MINDSPEED TECHNOLOGIES, INC
Form 10-K
November 22, 2005

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UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-K
ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2005
Commission file number: 000-50499
MINDSPEED TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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

Registrant s telephone number, including area code:
(949) 579-3000
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:
None.
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:
Common Stock, $0.01 par value per share
(including associated Preferred Share Purchase Rights)

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes þ No o

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

The aggregate market value of the Registrant s voting and non-voting stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant as of the end of its most recently completed second fiscal quarter was approximately $190.5 million. Shares held by each officer and director and each person owning more than 5% of the outstanding voting and non-voting stock have been excluded from this calculation because such persons may be deemed to be affiliates of the Registrant. This determination of potential affiliate status is not necessarily a conclusive determination for other purposes. Shares held include shares of which certain of such persons disclaim beneficial ownership.

The number of outstanding shares of the Registrant s Common Stock as of October 28, 2005 was 106,030,117.

Documents Incorporated by Reference

Portions of the Registrant s Proxy Statement for the 2006 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A within 120 days after the end of the 2005 fiscal year, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this

Form 10-K.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

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

our competitive advantage;

the benefits of a fabless operation;

the importance of software drivers and application software;

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

the growth rate for products in the enterprise, network access and metro service areas and our position to increase market share;

the focus of our research and development spending on certain products and our expectation of the growth prospects for those products;

our belief that, during fiscal 2005, the levels of inventories at our customers and other issues that adversely affected our revenues late in fiscal 2004 have generally been resolved;

our ability to achieve design wins and convert wins into revenue;

the availability of raw materials, parts and supplies;

competition and the principal competitive factors for semiconductor suppliers, including time to market, product quality, reliability and performance, customer support, price and total system cost, new product innovation and compliance with industry standards;

the continuation of intense price and product competition, and the resulting declining average selling prices for our products;

our investments in research and development;

the value of our intellectual property;

the importance of attracting and retaining highly skilled, dedicated personnel;

our ability to achieve revenue growth and profitability, or to achieve positive cash flows from operations, and the expected period through which we will continue to incur significant losses and negative cash flows;

the importance of providing comprehensive product service and support;

the dependence of our operating results on our ability to introduce products on a timely basis;

the sufficiency of our existing sources of liquidity and expected sources of cash to fund our operations, research and development efforts, anticipated capital expenditures, working capital and other financing requirements for the next twelve months;

our expectation of paying our obligations relating to our restructuring plans and other obligations over their respective terms, and our intention to fund those payments from available cash balances and funds from product sales;

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the circumstances under which we may need to seek additional financing, our ability to obtain any such financing and any consideration of acquisition opportunities;

our expectation that our provision for income taxes for fiscal 2006 will principally consist of income taxes related to our foreign operations;

our restructuring plans, including expected workforce reductions and facilities closures and the timing and amount of payments to complete the actions, the source of funds for such payments, the impact on our liquidity and the resulting decreases in our research and development and selling, general and administrative expenses;

our plans relating to our use of stock-based compensation, the effectiveness of our incentive compensation programs and the expected amounts of stock-based compensation expense in future periods;

our belief that the financial stability of suppliers is an important consideration in our customers purchasing decisions;

the amount and timing of future payments under contractual obligations; and

the impact of recent accounting pronouncements.

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

market demand for our new and existing products and our ability to increase our revenues;

our ability to maintain operating expenses within anticipated levels;

our ability to reduce our cash consumption;

availability and terms of capital needed for our business;

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

the ability to attract and retain qualified personnel;

successful development and introduction of new products;

obtaining design wins and developing revenues from them;

pricing pressures and other competitive factors;

order and shipment uncertainty;

fluctuations in manufacturing yields;

product defects; and

intellectual property infringement claims by others and the ability to protect our intellectual property.

The forward-looking statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K are subject to additional risks and uncertainties, including those set forth in Item 1. Business under the heading Risk Factors and those detailed from time to time in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These forward-looking statements are made only as of the date hereof and, except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to update or revise any of them, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Mindspeed® and Mindspeed Technologies® are registered trademarks of Mindspeed Technologies, Inc. Other brands, names and trademarks contained in this report are the property of their respective owners.

For presentation purposes of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, references made to the years ended September 30, 2005, September 30, 2004 and September 30, 2003 relate to the actual fiscal years ended September 30, 2005, October 1, 2004 and October 3, 2003, respectively.

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PART I

Item 1. *Business*

Mindspeed Technologies, Inc. (we or Mindspeed) designs, develops and sells semiconductor networking solutions for communications applications in enterprise, access, metropolitan and wide-area networks. Our products, ranging from optical network transceiver solutions to voice and Internet protocol (IP) processors, are sold to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) for use in a variety of network infrastructure equipment, including mixed media gateways, high-speed routers, switches, access multiplexers, cross-connect systems, digital loop carrier equipment, IP private branch exchanges (PBXs) and optical modules. Service providers and enterprises use this equipment for the processing, transmission and switching of high-speed voice, data and video traffic, including advanced services such as voice over Internet protocol (VoIP), within different segments of the communications network. Our customers include Alcatel Data Networks, S.A., Cisco Systems, Inc., McData Corporation, Nortel Networks, Inc. and Siemens A.G.

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

Spin-off from Conexant Systems, Inc.

Mindspeed was originally incorporated in Delaware in 2001 as a wholly owned subsidiary of Conexant Systems, Inc. On June 27, 2003, Conexant completed the distribution to Conexant stockholders of all outstanding shares of common stock of Mindspeed (the distribution). In the distribution, each Conexant stockholder received one share of our common stock (including an associated preferred share purchase right) for every three shares of Conexant common stock held and cash for any fractional share of our common stock. Following the distribution, we began operations as an independent, publicly held company. Our common stock trades on the Nasdaq National Market under the ticker symbol MSPD.

Prior to the distribution, Conexant transferred to us the assets and liabilities of its Mindspeed business, including the stock of certain subsidiaries, and certain other assets and liabilities which were allocated to us under the Distribution Agreement entered into between us and Conexant. Also prior to the distribution, Conexant contributed to us cash in an amount such that at the time of the distribution our cash balance was $100 million. We issued to Conexant a warrant to purchase 30 million shares of our common stock at a price of $3.408 per share, exercisable for a period of ten years after the distribution. In connection with the Distribution, we and Conexant also entered into a Credit Agreement, an Employee Matters Agreement, a Tax Allocation Agreement, a Transition Services Agreement and a Sublease.

Industry Overview

Communications semiconductor products are a critical part of network infrastructure equipment. Network infrastructure OEMs require advanced communications semiconductor products such as digital signal processors, transceivers, framers, packet and cell processors and switching solutions that are highly optimized for the equipment employed by their customers. We seek to provide semiconductor products that enable network infrastructure OEMs to meet the needs of their service provider and enterprise customers in terms of system performance, functionality and time-to-market.

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Addressed Markets

Our semiconductor products are primarily focused on network infrastructure equipment applications in three segments of the broadly defined communications network: enterprise networks; network access service areas; and metropolitan area networks. The type and complexity of network infrastructure equipment used in these segments continues to expand, driven by the need for the processing, transmission and switching of digital voice, data and video traffic over multiple communication media, at numerous transmission data rates and employing different protocols. We also offer a limited number of products used in wide-area or long-haul networks.

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

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

Metropolitan Area Networks, or metro, service areas of the telecommunications network refer to the portion of a service provider s physical network that enables high-speed communications within a city or a larger regional area. In addition, it provides the communications link between network access service areas and the fiber optic-based, wide-area network. For metro equipment applications, communications semiconductors provide transmission and processing capabilities, as well as information segmentation and classification, and routing and switching functionality, to support high-speed traffic from multiple sources employing different transmission standards and communications protocols. These functions require signal conversion, signal processing and packet processing expertise to support the design and development of highly integrated mixed-signal devices combining analog and digital functions with communications protocols and application software. Typical network infrastructure equipment found in metro service areas that use our products include add-drop multiplexers, switches, high-speed routers, digital cross-connect systems, optical edge devices and multiservice provisioning platforms.

The telecommunications network, including the Internet, has evolved into a complex, hybrid series of digital and optical networks that connect individuals and businesses globally. These new larger bandwidth, data-centric networks integrate voice, data and video traffic, operate over both wired and wireless media, link existing voice and data networks and cross traditional enterprise, network access, metro and long haul service area boundaries. Network infrastructure OEMs are designing faster, more intelligent and more complex equipment to satisfy the needs of the service providers as they continue to expand their network coverage and

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service offerings while upgrading and connecting or integrating existing networks of disparate types. In this demanding environment, we believe network infrastructure OEMs select as their strategic partners communications semiconductor suppliers who can deliver advanced products that provide increased functionality, lower total system cost and support for a variety of communications media, operating speeds and protocols.

The Mindspeed Approach

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

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

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

semiconductor device architectures, including digital signal processors, mixed signal devices and programmable protocol engines, as well as analog signal processing capabilities;

highly optimized signal processing algorithms and communications protocols, which we implement in semiconductor devices; and

critical software drivers and application software to perform signal, packet and transmission processing tasks.

We believe the software drivers and application software are an increasingly important part of the semiconductor networking solutions we offer to OEMs.

Increasing Demand for Communications Semiconductors

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

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

Internet user growth;

higher network utilization rates; and

the popularity of VoIP and other bandwidth-intensive applications, such as wireless data transfer and video/multimedia applications.

We believe that incumbent telecommunications carriers and cable multiple service operators worldwide will continue to upgrade and expand legacy portions of their networks to accommodate new service offerings and to reduce operating costs.

In developing countries, we expect that service providers will continue the build-out of telecommunication networks, many of which were previously government owned.

Moreover, we expect that network infrastructure OEMs will outsource more of their semiconductor component requirements to semiconductor suppliers, allowing the OEMs to reduce their operating cost

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structure by shifting their focus and investment from internal application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) semiconductor design and development to more strategic systems development.

Strategy

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

Focus on Increasing Share in High-Growth, High-Margin Applications

We have established strong market positions for our products in the enterprise, network access and metro service areas of the telecommunications network. We believe the markets for semiconductor products that address these applications will grow at faster rates than the markets for network infrastructure equipment in general. In addition, products which address applications in the enterprise, network access and metro service areas and perform packet processing, transmission processing and/or signal processing functions typically command higher average selling prices and higher margins, primarily due to their functional complexity and their software content. These two key attributes are expected to make the enterprise, network access and metro service areas the most attractive market segments for the foreseeable future. We believe that our three core technology competencies, coupled with focused investments in product development, will position us to increase our share in those target areas.

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

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

In North America, we have cultivated close relationships with leading network infrastructure OEMs, including Cisco Systems, Inc., McData Corporation and Nortel Networks, Inc. Abroad, we have established close relationships with market leaders such as Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, TrueLight Corporation and Zhongxing Telecom Equipment Corp. (ZTE) in the Asia-Pacific region and Alcatel Data Networks, S.A., Nokia Corporation and Siemens A.G. in Europe.

Capitalize on the Breadth of Our Product Portfolio

We build on the breadth of our product portfolio of physical-layer devices, together with our signal and packet processing devices and communications software expertise, to increase our share of the silicon content in our customers products. We offer a range of complementary products that are optimized to work with each other and provide our customers with complete information receipt, processing and transmission functions. These complementary products allow infrastructure OEMs to source components that provide proven interoperability from a single semiconductor supplier, rather than requiring OEMs to combine and coordinate individual components from multiple vendors. In addition, we offer highly integrated products such as our family of Comcerto^{tm} VoIP processor solutions that provide our customers with a complete hardware and software solution in a single device. These integrated products perform functions typically requiring multiple discrete components and software. We believe that this strategy of offering both complementary and integrated products increases product performance, speeds time-to-market and lowers the total system cost for our customers.

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The breadth of our product portfolio also provides a competitive advantage for serving network convergence applications such as multiprotocol wireless-to-wireline connectivity. These applications generally require a combination of processing, transmission or switching functionality to move high-speed voice and data traffic using multiple communications protocols across disparate communications networks.

Provide Outstanding Technical Support and Customer Service

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

Products

We provide network infrastructure OEMs with a broad portfolio of advanced semiconductor networking solutions, ranging from physical-layer transceivers and framers to higher-layer network processors. Our products can be classified into three focused product families: high-performance analog products; multiservice access digital signal processor (DSP) products; and wide-area networking (WAN) communications products. These three product families are found in a variety of networking equipment designed to process, transmit and switch voice, data and video traffic between, and within, the different segments of the communications network.

High-Performance Analog Products

Our high-performance analog transmission devices and switching products support storage area networking, fiber-to-the-premise and broadcast video, as well as mainstream synchronous optical networking (SONET)/synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) and packet-over-SONET applications, typically operating at data transmission rates between 155 megabits per second (Mbps) and 4.25 gigabits per second (Gbps). Our transmission products include laser drivers, transimpedance amplifiers, post amplifiers, clock and data recovery circuits, serializers/deserializers, video reclockers, cable drivers and line equalizers. These products serve as the connection between a fiber optic or coaxial cable component interface and the remainder of the electrical subsystem in various network equipment and perform a variety of functions, including:

converting incoming optical signals from fiber optic cables to electrical signals for processing and transport over a wireline medium and vice-versa;

conditioning the signal to remove unwanted noise or errors;

combining lower speed signals from multiple parallel paths into higher speed serial paths, and vice-versa, for bandwidth economy; and

amplifying and equalizing weaker signals as they pass through a particular system s equipment, media or network.

Our switching products include a family of high-speed crosspoint switches capable of switching traffic within various types of network switching equipment. These crosspoint switches direct, or transfer, a large number of high-speed data input streams, regardless of traffic type, to different connection trunks for rerouting the information to new destination points in the network. Crosspoint switches are often used to provide redundant traffic paths in networking equipment to protect against the loss of critical data from spurious network outages or failures that may occur from time-to-time. Target equipment applications for our switching products include add-drop multiplexers, high-density IP switches, storage-area routers and optical cross-connect systems. In addition, we offer crosspoint switches optimized for standard and high-definition broadcast video routing and production switching applications at rates up to 1.5 Gbps.

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Multiservice Access DSP Products

Our software-configurable multiservice access DSP products serve as bridges for transporting voice, data and video between circuit-switched networks and packet-based networks. Our multiservice access DSP device architecture combines the performance of a digital-signal processor core with the flexibility of a microcontroller core to support our extensive suite of modulation techniques, echo cancellers, speech coders and communications protocols. These products process and translate voice, data and video signals and perform various management and reporting functions that help determine the appropriate amount of bandwidth required for transporting the signals to the next destination. They compress the signals to minimize bandwidth consumption and modify or add communications protocols to accommodate transport of the signals across a variety of different services and networks. Supported services include VoIP, voice-over-ATM (VoATM) and voice-over-DSL services, as well as wireline-to-wireless connectivity.

Our Comcerto™ family of voice-over-packet (VoP) communications processors includes a full range of pin-and software-compatible enterprise and carrier-class voice processing solutions that enable OEMs to provide scalable systems with customized features. The high-density members of this family, the Comcerto 600 and Comcerto 700 series processors and related software, provide a complete system-on-a-chip solution for carrier-class VoIP and VoATM applications. The Comcerto 600 is capable of handling more than 256 channels of both VoIP and VoATM traffic, while the Comcerto 700 supports more than 400 channels. Both are targeted for use in digital loop carriers and voice and media gateways designed to bridge wireless, wireline and enterprise networks.

The Comcerto 500 and 800 series solutions are designed for enterprise voice and data processing applications. The Comcerto 500 series is a silicon PBX-on-a-chip which supports all required voice processing functionality for up to 64 channels, including encryption. The Comcerto 800 series enables a new class of office-in-a-box systems by combining a high-quality VoP subsystem with a high-performance routing and virtual private network (VPN) engine. The Comcerto 800 series integrates voice processing, packet processing and encryption functionality into a single device for the rapidly growing market for VoP enterprise networks. This product is targeted for use in enterprise voice gateways, IP PBXs and integrated access devices (IADs).

Wide-Area Networking Communications Products

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

Our T1/ E1, T3/ E3 and SONET carrier devices incorporate high-speed analog, digital and mixed-signal circuit technologies and include multi-port framers and line interface units (LIUs) or transceivers for 1.5 Mbps to 155 Mbps data transmission. Framers format data for transmission and extract data at reception, while LIUs condition signals for transmission and reception over multiple media. Our link-layer products include multi-channel, high-level data link channel (HDLC) communications controllers and multi-channel, inverse multiplexing over ATM (IMA) traffic controllers. The IMA protocol enables the aggregation of multiple T1 or DSL lines to deliver higher data rates using existing ATM infrastructure while the HDLC protocol is used for the packetization of data and the transfer of messaging and signaling information across the network. We also offer a family of symmetric DSL (SDSL) transceivers which enable service providers to deliver Internet access at data transmission rates of 1.5 Mbps to 4.6 Mbps in both directions over copper wire, supporting telecommuting and branch office functions in North America.

Our high-performance ATM/ MPLS network processors are designed to offer advanced protocol translation and traffic management capabilities. Protocol translation occurs where different types of networks and protocols interconnect. Traffic management describes a collection of functions which are used to allocate optimally network bandwidth and allow service providers to provide differentiated services over their networks. Our software-programmable devices operate at data transmission rates from 1.5 Mbps to 2.5 Gbps. Our network processor devices address internetworking applications, including ATM segmentation and reassembly,

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and a variety of traffic management functions, including traffic shaping, traffic policing and queue management, required by these applications.

Our wide-area networking communications products are designed for use in a variety of equipment including digital loop carriers, DSL access multiplexers, add-drop multiplexers, switches, high-speed routers, digital cross-connect systems, optical edge devices, multiservice provisioning platforms, voice gateways and wireless base station controllers.

Customers

We market and sell our semiconductor networking solutions directly to leading network infrastructure OEMs. We also sell our products indirectly through electronic component distributors and third-party electronic manufacturing service providers, which manufacture products incorporating our semiconductor networking solutions for OEMs. Sales to distributors accounted for approximately 47% of our revenues for fiscal 2005. For fiscal 2005, distributors Avnet, Inc. and Alltek Technology Corporation and manufacturing service providers Jabil Circuit, Inc. and Sanmina-SCI Corporation accounted for 16%, 12%, 14% and 11%, respectively, of our net revenues.

Our top five direct OEM customers for fiscal year 2005 were Alcatel Data Networks, S.A., Fujitsu Limited, Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., Nortel Networks, Inc. and Zhongxing Telecom Equipment Corp. (ZTE). While our direct sales to these customers accounted for a total of approximately 9% of our fiscal 2005 net revenues, we believe indirect sales to these same customers represent a significant additional portion of our net revenues. Including indirect sales, we believe that Cisco Systems, Inc. accounted for approximately 22% of our fiscal 2005 net revenues and that no other OEM customer accounted for 10% or more of our net revenues. We believe that our significant indirect network infrastructure OEM customers for fiscal year 2005 also included McData Corporation, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Siemens A.G. and TrueLight Corporation.

Our customer base is widely dispersed geographically. Revenues derived from customers located in the Americas, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific region were 38%, 13% and 49%, respectively, of our total revenues for fiscal 2005. We believe a substantial portion of the products we sell to OEMs and third-party manufacturing service providers in the Asia-Pacific region is ultimately shipped to end-markets in the Americas and Europe. See Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data, including Note 2 and Note 14 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information on customers and geographic areas.

Sales, Marketing and Technical Support

We have a worldwide sales, marketing and technical support organization comprised of 113 employees as of October 28, 2005, located in 6 domestic and 8 international sales locations. Our marketing, sales and field applications engineering teams, augmented by 16 electronic component distributors and 20 sales representative organizations, focus on marketing and selling semiconductor networking solutions to worldwide network infrastructure OEMs.

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

Operations and Manufacturing

We are a fabless company, which means we do not own or operate foundries for wafer fabrication or facilities for device assembly and final test of our products. Instead, we outsource wafer fabrication, assembly and testing of our semiconductor products to independent, third-party contractors. We use mainstream digital

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complementary metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS) process technology for the majority of our products; we rely on specialty processes for the remainder of products. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (TSMC) is our principal foundry supplier of CMOS wafers and die. Our primary foundry supplier for specialty process requirements is Jazz Semiconductor, Inc. We use several other suppliers for wafers used in older products. We believe that the raw materials, parts and supplies required by our foundry suppliers are generally available at present and will be available in the foreseeable future.

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

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

Competition

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

Our principal competitors are Agere Systems, Inc., Analog Devices, Inc., Applied Micro Circuits Corporation, Centillium Communications, Inc., Conexant Systems, Inc., Gennum Corporation, Exar Corporation, Freescale Semiconductor, Inc., Infineon Technologies A.G., Integrated Device Technology, Inc., Maxim Integrated Products, Inc., PMC-Sierra, Inc., Texas Instruments Incorporated, Transwitch Corporation and Vitesse Semiconductor Corporation.

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

time-to-market;

product quality, reliability and performance;

customer support;

price and total system cost;

new product innovation; and

compliance with industry standards.

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

stronger financial position and liquidity;

longer presence in key markets;

greater name recognition;

access to larger customer bases; and

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

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

Backlog

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

Research and Development

We have significant research, development, engineering and product design capabilities. As of October 28, 2005, we had 308 employees engaged in research and development activities. We perform research and product development activities at our headquarters in Newport Beach, California and at 4 design centers. Our design centers are strategically located to take advantage of key technical and engineering talent. Our success depends to a substantial degree upon our ability to develop and introduce in a timely fashion new products and enhancements to our existing products that meet changing customer requirements and emerging industry standards. We have made and plan to make substantial investments in research and development and to participate in the formulation of industry standards. In addition, we actively collaborate with technology leaders to define and develop next-generation technologies.

We spent approximately $71.4 million, $79.6 million and $106.3 million on research and development activities in fiscal years 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively. The decreases in our research and development expenses reflect the workforce reductions and other cost reduction actions we implemented in fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

Intellectual Property

Our success and future revenue growth depend, in part, on the intellectual property that we own and develop, including patents, licenses, trade secrets, know-how, trademarks and copyrights, and on our ability to protect our intellectual property. We continuously review our patent portfolio to maximize its value to us, abandoning inapplicable or less useful patents and filing new patents important to our product roadmap. Our patent portfolio may be used to avoid, defend or settle any potential litigation with respect to various technologies contained in our products. The portfolio may also provide negotiating leverage in attempts to cross-license patents or technologies with third parties and it may provide licensing opportunities in the future. We rely primarily on patent, copyright, trademark and trade secret laws, as well as employee and third-party nondisclosure and confidentiality agreements and other methods to protect our proprietary technologies and processes. In connection with our participation in the development of various industry standards, we may be required to reasonably license certain of our patents to other parties, including competitors that develop products based upon the adopted industry standards. We have also entered into agreements with certain of our customers and granted these customers the right to use our proprietary technology in the event that we file for bankruptcy protection or take other equivalent actions. While in the aggregate our intellectual property is considered important to our operations, no single patent, license, trade secret, know-how, trademark or copyright is considered of such importance that its loss or termination would materially affect our business or financial condition.

Employees

As of October 28, 2005, we had 524 full-time employees, of whom approximately 350 were engineers. Our employees are not covered by any collective bargaining agreements and we have not experienced a work

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stoppage in the past five years. We believe our future success will depend in large part on our ability to continue to attract, motivate, develop and retain highly skilled and dedicated technical, marketing and management personnel.

Cyclicality

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

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

Risk Factors

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

We are incurring substantial operating losses, we anticipate additional future losses and we must significantly increase our revenues to become profitable.

We incurred a net loss of $62.6 million for fiscal 2005 compared to net losses of $93.2 million in fiscal 2004 and $750.4 million ($177.3 million, before the $573.2 million cumulative effect of a change in accounting for goodwill) in fiscal 2003. We expect that we will continue to incur significant losses and negative cash flows at least through the first half of fiscal 2006, and we may incur additional significant losses and negative cash flows in subsequent periods.

In order to become profitable, or to generate positive cash flows from operations, we must achieve substantial revenue growth. Our ability to achieve the necessary revenue growth will depend on increased demand for network infrastructure equipment that incorporates our products, which in turn depends primarily on the level of capital spending by communications service providers and enterprises. Through fiscal 2005, we have completed a series of cost reduction actions which have improved our operating cost structure. However, these expense reductions alone, without additional revenue growth, will not make us profitable. We may not be successful in achieving the necessary revenue growth or the expected expense reductions within the anticipated time frame, or at all. We may not achieve profitability or sustain such profitability, if achieved.

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

For fiscal 2005, our net cash used in operating activities was $30.2 million compared to net cash used in operating activities of $43.2 million for fiscal 2004 and $125.6 million for fiscal 2003. Our principal sources of liquidity are our existing cash balances, marketable securities and cash generated from product sales. As of September 30, 2005, our cash and cash equivalents totaled $15.3 million and our marketable securities totaled $40.9 million. We believe that our existing sources of liquidity will be sufficient to fund our operations, research and development efforts, anticipated capital expenditures, working capital and other financing requirements for at least the next twelve months. However, we cannot assure you that this will be the case, and

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if we continue to incur operating losses and negative cash flows in the future, we may need to reduce further our operating costs or obtain alternate sources of financing, or both. We may not have access to additional sources of capital on favorable terms or at all. If we raise additional funds through the issuance of equity, equity-based or debt securities, such securities may have rights, preferences or privileges senior to those of our common stock and our stockholders may experience dilution of their ownership interests.

We operate in the highly cyclical semiconductor industry, which is subject to significant downturns.

The semiconductor industry is highly cyclical and is characterized by constant and rapid technological change, rapid product obsolescence and price erosion, evolving technical standards, short product life cycles and wide fluctuations in product supply and demand. From time to time these and other factors, together with changes in general economic conditions, cause significant upturns and downturns in the industry in general, and in our business in particular. Periods of industry downturns have been characterized by diminished product demand, production overcapacity, high inventory levels and accelerated erosion of average selling prices. These factors have caused substantial fluctuations in our revenues and our results of operations in the past and we may experience similar fluctuations in our business in the future.

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

Our revenues and operating results have fluctuated in the past and may fluctuate in the future. These fluctuations are due to a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control. These factors include, among others:

changes in end-user demand for the products manufactured and sold by our customers;

the timing of receipt, reduction or cancellation of significant orders by customers;

fluctuations in the levels of component inventories held by our customers;

shifts in our product mix and the effect of maturing products;

availability and cost of products from our suppliers;

the gain or loss of significant customers;

market acceptance of our products and our customers products;

our ability to develop, introduce and market new products and technologies on a timely basis;

the timing and extent of product development costs;

new product and technology introductions by us or our competitors;

fluctuations in manufacturing yields;

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

intellectual property disputes; and

the effects of competitive pricing pressures, including decreases in average selling prices of our products.

The foregoing factors are difficult to forecast, and these, as well as other factors, could materially adversely affect our quarterly or annual operating results. If our operating results fail to meet the expectations of analysts or investors, they could materially and adversely affect the price of our common stock.

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

We are entirely dependent upon outside wafer fabrication facilities, known as foundries, for wafer fabrication services. Our principal suppliers of wafer fabrication services are TSMC and Jazz. We are also dependent upon third parties, including Amkor, for the assembly and testing of all of our products. Under our

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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We are subject to intense competition.

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

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

stronger financial position and liquidity;

longer presence in key markets;

greater name recognition;

more secure supply chain;

access to larger customer bases; and

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

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

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

Our success depends on our ability to develop competitive new products in a timely manner.

Our operating results will depend largely on our ability to continue to introduce new and enhanced semiconductor products on a timely basis. Successful product development and introduction depends on numerous factors, including, among others:

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

our ability to accurately define new products;

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

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

overall market acceptance of our products.

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

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anticipate new industry standards and technological changes. We also may not be able to respond successfully to new product announcements and introductions by competitors.

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

If we are not able to keep abreast of the rapid technological changes in our markets, our products could become obsolete.

The demand for our products can change quickly and in ways we may not anticipate because our markets generally exhibit the following characteristics:

rapid technological developments;

rapid changes in customer requirements;

frequent new product introductions and enhancements;

declining prices over the life cycle of products; and

evolving industry standards.

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

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

Our sales are typically made pursuant to individual purchase orders and we generally do not have long-term supply arrangements with our customers. Generally, our customers may cancel orders until 30 days prior to shipment. In addition, we sell a substantial portion of our products through distributors, some of whom have a right to return unsold products to us. Sales to distributors accounted for approximately 47% of our net revenues for fiscal 2005.

Because of the significant lead times for wafer fabrication and assembly and test services, we routinely purchase inventory based on estimates of end-market demand for our customers products, which may be subject to dramatic changes and is difficult to predict. This difficulty may be compounded when we sell to OEMs indirectly through distributors or contract manufacturers, or both, as our forecasts of demand are then based on estimates provided by multiple parties. In addition, our customers may change their inventory practices on short notice for any reason. The cancellation or deferral of product orders, the return of previously sold products or overproduction due to the failure of anticipated orders to materialize could result in our holding excess or obsolete inventory, which could result in write-downs of inventory. Conversely, if we fail to anticipate inventory needs we may be unable to fulfill demand for our products, resulting in a loss of potential revenue.