

FIRST CASH FINANCIAL SERVICES INC
Form 10-Q
May 09, 2008

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2008

or

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 0-19133

FIRST CASH FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

75-2237318

(state or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

690 East Lamar Blvd., Suite 400

Arlington, Texas

76011

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

(817) 460-3947

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

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

Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes No

As of May 7, 2008, there were 29,229,335 shares of common stock outstanding.

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FIRST CASH FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	March 31,		December 31,
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2007</u>
	(unaudited)		
	(in thousands)		
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 13,689	\$ 12,178	\$ 14,175
Finance and service charges receivable	7,082	5,103	7,867
Customer receivables, net of allowances of \$8,409, \$6,146 and \$9,903, respectively	74,462	59,278	74,532
Inventories	35,346	30,048	35,612
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	6,095	6,374	9,103
Discontinued operations	320	2,293	1,509
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total current assets	136,994	115,274	142,798
Customer receivables with long-term maturities, net of allowance of \$9,198, \$5,888 and \$10,878, respectively	30,918	20,709	31,218
Property and equipment, net	47,418	32,821	43,762
Goodwill, net	66,874	66,874	66,874
Intangible assets, net	5,407	5,644	5,466
Other	1,421	1,229	1,430
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total assets	\$ 289,032	\$ 242,551	\$ 291,548
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Current portion of notes payable	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250
Accounts payable	6,357	2,037	1,732
Accrued liabilities	16,918	18,554	17,066
Discontinued operations	91	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total current liabilities	25,616	22,841	21,048
Revolving credit facility	54,900	4,900	55,000
Notes payable, net of current portion	3,375	6,625	3,938

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Deferred income taxes payable	10,053	8,218	10,353
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total liabilities	93,944	42,584	90,339
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Stockholders' equity:			
Preferred stock	-	-	-
Common stock	361	354	359
Additional paid-in capital	112,241	103,040	111,410
Retained earnings	176,550	144,846	169,855
Common stock held in treasury	(94,064)	(48,273)	(80,415)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total stockholders' equity	195,088	199,967	201,209
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 289,032	\$ 242,551	\$ 291,548

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

FIRST CASH FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	(unaudited)	
	(in thousands, except per share amounts)	
Revenues:		
Merchandise sales	\$ 66,699	\$ 57,234
Finance and service charges	34,783	29,717
Other	1,259	1,170
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	102,741	88,121
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Cost of revenues:		
Cost of goods sold	36,444	30,166
Credit loss provision	15,856	9,031
Other	108	108
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	52,408	39,305
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net revenues	50,333	48,816
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Expenses and other income:		
Store operating expenses	28,801	23,750
Administrative expenses	7,521	7,457

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Depreciation	2,926	2,410
Amortization	59	26
Interest expense	912	342
Interest income	(18)	(20)
	<u>40,201</u>	<u>33,965</u>
Income from continuing operations before income taxes	10,132	14,851
Provision for income taxes	3,735	5,445
Income from continuing operations	6,397	9,406
Income from discontinued operations, net of tax of \$174 and \$500, respectively	298	873
Net income	\$ 6,695	\$ 10,279
Basic income per share:		
Income from continuing operations	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.30
Income from discontinued operations	0.01	0.02
Net income per basic share	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.32
Diluted income per share:		
Income from continuing operations	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.28
Income from discontinued operations	0.01	0.03
Net income per diluted share	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.31

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

FIRST CASH FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	(unaudited, in thousands)	
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 6,695	\$ 10,279
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash flows from operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	3,134	2,452
Share-based compensation expense	38	40
Non-cash portion of credit loss provision	12,858	7,458
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		

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Buy-here/pay-here automotive customer receivables	(12,607)	(14,564)
Finance and service fees receivable	785	(137)
Inventories	788	(1,867)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	2,759	(723)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,917	(3,258)
Current and deferred income taxes	1,609	4,508
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash flows from operating activities	18,976	4,188
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Pawn customer receivables	193	(602)
Short-term loan customer receivables	593	272
Purchases of property and equipment	(6,731)	(4,604)
Distribution to minority interest in Cash & Go, Ltd. joint venture	(194)	(63)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash flows from investing activities	(6,139)	(4,997)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from debt	11,000	18,700
Payments of debt	(11,663)	(22,363)
Purchases of treasury stock	(13,649)	-
Proceeds from exercise of stock options and warrants	677	676
Stock option and warrant income tax benefit	312	439
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash flows from financing activities	(13,323)	(2,548)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents	(486)	(3,357)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period	14,175	15,535
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the period	\$ 13,689	\$ 12,178
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:		
Cash paid during the period for:		
Interest	\$ 941	\$ 354
Income taxes	\$ 2,307	\$ 1,001
Supplemental disclosure of non-cash operating activity:		
Inventory acquired in repossession	\$ 570	\$ 290
Supplemental disclosure of non-cash investing activity:		
Non-cash transactions in connection with pawn receivables settled through forfeitures of collateral transferred to inventories	\$ 16,283	\$ 12,031

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

FIRST CASH FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(UNAUDITED)

Note 1 - Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements, including the notes thereto, include the accounts of First Cash Financial Services, Inc. (the "Company"), and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. In addition, the accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Cash & Go, Ltd., a Texas limited partnership that operates financial services kiosks inside convenience stores, in which the Company has a 50% ownership interest. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

Such unaudited consolidated financial statements are condensed and do not include all disclosures and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America for complete financial statements. Such interim period financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company's consolidated financial statements, which are included in the Company's December 31, 2007 Annual Report on Form 10-K. The condensed consolidated financial statements as of March 31, 2008 and for the three month periods ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 are unaudited, but in management's opinion, include all adjustments (consisting of only normal recurring adjustments) considered necessary to present fairly the financial position, results of operations and cash flows for such interim periods. Operating results for the period ended March 31, 2008 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the full fiscal year.

Certain amounts in prior year comparative presentations have been reclassified in order to conform to the 2008 presentation.

Note 2 - Discontinued Operations

Effective December 2007, the Company discontinued its short-term loan operations in the District of Columbia ("D.C."). This was a result of legislation enacted in 2007, which reduced the maximum annual percentage rate charged on short-term loans to 24%, making the Company's short-term loan product financially unviable. All revenues, expenses and income reported herein have been adjusted to reflect reclassification of the discontinued D.C. operations.

Note 3 - Earnings Per Share

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share (in thousands, except per share data):

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Numerator:		
Income from continuing operations for calculating basic	\$ 6,397	\$ 9,406

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earnings per share		
Interest on convertible note, net of taxes	-	11
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Income from continuing operations for calculating diluted earnings per share	6,397	9,417
Income from discontinued operations	298	873
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net income for calculating diluted earnings per share	\$ 6,695	\$ 10,290
Denominator:		
Weighted-average common shares for calculating basic earnings per share	30,588	31,721
Effect of dilutive securities:		
Convertible note payable	-	56
Stock options and warrants	529	1,402
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Weighted-average common shares for calculating diluted earnings per share	31,117	33,179
Basic earnings per share:		
Income from continuing operations	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.30
Income from discontinued operations	0.01	0.02
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net income per basic share	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.32
Diluted earnings per share:		
	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.28

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Income from continuing operations						
Income from discontinued operations		15,305	14,062	1,243		
Purchased intangible assets		33,636	32,246	1,390	33,636	31,994
License, manufacturing and other access fees		44,354	2,757	41,597	22,262	752
Total	\$	118,787	\$ 53,198	\$ 65,589	\$ 96,345	\$ 48,484
Goodwill	\$	26,298	\$ 7,677	\$ 18,621	\$ 26,298	\$ 7,677

In June 2005, the Company entered into a research agreement with SmithKline Beecham Corporation, doing business as GlaxoSmithKline, and SmithKline Beecham (Cork) Ltd., together referred to as GSK. Under the terms of the agreement, the Company agreed to provide its investigational PCA3 assay to test up to 6,800 clinical samples obtained from patients enrolled in GSK's REDUCE (REDuction by DUtasteride of prostate Cancer Events) clinical trial, which is designed to determine the efficacy and safety of GSK's drug dutasteride (AVODART®) in reducing the risk of prostate cancer in men at increased risk of this disease. The Company agreed to reimburse GSK for expenses that GSK incurs for sample collection and related processes during the four-year prospective clinical trial. The Company also agreed to provide the PCA3 assay without charge and to pay third party clinical laboratory expenses for using the assay to test the samples. In July 2005, the Company made a payment of \$500,000 to GSK that has been recorded as an intangible asset, and is being amortized on a straight-line basis to research and development expense over forty-eight months.

In February 2005, the Company entered into a supply and purchase agreement with F. Hoffman-La Roche Ltd. and its affiliate Roche Molecular Systems, Inc. (Roche). Under this agreement, Roche agreed to manufacture and supply to Gen-Probe DNA probes for human papillomavirus (HPV). The Company plans to use these probes in molecular diagnostic assays. Pursuant to the agreement, the Company paid Roche manufacturing access fees of \$20.0 million in May 2005 and will pay \$10.0 million within 10 days of the occurrence of certain future commercial events, but not later than December 1, 2008. The Company also agreed to pay Roche transfer fees for the HPV products. The initial \$20.0 million manufacturing access fee has been recorded as an intangible asset which, upon commercialization of the Company's HPV products, is expected to be amortized to cost of product sales over the economic life of the products.

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In January 2005, the Company entered into a license agreement with Corixa Corporation (Corixa) and received the right to develop molecular diagnostic tests for 46 potential genetic markers in the areas of prostate, ovarian, cervical, kidney, lung and colon cancers. Pursuant to the terms of the agreement, the Company paid Corixa an initial access license fee of \$1.6 million and agreed to pay an additional \$3.2 million in two equal access fees of \$1.6 million on January 31, 2006 and January 31, 2007, unless the Company terminates the agreement prior to those dates. The initial \$1.6 million license fee has been recorded as an intangible asset which is being amortized on a straight-line basis to research and development expense over the life of the licensed patents.

Note 8 Inventories

Net inventories are comprised of the following (in thousands):

	September 30, 2005	December 31, 2004
Raw materials and supplies	\$ 4,664	\$ 5,345
Work in process	15,310	10,429
Finished goods	14,135	11,534
	\$ 34,109	\$ 27,308

Note 9 Income taxes

The Company accounts for income taxes during interim periods in accordance with SFAS No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes, APB No. 28, Interim Financial Reporting, and FASB Interpretation No. 18, Accounting for Income Taxes in Interim Periods, an interpretation of APB Opinion No. 28. For interim reporting purposes, these rules require that a company determine the best estimate of its annual effective tax rate and then apply that rate in providing for income taxes on a year-to-date basis.

The Company currently estimates its annual effective income tax rate to be approximately 34.2% for 2005, compared to the actual 35.5% effective income tax rate in 2004. The Company expects that it will have sufficient taxable income after stock option related deductions to utilize the majority of its deferred tax assets.

Tax benefits of \$6,948,000 and \$9,639,000 in the nine month periods ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively, related to employee stock options and stock purchase plans, were credited to stockholders' equity.

Note 10 Stockholders' equity

During the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2005, options to purchase 146,379 and 728,205 shares of the Company's common stock were exercised by Gen-Probe employees at a weighted average exercise price of \$20.54 and \$17.19, respectively. The Company also issued 940 and 2,451 shares of common stock during the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2005, respectively, to members of the Board of Directors as partial consideration for services rendered. The Company recognized expense for these shares issued to members of the Board of Directors during the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2005, of \$34,056 and \$102,110, respectively, which was equal to their fair market value on the dates of issuance. Employees purchased 46,799 shares of the Company's common stock at \$30.94 per share during the nine months ended September 30, 2005 pursuant to the Company's ESPP. No shares of the Company's common stock were purchased under the ESPP during the three months ended September 30, 2005.

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Changes in stockholders' equity for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 were as follows (in thousands):

Balance at December 31, 2004	\$	361,029
Net income		43,334
Other comprehensive loss		(1,288)
Net proceeds from the issuance of common stock		12,515
Purchase of common shares through ESPP		1,448
Purchase of common stock by board members		102
Amortization of deferred compensation		343
Tax benefit from the exercise of stock options		6,948
Balance at September 30, 2005	\$	424,431

Note 11 Deferred compensation plan

In May 2005, the Company's Board of Directors approved the adoption of a Deferred Compensation Plan (the Plan), which became effective as of June 30, 2005. The Plan allows certain highly compensated management, key employees and directors of the Company to defer up to 80% of annual base salary or director fees and up to 100% of annual bonus compensation. Deferred amounts are credited with gains and losses based on the performance of deemed investment options selected by a committee appointed by the Board of Directors to administer the Plan. The Plan also allows for discretionary contributions to be made by the Company. Participants may receive distributions upon (i) election during an appropriate election period, (ii) the occurrence of unforeseeable financial emergencies, (iii) termination of employment, (iv) death, (v) disability, or (vi) a change in control of the Company, as defined in the Plan. Certain key participants must wait six months following termination of employment to receive distributions. The Plan is subject to Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code).

The Company may terminate the Plan at any time with respect to participants providing services to the Company. Upon termination of the Plan, participants will be paid out in accordance with their prior distribution elections and otherwise in accordance with the Plan. Upon and for twelve (12) months following a change of control, the Company has the right to terminate the Plan and, notwithstanding any elections made by participants, to pay out all benefits in a lump sum, subject to the provisions of the Code.

Note 12 Litigation

The Company is a party to the following litigation and may participate in other litigation in the ordinary course of business. The Company intends to vigorously defend its interests in these matters. The Company expects that the resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on its business, financial condition or results of operations. However, due to the uncertainties inherent in litigation, no assurance can be given as to the outcome of these proceedings. If any of these matters were resolved in a manner unfavorable to the Company, its business, financial condition and results of operations would be harmed.

Enzo Biochem, Inc.

In June 1999, the Company was sued by Enzo Biochem, Inc. in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Enzo alleged that the Company and other defendants have wilfully infringed United States patent no. 4,900,659, or the '659 patent, through the manufacture and sale of products for the diagnosis of gonorrhea. Enzo has asserted a damage claim based on a contention that Enzo is entitled to a reasonable royalty on all sales of Gen-Probe products for the detection of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* bacteria from June 1993 through trial. Revenues from tests for the detection of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* have constituted a significant portion of Gen-Probe's revenues during the relevant period. The Company believes that the claims of the '659 patent are invalid, unenforceable and may not be properly interpreted to cover its products. On July 27, 2004, the District Court granted summary judgment in favor of the Company and other defendants, and against Enzo, holding that the '659 patent is invalid based on the on-sale doctrine. On September 30, 2005, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit affirmed the judgment in the Company's favor. Enzo did not file for rehearing within the time allowed. The Company does not know whether Enzo intends to seek review by petition for certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Company intends to vigorously

defend any further proceedings. There can be no assurance that the case will be resolved in the Company's favor.

Table of Contents*Bayer Corporation*

In November 2002, the Company filed a demand for arbitration against Bayer Corporation, or Bayer, in the Judicial Arbitration & Mediation Services, Inc., or JAMS, office in San Diego, California related to the Company's collaboration with Bayer for nucleic acid diagnostic tests for viral organisms. Under the terms of the June 1998 collaboration agreement, Bayer acquired the exclusive right to distribute nucleic acid diagnostic tests designed and developed by Gen-Probe for the detection of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis viruses and other specified viruses, subject to certain conditions. Gen-Probe's demand for arbitration stated that Bayer failed to fulfill the conditions required to maintain exclusive distribution rights. The arbitration demand sought confirmation that the agreement grants Gen-Probe, in the present circumstances, a co-exclusive right to directly distribute the viral diagnostic tests that are the subject of the agreement. In November 2003, Bayer filed a counterclaim for money damages based on alleged delays in the development of the TIGRIS instrument, alleged delays in the development of certain assays, and other claims. Bayer Healthcare LLC was also added as a respondent and counterclaimant. The hearing on the matter began on September 13, 2004 and closing arguments were completed on November 3, 2004.

On April 5, 2005, the arbitrator issued a Tentative Opinion and Award, and requested comments be submitted from the parties related to implementation of the decision. After considering and incorporating some of the parties suggestions, on June 24, 2005, the arbitrator issued an Interim Opinion and Award. The Interim Opinion and Award adopted all substantive rulings of the Tentative Opinion and Award. The arbitrator determined that the Company is entitled to a co-exclusive right to distribute qualitative Transcription-Mediated Amplification (TMA) assays to detect the hepatitis C virus (HCV) and HIV-1. Bayer previously held the exclusive rights to market these products. The arbitrator also determined that the collaboration agreement should be prospectively terminated, as the Company requested. As a result of a termination of the agreement, the Company will have the right to develop and market future viral assays that had been previously reserved for Bayer. Bayer will retain co-exclusive rights to distribute two products that it currently markets. Bayer also will be required to reimburse the Company \$2.0 million for the Company's legal fees and expenses related to the arbitration proceedings. As discussed in Note 3 Summary of significant accounting policies (Contingencies), the Company will not record any award for reimbursement of legal fees and expenses until the arbitration has been finalized and the cash has been received.

The arbitrator rejected Bayer's multimillion-dollar counterclaim for damages. In the June 2005 Interim Opinion and Award, the arbitrator also concluded that a brief additional hearing must be held to determine whether a royalty payment would be required as a result of the Company exercising its co-exclusive rights to distribute certain TMA assays, and, if so, the amount and beneficiary of such royalties. The additional hearing took place on September 14 and 15, 2005, and the parties submitted their final post-hearing briefs on October 7, 2005.

The arbitrator's decision in this matter is subject to a right to appeal to an arbitration appeal panel within JAMS. There can be no assurances as to the final outcome of the arbitration.

A separate patent infringement action that the Company filed in March 2004 against Bayer remains pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. This action alleges that Bayer's bDNA nucleic acid tests for HIV and HCV infringe Gen-Probe's U.S. patent no. 5,955,261, entitled Method for Detecting the Presence of Group-Specific Viral mRNA in a Sample, the 261 patent. Bayer's bDNA tests are not covered by the collaboration agreement between the companies. Bayer has denied the allegations of infringement and alleged that the 261 patent is invalid or unenforceable. On August 10, 2005, the Company subsequently amended its complaint to further allege that Bayer's HIV and HCV bDNA tests also infringe Gen-Probe's U.S. patent no. 5,424,413, entitled Branched Nucleic Acid Probes and Gen-Probe's U.S. patent no. 5,451,503, entitled Method for Use of Branched Nucleic Acid Probes. On August 23, 2005, Gen-Probe filed a second patent infringement action against Bayer, alleging that Bayer's bDNA nucleic acid test for hepatitis B virus (HBV) infringes the 261 patent and further alleging that Bayer's bDNA nucleic acid test for HCV infringes Gen-Probe's U.S. patent no. 5,030,557, entitled Means and Method for Enhancing Nucleic Acid Hybridization Assays.

No trial date has been set for either patent infringement case. There can be no assurances as to the final outcome of the litigation.

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On October 4, 2005, Bayer filed a demand for arbitration against the Company with the JAMS office in San Francisco, California related to the Company's collaboration with Bayer for nucleic acid diagnostic tests for viral organisms. At the same time, Bayer filed a civil lawsuit against the Company in Superior Court of Massachusetts for Middlesex County. In both the demand for arbitration and the complaint, Bayer alleges that the Company is developing real-time diagnostic assays for HIV and HCV that are covered by certain patents, without the authorization of the patent owner. The subject patents were issued to Chiron Corporation and licensed non-exclusively to Bayer. On October 17, 2005, the Company removed the state court suit to federal court in Boston. On October 21, 2005, Bayer moved to remand the case to the Massachusetts state court. On October 27, 2005, the Company filed a motion to dismiss or transfer the case. The Company intends to vigorously defend these allegations. However, there can be no assurance that these matters will be resolved in the Company's favor.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

This report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which provides a safe harbor for these types of statements. To the extent statements in this report involve, without limitation, our expectations for growth, estimates of future revenue, expenses, profit, cash flow, balance sheet items or any other guidance on future periods, these statements are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of performance. They involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions that may cause actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to differ materially from any results, level of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by any forward-looking statement. We assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statements.

The following information should be read in conjunction with our September 30, 2005 consolidated financial statements and related notes thereto included elsewhere in this quarterly report and with our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto for the year ended December 31, 2004 and the related Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004. We also urge you to review and consider our disclosures describing various risks that may affect our business, which are set forth under the heading Risk Factors in this report and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004.

Overview

We are a global leader in the development, manufacture and marketing of rapid, accurate and cost-effective nucleic acid probe-based products that are used primarily for the clinical diagnosis of human diseases and for the screening of donated human blood. We have over 22 years of nucleic acid detection research and product development experience, and our products, which are based on our patented nucleic acid testing, or NAT, technology, are used daily in clinical laboratories and blood collection centers in countries throughout the world.

We have achieved strong growth in both revenues and earnings due principally to the success of our blood screening products which are used to detect the presence of human immunodeficiency virus (type 1), or HIV-1, and hepatitis C virus, or HCV, and hepatitis B virus, or HBV. Under our collaboration agreement with Chiron, we are responsible for the research, development, regulatory process and manufacturing of our blood screening products, while Chiron is responsible for marketing, sales, distribution and service of those products. Since 2002, we have also experienced strong growth in clinical diagnostics for sexually transmitted diseases, or STDs, due to the success of APTIMA Combo 2.

Recent Events**Financial Results**

Product sales for the third quarter of 2005 were \$68.9 million, compared to \$56.4 million in the same period of the prior year, an increase of 22%. The current quarter's product sales included approximately \$1.7 million due to the recognition of previously deferred revenue related to U.S. blood screening products shipped to Chiron's recently established third party warehouse, rather than directly to Chiron's end-customers. Net income for the third quarter of 2005 was \$16.4 million (\$0.31 per diluted share), compared to \$11.1 million (\$0.22 per diluted share) in the same period of the prior year, an increase of 48%. The current quarter's net income included the recognition of certain tax benefits, including our realization of favorable results from a third party R&D tax credit study. Total revenues for the third quarter of 2005 were \$76.3 million, compared to \$63.5 million in the same period of the prior year, an increase

of 20%.

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Product sales for the first nine months of 2005 were \$193.7 million, compared to \$164.1 million in the same period of the prior year, an increase of 18%. Net income for the first nine months of 2005 was \$43.3 million (\$0.83 per diluted share), compared to \$42.6 million (\$0.83 per diluted share) in the same period of the prior year, an increase of 2%. Total revenues for the first nine months of 2005 were \$218.0 million, compared to \$201.2 million in the same period of the prior year, an increase of 8%. The prior year period's net income and total revenues included a contract milestone of \$6.5 million from Chiron, and a license fee of \$7.0 million earned in connection with our cross-licensing agreement with Tosoh Corporation, or Tosoh. These amounts added approximately \$0.17 to diluted earnings per share, and \$13.5 million to revenues during the first nine months of last year.

Corporate Collaborations

In August 2005, we entered into a collaboration agreement with Millipore Corporation to develop, manufacture and commercialize NAT products for rapid microbiological and viral monitoring, exclusively for use in process monitoring in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical manufacturing industries. Under the terms of the agreement, we will be primarily responsible for assay development and manufacturing, while Millipore will manage worldwide commercialization of any products resulting from the collaboration.

In July 2005, we entered into a collaboration agreement with GE Infrastructure Water and Process Technologies, or GEI, a unit of General Electric Company to develop, manufacture and commercialize NAT technologies, exclusively designed to detect the unique genetic sequences of microorganisms in selected water testing applications. Under the terms of the agreement, we will be primarily responsible for assay development and manufacturing, while GEI will manage worldwide commercialization of any products resulting from the collaboration.

Licensing

In January 2005, bioMérieux and its affiliates exercised an option to develop diagnostic products for certain undisclosed disease targets using our patented ribosomal RNA technologies, pursuant to the terms of a September 2004 agreement. In exchange for these rights, bioMérieux and its affiliates paid us a \$4.5 million license fee, and \$0.25 million for an option fee. We recorded \$1.9 million as license revenue in the first quarter of 2005, based on the total number of targets that may eventually be selected. The amount and timing of additional revenue that we record will depend on the number of additional targets, if any, selected by bioMérieux, which also has options to develop diagnostic products for other disease targets by paying us up to an additional \$3.0 million by the end of 2006. We will receive royalties on the sale of any products developed by bioMérieux using our intellectual property.

In January 2005, we also entered into a license agreement with Corixa Corporation, or Corixa, and received the right to develop molecular diagnostic tests for 46 potential genetic markers in the areas of prostate, ovarian, cervical, kidney, lung and colon cancers. Pursuant to the terms of the agreement, we paid Corixa an initial access license fee of \$1.6 million and agreed to pay an additional \$3.2 million in two equal access fees of \$1.6 million on January 31, 2006 and January 31, 2007, unless we terminate the agreement prior to those dates. We recorded the initial \$1.6 million license fee as an intangible asset which is being amortized on a straight-line basis to research and development expense over the underlying life of the patents. We also agreed to pay Corixa milestone payments totalling an additional \$2.0 million on a product-by-product basis based on the occurrence of certain regulatory and/or commercial events. We agreed to pay Corixa additional milestone payments and royalties on net sales of any products developed by us using Corixa's technology.

Supply Agreement

In February 2005, we entered into a supply and purchase agreement with F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd. and its affiliate Roche Molecular Systems, Inc., or Roche. Under this agreement, Roche agreed to manufacture and supply to us DNA probes for HPV. We plan to use these probes in molecular diagnostic assays. Pursuant to the agreement, we paid Roche manufacturing access fees of \$20.0 million in May 2005 and we will pay \$10.0 million within 10 days of the occurrence of certain future commercial events, but not later than December 1, 2008. We also agreed to pay Roche transfer fees for the HPV products. The initial \$20.0 million manufacturing fee has been recorded as an intangible asset which, upon commercialization of the Company's HPV products, is expected to be amortized to cost of product sales over the economic life of the products.

Table of Contents**Product Development**

In October 2005, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, notified us that it considers our TIGRIS instrument for blood screening not substantially equivalent to our already cleared enhanced semi-automated instrument, or eSAS, for screening donated human blood with the Procleix Ultrio assay. The FDA made this determination in response to our 510(k) application for the TIGRIS instrument for blood screening. The TIGRIS instrument has already been cleared by the FDA for use with the APTIMA Combo 2 assay. We have discussed the determination with the FDA and are in the process of resolving the outstanding issues. On October 26, 2005, we received a complete review letter from the FDA setting forth additional questions regarding our Biologics License Application, or BLA, for the Procleix Ultrio assay itself. Based on the time it could take for us to respond to questions in this letter and the time for the FDA to evaluate the responses, we believe that approval of the Ultrio assay may be delayed into 2006. However, regulatory clearance or approval of these products may not be granted on a timely basis, or at all.

In August 2005, the FDA granted marketing clearance to use the APTIMA Combo 2 assay to test for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* from liquid Pap specimens collected and processed with Cytoc Corporation's ThinPrep 2000 system. This new indication for the APTIMA Combo 2 assay supplements the current tests we offer customers for STD testing. In addition, it provides physicians the convenience of intercepting Chlamydia infections and gonorrhea in conjunction with the ThinPrep Pap Test.

During the first quarter of 2005, we submitted a BLA for the West Nile virus, or WNV, assay to the FDA. Approximately 1,500 infected units of blood have been intercepted by blood centers using our WNV assay under an Investigational New Drug, or IND, application since testing was initiated in June 2003. In addition, our high-throughput TIGRIS instrument was used by several blood centers to screen both individual donor and pooled blood donations for WNV.

Arbitration Award

In April 2005, we received a Tentative Opinion and Award in our arbitration with Bayer HealthCare, LLC concerning the parties' collaboration for the development and sale of nucleic acid diagnostic tests for viral organisms. On June 24, 2005, the arbitrator issued an Interim Opinion and Award that adopted all substantive rulings of the Tentative Opinion and Award. The arbitrator determined that we are entitled to a co-exclusive right to distribute qualitative TMA assays to detect HCV and HIV-1. Bayer previously held the exclusive rights to market these products. The arbitrator also determined that the collaboration agreement should be prospectively terminated, as we requested. As a result of a termination of the agreement, we will have the right to develop and market future viral assays that had been previously reserved for Bayer. Bayer will retain co-exclusive rights to distribute two products that it currently markets. Further, the arbitrator determined that Bayer will be required to reimburse us \$2.0 million for our legal fees and expenses related to the arbitration proceedings. In the June 2005 Interim Opinion and Award, the arbitrator also concluded that a brief additional hearing must be held to determine whether a royalty payment would be required as a result of our exercise of our co-exclusive rights to distribute certain TMA assays, and, if so, the amount and beneficiary of such royalties. The additional hearing took place on September 14 and 15, 2005, and the parties submitted their final post-hearing briefs on October 7, 2005. The arbitrator's decision in this matter is subject to a right to appeal to an arbitration appeal panel within JAMS. There can be no assurances as to the final outcome of the arbitration.

Revenues

We derive revenues from three primary sources: product sales, collaborative research revenue and royalty and license revenue. The majority of our revenues come from product sales, which consist primarily of sales of our NAT assays tested on our proprietary instruments that serve as the analytical platform for our assays. We recognize as collaborative research revenue payments we receive from Chiron for collaborative research and development activities and for the products we provide to Chiron prior to regulatory approval. Our royalty and license revenues reflect fees paid to us by third parties for the use of our proprietary technology. For the nine months ended September 30, 2005, product sales, collaborative research revenues and royalty and license revenues equaled 89%, 9% and 2%, respectively, of our total revenues of \$218.0 million. For the same period in the prior year, product sales, collaborative research revenues, and royalty and license revenues equaled 81%, 10%, and 9%, respectively, of our total revenues of

\$201.2 million.

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Our primary source of revenue is the sale of clinical diagnostic and blood screening products in the United States. Our clinical diagnostic products include our APTIMA Combo 2, PACE 2, AccuProbe and Amplified Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Direct Test product lines. During the nine months ended September 30, 2005, we shipped approximately 16.4 million tests for the diagnosis of a wide variety of infectious microorganisms, including those causing STDs, tuberculosis, strep throat, pneumonia and fungal infections. The principal customers for our clinical diagnostics products include large reference laboratories, public health laboratories and hospitals located in North America, Europe and Japan.

Since 1999, we have supplied NAT assays for use in screening blood donations intended for transfusion. Our primary blood screening assay detects HIV-1 and HCV in donated human blood. Our blood screening assays and instruments are marketed through our collaboration with Chiron under the Procleix and Ultrio trademarks. We recognize product sales from the manufacture and shipment of tests for screening donated blood at the contractual transfer prices specified in our collaboration agreement with Chiron for sales to blood bank facilities located in countries where our products have obtained governmental approvals. Blood screening product sales are then adjusted monthly corresponding to Chiron's payment to us of amounts reflecting our ultimate share of net revenue from sales by Chiron to the end user, less the transfer price revenues previously recorded. Net sales are ultimately equal to the sales of the assays by Chiron to third-parties, less freight, duty and certain other adjustments specified in our agreement with Chiron, multiplied by our share of the net revenue. Our share of the net revenue was 43.0% with respect to sales of assays that include a test for HCV beginning the second quarter of 2002 (following FDA approval in February 2002) upon implementation of commercial pricing, through April 6, 2003, after which our share of net revenues from sales of assays that include a test for HCV was adjusted to 47.5%. Effective January 1, 2004, our share of net revenues from commercial sales of assays that include a test for HCV was permanently changed to 45.75% under our agreement with Chiron. With respect to commercial sales of blood screening assays under our collaboration with Chiron that do not include a test for HCV, such as possible future commercial tests for WNV, we will continue to receive reimbursement for our manufacturing costs plus 50% of net revenues. Our costs related to these products primarily include manufacturing costs.

Collaborative research revenue

We have recorded revenues related to use of our blood screening products in the United States and other countries in which the products have not received regulatory approval as collaborative research revenue because of price restrictions applied to these products prior to FDA license approval in the United States and similar approvals in foreign countries. For the nine month period ended September 30, 2005, we recognized \$13.4 million as collaborative research revenue, compared to \$13.7 million for the same period in the prior year, through our collaboration with Chiron from deliveries of WNV tests on a cost recovery basis. Our NAT assay to detect WNV is currently being used in clinical trials under an IND. For the nine months ended September 30, 2005, we recognized \$1.7 million in reimbursements for expenses incurred for WNV as collaborative research revenue. There were no reimbursements for WNV during the same period in the prior year. We expect to continue recognizing these sales as collaborative research revenue until FDA approval has been received, although there is no guarantee we ultimately will receive FDA approval.

In March 2003, we signed a definitive agreement with Chiron for the development and commercialization of the Procleix Ultrio assay. For the nine month periods ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, we recognized \$2.4 million and \$1.8 million, respectively, in reimbursements for expenses incurred related to the development of this assay. We expect to receive further reimbursement from Chiron for certain costs incurred during the development of the Procleix Ultrio and WNV assays. In January 2004, we commenced clinical trials of the Procleix Ultrio assay in the United States on our TIGRIS instrument. In September 2004, we filed a BLA with the FDA for this assay.

We recognize collaborative research revenue over the term of our strategic alliance agreement with Chiron as reimbursable costs are incurred. The costs associated with the reported collaborative research revenue are based on fully burdened full time equivalent, or FTE, rates and are reflected in our statements of income under the captions

Research and development, Marketing and sales and General and administrative, based on the nature of the costs. We do not separately track all of the costs applicable to our blood screening development collaboration with Chiron and,

therefore, are not able to quantify all of the direct costs associated with the collaborative research revenue.

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Royalty and license revenue

We recognize non-refundable up-front license fees over the performance period of the applicable agreement or at the time that we have satisfied all substantive performance obligations under such agreement. We also receive milestone payments for successful achievement of contractual development activities. Milestone payments are recognized as revenue upon the achievement of specified milestones when (i) we have earned the milestone payment, (ii) the milestone is substantive in nature and the achievement of the milestone is not reasonably assured at the inception of the agreement, and (iii) the fees are non-refundable. Any amounts received prior to satisfying our revenue recognition criteria are recorded as deferred revenue on our balance sheet.

Under the strategic alliance agreement we entered into with Chiron in June 1998, we have responsibility for research, development and manufacturing of the blood screening products covered by the agreement, while Chiron has responsibility for marketing, distribution and service of the blood screening products worldwide. During the first quarter of 2004, we recognized as royalty and license revenue, a \$6.5 million milestone payment from Chiron as we commenced clinical trials of the Procleix Ultrio assay on our TIGRIS instrument in the United States. An additional payment of \$10.0 million is due to us in the future under the agreement if we obtain FDA approval of our Procleix Ultrio assay for use on the TIGRIS instrument. There is no guarantee we will achieve this milestone and receive any additional milestone payments under this agreement.

Cost of product sales

Cost of product sales includes direct material, direct labor, and manufacturing overhead associated with the production of inventory on a standard cost basis. Other components of cost of product sales include royalties, warranty costs, instrument amortization and allowances for scrap.

In addition, we manufacture significant quantities of raw materials, development lots, and clinical trial lots of product prior to receiving FDA approval for commercial sale. During the nine month periods ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, our manufacturing facilities produced development lots for WNV and Procleix Ultrio assays. The majority of costs associated with these development lots are classified as research and development expense. The portion of a development lot that is manufactured for commercial sale outside the United States is capitalized to inventory and classified as cost of product sales upon shipment.

Our blood screening manufacturing facility has and will continue to operate below its potential capacity for the foreseeable future. A portion of this available capacity is utilized for research and development activities as new product offerings are developed for commercialization. As a result, certain operating costs of our blood screening facility, together with other manufacturing costs for the production of pre-commercial development lot assays that are delivered under the terms of an IND, are classified as research and development expense prior to FDA approval.

Research and development

We invest significantly in research and development, or R&D, as part of our ongoing efforts to develop new products and technologies. Our R&D expenses include the development of proprietary products and instrument platforms, as well as expenses related to the co-development of new products and technologies in collaboration with our strategic partners. R&D spending is expected to increase in the future due to new product development, clinical trial costs and clinical manufacturing costs; however, we expect our R&D expenses as a percentage of total revenues to decline in future years. The timing of clinical trials and development manufacturing costs is variable and is affected by product development activities and the regulatory process.

In connection with our R&D efforts, we have various license agreements that provide us with rights to develop and market products using certain technologies and patent rights maintained by third parties. These agreements generally provide for a term that commences upon execution of the agreement and continues until expiration of the last patent related to the technologies covered by the license.

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R&D expenses include the costs of raw materials, development lots and clinical trial lots of products that we manufacture. These costs are dependent on the status of projects under development and may vary substantially between quarterly or annual reporting periods. We expect to incur additional costs associated with the manufacture of developmental lots and clinical trial lots for our blood screening products and with further development of our TIGRIS instrument. Collaborative research revenues associated with these types of incurred costs have at times been realized in a period later than when costs were incurred due to the need for clarification on the extent of reimbursable costs.

Critical accounting policies and estimates

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations is based on our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, or U.S. GAAP. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. On an ongoing basis, we evaluate our estimates, including those related to revenue recognition, the collectibility of accounts receivable, valuation of inventories, long-lived assets, including patent costs and capitalized software, and income taxes. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities. Senior management has discussed the development, selection and disclosure of these estimates with the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

We believe there have been no significant changes during the nine months ended September 30, 2005 to the items that we disclosed as our critical accounting policies and estimates in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004, except for the items discussed below.

Revenue Recognition

We manufacture our blood screening products according to Chiron's demand specifications and transfer completed product to Chiron's virtual warehouse, which is located on our premises. Upon transfer to Chiron's virtual warehouse, we bill Chiron at an agreed upon transfer price, and Chiron remits payment within 30 days. In the past, we have recorded all amounts billed as deferred revenue until shipment from the virtual warehouse to Chiron's end-customers or Chiron's international warehouse. Upon shipment to the end customer or Chiron's international warehouse, we recognized blood screening product sales at the transfer price and recorded the related cost of products sold. We then adjusted blood screening product sales upon our receipt of customer revenue reports and a net payment from Chiron of amounts reflecting our ultimate share of net sales by Chiron of these products, less the transfer price revenues previously paid.

During the third quarter of 2005, our U.S. blood screening sales increased by approximately \$1.7 million due to the recognition of previously deferred revenue, resulting from our shipment of blood screening products from Chiron's virtual warehouse to their recently established third party warehouse, rather than directly to their end-customers. As of September 30, 2005, we had approximately \$11.3 million in deferred revenue on our balance sheet which reflects inventory that has been transferred to the virtual warehouse but has not yet been shipped to Chiron's end-customers. It is anticipated that the Chiron virtual warehouse will be substantially depleted and thereafter discontinued by early 2006.

Future Accounting Requirements

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, FASB, issued revised Statement 123, or SFAS No. 123(R), Share-Based Payment, which requires companies to expense the estimated fair value of employee stock options and similar awards. In April 2005, the SEC announced that the accounting provisions of SFAS No. 123(R) will be effective for the first quarter of 2006. We are in the process of determining how the new method of valuing stock-based compensation as prescribed in SFAS No. 123(R) will be applied to valuing stock-based awards granted after the effective date and the impact that the recognition of compensation expense related to such awards will have on our financial statements.

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The following table sets forth operating data as a percentage of total revenues:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Total revenues	100%	100%	100%	100%
Product sales	91%	89%	89%	81%
Collaborative research revenue	8%	9%	9%	10%
Royalty and license revenue	1%	2%	2%	9%
Operating expenses:				
Cost of product sales	28%	24%	26%	21%
Research and development	23%	25%	25%	25%
Marketing and sales	10%	10%	10%	10%
General and administrative	10%	14%	11%	12%
Total operating expenses	71%	73%	72%	68%
Income from operations	29%	27%	28%	32%
Total other income, net	2%	1%	2%	1%
Income before income taxes	31%	28%	30%	33%
Income tax expense	9%	10%	10%	12%
Net income	22%	18%	20%	21%

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2005	2004	% Change	2005	2004	% Change
Statement of income:						
Revenues:						
Product sales	\$ 69.0	\$ 56.5	22%	\$ 193.6	\$ 164.1	18%
Collaborative research revenue	6.3	5.5	15%	19.4	19.3	1%
Royalty and license revenue	1.0	1.5	(33%)	5.0	17.8	(72%)
Total revenues	76.3	63.5	20%	218.0	201.2	8%
Operating expenses:						
Cost of product sales	21.4	15.3	40%	57.2	42.3	35%
Research and development	17.5	15.6	12%	53.6	50.0	7%
Marketing and sales	7.6	6.6	15%	22.4	19.9	12%
General and administrative	7.8	9.1	(14%)	22.8	23.8	(4%)
Total operating expenses	54.3	46.6	17%	156.0	136.0	15%
Income from operations	22.0	16.9	30%	62.0	65.2	(5%)
Net income	\$ 16.4	\$ 11.1	48%	\$ 43.3	\$ 42.6	2%

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Net income per share						
Basic	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.22	45%	\$ 0.86	\$ 0.86	0%
Diluted	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.22	41%	\$ 0.83	\$ 0.83	0%
Weighted average shares outstanding						
Basic	50.7	49.7		50.5	49.3	
Diluted	52.5	51.5		52.4	51.3	

Amounts and percentages in these tables and throughout our discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations may reflect rounding adjustments. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole percentage.

Table of Contents***Product sales***

Product sales increased 22% in the third quarter and 18% in the first nine months of 2005 from the comparable periods in 2004. During the third quarter of 2005, product sales grew by \$12.5 million, primarily due to \$3.2 million in higher instrument sales, \$6.0 million in higher blood screening sales, and \$5.6 million in higher APTIMA Combo 2 assay sales, partially offset by a \$1.9 million decrease in PACE product sales. Blood screening product sales represented \$32.9 million, or 48% of product sales, in the third quarter of 2005, compared to \$24.2 million, or 43% of product sales, for the third quarter of 2004.

During the first nine months of 2005, the \$29.5 million increase in product sales from the prior year was primarily attributed to \$8.8 million in higher instrument sales, \$10.9 million in higher blood screening revenues, and \$16.1 million in higher APTIMA Combo 2 assay sales, partially offset by a \$4.7 million decrease in PACE product sales. Blood screening product sales represented \$89.3 million, or 46% of product sales, in the first nine months of 2005, compared to \$69.8 million, or 43% of product sales, for the first nine months of 2004. The increase in blood screening sales in the first nine months of 2005 was principally attributed to increased international Ultrio sales volume and an increase in instrument sales.

However, we expect increased competitive pressures related to our STD and blood screening products in the future, primarily as a result of the introduction by others of competing products into both the STD and blood screening markets and continuing pricing pressure as it relates to the STD market.

Collaborative research revenue

Collaborative research revenue increased 15% in the third quarter and 1% in the first nine months of 2005 from the comparable periods in 2004. The \$0.8 million increase in collaborative research revenue during the third quarter was primarily the result of a \$0.4 million increase in revenue for reimbursement from Chiron for WNV development costs, \$0.4 million in revenue for Ultrio assay development reimbursements and \$0.1 million in revenue for shipments of discriminatory HBV, or dHBV, assay to Chiron. These increases were partially offset by a \$0.2 million decrease in revenue due to completion of National Institutes of Health, or NIH, funding of our WNV assay development work during 2004.

The \$0.1 million increase in collaborative research revenue during the first nine months of 2005 was primarily the result of a \$1.7 million increase in revenue for reimbursement from Chiron for WNV development costs, \$0.6 million in revenue for Ultrio assay development reimbursements and \$0.6 million in revenue for shipments of our dHBV assay to Chiron. These increases were partially offset by a \$3.0 million decrease in revenue due to completion of NIH funding of our WNV assay development work during 2004.

Collaborative research revenue tends to fluctuate based on the amount of research services performed, the status of projects under collaboration and the achievement of milestones. Due to the nature of our collaborative research revenues, results in any one period are not necessarily indicative of results to be achieved in the future. Our ability to generate additional collaborative research revenues depends, in part, on our ability to initiate and maintain relationships with potential and current collaborative partners. These relationships may not be established or maintained and current collaborative research revenue may decline. In the event of FDA approval of our Procleix Ultrio assay, we would expect Chiron to implement commercial pricing related to the use of this product, which would result in an increase in product sales partially offset by a decrease in collaborative research revenue.

Royalty and license revenue

Royalty and license revenue decreased 33% in the third quarter and 72% in the first nine months of 2005 from the comparable periods in 2004. The \$0.5 million decrease in royalty and license revenue during the third quarter was principally attributed to a \$0.8 million decrease in net license income from Bayer for the licensing of rights to certain patented technology, partially offset by a \$0.3 million increase in our share of royalties from Chiron based upon Chiron's agreement with Laboratory Corporation of America for use of Chiron's HCV intellectual property for nucleic acid testing used in screening plasma donations in the United States.

The \$12.8 million decrease in royalty and license revenue during the first nine months of 2005 was principally attributed to (i) \$7.0 million in license fees earned from Tosoh in 2004 as part of our non-exclusive licensing agreement relating to NAT technologies effective in January 2004, (ii) a \$6.5 million milestone payment from Chiron in 2004 as we began clinical trial testing of the Procleix Ultrio assay on our fully automated TIGRIS instrument in the

United States, effective in the first quarter of 2004, and (iii) a \$2.6 million decrease in net license income from Bayer for the licensing of rights to certain patented technology. These decreases were partially offset

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by a \$1.3 million increase in license fee revenue recognized from bioMérieux in January 2005, which was based on the selection of targets pursuant to the terms of the September 2004 agreement between bioMerieux and us, and a \$1.8 million increase in our share of royalties from Chiron based upon Chiron's agreement with Laboratory Corporation of America for use of Chiron's HCV intellectual property for nucleic acid testing used in screening plasma donations in the United States.

Royalty and license revenue may fluctuate based on the nature of the related agreements and the timing of receipt of license fees. Results in any one period are not necessarily indicative of results to be achieved in the future. In addition, our ability to generate additional royalty and license revenue will depend, in part, on our ability to market and capitalize on our technologies. We may not be able to do so and future royalty and license revenue may decline.

Cost of product sales

Cost of product sales increased 40% in the third quarter and 35% in the first nine months of 2005 from the comparable periods in 2004. The increase was principally attributed to the volume increase in product cost of sales (\$3.3 million in the third quarter and \$7.1 million in the first nine months of 2005), including increased sales of TIGRIS instruments. Additionally, cost of product sales increased due to higher costs for international blood screening shipments and the amortization of capitalized software development costs related to our TIGRIS instrument. Cost of product sales may fluctuate significantly in future periods based on changes in production volumes for both commercially approved products and products under development or in clinical trials. Cost of product sales are also affected by manufacturing efficiencies, allowances for scrap or expired materials, additional costs related to initial production quantities of new products after achieving FDA approval, and contractual adjustments, such as instrumentation costs, instrument service costs and royalties.

Our gross profit margin on product sales decreased to 69% in the third quarter and to 70% in the first nine months of 2005 from 73% and 74% respectively, in the comparable periods in 2004. The decrease in gross profit margin in 2005 was principally attributed to increased sales of lower margin products, including TIGRIS instruments, higher international sales of blood screening products (which generally have had lower margin rates than domestic sales), and the amortization of capitalized software development costs, which began in the second quarter of 2004.

We anticipate that requirements for smaller pool sizes or ultimately individual donor testing of blood samples, if and when implemented, could result in lower gross margin rates, as additional tests would be required to deliver the sample results, unless a corresponding increase in sales pricing structure is implemented. We are not able to accurately predict the timing and extent to which our gross margin may be negatively affected as a result of smaller pool sizes or individual donor testing because we do not know the ultimate selling price that Chiron, our distributor, would charge to the end user if smaller pool sizes or individual donor testing were implemented. In general, international pool sizes are smaller than domestic pool sizes and, therefore, growth in blood screening revenues attributed to international expansion may lead to lower gross margin rates.

Research and development

Our R&D expenses include salaries and other personnel-related expenses, temporary personnel, outside services, laboratory and manufacturing supplies, pre-commercial development lots and clinical evaluation trials. R&D expenses increased 12% in the third quarter and 7% in the first nine months of 2005 from the comparable periods in 2004. The \$1.9 million increase in R&D spending during the third quarter of 2005 was primarily due to a \$2.2 million increase in expenses resulting from higher staffing levels to support product development projects, together with a \$1.2 million increase in development lot production, partially offset by a \$0.3 million decrease in expenses related to clinical trials for blood screening products, a \$1.0 million decrease in outside services related to TIGRIS instrument development costs, and a \$0.2 million decrease in professional fees.

During the first nine months of 2005, the \$3.6 million increase in R&D spending was principally the result of a \$6.2 million increase in expenses resulting from higher staffing levels and temporary labor to support development products, together with a \$1.0 million increase in development lot production, partially offset by a \$2.4 million decrease in clinical trials for blood screening products, and a \$1.1 million decrease in outside services.

Table of Contents**Marketing and sales**

Our marketing and sales expenses include personnel costs, promotional expenses, and outside services. Marketing and sales expenses increased 15% in the third quarter and 12% in the first nine months of 2005 from the comparable periods in 2004. The \$1.0 million increase in spending during the third quarter of 2005 was primarily due to an increase in salaries, benefits, commissions and other personnel related costs in our marketing, sales, and technical service organization.

During the first nine months of 2005, the \$2.5 million increase in marketing and sales expenses was principally the result of a \$2.3 million increase in salaries, benefits, commissions and other personnel related costs in our marketing, sales, and technical service organization, together with a \$0.2 million increase in spending for market research and convention shows to help support the TIGRIS system and to assess new market opportunities.

General and administrative

Our general and administrative, or G&A, expenses include personnel costs for finance, legal, strategic planning and business development, public relations and human resources, as well as professional fees, such as expenses for legal, patents and auditing services. The \$1.3 million, or 14%, decrease in spending during the third quarter of 2005 was primarily the result of a \$1.0 million decrease in spending on professional fees as the costs associated with the Bayer arbitration have decreased, together with a \$0.7 million decrease in non-cash compensation charges related to the 2004 departure of a former executive. These decreases were partially offset by a \$0.3 million increase in salaries, benefits and other personnel related expenses.

G&A costs decreased by \$1.0 million, or 4%, in the first nine months of 2005 due principally to a \$1.8 million decrease in professional fees, partially offset by a \$0.4 increase in salaries, temporary personnel and benefits resulting from higher staffing levels, together with a \$0.4 million increase in recruiting fees.

Total other income, net

Total other income, net generally consists of investment and interest income offset by interest expense on borrowing, minority interest, and other items. The \$0.5 million net increase in total other income during the third quarter and the \$1.9 million increase in the first nine months of 2005 were both primarily due to an increase in interest income resulting from higher average balances of our short-term investments and our portfolio shift to tax-free municipal bonds beginning in 2004.

Income tax expense

Income tax expense increased to \$6.9 million, or 29.6% of pretax income, in the third quarter of 2005, from \$6.6 million, or 37.3% of pretax income, in the same period of the prior year. During the first nine months of 2005, income tax expense decreased to \$22.1 million, or 33.7% of pretax income, from \$24.0 million, or 36.1% of pretax income, in the same period of the prior year. The decrease in our effective tax rate in 2005 was principally attributable to our realization of favorable results from an R&D tax credit study conducted by a third party, and a research funding contract signed with MLT, one of our U.K. subsidiaries.

Liquidity and capital resources

(In thousands)

	September 30, 2005	December 31, 2004	
Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments	\$ 220,685	\$ 193,826	
Working capital	257,211	234,202	
	Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2005	2004	\$ Change
Cash provided by (used in):			
Operating activities	\$ 68,181	\$ 46,385	\$ 21,796
Investing activities	(61,683)	(79,510)	17,827

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Financing activities	13,963	15,819	(1,856)
Purchases of property, plant and equipment (included in investing activities above)	(29,894)	(15,572)	(14,322)

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Historically, we have financed our operations through cash from operations, cash received from collaborative research agreements, royalty and license fees, and cash from capital contributions. At September 30, 2005, we had \$220.7 million of cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments.

The \$21.8 million increase in net cash provided by operating activities during the first nine months of 2005 included a \$9.9 million growth in income tax payable, a \$3.7 million increase in depreciation and amortization, and a \$8.9 million decrease in net inventory purchases from the same period of the prior year. The income tax payable change was attributed to the timing of payments made and a decrease in tax benefits associated with stock option exercises. The increase in depreciation and amortization was primarily due to amortization on additional licenses that were purchased, along with the amortization of capitalized software development costs, which began in the second quarter of 2004. The decrease in net inventory purchases in 2005 compared to 2004 was attributed to the 2004 commercialization of our TIGRIS instrument and the European launch of the Procleix Ultrio assay.

The \$17.8 million decrease in our investing activities during the first nine months of 2005 included a \$33.2 million decrease in purchases (net of sales) of short-term investments, partially offset by a \$14.3 million increase in our capital expenditures, primarily related to the construction of our new building. Further, during the second quarter of 2005, the Company paid \$1.5 million plus accrued interest to acquire the remaining outstanding shares of MLT.

Our expenditures for capital additions vary based on the stage of certain development projects and may increase in the future related to the timing of development of new product opportunities and to support expansion of our facilities in connection with those opportunities. The average age of our property, plant and equipment is approximately five years, which provides us flexibility in planning capital expenditures.

The \$1.9 million decrease in net cash provided by financing activities during the first nine months of 2005 was attributed to a \$0.4 million decrease in proceeds from the exercise of stock options and a \$1.5 million decrease in employee purchases of our common stock made through our Employee Stock Purchase Plan, or ESPP. On a going-forward basis, cash from financing activities will continue to be affected by proceeds from the exercise of stock options and receipts from sales of stock under our ESPP. We expect fluctuations to occur throughout the year, as the amount and frequency of stock-related transactions are dependent upon the market performance of our common stock, along with other factors.

We have an unsecured bank line of credit agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., which expires in July 2007, under which we may borrow up to \$10.0 million, subject to a borrowing base formula, at the bank's prime rate, or at LIBOR plus 1.0%. We have not taken advances against the line of credit since its inception. The line of credit agreement requires us to comply with various financial and restrictive covenants. At September 30, 2005, we were in compliance with all covenants.

In July 2004, we commenced construction of an additional building to expand our main San Diego campus. This new building will consist of an approximately 291,000 square foot outside shell, with approximately 190,000 square feet built-out with interior improvements. The additional space that will not initially be built-out will allow for future expansion. The first phase of this project is currently estimated to cost approximately \$44.0 million, of which \$23.4 million was capitalized to construction in-progress as of September 30, 2005. These costs are being capitalized as incurred and depreciation will commence upon our completion and use of the building, which is planned for 2006.

We have recently implemented a new Enterprise Resource Planning, or ERP, software system which cost approximately \$4.9 million in 2004. We have incurred \$2.4 million of costs during the first nine months of 2005 for further improvement to our ERP system and expect to incur an additional \$1.2 million of costs during the remainder of 2005.

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Contractual obligations and commercial commitments

Our purchase commitments include:

Roche. As part of our HPV DNA probes supply and purchase agreement, we paid Roche \$20.0 million in May 2005 and agreed to pay \$10.0 million upon achievement of certain future commercial events, but not later than December 1, 2008. In addition, we have agreed to pay Roche transfer fees for the HPV products.

Vendors. The Company is obligated to purchase raw materials used in manufacturing and instrumentation from two key vendors during 2005. The outstanding minimum purchase commitment for 2005 is approximately \$2.5 million.

Our supply commitments include:

Chiron. We are obligated to manufacture and supply our blood screening assay to Chiron, and Chiron is obligated to purchase all of the quantities of this assay specified on a 90-day demand forecast, due 90 days prior to the date Chiron intends to take delivery, and certain quantities determined on a rolling 12-month forecast.

Our primary short-term needs for capital, which are subject to change, are for expansion of our San Diego campus, continued research and development of new products, costs related to commercialization of blood screening products and purchases of the TIGRIS instrument for placement with our customers. Certain research and development costs may be funded under collaboration agreements with partners.

We believe that our available cash balances, anticipated cash flows from operations and proceeds from stock option exercises, and available line of credit will be sufficient to satisfy our operating needs for the foreseeable future. However, we operate in a rapidly evolving and often unpredictable business environment that may change the timing or amount of expected future cash receipts and expenditures. Accordingly, we may in the future be required to raise additional funds through the sale of equity or debt securities or from additional credit facilities. Additional capital, if needed, may not be available on satisfactory terms, if at all. Furthermore, debt financing may subject us to covenants restricting our operations.

We may from time to time consider the acquisition of businesses and/or technologies complementary to our business. We could require additional equity or debt financing if we were to engage in a material acquisition in the future. In August 2003, we filed a Form S-3 shelf registration statement with the SEC relating to the possible future sale of up to an aggregate of \$150 million of debt or equity securities. To date, we have not raised any funds under this registration statement.

Stock Options

Option program description

Our stock option program is a broad-based, long-term retention program that is intended to attract and retain talented employees and to align stockholder and employee interests. Our primary program consists of a broad-based plan under which stock options are granted to employees and directors. Substantially all of our employees have historically participated in our stock option program.

Table of Contents**General option and equity compensation plan information****Summary of Option and Equity Compensation Activity**

(Shares in thousands)

	Shares Remaining Available for Future Issuance	Options Outstanding Number of Shares to be Issued Upon Exercise	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Deferred Issuance Restricted Stock Award	Director Stock Purchases
December 31, 2003	3,647	5,473	\$ 18.10	20	
Grants	(2,084)	2,061	37.21	20	3
Exercises		(1,178)	14.15		(3)
Cancellations	352	(352)	24.97		
December 31, 2004	1,915	6,004	\$ 25.03	40	
Grants	(531)	509	44.83	20	2
Exercises		(728)	17.19		(2)
Cancellations	301	(301)	31.55		
September 30, 2005	1,685	5,484	\$ 27.55	60	

In-the-Money and Out-of-the-Money Option Information

(Shares in thousands)

	Exercisable		Unexercisable		Total	
	Shares	Wtd. Avg. Exercise Price	Shares	Wtd. Avg. Exercise Price	Shares	Wtd. Avg. Exercise Price
As of September 30, 2005						
In-the-Money	2,771	\$ 21.44	2,671	\$ 33.53	5,442	\$ 27.37
Out-of-the-Money ⁽¹⁾			42	\$ 50.63	42	\$ 50.63
Total Options Outstanding	2,771		2,713		5,484	

(1) Out-of-the-Money options are those options with an exercise price equal to or greater than the fair market value of Gen-Probe Common Stock,

\$49.45, at the
close of business
on September 30,
2005.

Risk Factors

The following information sets forth facts that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those contained in forward-looking statements we have made in this Quarterly Report and those we may make from time to time.

Our quarterly revenue and operating results may vary significantly in future periods and our stock price may decline.

Our operating results have fluctuated in the past and are likely to continue to do so in the future. Our revenues are unpredictable and may fluctuate due to changes in demand for our products, the timing of the execution of customer contracts, the timing of milestone payments, or the failure to achieve and receive the same, and the initiation or termination of corporate collaboration agreements. A significant portion of our costs also can vary substantially between quarterly or annual reporting periods. For example, the total amount of research and development costs in a period often depends on the amount of research and development costs we incur in connection with manufacturing developmental lots and clinical trial lots. We incurred substantial costs of manufacturing these lots in the first nine months of 2005 and expect to incur substantial manufacturing costs for these lots in the future. Moreover, a variety of factors may affect our ability to make accurate forecasts regarding our operating results. For example, our blood screening products and some of our clinical diagnostic products, such as APTIMA Combo 2, have a relatively limited sales history, which limits our ability to project future sales and the sales cycle accurately. In addition, we base our internal projections of our blood screening product sales and international sales of diagnostic products on projections prepared by our distributors of these products and therefore we are dependent upon the accuracy of those projections. Because of all of these factors, our operating results in one or more future quarters may fail to meet or exceed financial guidance we may provide from time to time and the expectations of securities analysts or investors, which could cause our stock price to decline. In addition, the trading market for our common stock will be influenced by the research and reports that industry or securities analysts publish about our business and that of our competitors.

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We are dependent on Chiron and other third parties for the distribution of some of our products. If any of our distributors terminates its relationship with us or fails to adequately perform, our product sales will suffer.

We rely on Chiron to distribute our blood screening products and Bayer to distribute some of our viral clinical diagnostic products. Commercial product sales by Chiron accounted for 41% of our total revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 35% of our total revenues for 2004. Our agreement with Chiron will terminate in 2010 unless extended by the development of new products under the agreement, in which case the agreement will expire upon the later of the end of the original term or five years after the first commercial sale of the last new product developed during the original term.

In February 2001, we commenced an arbitration proceeding against Chiron in connection with our blood screening collaboration. The arbitration was resolved by mutual agreement in December 2001. In the event that we or Chiron commence arbitration against each other in the future under the collaboration agreement, proceedings could delay or decrease our receipt of revenue from Chiron or otherwise disrupt our collaboration with Chiron, which could cause our revenues to decrease and our stock price to decline.

Our agreement with Bayer for the distribution of our products will terminate in 2010. In November 2002, we initiated an arbitration proceeding against Bayer in connection with our clinical diagnostic collaboration. Under the terms of the collaboration agreement, Bayer acquired the exclusive right to distribute nucleic acid diagnostic tests designed and developed by us for the detection of HIV, hepatitis virus and other specified viruses, subject to specific conditions. Our demand for arbitration stated that Bayer has failed to fulfill the conditions required to maintain exclusive distribution rights. In June 2004, the arbitrator issued an Interim Opinion and Award and determined, among other things, that we are entitled to a co-exclusive right to distribute qualitative Transcription-Mediated Amplification, or TMA, assays to detect HCV and HIV-1. Bayer previously held the exclusive rights to market these products. The arbitrator also determined that the collaboration agreement should be prospectively terminated, as we requested. As a result of a termination of the agreement, we will have the right to develop and market future viral assays that had been previously reserved for Bayer. Bayer will retain co-exclusive rights to distribute two products that it currently markets. The arbitrator's decision in this matter is subject to a right to appeal to an arbitration appeal panel within JAMS. There can be no assurances as to the final outcome of the arbitration.

We rely upon bioMérieux for distribution of certain of our products in most of Europe, Rebio Gen, Inc. for distribution of certain of our products in Japan and various independent distributors for distribution of our products in other regions. Our distribution agreement with bioMérieux terminates on May 1, 2006, although it may terminate earlier under certain circumstances. The distribution rights revert back to Gen-Probe upon termination. Our distribution agreement with Rebio Gen terminates on December 31, 2005. We have commenced discussions with Rebio Gen regarding renewing the distribution agreement. However, we may not be able to renew the agreement on favorable terms, or at all.

If any of our distribution or marketing agreements is terminated, particularly our agreement with Chiron, and we are unable to renew or enter into an alternative agreement, or if we elect to distribute new products directly, we will have to invest in additional sales and marketing resources, including additional field sales personnel, which would significantly increase future selling, general and administrative expenses. We may not be able to enter into new distribution or marketing agreements on satisfactory terms, or at all. If we fail to enter into acceptable distribution or marketing agreements or fail to market successfully our products, our product sales will decrease.

If we cannot maintain our current corporate collaborations and enter into new corporate collaborations, our product development could be delayed. In particular, any failure by us to maintain our collaboration with Chiron with respect to blood screening would have a material adverse effect on our business.

We rely, to a significant extent, on our corporate collaborators for the joint development and marketing of our products. In addition, we expect to rely on our corporate collaborators for the commercialization of some of our products. If any of our corporate collaborators were to breach or terminate its agreement with us or otherwise fail to conduct its collaborative activities successfully and in a timely manner, the pre-clinical or clinical development or commercialization and subsequent marketing of the products contemplated by the collaboration could be delayed or terminated. We cannot control the amount and timing of resources our corporate collaborators devote to our programs or potential products.

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The continuation of any of our collaboration agreements depends on their periodic renewal by us and our collaborators. Our agreement with Chiron will terminate in 2010 unless extended by the development of new products under the agreement, in which case it will expire upon the later of the original term or five years after the first commercial sale of the last new product developed during the original term. Subject to the final outcome of our arbitration with Bayer, the remaining provisions of our Bayer collaboration agreement will terminate in 2010. Both collaboration agreements are also subject to termination prior to expiration upon a material breach by either party to the agreement.

If any of our collaboration agreements is terminated, or if we are unable to renew those collaborations on acceptable terms, we would be required to devote additional internal resources to product development or marketing or to terminate some development programs or seek alternative corporate collaborations. We may not be able to negotiate additional corporate collaborations on acceptable terms, if at all, and these collaborations may not be successful. In addition, in the event of a dispute under our current or any future collaboration agreements, such as those under our agreements with Chiron and Bayer, a court or arbitrator may not rule in our favor and our rights or obligations under an agreement subject to a dispute may be adversely affected, which may have an adverse impact on our business or operating results.

If our TIGRIS instrument reliability does not meet market expectations, we may be unable to retain our existing customers and attract new customers.

Complex diagnostic instruments such as our TIGRIS instrument typically require operating and reliability improvements following their initial introduction. We believe that our experience with our TIGRIS instrument, now in its introduction stage, is consistent with the general experience for comparable diagnostic instruments. We have initiated an in-service reliability improvement program for our TIGRIS instrument and a number of improvements have been installed at customers' sites. If the continuous improvement program does not result in improved instrument reliability, we could incur greater than anticipated service expenses and market acceptance of the instrument could be delayed or otherwise adversely affected. We have also committed significant resources to our reliability improvement program. Our Vice President, Product Development is leading this effort as her primary assignment through the first quarter of 2006. However, these additional resources may not result in the desired improvements in the reliability of our TIGRIS instrument. Additionally, failure to resolve reliability issues as they develop could materially damage our reputation and prevent us from retaining our existing customers and attracting new customers.

We face intense competition, and our failure to compete effectively could decrease our revenues and harm our profitability and results of operations.

The clinical diagnostics industry is highly competitive. Currently, the majority of diagnostic tests used by physicians and other health care providers are performed by large reference laboratories, public health laboratories and hospitals. We expect that these laboratories will compete vigorously to maintain their dominance in the diagnostic testing market. In order to achieve market acceptance of our products, we will be required to demonstrate that our products provide accurate, cost-effective and time saving alternatives to tests performed by traditional laboratory procedures and products made by our competitors.

In the markets for clinical diagnostic products, a number of competitors, including F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd. and its subsidiary, Roche Molecular Systems, Inc., Abbott Laboratories, Becton Dickinson and Company and bioMérieux S.A., compete with us for product sales, primarily on the basis of technology, quality, reputation, accuracy, ease of use, price, reliability, the timing of new product introductions and product line offerings. In markets outside of the United States, other factors, including local distribution systems, complex regulatory environments and differing medical philosophies, types of disease and product preferences, influence competition as well. Some of our competitors have, and in the future these and other competitors may have, significantly greater financial, marketing, sales, manufacturing, distribution and technological resources than us. Moreover, these companies may have substantially greater expertise in conducting clinical trials and research and development,

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greater ability to obtain necessary intellectual property licenses and greater brand recognition than we do. In addition, we have licensed some of our proprietary technology relating to certain clinical diagnostic and food pathogen applications for use on specific instruments to bioMérieux, and we may license other technologies to potential competitors in the future. As a result, we may in the future compete with bioMérieux and these other licensees for sales of products incorporating our technology. Our competitors may be in better position to respond quickly to new or emerging technologies, may be able to undertake more extensive marketing campaigns, may adopt more aggressive pricing policies and may be more successful in attracting potential customers, employees and strategic partners than we are. Some of our competitors have developed real time or kinetic nucleic acid assays and semi-automated instrument systems for those assays. Our competitors may be further in the development process than we are with respect to such assays and instrumentation.

In the market for blood screening products, our primary competitor is Roche Molecular Systems, Inc. which received FDA approval of its Polymerase Chain Reaction, or PCR, based NAT tests for blood screening in December 2002. We also compete with blood banks and laboratories that have internally developed assays based on PCR technology, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, that markets an HCV antigen assay, and Abbott Laboratories with respect to immunoassay products. In the future, our blood screening products also may compete with viral inactivation technologies and blood substitutes.

Chiron, with whom we have a collaboration agreement for our blood screening products, retains certain rights to grant licenses of the patents related to HCV and HIV to third parties in blood screening. Chiron has granted HIV and HCV licenses to Roche Molecular Systems in the blood screening and clinical diagnostics fields. Chiron has granted HIV and HCV licenses in the clinical diagnostic field to Bayer Healthcare LLC, which also has the right to grant certain additional HIV and HCV sublicenses in the field to third parties. Chiron has granted an HCV license to Abbott and an HIV license to Organon Teknika (now bioMérieux) in the clinical diagnostics field. To the extent that Chiron grants additional licenses in blood screening or Bayer grants additional licenses in clinical diagnostics, further competition will be created for sales of HCV and HIV assays and these licenses could affect the prices that can be charged for our products.

Our profit margin percentage on the sale of blood screening assays may decrease upon the implementation of individual donor testing.

We currently receive revenues from the sale of the Procleix HIV-1/HCV blood screening assay for use with pooled donor samples. In pooled testing, multiple donor samples are initially screened by a single test. However, Chiron sells our Procleix HIV-1/HCV assay to blood collection centers on a per donation basis. We expect the blood screening market ultimately to transition from pooled testing to individual donor testing. A greater number of tests will be required for individual donor testing than are now required for pooled testing. Under our collaboration agreement with Chiron, we bear the cost of manufacturing our Procleix HIV-1/HCV assay. The greater number of tests required for individual donor testing will increase our variable manufacturing costs, including costs of raw materials and labor. If the price per donor or total sales volume does not increase in line with the increase in our total variable manufacturing costs, our gross profit margins from sales of the blood screening assay may decrease upon the adoption of individual donor testing. We are not able to predict accurately the extent to which our gross profit margin may be negatively affected as a result of individual donor testing, because we do not know the ultimate selling price that Chiron would charge to the end user if individual donor testing were implemented.

Because we depend on a small number of customers for a significant portion of our total revenues, the loss of any of these customers or any cancellation or delay of a large purchase by any of these customers could significantly reduce our revenues.

Historically, a limited number of customers has accounted for a significant portion of our total revenues, and we do not have any long-term commitments with these customers other than our collaboration agreement with Chiron. Our blood screening collaboration with Chiron accounted for 51% of our total revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2005, compared to 47% for the year ended December 31, 2004. Our blood screening collaboration with Chiron is largely dependent on two large customers in the United States, The American Red Cross and America's Blood Centers, although we did not receive any revenues directly from those entities. Chiron was our only customer that accounted for greater than 10% of our total revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2005. In addition,

Quest Diagnostics Incorporated, Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings and various state and city public health agencies accounted for an aggregate of 21% of our total revenues for the nine months ended

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September 30, 2005 and 20% of our total revenues for 2004. Although state and city public health agencies are legally independent of each other, we believe they tend to act similarly with respect to their product purchasing decisions. We anticipate that our operating results will continue to depend to a significant extent upon revenues from a small number of customers. The loss of any of our key customers, or a significant reduction in sales to those customers, could significantly reduce our revenues.

Intellectual property rights on which we rely to protect the technologies underlying our products may be inadequate to prevent third parties from using our technologies or developing competing products.

Our success will depend in part on our ability to obtain patent protection for, or maintain the secrecy of, our proprietary products, processes and other technologies for development of blood screening and clinical diagnostic products and instruments. Although we have 207 United States patents and 190 foreign patents, these patents, or any patents that we may own or license in the future, may not afford meaningful protection for our technology and products. The pursuit and assertion of a patent right, particularly in areas like nucleic acid diagnostics and biotechnology, involve complex determinations and, therefore, are characterized by substantial uncertainty. In addition, the laws governing patentability and the scope of patent coverage continue to evolve, particularly in biotechnology. As a result, patents might not issue from certain of our patent applications or from applications licensed to us. Our existing patents will expire by July 6, 2023, and the patents we may obtain in the future also will expire over time.

The scope of any of our issued patents may not be broad enough to offer meaningful protection. In addition, others may challenge our current patents or patents we may obtain in the future and, as a result, these patents could be narrowed, invalidated or rendered unenforceable, or we may be forced to stop using the technology covered by these patents or to license technology from third parties. Moreover, the laws of some foreign countries may not protect our proprietary rights to the same extent as do the laws of the United States. Any patents issued to us or our strategic partners may not provide us with any competitive advantages, and the patents held by other parties may limit our freedom to conduct our business or use our technologies. Our efforts to enforce and maintain our intellectual property rights may not be successful and may result in substantial costs and diversion of management time. Even if our rights are valid, enforceable and broad in scope, competitors may develop products based on technology that is not covered by our patents.

In addition to patent protection, we also rely on copyright and trademark protection, trade secrets, know-how, continuing technological innovation and licensing opportunities. In an effort to maintain the confidentiality and ownership of our trade secrets and proprietary information, we require our employees, consultants, advisors and others to whom we disclose confidential information to execute confidentiality and proprietary information agreements. However, it is possible that these agreements may be breached, invalidated or rendered unenforceable, and if so, there may not be an adequate corrective remedy available. Furthermore, like many companies in our industry, we may from time to time hire scientific personnel formerly employed by other companies involved in one or more areas similar to the activities we conduct. In some situations, our confidentiality and proprietary information agreements may conflict with, or be subject to, the rights of third parties with whom our employees, consultants or advisors have prior employment or consulting relationships. Although we require our employees and consultants to maintain the confidentiality of all confidential information of previous employers, we or these individuals may be subject to allegations of trade secret misappropriation or other similar claims as a result of their prior affiliations. Finally, others may independently develop substantially equivalent proprietary information and techniques, or otherwise gain access to our trade secrets. Our failure to protect our proprietary information and techniques may inhibit or limit our ability to exclude certain competitors from the market and execute our business strategies.

The diagnostic products industry has a history of patent and other intellectual property litigation, and we have been and may continue to be involved in costly intellectual property lawsuits.

The diagnostic products industry has a history of patent and other intellectual property litigation, and these lawsuits likely will continue. From time-to-time in the ordinary course of business we receive communications from third parties calling our attention to patents or other intellectual property rights owned by them, with the implicit or explicit suggestion that we may need to acquire a license of such rights. We have faced in the past, are currently facing, and may face in the future, patent infringement lawsuits by companies that control patents for products and services

similar to ours or other lawsuits alleging infringement of their intellectual property rights. In order to protect or enforce our intellectual property rights, we may have to initiate legal proceedings against third parties.

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Legal proceedings relating to intellectual property typically are expensive, take significant time and divert management's attention from other business concerns. The cost of this litigation could adversely affect our results of operations, making us less profitable. Further, if we do not prevail in an infringement lawsuit brought against us, we might have to pay substantial damages, including treble damages, and we could be required to stop the infringing activity or obtain a license to use the patented technology.

Recently, we have been involved in a number of patent disputes with third parties, including Bayer, some of which remain unresolved. Additionally, we hold certain rights in the blood screening and clinical diagnostics fields under Chiron patents covering the detection of HIV. In February 2005, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office declared two interferences related to Chiron's U.S. Patent No. 6,531,276 (Methods For Detecting Human Immunodeficiency Virus Nucleic Acid) (the "'276 patent). The first interference is between Chiron and Centocor, Inc., and pertains to Centocor's U.S. Patent Application No. 06/693,866 (Cloning and Expression of HTLV-III DNA) (the "'866 application). The second interference is between Chiron and Institut Pasteur, and pertains to Institut Pasteur's U.S. Patent Application No. 07/999,410 (Cloned DNA Sequences, Hybridizable with Genomic RNA of Lymphadenopathy-Associated Virus (LAV)) (the 410 application). Chiron is the junior party in both interferences. In February 2005, at about the time the interferences were declared, we received a letter from the Institut Pasteur regarding alleged infringement of Institut Pasteur's European Patent EP 0 178 978 (Cloned DNA sequences, hybridizable with genomic RNA of lymphadenopathy-associated virus, or LAV) (978 patent), by the HIV-1 nucleic acid screening assays performed on our Procleix system that is marketed and distributed by Chiron. There can be no assurances as to the ultimate outcomes of these matters.

We may be subject to future product liability claims that may exceed the scope and amount of our insurance coverage, which would expose us to liability for uninsured claims.

While there is a federal preemption defense against product liability claims for medical products that receive premarket approval from the FDA, we believe that no such defense is available for our products that we market under a 510(k) clearance. As such, we are subject to potential product liability claims as a result of the design, development, manufacture and marketing of our clinical diagnostic products. Any product liability claim brought against us, with or without merit, could result in the increase of our product liability insurance rates. In addition, our insurance policies have various exclusions, and thus we may be subject to a product liability claim for which we have no insurance coverage, in which case, we may have to pay the entire amount of any award. In addition, insurance varies in cost and can be difficult to obtain, and we may not be able to obtain insurance in the future on terms acceptable to us, or at all. A successful product liability claim brought against us in excess of our insurance coverage may require us to pay substantial amounts, which could harm our business and results of operations.

We are exposed to risks associated with acquisitions and other long-lived and intangible assets that may become impaired and result in an impairment charge.

As of September 30, 2005, we had approximately \$178.4 million of long-lived assets, including \$21.6 million of capitalized software relating to our TIGRIS instrument, goodwill of \$18.6 million and \$44.0 million of capitalized license and manufacturing fees, patents and purchased intangibles that have been included in License, manufacturing and other access fees on the face of the balance sheet. Additionally, we had \$33.1 million of land and building, \$4.6 million of leasehold improvements, \$27.3 million of construction in-progress and \$29.2 of equipment and furniture and fixtures. The carrying amounts of long-lived and intangible assets are affected whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of any asset may not be recoverable. These events or changes might include a significant decline in market share, a significant decline in profits, rapid changes in technology, significant litigation or other matters. Adverse events or changes in circumstances may affect the estimated undiscounted future operating cash flows expected to be derived from long-lived and intangible assets. If at any time we determine that an impairment has occurred, we will be required to reflect the impaired value as a charge, resulting in a reduction in earnings in the quarter such impairment is identified and a corresponding reduction in our net asset value. A material reduction in earnings resulting from such a charge could cause us to fail to be profitable in the period in which the charge is taken or otherwise fail to meet the expectations of investors and securities analysts, which could cause the price of our stock to decline.

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Our future success will depend in part upon our ability to enhance existing products and to develop and introduce new products.

The market for our products is characterized by rapidly changing technology, evolving industry standards and new product introductions, which may make our existing products obsolete. Our future success will depend in part upon our ability to enhance existing products and to develop and introduce new products, including with our industrial collaborators. We believe that we will need to continue to provide new products that can detect a greater number of organisms from a single sample. We also believe that we must develop new assays that can be performed on automated instrument platforms, such as our TIGRIS instrument.

The development of new or enhanced products is a complex and uncertain process requiring the accurate anticipation of technological and market trends, as well as precise technological execution. In addition, the successful development of new products will depend on the development of new technologies. We may be required to undertake time-consuming and costly development activities and to seek regulatory approval for these new products. We may experience difficulties that could delay or prevent the successful development, introduction and marketing of these new products. For example, we recently announced delays in FDA clearance for our TIGRIS instrument for blood screening with the Procleix Ultrio assay and regarding our BLA for the Procleix Ultrio assay itself. Regulatory clearance or approval of these and any other new products may not be granted by the FDA or foreign regulatory authorities on a timely basis, or at all, and such new products may not be successfully commercialized.

We expect to continue to incur significant research and development expenses, which may make it difficult for us to maintain profitability.

In recent years, we have incurred significant costs in connection with the development of our blood screening and clinical diagnostic products and our TIGRIS instrument. We expect our expense levels to remain high in connection with our research and development as we continue to expand our product offerings and continue to develop products and technologies in collaboration with our strategic partners. As a result, we will need to continue to generate significant revenues to maintain profitability. Although we expect our research and development expenses as a percentage of revenue to decrease in future periods, we may not be able to generate revenues and may not maintain profitability in the future. Our failure to maintain profitability in the future could cause the market price of our common stock to decline.

We may not have financing for future capital requirements, which may prevent us from addressing gaps in our product offerings or improving our technology.

Although historically our cash flow from operations has been sufficient to satisfy working capital, capital expenditure and research and development requirements, we may in the future need to incur debt or issue equity in order to fund these requirements as well as to make acquisitions and other investments. If we cannot obtain debt or equity financing on acceptable terms or are limited with respect to incurring debt or issuing equity, we may be unable to address gaps in our product offerings or improve our technology, particularly through strategic acquisitions or investments.

We may need to raise substantial amounts of money to fund a variety of future activities integral to the development of our business, including:

for research and development to successfully develop new technologies and products,

to conduct clinical trials,

to obtain regulatory approval for new products,

to file and prosecute patent applications and defend and assert patents to protect our technologies, including through costly litigation,

to manufacture additional products ourselves or through third parties,

to market different products to different markets, either through building our own sales and distribution capabilities or relying on third parties, and

to acquire new technologies, products or companies.

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If we raise funds through the issuance of debt or equity, including through the issuance of debt or equity securities pursuant to our Form S-3 shelf registration statement that we filed on August 29, 2003 with the SEC relating to the possible future sale of up to an aggregate of \$150 million of debt or equity securities, any debt securities or preferred stock issued will have rights, preferences and privileges senior to those of holders of our common stock in the event of a liquidation and may contain other provisions that adversely effect the rights of the holders of our common stock. The terms of any debt securities may impose restrictions on our operations. If we raise funds through the issuance of equity or debt convertible into equity, this issuance would result in dilution to our stockholders.

We may fund future acquisitions, if any, in part by issuing additional equity. If the price of our equity is unacceptably low or volatile due to market volatility or other factors, we may not be able to acquire other companies.

We have only one third-party manufacturer for each of our instrument product lines, which exposes us to increased risks associated with delivery schedules, manufacturing capability, quality control, quality assurance and costs.

We have one third-party manufacturer for each of our instrument product lines. KMC Systems is the only manufacturer of our TIGRIS instrument. MGM Instruments, Inc. is the only manufacturer of our LEADER series of luminometers. We are dependent on these third-party manufacturers, and this dependence exposes us to increased risks associated with delivery schedules, manufacturing capability, quality control, quality assurance and costs. We have no firm long-term commitments from KMC Systems, MGM Instruments or any of our other manufacturers to supply products to us for any specific period, or in any specific quantity, except as may be provided in a particular purchase order. If KMC Systems, MGM Instruments or any of our other third-party manufacturers experiences delays, disruptions, capacity constraints or quality control problems in its manufacturing operations or becomes insolvent, then product shipments to our customers could be delayed, which would decrease our revenues and harm our competitive position and reputation.

Further, our business would be harmed if we fail to manage effectively the manufacturing of our products. Because we place orders with our manufacturers based on our forecasts of expected demand for our products, if we inaccurately forecast demand, we may be unable to obtain adequate manufacturing capacity or adequate quantities of components to meet our customers' delivery requirements, or we may accumulate excess inventories.

We may in the future need to find new contract manufacturers to increase our volumes or to reduce our costs. We may not be able to find contract manufacturers that meet our needs, and even if we do, qualifying a new contract manufacturer and commencing volume production is expensive and time consuming. For example, qualifying a new manufacturer of our TIGRIS instrument would take approximately 12 months. If we are required or elect to change contract manufacturers, we may lose revenues and our customer relationships may suffer.

If we or our contract manufacturers are unable to manufacture our products in sufficient quantities, on a timely basis, at acceptable cost and in compliance with regulatory requirements, our ability to sell our products will be harmed.

We must manufacture or have manufactured our products in sufficient quantities and on a timely basis, while maintaining product quality and acceptable manufacturing costs and complying with regulatory requirements. In determining the required quantities of our products and the manufacturing schedule, we must make significant judgments and estimates based on historical experience, inventory levels, current market trends and other related factors. Because of the inherent nature of estimates, there could be significant differences between our estimates and the actual amounts of products we and our distributors require, which could harm our business and results of operations.

Significant additional work will be required for scaling-up manufacturing of each new product prior to commercialization, and we may not successfully complete this work. Manufacturing and quality control problems have arisen and may arise as we attempt to scale-up our manufacturing of a new product, and we may not achieve scale-up in a timely manner or at a commercially reasonable cost, or at all. In addition, although we expect some of our newer products and products under development to share production attributes with our existing products, production of these newer products may require the development of new manufacturing technologies and expertise. We may be unable to develop the required technologies or expertise.

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The amplified NAT tests that we produce are significantly more expensive to manufacture than our non-amplified products. As we continue to develop new amplified NAT tests in response to market demands for greater sensitivity, our product costs will increase significantly and our margins may decline. We sell our products in a number of cost-sensitive market segments, and we may not be able to manufacture these more complex amplified tests at costs that would allow us to maintain our historical gross margins. In addition, new products that detect more than one target organism will contain significantly more complex reagents, which will increase the cost of our manufacturing processes and quality control testing. We or other parties we engage to help us may not be able to manufacture these products at a cost or in quantities that would make these products commercially viable. If we are unable to develop or contract for manufacturing capabilities on acceptable terms for our products under development, we will not be able to conduct pre-clinical and clinical and validation testing on these product candidates, which will prevent or delay regulatory clearance or approval of these product candidates and the initiation of new development programs.

Our blood screening and clinical diagnostic products are regulated by the FDA as well as other foreign medical regulatory bodies. In some cases, such as in the United States and the European Union, certain tests may also require individual lot release testing. Maintaining compliance with multiple regulators, and multiple centers within the FDA adds complexity and cost to our overall manufacturing processes. In addition, our manufacturing facilities and those of our contract manufacturers are subject to periodic regulatory inspections by the FDA and other federal and state regulatory agencies, and these facilities are subject to Quality System Regulations requirements of the FDA. We or our contractors may fail to satisfy these regulatory requirements in the future, and any failure to do so may prevent us from selling our products.

Our products are subject to recalls even after receiving FDA approval or clearance.

The FDA and governmental bodies in other countries have the authority to require the recall of our products if we fail to comply with relevant regulations pertaining to product manufacturing, quality, labeling, advertising, or promotional activities, or if new information is obtained concerning the safety of a product. A government-mandated recall, or a voluntary recall by us, could divert managerial and financial resources and potentially harm our reputation with customers. In the past, we have had four voluntary recalls, which, in each case, required us to identify and correct the problem. For example, we experienced a recall in June 2004 as a result of a customer complaint about our Mycobacterium Tuberculosis product suggesting reduced stability of one of our reagents. The problem was identified and corrected and customers were provided with replacement reagent. Our products may be subject to additional recalls in the future. Future recalls could be more difficult and costly to correct, may result in the suspension of sales of our products, and may harm our financial results and our reputation.

Our sales to international markets are subject to additional risks.

Sales of our products outside the United States accounted for 21% of our total revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 15% of our total revenues for 2004. Sales by Chiron of our blood screening products outside of the United States accounted for 79% of our international revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 58% of our international revenues for 2004. Chiron has responsibility for the international distribution of our blood screening products, which includes sales in France, Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, Italy and other countries. Our sales in France and Japan that were not made through Chiron each accounted for 5% of our international sales for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 10% and 6%, respectively, for 2004.

We encounter risks inherent in international operations. We expect a significant portion of our sales growth, especially with respect to our blood screening products, to come from expansion in international markets. Other than Canada, our sales are currently denominated in United States dollars. If the value of the United States dollar increases relative to foreign currencies, our products could become less competitive in international markets. Our international sales also may be limited or disrupted by:

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the imposition of government controls,
export license requirements,
economic and political instability,
price controls,
trade restrictions and tariffs,
differing local product preferences and product requirements, and
changes in foreign medical reimbursement and coverage policies and programs.

We also may have difficulty introducing new products in international markets. For example, we do not believe our blood screening products will be widely adopted in Germany until we are able to offer an assay that screens for HBV, HAV, and parvo B19, as well as HIV-1 and HCV, or in Japan until we are able to offer an assay that meets particular Japanese requirements for screening for HBV, HIV-1 and HCV. Whenever we seek to enter a new international market, we will be dependent on the marketing and sales efforts of our international distributors.

In addition, we anticipate that requirements for smaller pool sizes or ultimately individual donor testing of blood samples, if and when implemented, could result in lower gross margin rates, as additional tests would be required to deliver the sample results, unless a corresponding increase in sales pricing structure is implemented. In general, international pool sizes are smaller than domestic pool sizes and, therefore, growth in blood screening revenues attributed to international expansion may lead to lower gross margin rates.

We believe that the international market for our products is important, and therefore we seek patent protection for our products in foreign countries where we feel such protection is needed. Because of the differences in foreign patent and other laws concerning proprietary rights, our products may not receive the same degree of protection in foreign countries as they would in the United States.

If third-party payors do not reimburse our customers for the use of our products or if they reduce reimbursement levels, our ability to sell our products will be harmed.

We sell our products primarily to large reference laboratories, public health laboratories and hospitals, substantially all of which receive reimbursement for the health care services they provide to their patients from third-party payors, such as Medicare, Medicaid and other domestic and international government programs, private insurance plans and managed care programs. Most of these third-party payors may deny reimbursement if they determine that a medical product was not used in accordance with cost-effective treatment methods, as determined by the third-party payor, or was used for an unapproved indication. Third-party payors also may refuse to reimburse for experimental procedures and devices.

Third-party payors' reimbursement policies may affect sales of our products that screen for more than one pathogen at the same time, such as our APTIMA Combo 2 product for screening for the causative agents of chlamydial infections and gonorrhea in the same sample. Third-party payors may choose to reimburse our customers on a per test basis, rather than on the basis of the number of results given by the test. This may result in laboratories and hospitals electing to use separate tests to screen for each disease so that they can receive reimbursement for each test they conduct. In that event, laboratories and hospitals likely would purchase separate tests for each disease, rather than products that test for more than one microorganism.

In addition, third-party payors are increasingly attempting to contain health care costs by limiting both coverage and the level of reimbursement for medical products and services. Levels of reimbursement may decrease in the future, and future legislation, regulation or reimbursement policies of third-party payors may adversely affect the demand for and price levels of our products. If our customers are not reimbursed for our products, they may reduce or discontinue purchases of our products, which would cause our revenues to decline.

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Disruptions in the supply of raw materials from our single source suppliers, including the Roche Molecular Biochemicals division of Roche Diagnostics GmbH, which is an affiliate of one of our primary competitors, could result in a significant disruption in sales and profitability.

We purchase some key raw materials used in the manufacture of our products from single-source suppliers. We may not be able to obtain supplies from replacement suppliers on a timely or cost-effective basis. For example, our current supplier of certain key raw materials for our amplified NAT assays, pursuant to a fixed-price contract, is Roche Molecular Biochemicals, and we have a supply agreement for nucleic acids for human papillomavirus with Roche Molecular Systems, each of which are affiliates of Roche Diagnostics GmbH, one of our primary competitors. A reduction or stoppage in supply while we seek a replacement supplier would limit our ability to manufacture our products, which could result in a significant reduction in sales and profitability. In addition, an impurity or variation in a raw material, either unknown to us or incompatible with our products, could significantly reduce our ability to manufacture products. Our inventories may not be adequate to meet our production needs during any prolonged interruption of supply. We have products under development which, if developed, may require us to enter into additional supplier arrangements. We also have single source suppliers for proposed future products. Failure to maintain existing supply relationships or to obtain suppliers for our future products, if any, on commercially reasonable terms would prevent us from manufacturing our future products and limit our growth.

We are dependent on technologies we license, and if we fail to license new technologies and rights to particular nucleic acid sequences for targeted diseases in the future, we may be limited in our ability to develop new products.

We are dependent on licenses from third parties for some of our key technologies. For example, our patented Transcription-Mediated Amplification technology is based on technology we have licensed from Stanford University and the chemiluminescence technology we use in our products is based on technology licensed by our consolidated subsidiary, Molecular Light Technology Limited, from the University of Wales College of Medicine. We enter into new licensing arrangements in the ordinary course of business to expand our product portfolio and access new technologies to enhance our products and develop new products. If our license with respect to any of these technologies is terminated for any reason, we will not be able to sell products that incorporate the technology. Third parties that license technologies to us also may be acquired by our competitors or may otherwise attempt to terminate or restrict our licenses for their commercial benefit. In addition, although our research staff seeks to discover particular nucleic acid sequences for targeted diseases, our ability to develop additional diagnostic tests for diseases may depend on the ability of third parties to discover particular sequences or markers and correlate them with disease, as well as the rate at which such discoveries are made. Our ability to design products that target these diseases may depend on our ability to obtain the necessary rights from third parties who make any of these discoveries. In addition, there are a finite number of diseases and conditions for which our NAT assays may be economically viable. If we are unable to access new technologies or the rights to particular sequences or markers necessary for additional diagnostic products on commercially reasonable terms, we may be limited in our ability to develop new diagnostic products.

If we fail to attract, hire and retain qualified personnel, we may not be able to design, develop, market or sell our products or successfully manage our business.

Competition for top management personnel is intense and we may not be able to recruit and retain the personnel we need. The loss of any one of our management personnel, particularly Henry L. Nordhoff, our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, or our inability to identify, attract, retain and integrate additional qualified management personnel, could make it difficult for us to manage our business successfully, attract new customers, retain existing customers and pursue our strategic objectives. Although we have employment agreements with our executive officers, we may be unable to retain our existing management. We do not maintain key person life insurance for any of our executive officers.

Competition for skilled sales, marketing, research, product development, engineering, and technical personnel is intense and we may not be able to recruit and retain the personnel we need. The loss of the services of any key sales, marketing, research, product development, engineering, or technical personnel, or our inability to hire new personnel with the requisite skills, could restrict our ability to develop new products or enhance existing products in a timely manner, sell products to our customers or manage our business effectively.

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We may not be able to hire or retain qualified personnel if we are unable to offer competitive salaries and benefits, or if our stock does not perform well.

We may acquire other businesses or form joint ventures that could decrease our profitability, result in dilution to stockholders or cause us to incur debt or significant expense.

As part of our business strategy, we intend to pursue acquisitions of complementary businesses and enter into technology licensing arrangements. We also intend to pursue strategic alliances that leverage our core technology and industry experience to expand our product offerings and geographic presence. We have limited experience with respect to acquiring other companies and forming collaborations, strategic alliances and joint ventures. If we make future acquisitions, we may not be able to integrate these acquisitions successfully into our existing business and we could assume unknown or contingent liabilities. Any future acquisitions by us also could result in large and immediate write-offs or the incurrence of debt and contingent liabilities, any of which could harm our operating results. Integration of an acquired company also may require management resources that otherwise would be available for ongoing development of our existing business. We may not identify or complete these transactions in a timely manner, on a cost-effective basis, or at all, and we may not realize the anticipated benefits of any acquisition, technology license or strategic alliance.

To finance any acquisitions, we may choose to issue shares of our common stock as consideration, which would result in dilution to our stockholders. If the price of our equity is low or volatile, we may not be able to acquire other companies. Alternatively, it may be necessary for us to raise additional funds through public or private financings. Additional funds may not be available on terms that are favorable to us.

We and our customers are subject to various governmental regulations, and we may incur significant expenses to comply with these regulations and develop products compatible with these regulations.

The clinical diagnostic and blood screening products we design, develop, manufacture and market are subject to rigorous regulation by the FDA and numerous other federal, state and foreign governmental authorities. The process of seeking and obtaining regulatory approvals, particularly from the FDA and some foreign governmental authorities, to market our products can be costly and time consuming, and approvals might not be granted for future products on a timely basis, if at all. For example, we were prohibited from commercially marketing our blood screening products in the United States until we obtained approval of our Biologics License Application from the FDA's Center for Biologic Evaluation and Research. Further, in October 2005, the FDA notified us that it considers our TIGRIS instrument for blood screening not substantially equivalent to our already cleared eSAS for screening donated human blood with the Procleix Ultrio assay. The FDA made this determination in response to our 510(k) application for the TIGRIS instrument for blood screening. We have discussed the determination with the FDA and are in the process of resolving the outstanding issues. On October 26, 2005, we received a complete review letter from the FDA setting forth additional questions regarding our BLA for the Procleix Ultrio assay itself. Based on the time it could take for us to respond to questions in this letter and the time for the FDA to evaluate the responses, we believe that approval of the Ultrio assay may be delayed into 2006. However, regulatory clearance or approval of these and other new products may not be granted on a timely basis, or at all.

We generally are prohibited from marketing our clinical diagnostic products in the United States unless we obtain either 510(k) clearance or premarket approval from the FDA. Delays in receipt of, or failure to obtain, clearances or approvals for future products could result in delayed, or no, realization of product revenues from new products or in substantial additional costs which could decrease our profitability.

In addition, we are required to continue to comply with applicable FDA and other regulatory requirements once we have obtained clearance or approval for a product. These requirements include, among other things, the Quality System Regulation, labeling requirements, the FDA's general prohibition against promoting products for unapproved or off-label uses and adverse event reporting regulations. Failure to comply with applicable FDA product regulatory requirements could result in, among other things, warning letters, fines, injunctions, civil penalties, repairs, replacements, refunds, recalls or seizures of products, total or partial suspension of production, the FDA's refusal to grant future premarket clearances or approvals, withdrawals or suspensions of current product applications and criminal prosecution. Any of these actions, in combination or alone, could prevent us from selling our products and harm our business.

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Outside the United States, our ability to market our products is contingent upon receiving marketing authorization from the appropriate foreign regulatory authorities. The requirements governing the conduct of clinical trials, marketing authorization, pricing and reimbursement vary widely from country to country. At present, we apply for foreign marketing authorizations at a national level, although within the European Union, registration procedures are available to companies wishing to market a product in more than one European union member state. In compliance with the European IVD Directive, we have taken action to register our products in the European market. This is an ongoing process as we register additional products and/or product modifications. Failure to receive, or delays in the receipt of, relevant foreign qualifications could prevent us from selling our products in foreign countries and harm our business.

As both the FDA and foreign government regulators have become increasingly stringent, we may be subject to more rigorous regulation by governmental authorities in the future. Our products and operations also are often subject to the rules of industrial standards bodies, such as the International Standards Organization. Complying with these rules and regulations could cause us to incur significant additional expenses, which would harm our operating results.

The use of our diagnostic products is also affected by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988, or CLIA, and related federal and state regulations which provide for regulation of laboratory testing. CLIA is intended to ensure the quality and reliability of clinical laboratories in the United States by mandating specific standards in the areas of personnel qualifications, administration, participation in proficiency testing, patient test management, quality and inspections. Current or future CLIA requirements or the promulgation of additional regulations affecting laboratory testing may prevent some clinical laboratories from using any or all of our diagnostic products.

If a natural or man-made disaster strikes our manufacturing facilities, we will be unable to manufacture our products for a substantial amount of time and our sales will decline.

We manufacture products in our two manufacturing facilities located in San Diego, California. These facilities and the manufacturing equipment we use to produce our products would be costly to replace and could require substantial lead time to repair or replace. Our facilities may be harmed by natural or man-made disasters, including, without limitation, earthquakes and fires, and in the event they are affected by a disaster, we would be forced to rely on third-party manufacturers. In the event of a disaster, we may lose customers and we may be unable to regain those customers thereafter. Although we possess insurance for damage to our property and the disruption of our business from casualties, this insurance may not be sufficient to cover all of our potential losses and may not continue to be available to us on acceptable terms, or at all.

If we use biological and hazardous materials in a manner that causes injury or violates laws, we may be liable for damages.

Our research and development activities and our manufacturing activities involve the controlled use of infectious diseases, potentially harmful biological materials, as well as hazardous materials, chemicals and various radioactive compounds. We cannot completely eliminate the risk of accidental contamination or injury, and we could be held liable for damages that result from such contamination or injury. In addition, we are subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations governing the use, storage, handling and disposal of these materials and specified waste products. The damages resulting from any accidental contamination and the cost of compliance with environmental laws and regulations could be significant.

The anti-takeover provisions of our certificate of incorporation and by-laws, provisions of Delaware law and our rights plan could delay or prevent a change of control that our stockholders may favor.

Provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws may discourage, delay or prevent a merger or other change of control that stockholders may consider favorable or may impede the ability of the holders of our common stock to change our management. The provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws, among other things:

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divide our board of directors into three classes, with members of each class to be elected for staggered three-year terms,

limit the right of stockholders to remove directors,

regulate how stockholders may present proposals or nominate directors for election at annual meetings of stockholders, and

authorize our board of directors to issue preferred stock in one or more series, without stockholder approval.

In addition, because we have not chosen to be exempt from Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, this provision could also delay or prevent a change of control that our stockholders may favor. Section 203 provides that, subject to limited exceptions, persons that acquire, or are affiliated with a person that acquires, more than 15 percent of the outstanding voting stock of a Delaware corporation shall not engage in any business combination with that corporation, including by merger, consolidation or acquisitions of additional shares, for a three-year period following the date on which that person or its affiliate crosses the 15 percent stock ownership threshold.

We also adopted a rights plan that could discourage, delay or prevent an acquisition of us under certain circumstances. The rights plan provides for preferred stock purchase rights attached to each share of our common stock, which will cause substantial dilution to a person or group acquiring 15% or more of our stock if the acquisition is not approved by our Board of Directors.

We may not successfully integrate acquired businesses or technologies.

Through a series of transactions consummated in August 2003 and May 2005, we acquired all of the outstanding shares of Molecular Light Technology Limited and its subsidiaries and, in the future, we may acquire additional businesses or technologies, or enter into strategic transactions. Managing these acquisitions and any future acquisitions will entail numerous operational and financial risks, including:

the inability to retain or replace key employees of any acquired businesses or hire enough qualified personnel to staff any new or expanded operations;

the impairment of relationships with key customers of acquired businesses due to changes in management and ownership of the acquired businesses;

the exposure to federal, state, local and foreign tax liabilities in connection with any acquisition or the integration of any acquired businesses;

the exposure to unknown liabilities;

higher than expected acquisition and integration costs that could cause our quarterly and annual operating results to fluctuate;

increased amortization expenses if an acquisition results in significant goodwill or other intangible assets;

combining the operations and personnel of acquired businesses with our own, which could be difficult and costly; and

integrating or completing the development and application of any acquired technologies, which could disrupt our business and divert our management's time and attention.

If we do not effectively manage our growth, it could affect our ability to pursue opportunities and expand our business.

Growth in our business has placed and may continue to place a significant strain on our personnel, facilities, management systems and resources. We will need to continue to improve our operational and financial systems and

managerial controls and procedures and train and manage our workforce. We will have to maintain close coordination among our various departments. If we fail to effectively manage our growth, it could adversely affect our ability to pursue business opportunities and expand our business.

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A change in accounting standards or practices or a change in existing taxation rules or practices can have a significant effect on our reported results and may even affect our reporting of transactions completed before the change is effective. New accounting pronouncements and taxation rules and varying interpretations of accounting pronouncements and taxation practice have occurred and may occur in the future. Changes to existing rules or the questioning of current practices may adversely affect our reported financial results or the way we conduct our business. For example, in December 2004, the FASB issued SFAS No. 123(R), Share-Based Payment, which is a revision of SFAS No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation. In April 2005, the SEC approved a vote that will effectively require us to adopt this statement on January 1, 2006. This statement eliminates the ability to account for stock-based compensation using the intrinsic value method allowed under APB 25 and requires such transactions to be recognized as compensation expense in the statement of income based on the fair values on the date of grant, with the compensation expense recognized over the period in which an employee or director is required to provide service in exchange for the stock award. This new requirement will negatively impact our earnings. For example, recording a charge for employee stock options under SFAS No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation, would have reduced our net income by \$3.9 million and \$2.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively, and \$12.3 million and \$7.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

Systems implementation issues could disrupt our internal operations and adversely affect our financial results.

Portions of our information technology infrastructure may experience interruptions, delays or cessations of service or produce errors in connection with ongoing systems implementation work. In particular, we have recently implemented a new ERP software system to replace our various legacy systems. As a part of this effort, we are transitioning data and changing processes that may be more expensive, time consuming and resource intensive than planned. Any disruptions that may occur in the continued implementation of this new system or any future systems could increase our expenses and adversely affect our ability to report in an accurate and timely manner the results of our consolidated operations, our financial position and cash flow and to otherwise operate our business, which could adversely affect our financial results, stock price and reputation.

Our forecasts and other forward looking statements are based upon various assumptions that are subject to significant uncertainties that may result in our failure to achieve our forecasted results.

From time to time in press releases, conference calls and otherwise, we may publish or make forecasts or other forward looking statements regarding our future results, including estimated earnings per share and other operating and financial metrics. Our forecasts are based upon various assumptions that are subject to significant uncertainties and any number of them may prove incorrect. For example, our estimated earnings per share are based in part upon a forecast of our weighted average shares outstanding at the time of our estimate. Our achievement of any forecasts depends upon numerous factors, many of which are beyond our control. Consequently, our performance may not be consistent with management forecasts. Variations from forecasts and other forward looking statements may be material and adverse and could adversely affect our stock price and reputation.

Compliance with changing corporate governance and public disclosure regulations may result in additional expenses.

Changing laws, regulations and standards relating to corporate governance and public disclosure, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, new SEC regulations and Nasdaq Stock Market rules, are creating uncertainty for companies such as ours. To maintain high standards of corporate governance and public disclosure, we have invested and intend to invest all reasonably necessary resources to comply with evolving standards. These investments have resulted in increased general and administrative expenses and a diversion of management time and attention from revenue-generating activities and may continue to do so in the future.

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Available Information

Copies of our public filings are available on our Internet website at <http://www.gen-probe.com> as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish them to, the SEC.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

Our exposure to market risk for changes in interest rates relates primarily to the increase or decrease in the amount of interest income we can earn on our investment portfolio. Our risk associated with fluctuating interest income is limited to our investments in interest rate sensitive financial instruments. Under our current policies, we do not use interest rate derivative instruments to manage this exposure to interest rate changes. We seek to ensure the safety and preservation of our invested principal by limiting default risk, market risk, and reinvestment risk. We mitigate default risk by investing in short-term investment grade securities. A 100 basis point increase or decrease in interest rates would increase or decrease our current investment balance by approximately \$2.7 million. While changes in our interest rates may affect the fair value of our investment portfolio, any gains or losses are not recognized in our statement of income until the investment is sold or if a reduction in fair value is determined to be a permanent impairment.

We are exposed to foreign exchange risk for expenditures in certain foreign countries, but the total receivables and payables denominated in foreign currencies at September 30, 2005 were not material. Under our collaboration agreement with Chiron, a growing portion of blood screening product sales is from western European countries. As a result, our international blood screening product sales are affected by changes in the foreign currency exchange rates of those countries where Chiron's business is conducted in Euros or other local currencies. We do not enter into foreign currency hedging transactions to mitigate our exposure to foreign currency exchange risks. Based on international blood screening product sales for the first nine months of 2005, a 10% movement of rates would result in a blood screening product sales increase or decrease of approximately \$2.6 million. We believe that our business operations are not exposed to market risk relating to commodity price risk.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

As of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, we carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the quarter ended September 30, 2005.

An evaluation was also performed under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of any change in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during our last fiscal quarter and that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting. That evaluation has included certain internal control areas in which we have made and are continuing to make changes to improve and enhance controls. During the first quarter of 2005, we implemented an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system which is expected to improve and enhance internal controls over financial reporting. This ongoing implementation has materially changed how transactions are being processed and has also changed the structure and operation of some internal controls. While the ERP changes materially affected our internal control over financial reporting during the first nine months of 2005, including the current quarter, the implementation has proceeded to date without material adverse effects on our internal control over financial reporting.

Except for the ERP implementation described above, there have been no other changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the three months ended September 30, 2005 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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We maintain disclosure controls and procedures and internal controls that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in our current and periodic reports is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures and internal controls, management recognized that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance of achieving the desired control objectives. In reaching a reasonable level of assurance, management necessarily was required to apply its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures. In addition, the design of any system of controls also is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions; over time, controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or the degree of compliance with policies or procedures may deteriorate. Because of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected.

PART II OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

A description of our material pending legal proceedings is disclosed in Note 12 – Litigation of the Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 1 of Part I of this report and is incorporated by reference herein. See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statement – Note 12 – Litigation. We are also engaged in other legal actions arising in the ordinary course of our business and believe that the ultimate outcome of these actions will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. However, due to the uncertainties inherent in litigation, no assurance can be given as to the outcome of these proceedings. If any of these matters were resolved in a manner unfavorable to us, our business, financial condition and results of operations would be harmed.

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Item 6. Exhibits

Exhibit Number	Description
2.1(1)	Separation and Distribution Agreement, dated and effective as of May 24, 2002, and amended and restated as of August 6, 2002, by and between Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. and Gen-Probe Incorporated.
3.1(1)	Form of Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Gen-Probe Incorporated.
3.2(5)	Certificate of Amendment of Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Gen-Probe Incorporated.
3.3(1)	Form of Amended and Restated Bylaws of Gen-Probe Incorporated.
3.4(5)	Certificate of Designations of the Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of Gen-Probe Incorporated.
4.1(1)	Specimen common stock certificate.
4.2(2)	Rights Agreement, dated as of September 16, 2002, between Gen-Probe Incorporated and Mellon Investor Services LLC, which includes the form of Certificate of Designations of the Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of Gen-Probe Incorporated as Exhibit A, the form of Right Certificate as Exhibit B and the Summary of Rights to Purchase Preferred Shares as Exhibit C.
4.3(3)	First Amendment to Rights Agreement, dated October 9, 2002, between Gen-Probe Incorporated and Mellon Investor Services LLC.
4.4(4)	Second Amendment to Rights Agreement, dated November 20, 2003.
10.83(6)	Employment Offer Letter, dated July 15, 2005, between Gen-Probe Incorporated and Stephen J. Kondor.
31.1	Certification dated November 4, 2005, of Principal Executive Officer required pursuant to 18 USC. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification dated November 4, 2005, of Principal Financial Officer required pursuant to 18 USC. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1	Certification dated November 4, 2005, of Principal Executive Officer required pursuant to 18 USC. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.2	Certification dated November 4, 2005, of Principal Financial Officer required pursuant to 18 USC. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

Filed herewith.

Indicates
management

contract or
compensatory
plan, contract or
arrangement.

- (1) Incorporated by reference to Gen-Probe's Amendment No. 2 to Registration Statement on Form 10 filed with the SEC on August 14, 2002.
- (2) Incorporated by reference to Gen-Probe's Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 17, 2002.
- (3) Incorporated by reference to Gen-Probe's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on November 14, 2002.
- (4) Incorporated by reference to Gen-Probe's Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 21, 2003.
- (5) Incorporated by reference to Gen-Probe's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with

the SEC on
August 9, 2004.

- (6) Incorporated by
reference to
Gen-Probe's
Report on Form
8-K filed with
the SEC on
August 1, 2005.

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SIGNATURES

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

DATE: November 4, 2005

By: /s/ Henry L. Nordhoff
Henry L. Nordhoff
Chairman, President and Chief
Executive Officer (Principal Executive
Officer)

DATE: November 4, 2005

By: /s/ Herm Rosenman
Herm Rosenman
Vice President Finance and Chief
Financial Officer (Principal Financial
Officer and
Principal Accounting Officer)