeds that include our traits. Our largest immediate market opportunity is selling our sorghum products into the Brazilian bioenergy market. The cellulosic biofuel and biopower markets in the United States and Europe are developing more slowly than originally anticipated, however, we believe these markets provide an attractive, longer term opportunity. We have formed collaborations with major participants in the bioenergy value chain to evaluate yields and other performance or conversion characteristics of our products and the logistics related to the use of our products. Our collaborators have included ethanol mills, utilities, independent power producers, cellulosic biofuel companies, growers, grower cooperatives, equipment manufacturers, enzyme or fermentation technology companies and other support technology providers.

In row crops, like corn, cotton and soybean, we have out-licensed a portion of our traits and gene technology and we continue to pursue opportunities to out-license these technologies in other crops. We have chosen to be a technology provider or trait provider in these markets and our collaborators and customers in this area consist primarily of multi-national seed companies. We also continue to market our proprietary genome viewer software, known as Persephone, to plant and biomedical researchers.

We market and sell our sorghum seeds in Brazil and our switchgrass and sorghum seeds in the United States under our Blade brand.

Since 2010, we have completed various commercial-scale evaluations of our sweet sorghum products in Brazil with ethanol mills and mill suppliers. During this time, our seeds have been planted and harvested using existing equipment and fermented into ethanol without retrofitting or altering the existing mills. The remaining biomass from this industrial process has been combusted for electricity production using existing mill boilers. We believe these experiences have demonstrated the “drop-in” nature of our sweet sorghum products, and along with higher yielding products in our pipeline, will serve as the basis for expanded adoption of this product line as a feedstock for ethanol and power production in Brazil and other markets.

With industrial processing generally well established, we believe that field performance – primarily yields of sugars that can be fermented to ethanol – will largely determine the scale and pace at which our current and future products will be adopted. Based on industry feedback, we believe that minimum average yields in the range of 2,500 to 3,000 liters of ethanol per hectare will be necessary to achieve broad adoption. We believe that at least two growing seasons, including the one currently underway, will be required to fully demonstrate this yield range. To date, we have demonstrated on a limited scale that such yields can be achieved with our products within their area of adaptation, provided that our crop management protocols are followed and plantings receive adequate rainfall; however, further optimizations and additional hybrids will be needed to consistently achieve economically attractive yields across wide-area plantings.

For the 2012-2013 season, ethanol yields from our sweet sorghum products ranged from approximately 450 to 3,600 liters per hectare, according to mill and company calculations. Mills that followed our recommended crop management practices generally achieved the highest average yields. Lower yields were primarily due to deviations from our recommended crop management protocols, weather-related delays during planting and disease infection late in the growing season. Yield results were available from approximately two-thirds of the more than 30 mills that planted Ceres' hybrids; remaining mills reported incomplete results, did not complete the evaluation or chose not to report results.

Plantings for the 2013-2014 sorghum growing season in Brazil have been successfully completed with 49 customers, including mills and mill suppliers, across 55 different locations and within our prescribed timeframes and according to our crop management protocols. Based on published reports, we estimate that these companies, which include multi-mill conglomerates, are responsible for approximately 30% or more of the sugarcane crushed in Brazil. Growing conditions have been generally favorable to date across most regions. Harvests are expected to begin in late February to early March and continue through May. These plantings primarily consist of small, multi-hybrid evaluations designed to determine yield potential, identify the best performing hybrids for specific regions and demonstrate various crop management practices. Several mills have planted larger evaluations this season. As part of our product development process, we have also established a number of breeding and product development field evaluations across various geographies. These trials consist of hundreds of hybrids, including a smaller subset of hybrids in more advanced evaluations in Brazil and other countries in South America. Based on the product candidates in our pipeline today, we expect to continually improve our commercial product line with higher yielding hybrids. In addition to sweet sorghum, our field evaluations this season include high biomass sorghum, which is a type of sorghum developed and managed for its enhanced biomass yield as opposed to sugar or juice. Based on industry feedback, we believe that high biomass sorghum can be utilized as a supplementary source of biomass for industrial heat and power generation in Brazil, especially during the sugarcane offseason or periods of sugarcane bagasse shortages. We also plan to develop and launch a number of product innovations that provide greater flexibility in harvest time and end use, as well as other benefits, to our mill customers. Total plantings of our commercial and pre-commercial sorghum hybrids cover approximately 1,000 hectares for the 2013-2014 sorghum growing season compared to approximately 3,000 hectares for the previous season due primarily to a greater focus among mills on field performance, which can be determined at a smaller scale than evaluations needed for confirming industrial performance.

For the 2013-2014 sorghum growing season in Brazil, we offered leading mill groups the opportunity to participate in sales incentive and promotional programs. Depending on the size of the seed purchase and the crop yield in biomass or ethanol, we could incur costs representing a portion of some customers' production costs or anticipated yield. In certain cases, we may participate directly in, and may incur certain unreimbursed costs for seed, crop production and agronomy services during this season. Certain of our revenues from seed sales and services provided will be deferred until completion of the growing season, which we currently expect to occur in the fiscal third quarter.

We have invested significantly in research, development and technology and applied our proprietary technology platforms to energy crops and expect to continue to invest in research and development focusing on sorghum and Brazil, as well as traits with significant market potential in row crops, like corn and rice. Given our near-term priorities on sorghum and Brazil, as well as the relative slower pace of market development for cellulosic biomass from energy grasses, we believe we can maintain our leadership position in biomass crops with minimal new investments at this time.

To develop high performing seeds and traits, we have integrated a suite of advanced research and development methods, which include conventional breeding, marker-assisted breeding, genomics and biotechnology, along with large, proprietary collections of germplasm (the collections of genetic resources covering the diversity of a crop, the attributes of which are inherited from generation to generation). We have utilized our existing germplasm assets along with our research and development methods to create improved seeds and traits. As a result, we believe that we have one of the leading pipelines of proprietary crop traits, based on the number and nature of our traits as well as the two-species approach we employ to validate and successfully select gene-trait combinations.

Our other operating expenses are related to selling, general and administrative expenses incurred to establish and build our market presence and business infrastructure. Seed inventory costs are computed on a first-in, first-out basis and valued at the lower of cost or market with any excess cost recognized during the period within cost of product sales. The recoverability of our sweet sorghum seed inventory is dependent on increased customer adoption and acceptance. At November 30, 2013, all seed inventory was written-off based on the lower of cost or market, based on our evaluation of such inventory.

Historically, we have funded our operations from the proceeds from issuances of convertible preferred stock, warrants, convertible notes, debt financing, payments from collaborators and government grants. We have experienced significant losses as we invested heavily in research and development, and those costs have exceeded revenues earned through collaboration agreements and government grants and were incurred prior to generating significant revenues from product sales. As of November 30, 2013, we had an accumulated deficit of \$282.8 million. We expect to incur additional losses related to the continued development and expansion of our business including research and development, seed production and operations, and sales and marketing. There is no assurance that profitable operations will be achieved, or if achieved, can be sustained on a continued basis.

On October 11, 2013, we commenced a plan intended to further align our expenditures with our near-term commercial opportunity in Brazil, shift Northern Hemisphere sorghum breeding activities to a more appropriate location, deemphasize research and development for U.S. cellulosic feedstocks, reduce costs and conserve cash.

These measures, which include a workforce reduction that will impact 17 positions in the U.S., are expected to be substantially completed by May 31, 2014. Once fully implemented, these measures are expected to deliver cash savings of up to approximately \$5.0 million in fiscal year 2014 and up to approximately \$8.0 to \$10.0 million annually thereafter. We estimate that we will incur total charges of approximately \$1.6 million during the first nine months of fiscal year 2014 with respect to the workforce reduction in the U.S., including \$0.4 million in continuation of salary and benefits of certain employees until their work is completed and their positions are eliminated and \$1.2 million of one-time severance and other costs, all of which will be cash expenditures. As a result, we do not intend to fully utilize our facilities at College Station in the near term and may seek alternative or additional uses for the location which may include, among others, leasing office, storage and greenhouse space or selling the facility and any unnecessary assets.

## **Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations is based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these consolidated financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses and related disclosures. We base our estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on various other factors that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. We evaluate our estimates and assumptions on an ongoing basis. The results of our analysis form the basis for making assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Our actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

We believe the following critical accounting policies involve significant areas of management's judgments and estimates in the preparation of our financial statements.

### ***Revenue Recognition***

Revenues are recognized when the following criteria are met: (1) persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists; (2) transfer of product or technology has been completed or services have been rendered; (3) the fee is fixed or determinable; and (4) collectability is reasonably assured. To date, our primary source of revenues has been derived from research collaborations and government grants and, to a lesser extent, product sales.

### ***Product Sales***

Product sales are derived from sales of seeds, trait fees, crop management services and biomass sales. Product sales are recognized, net of discounts and allowances, once passage of title and risk of loss have occurred and contractually specified acceptance criteria have been met, provided all other revenue recognition criteria have also been met.

### ***Collaborative Research and Government Grants***

From time to time, we have entered into research and development collaboration agreements with third parties including a large agriculture supplier, a consumer goods conglomerate and several biofuel producers. In addition, we have received grants from government agencies such as the United States Department of Energy and the United States

Department of Agriculture. The research and development collaboration agreements typically provide us with multiple revenue streams, which may include upfront, non-refundable fees for licensing certain of our technologies, fees for research and development activities, and contingent milestone payments upon achievement of contractual criteria.

*Technology License Fees.* For collaboration agreements in which we have continuing involvement, license fees are recognized on a straight-line basis over the term of the arrangement. Licensing fees are non-refundable and not subject to future performance.

*Government Grants.* We receive payments from government entities in the form of government grants. Government grants generally provide us with cost reimbursement for certain types of expenditures in return for research and development activities over a contractually defined period, as well as an allocated portion of our overhead expenses. Revenues from government grants are recognized in the period during which the related costs are incurred, provided that substantially all conditions under which the government grants were provided have been met and we only have perfunctory obligations outstanding.

*Research and Development Fees.* Generally, fees for research and development activities are recognized as the services are performed over the performance period, as specified in the respective agreements. Certain of our collaboration agreements require us to deliver research data by specific dates and that the collective program plan will result in reaching specific crop characteristics by certain dates. For such arrangements, we recognize revenues based on the approximate proportional performance of services under the agreement, but the revenue recognized cannot exceed the payments that have accrued to us to date under the agreement. The research and development period is estimated at the inception of each agreement and is periodically evaluated.

*Milestone Payments.* Fees that are contingent upon achievement of substantive performance milestones at inception of the agreement are recognized based on the achievement of the milestone, as defined in the respective agreements.

We recognize deferred revenue to the extent that cash received under the collaboration agreement is in excess of the revenues recognized related to the agreement since the work under the agreement has not yet been performed, or the work has not been fully completed as prescribed in the statement of work at the balance sheet date, which is classified as other current liabilities on the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet.

### *Development and License Agreement*

Our development and license agreement with Campbell Soup Company, dated December 20, 2007, as amended, was terminated and cancelled on November 19, 2012 following Campbell's sale of its vegetable seed assets to a third party. In connection with the termination, Campbell paid us \$0.55 million of the remaining \$0.63 million due under the agreement, which would otherwise have become payable by Campbell in 2013, in full and complete satisfaction of all remaining financial obligations under the development and license agreement.

### *Stock-Based Compensation*

We account for stock-based compensation arrangements with employees using fair value methods which require the recognition of compensation expense for costs related to all stock-based payments. The fair value methods require us to estimate the fair value of stock-based payment awards on the date of grant. We use an option pricing model to estimate the fair value of options granted that are expensed on a straight-line basis over the vesting period. The fair value of restricted stock granted to employees is based on the grant date value of the underlying stock. We account for stock options issued to non-employees based on the estimated fair value of the awards using the option pricing model. The measurement of stock-based compensation to non-employees is subject to periodic adjustments as the underlying equity instruments vest, and the resulting change in value, if any, is recognized in our consolidated statements of operations during the period the related services are rendered.

### *Seed Inventories*

At November 30, 2013, all seed inventory was written-off based on the lower of cost or market, based on our evaluation of such inventory. At August 31, 2013, all seed inventory other than work-in-progress was fully written off based on the lower of cost or market, based on our evaluation of such inventory. Inventory costs are computed on a first-in, first-out basis and valued at the lower of cost or market with any excess cost recognized during the period within cost of product sales.

### *Income Taxes*

Income taxes are accounted for under the asset and liability method. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases and operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in



which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date. We record a valuation allowance when it is more likely than not that some of our net deferred tax assets will not be realized. In determining the need for valuation allowances, we consider our projected future taxable income and the availability of tax planning strategies. We have recorded a full valuation allowance to reduce our net deferred tax assets to zero because we have determined that it is more likely than not that our net deferred tax assets will not be realized. If in the future we determine that we will be able to realize any of our net deferred tax assets, we will make an adjustment to the allowance, which would increase our income in the period that the determination is made.

We operate in various tax jurisdictions and are subject to audit by various tax authorities. We recognize the effect of income tax positions only if those positions are more likely than not of being sustained. Recognized income tax positions are measured at the largest amount that is greater than 50% likely of being realized. Changes in recognition or measurement are reflected in the period in which the change in judgment occurs.

### ***Impairment of Long-Lived Assets***

Long-lived assets, such as property and equipment, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. To the extent that an impairment indicator has occurred, recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its estimated undiscounted future cash flows, an impairment charge is recognized in the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the fair value of the asset. For the reporting periods presented herein there was an indicator that impairment has occurred. However, there was no impairment as the carrying amount of the property and equipment did not exceed the fair value of such assets.

**Results of Operations**

The following table sets forth our consolidated results of operations for the periods shown (in thousands):

	Three months ended November 30,	
	2013	2012
Revenues:		
Product sales	\$ 20	\$ 14
Collaborative research and government grants	743	1,952
Total revenues	763	1,966
Cost and operating expenses:		
Cost of product sales	1,309	700
Research and development	4,414	4,343
Selling, general and administrative	3,260	3,844
Total cost and operating expenses	8,983	8,887
Loss from operations	(8,220 )	(6,921 )
Interest expense	-	(1 )
Interest income	16	29
Loss before income taxes	(8,204 )	(6,893 )
Income tax benefit (expense)	(1 )	(1 )
Net loss	\$ (8,205 )	\$ (6,894 )

***Comparison of the Three Months Ended November 30, 2013 and 2012******Revenues***

	Three Months Ended November 31,		
	2013	2012	Change
	(In thousands)		
Product sales	\$20	\$14	\$6
Collaborative research and government grants	743	1,952	(1,209)
Total revenue	\$763	\$1,966	\$(1,203)

Our total revenues were \$0.8 million for the three months ended November 30, 2013 and \$2.0 million for the three months ended November 30, 2012. Collaborative research and governments grants decreased by \$1.2 million primarily due to reduced revenue of \$0.8 million in pay-out revenue related to the termination of our development and license agreement with Campbell and decreased billings of \$0.4 million under our software license and collaboration agreement with Syngenta for the three months ended November 30, 2013 compared to the same period in the prior year. Product sales remained relatively unchanged compared to the first quarter of fiscal 2012.

*Cost and Operating Expenses*

	Three Months Ended November 31, 2013 2012 Change		
	(In thousands)		
Cost of product sales	\$1,309	\$700	\$ 609
Research and development	4,414	4,343	71
Selling, general and administrative	3,260	3,844	(584 )
Total cost and operating expenses	\$8,983	\$8,887	\$ 96

*Cost of Product Sales*

Our cost of product sales increased to \$1.3 million for the three months ended November 30, 2013 compared to \$0.7 million for the same period in the prior year. The increase was due to \$0.3 million of costs related to our previously reported workforce reductions and \$0.3 million of expenses for obsolete seed inventory related to our sweet sorghum products.

*Research and Development Expenses*

Our research and development expenses increased to \$4.4 million for the three months ended November 30, 2013 compared to \$4.3 million for the same period in the prior year. In the U.S., research and development expenses decreased by \$0.6 million primarily due to reduced external research and development expenses. In Brazil, research and development expenses increased by \$0.7 million primarily as a result of increased personnel and related expenses.

*Selling, General and Administrative Expenses*

Our selling, general and administrative expenses decreased by \$0.6 million to \$3.3 million for the three months ended November 30, 2013 compared to the same period in the prior year. In the U.S., our expenses decreased by \$0.7 million due to reduced personnel and related expenses of \$0.4 million and reduced patent, legal and professional fees of \$0.3 million. In Brazil, expenses increased by \$0.1 million primarily as a result of increased personnel and related expenses.

*Interest Expense and Interest Income*

	Three Months Ended November 30, 2013 2012 Change (In thousands)		
Interest expense	\$-	\$ (1 )	\$ 1
Interest income	16	29	(13 )
Total	\$16	\$ 28	\$ (12 )

*Interest Income*

Interest income decreased by \$13,000 in the three months ended November 30, 2013 compared to the same period in the prior year. The decrease was primarily due to lower average cash invested balances.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Since our inception, we have incurred significant net losses, and, as of November 30, 2013, we had an accumulated deficit of \$282.8 million. We expect to incur additional losses related to the continued development and expansion of our business including research and development, seed production and operations, and sales and marketing. There is also no assurance that we will achieve profitable operations, or if achieved, that we can sustain them on a continued basis.

Management has taken certain actions subsequent to August 31, 2013 to extend our available working capital. We believe that our existing cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities will provide adequate resources to fund our operations, including research and development expenses, planned capital expenditures and working capital requirements for the next 12 months. In order to fund our operations beyond that time, we believe we will need to raise additional funds through the issuance of equity, equity-related or debt securities or through obtaining credit from government or financial institutions. We cannot be certain that additional funds will be available to us on favorable terms when required, or at all.

On October 11, 2013, we commenced a plan intended to further align our expenditures with our near-term commercial opportunity in Brazil, shift Northern Hemisphere sorghum breeding activities to a more appropriate location, deemphasize research and development for U.S. cellulosic feedstocks, reduce costs and conserve cash. As a result, we do not intend to fully utilize our facilities at College Station in the near term and may seek alternative or additional uses for the location which may include, among others, leasing office, storage and greenhouse space or selling the facility and any unnecessary assets.

These measures, which include a workforce reduction that will impact 17 positions in the U.S, are expected to be substantially completed by May 31, 2014. During the three months ended November 30, 2013, the Company recorded approximately \$0.9 million of severance expense related to these workforce reductions, of which \$0.5 million, \$0.3 million and \$0.1 million was recorded to research and development expense, cost of sales and general and administrative expense, respectively. During the three months ended November 30, 2013, the Company made cash payments of approximately \$0.2 million related to these expenses. The remaining cash payments of approximately \$0.7 million are expected to be made prior to August 31, 2014. Once fully implemented, these measures are expected to deliver cash savings of up to approximately \$5.0 million in fiscal year 2014 and up to approximately \$8.0 to \$10.0 million annually thereafter. We estimate that we will incur total charges of approximately \$1.6 million during the first nine months of fiscal year 2014 with respect to the workforce reduction in the U.S., including \$0.4 million in continuation of salary and benefits of certain employees until their work is completed and their positions are eliminated and \$1.2 million of one-time severance and other costs, all of which will be cash expenditures.

## Cash Flows

	For the three months ended November 30,	
	2013	2012
	(In thousands)	
Net cash (used in) provided by		
Operating activities	\$ (5,676 )	\$ (6,509 )
Investing activities	\$ 4,040	\$ 137
Finance activities	\$ (46 )	\$ (215 )

Net cash outflows of \$5.7 million from operating activities during the three months ended November 30, 2013 primarily resulted from our net loss of \$8.2 million, which included non-cash items of \$1.3 million including \$0.4 million in depreciation expense and \$0.9 million in stock-based compensation expense. The net cash inflow change in our operating assets and liabilities was \$1.2 million during the three months ended November 30, 2013.

Net cash outflows of \$6.5 million from operating activities during the three months ended November 30, 2012 primarily resulted from our net loss of \$6.9 million, which included non-cash items, including \$0.5 million in depreciation expense and \$0.8 million in stock-based compensation expense. The net cash outflow change in our operating assets and liabilities was \$1.0 million during the three months ended November 30, 2012.

Net cash provided by investing activities of \$4.0 million during the three months ended November 30, 2013 was due to net marketable securities activity of \$4.4 million, which was partially offset by \$0.4 million used to purchase property and equipment.

Net cash provided by investing activities of \$0.1 million during the three months ended November 30, 2012 was due to net marketable securities activity of \$0.5 million, offset by \$0.4 million used to purchase property and equipment.

Net cash used by financing activities of \$46,000 during the three months ended November 30, 2013 was due to repayments on capital leases.

Net cash used in financing activities of \$0.2 million during the three months ended November 30, 2012 was due to \$0.3 million of payments on capital leases offset by approximately \$0.1 million of cash received from the exercise of stock options.

### **Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

As of November 30, 2013, we had no off-balance sheet arrangements as defined in Item 303(a)(4) of Regulation S-K as promulgated by the SEC.

## **Seasonality**

The sale of seeds is dependent upon planting and growing seasons, which vary from year to year, and are expected to result in both highly seasonal patterns and substantial fluctuations in quarterly sales and profitability. Our product sales for the year ended August 31, 2013 and for the three months ended November 30, 2013 were minimal and, accordingly, we have not yet experienced the full nature or extent to which our business may be seasonal. We expect that the sale of our seeds in Brazil will typically be higher in our first and second fiscal quarters, due to the timing of the planting decisions made by our customers. As we increase our sales in our current markets, and as we expand into new markets in different geographies, it is possible we may experience different seasonality patterns in our business. Weather conditions and natural disasters, such as heavy rains, hurricanes, hail, floods, tornadoes, freezing conditions, drought or fire, also affect decisions by our customers about the types and amounts of seeds to plant and the timing of harvesting and planting such seeds. Disruptions that cause delays by our customers in harvesting or planting can result in the movement of orders to a future quarter, which would negatively affect the quarter and cause fluctuations in our operating results.

## **Inflation**

We believe that inflation has not had a material impact on our results of operations for the three months ended November 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively. There can be no assurance that future inflation will not have an adverse impact on our operating results and financial condition.



### **Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk.**

We are exposed to the effect of interest rate changes, foreign currency fluctuations and changes in commodity prices. We are also exposed to changes in the general economic conditions in the countries where we conduct business, which currently is substantially all in the United States and Brazil.

#### *Interest Rate Risk*

As of November 30, 2013 and August 31, 2013, our exposure to risk for changes in interest rates primarily related to our cash equivalents and marketable securities. We have investments in money market funds, commercial paper and corporate bonds, which all have relatively short term maturities. Accordingly, our interest income fluctuates with short term market conditions. All marketable securities are classified as available for sale and are expected to be liquid. Due to the relatively short-term nature of our investments, we do not believe that there would be a significant negative impact to our consolidated financial position or results of operations as a result of interest rate fluctuations in the financial markets. While we believe our cash equivalents do not contain excessive risk, we cannot provide absolute assurance that in the future our investments will not be subject to adverse changes in market value. In addition, we maintain significant amounts of cash and cash equivalents at one or more financial institutions that are in excess of federally insured limits. We cannot assure you that we will not experience losses on these deposits.

#### *Foreign Currency Risk*

We have foreign currency risks related to our operating expenses denominated in currencies other than the U.S. Dollar. Changes in exchange rates between the U.S. Dollar and other currencies will result in increases or decreases in our costs and earnings, and also may affect the book value of our assets outside the United States. To date, most of our contracts have been entered into in the United States and accordingly have been denominated in U.S. Dollars. Going forward we anticipate that our sales will be denominated in the local currency of the country in which the sale occurs. In addition, our operating expenses to date have been denominated in the currencies of the countries in which our operations are located, primarily the United States and Brazil.

Through November 30, 2013, the fluctuations in the Brazil Real for our operations in Brazil had no adverse impact on our results of operations as the U.S. Dollar has been strengthening against the Brazil Real. As our international operations in Brazil grow, our results of operations and cash flows will become increasingly subject to fluctuations due to changes in the foreign currency exchange rates. In periods when the U.S. dollar declines in value as compared to the Brazil Real, our foreign-currency based expenses increase when translated into U.S. dollars. To date, we have not hedged the risks associated with foreign currency exchange exposure. As the risks associated with fluctuations in the Brazil Real become greater, we will continue to reassess our approach to managing this risk.

*Commodity Risk*

Our exposure to market risk for changes in commodity prices currently is minimal. As our commercial operations grow, our exposure will relate mostly to the demand side as our customers are highly exposed to fluctuations in prices of sugar and crude oil and somewhat exposed to fluctuations in agricultural commodities, especially soybean. For example, if the price of sugar, which is produced from sugarcane and which cannot be produced from sweet sorghum today, rises significantly relative to the price of ethanol, it may become more profitable for ethanol mill operators to grow sugarcane even in adverse conditions, such as through the expansion of sugarcane fields to marginal land or the extension of the sugarcane harvesting season. During sustained periods of significantly higher sugar prices, demand for our seeds may decrease, which could materially and adversely affect our operating results. We are also indirectly exposed to fluctuations in soft commodities prices like soybean when we negotiate production contracts with seed producers. We currently do not use derivative financial instruments to hedge any price volatility of agricultural commodities.

**Item 4. Controls and Procedures.**

*(a) Disclosure Controls and Procedures*

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures, as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act, that are designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required financial disclosures.

We conducted an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Rules 13a-15(b) and 15d-15(b) under the Exchange Act. Based on this evaluation, our principal executive officer and principal financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level as of November 30, 2013.

***(b) Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting***

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f). Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of August 31, 2013 based on the guidelines established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Our internal control over financial reporting includes policies and procedures that provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external reporting purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Based on the results of our evaluation, our management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of August 31, 2013. We reviewed the results of management's assessment with our Audit Committee.

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

Because we are an "emerging growth company" as defined in the JOBS Act, we are not currently required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements related to internal controls over financial reporting pursuant to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

***(c) Changes in Internal Control***

No changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) occurred during the quarterly period ended November 30, 2013 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

## **PART II: OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Item 1. Legal Proceedings.**

From time to time, we may be involved in litigation relating to claims arising out of our operations. We are not currently a party to any material litigation or other material legal proceedings. We may, however, be involved in material legal proceedings in the future. Such matters are subject to uncertainty and there can be no assurance that such legal proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial position or cash flows.

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

*You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties set forth in “Item 1A. Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on November 26, 2013, together with all of the other information set forth in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. If any of these risks actually occur, our business, financial condition, results of operations and future prospects could be materially and adversely affected. There have been no material changes to the risks discussed in the Form 10-K.*

### **Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.**

#### **(a) Sales of Unregistered Securities**

None.

#### **(b) Use of Proceeds from Public Offering of Common Stock**

On February 27, 2012, we completed our initial public offering. We sold 5,750,000 shares of common stock at a price to the public of \$13.00 per share, which included the underwriters' exercise in full of their option to purchase 750,000 additional shares. The offer and sale of our common stock in our initial public offering was registered under the Securities Act pursuant to a registration statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-174405), which was declared effective by the SEC on February 21, 2012. We raised approximately \$65.2 million in net proceeds after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions of \$5.2 million and other offering costs of \$4.9 million. There has been no material change in the planned use of proceeds from our initial public offering as described in our Prospectus dated

February 21, 2012 and filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities.**

None.

**Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.**

None.

**Item 5. Other Information.**

None.

**Item 6. Exhibits.**

(a) The exhibits in the accompanying Exhibit Index on page E-1 are filed or furnished as part of this Quarterly Report.

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**SIGNATURES**

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

Ceres, Inc.

By: /s/ PAUL KUC  
Paul Kuc  
*Chief Financial Officer*  
*(Principal Financial Officer)*

Date: January 9, 2014

## EXHIBIT INDEX

### Number Description

- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
- <sup>1</sup> 32.1 Certification of Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and 18 U.S.C. §1350.
- #101 Financial statements from the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Ceres, Inc. for the quarterly period ended November 30, 2013, formatted in XBRL: (i) the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets, (ii) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations (iii) the Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Loss, (iv) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, and (v) the Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

<sup>1</sup> This certification is furnished herewith and shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

# Pursuant to Rule 406T of Regulation S-T, this interactive data file is deemed not filed or part of a registration statement or prospectus for purposes of Sections 11 or 12 of the Securities Act of 1933, is deemed not filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and otherwise is not subject to liability under these sections.

E-1