

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP
Form 10-Q
November 14, 2003

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

☒

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

For the Quarterly Period Ended September 30, 2003

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 1-13317

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)

13-3460176

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

6305 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, CA

(Address of principal executive offices)

92009

(Zip Code)

(760) 931-5500

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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 an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934). Yes ☒ No ☐

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

Common Stock, \$0.001 par value, 43,276,661 shares outstanding as of November 12, 2003.

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP.

FORM 10-Q

For the Quarter Ended September 30, 2003

INDEX

Part I. Financial Information

Item 1.

Financial Statements

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets-December 31, 2002 and September 30, 2003

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Operations-Three months ended September 30, 2002 and 2003 and nine months ended September 30, 2002 and 2003

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows-Nine months ended September 30, 2002 and 2003

Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

Item 2.

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Item 3.

Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Item 4.

Controls and Procedures

Part II. Other Information

Item 1.

Legal Proceedings

Item 2.

Changes in Securities and Use of Proceeds

Item 3.

Defaults Upon Senior Securities

Item 4.

Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

Item 5.

Other Information

Item 6.

Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K

Signatures

Part I. Financial Information

Item 1. Financial Statements

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(unaudited in thousands, except per share information)

	December 31, 2002		September 30, 2003	
ASSETS				
Current Assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	10,082	\$	172,635
Restricted cash		2,000		
Short-term investments				12,625
Accounts receivable, net of allowance of \$751 and \$827		6,304		14,669
Inventories		6,959		2,956
Prepaid expenses and other		2,313		2,404
Total current assets		27,658		205,289
Property and equipment, net		4,110		5,171
Other assets		460		1,929
Total assets	\$	32,228	\$	212,389
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY				
Current Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$	14,446	\$	27,090
Accrued compensation		1,754		3,043
Accrued expenses		1,614		2,109
Deferred revenue		1,110		1,025
Income taxes payable		1,020		973
Short-term debt		4,552		
Current portion of restructuring accrual		407		289
Total current liabilities		24,903		34,529
Restructuring accrual, net of current portion		1,179		764
Borrowings under lines of credit		275		259
Other long-term liabilities		86		62

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

Total liabilities		26,443		35,614
Contingencies (Note 11)				
Stockholders' Equity:				
Preferred stock, \$0.001 par value, 10,000 shares authorized, 6 and 0 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2002 and September 30, 2003, respectively				
Common stock, \$0.001 par value, 100,000 shares authorized, 25,172 and 43,125 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2002 and September 30, 2003, respectively		25		43
Additional paid-in capital		109,562		275,300
Deferred compensation		(48)		(33)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss		(318)		(322)
Accumulated deficit		(103,436)		(98,213)
Total stockholders' equity		5,785		176,775
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$	32,228	\$	212,389

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

AND COMPREHENSIVE OPERATIONS

(unaudited in thousands, except per share information)

	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2002		2003		2002		2003	
Net Revenue	\$	8,584	\$	50,979	\$	30,680	\$	129,928
Cost of Goods Sold		7,716		38,766		27,175		102,166
Gross Profit		868		12,213		3,505		27,762
Operating Expenses:								
Sales and marketing		4,224		3,454		17,719		10,266
Research and development		2,485		2,795		7,352		7,692
General and administrative		1,441		1,851		4,255		4,921
Total operating expenses		8,150		8,100		29,326		22,879
Operating Income (Loss)		(7,282)		4,113		(25,821)		4,883
Other Income (Expense):								
Interest income		53		133		340		256
Interest expense		(86)		(16)		(152)		(86)
Gain (loss) on foreign currency transactions, net		17		6		(8)		309
Other income (expense), net		18		70		(1)		50
Total other income, net		2		193		179		529
Income (Loss) Before Income Taxes		(7,280)		4,306		(25,642)		5,412
Income Tax Benefit (Expense)				(37)		3,300		(48)
Net Income (Loss)	\$	(7,280)	\$	4,269	\$	(22,342)	\$	5,364
Net Income (Loss) Attributable to Common Stockholders:								
Net income (loss)	\$	(7,280)	\$	4,269	\$	(22,342)	\$	5,364
Dividends on preferred stock								(141)
Net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders	\$	(7,280)	\$	4,269	\$	(22,342)	\$	5,223
Net Income (Loss) Per Share:								
Basic	\$	(0.29)	\$	0.13	\$	(0.90)	\$	0.17
Diluted	\$	(0.29)	\$	0.11	\$	(0.90)	\$	0.15

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

Weighted Average Shares Used to Calculate Net Income (Loss) Per Share:									
Basic		24,934		33,723		24,881		30,692	
Diluted		24,934		37,891		24,881		35,081	
Comprehensive Operations:									
Net income (loss)	\$	(7,280)	\$	4,269	\$	(22,342)	\$	5,364	
Foreign currency translation adjustments		18		233		(35)		56	
Net unrealized loss on short-term investments				(44)		(150)		(60)	
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$	(7,262)	\$	4,458	\$	(22,527)	\$	5,360	

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(unaudited in thousands)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2002		2003	
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:				
Net income (loss)	\$	(22,342)	\$	5,364
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:				
Depreciation and amortization		1,040		1,619
Loss on disposal of property and equipment				27
Provision for doubtful accounts and note receivable		603		76
Stock-based sales and marketing expenses		3,647		
(Gain) loss on sales of short-term investments		(71)		1
Stock-based compensation expense		32		15
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:				
Accounts receivable		1,786		(8,441)
Inventories		5,222		4,003
Prepaid expenses and other assets		(20)		(1,560)
Accounts payable		2,912		12,644
Accrued compensation and other expenses		(219)		1,800
Deferred revenue		(107)		(85)
Income taxes payable		(2,436)		(47)
Restructuring accrual		(984)		(533)
Other liabilities		(10)		(24)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		(10,947)		14,859
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:				
Purchases of property and equipment		(844)		(2,707)
Sales of short-term investments		8,637		2,505
Purchases of short-term investments		(45)		(15,191)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		7,748		(15,393)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities:				
(Increase) decrease in restricted cash and investments		(9,219)		2,000
Proceeds from bank and other borrowings		21,018		36,483
Payments on bank and other borrowings		(11,838)		(41,051)

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

Proceeds from issuance of common stock and stock warrants, net of issuance costs				161,719
Proceeds from exercise of stock options		25		3,278
Proceeds from sale of stock to employees		477		759
Dividends paid to preferred stockholders				(157)
Net cash provided by financing activities		463		163,031
Effect of Exchange Rate Changes on Cash		(35)		56
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents		(2,771)		162,553
Cash and Cash Equivalents, beginning of period		7,785		10,082
Cash and Cash Equivalents, end of period	\$	5,014	\$	172,635
Supplemental Disclosures of Cash Flow Information:				
Cash paid for interest	\$	127	\$	78
Cash paid for income taxes	\$	103	\$	95

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited)

1. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared by Dot Hill Systems Corp. (Dot Hill , we , our or us) pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments and reclassifications considered necessary for a fair and comparable presentation have been included and are of a normal recurring nature. Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior year financial statements to conform with the current year financial statement presentation. The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2002. Operating results for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2003.

The preparation of our financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates under different assumptions and conditions.

2. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In November 2002, the Emerging Issues Task Force, or EITF, reached a consensus on Issue 00-21, *Revenue Arrangements with Multiple Deliverables*. EITF Issue 00-21 provides guidance on how to account for arrangements that involve the delivery or performance of multiple products, services and/or rights to use assets. The provisions of EITF Issue 00-21 will apply to revenue arrangements entered into in fiscal periods beginning after June 15, 2003. We do not expect the adoption of this statement, effective January 1, 2004, to have a significant effect on our financial statements.

In May 2003, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, issued Statement of Financial Account Standards, or SFAS, No. 150, *Accounting for Certain Financial Instruments with Characteristics of Both Liabilities and Equity*. This statement establishes standards for how an issuer classifies and measures certain financial instruments with characteristics of both liabilities and equity. This statement is effective for financial instruments entered into or modified after May 31, 2003, and otherwise is effective for the first interim period beginning after June 15, 2003, with certain exceptions. The adoption of this statement, effective July 1, 2003, had no effect on our financial statements.

3. Stock-Based Compensation

We account for stock-based employee compensation using the intrinsic value method prescribed in Accounting Principles Board, or APB, Opinion No. 25, *Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees*, and related interpretations for all periods presented. Accordingly, compensation cost for stock options issued to employees is measured as the excess, if any, of the fair value of our stock at the date of grant over the amount an employee must pay to acquire the stock.

Had compensation cost for our stock option awards been determined based upon the fair value at the date of grant in accordance with SFAS No. 123, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation*, our net income (loss) and basic and diluted net income (loss) per share would have been the following amounts (in thousands, except per share information):

	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2002		2003		2002		2003	
Net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders as reported	\$	(7,280)	\$	4,269	\$	(22,342)	\$	5,223
Stock-based employee compensation expense included in reported net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders		6		5		32		15
Stock-based employee compensation expense determined under fair value based method		(703)		(4,042)		(1,780)		(5,346)
Pro forma net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders	\$	(7,977)	\$	232	\$	(24,090)	\$	(108)
Basic net income (loss) per share:								
As reported	\$	(0.29)	\$	0.13	\$	(0.90)	\$	0.17
Pro forma	\$	(0.32)	\$	0.01	\$	(0.97)	\$	
Diluted net income (loss) per share:								
As reported	\$	(0.29)	\$	0.11	\$	(0.90)	\$	0.15
Pro forma	\$	(0.32)	\$	0.01	\$	(0.97)	\$	

The fair value of each option grant was estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2002	2003
Risk free interest rate	3.03%	3.37%
Expected dividend yield		
Expected life	5 years	5 years
Expected volatility	105%	82%

4. Earnings Per Share

Basic net income (loss) per share is calculated by dividing net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted net income (loss) per share reflects the potential dilution of securities by including other common stock equivalents, such as stock options, stock warrants and convertible preferred stock, in the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for a period, if dilutive.

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

The following table sets forth a reconciliation of the basic and diluted number of weighted average shares outstanding used in the calculation of net income (loss) per share (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2002		2003	2002		2003
Shares used in computing basic net income (loss) per share	24,934		33,723	24,881		30,692
Dilutive effect of stock options and stock warrants			4,168			3,571
Dilutive effect of convertible preferred stock						818
Shares used in computing diluted net income (loss) per share	24,934		37,891	24,881		35,081

For the three months ended September 30, 2003 and 2002, outstanding options to purchase 24,400 and 3,500,746 shares of our common stock, respectively, and outstanding warrants to purchase 0 and 1,239,527 shares of our common stock, respectively, were not included in the calculation of diluted net income (loss) per share because their effect was antidilutive.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2003 and 2002, outstanding options to purchase 175,925 and 3,500,746 shares of our common stock, respectively, and outstanding warrants to purchase 0 and 1,239,527 shares of our common stock, respectively, were not included in the calculation of diluted net income (loss) per share because their effect was antidilutive.

5. Short-Term Investments

The following table summarizes our short-term investments as of September 30, 2003 (in thousands):

	Cost		Net Unrealized Losses		Net Unrealized Gains		Fair Value	
U.S. Government securities	\$	7,108	\$	85	\$	7	\$	7,030
Commercial paper		5,577		1		19		5,595
	\$	12,685	\$	86	\$	26	\$	12,625

The cost and fair value of short-term investments at September 30, 2003 by contractual maturity are shown below (in thousands). Expected maturities will differ from contractual maturities because the issuers of the securities may have the right to prepay obligations without prepayment penalties.

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

		Cost		Fair Value	
Due in one year or less		10,674	\$	10,611	
Due after one year through two years		2,011		2,014	
	\$	12,685	\$	12,625	

As of December 31, 2002, we did not have any securities classified as short-term investments.

6. Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost (first-in, first-out) or market value. The following is a summary of inventories (in thousands):

	December 31, 2002		September 30, 2003	
Purchased parts and materials	\$	4,509	\$	1,619
Work-in-process		120		55
Finished goods		2,330		1,282
	\$	6,959	\$	2,956

During the nine months ended September 30, 2003 and 2002, we recorded inventory write-downs of \$0.8 million and \$4.5 million, respectively. During the three months ended September 30, 2003 and 2002, we recorded inventory write-downs of \$0.4 million and \$1.0 million, respectively.

7. Product Warranties

We generally extend to our customers the warranties provided to us by our suppliers and, accordingly, the majority of our warranty obligations to customers are covered by supplier warranties. For warranty costs not covered by our suppliers, we provide for estimated warranty costs in the period the revenue is recognized. There can be no assurance that our suppliers will continue to provide such warranties to us in the future, which could have a material adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition. Our warranty cost activity for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 and 2002 is as follows (in thousands):

Nine Months Ended September 30,	Accrued Warranty Costs at Beginning of Period	Charged to Operations	Deductions for Costs Incurred	Accrued Warranty Costs at End of Period
2003	\$ 336	\$ 661	\$ (661)	\$ 336
2002	316	952	(952)	316

8. Restructurings

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

In March 2001, we announced plans to reduce our full-time workforce by up to 30% and reduce other expenses in response to delays in customer orders, lower than expected revenues and slowing global market conditions (the March 2001 Restructuring). The cost reduction actions were designed to reduce our breakeven point in light of an economic downturn. The cost reductions resulted in a charge for employee severance, lease termination costs and other office closure expenses related to the consolidation of excess facilities. We recorded restructuring expenses in the first quarter of 2001 of approximately \$2.9 million, as follows (in thousands):

Employee termination costs	\$	1,271
Impairment of property and equipment		1,007
Facility closures and related costs		637
Professional fees and other		20
Total	\$	2,935

In June 2001, we announced plans to further reduce our full-time workforce by up to 17% and reduce other expenses in response to a continuing economic downturn and overall decrease in revenue (the June 2001

Restructuring). As a result of these additional restructuring actions, we recorded additional restructuring expenses during the second quarter of 2001 of approximately \$1.5 million, as follows (in thousands):

Employee termination costs	\$	259
Impairment of property and equipment		350
Facility closures and related costs		861
Total	\$	1,470

Employee termination costs consist primarily of severance payments for 180 employees. Impairment of property and equipment consists of the write-down of certain fixed assets associated with facility closures. The facility closures and related costs consist of lease termination costs for five sales offices and closure of the New York City location.

During the fourth quarter of 2001, we increased our March 2001 Restructuring accrual by approximately \$0.2 million and our June 2001 Restructuring accrual by approximately \$0.3 million due to the continuing deterioration of various real estate markets and the inability to sublet excess space in our Carlsbad and New York City facilities.

During the fourth quarter of 2002, we again increased our March 2001 Restructuring accrual by approximately \$0.7 million and our June 2001 Restructuring accrual by approximately \$0.9 million to reflect additional deterioration of real estate markets in Carlsbad and New York City, as well as the effects of lease buyouts negotiated on several facilities and a sublease arrangement reached on another facility.

The following is a summary of restructuring activity recorded during the period from January 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003 (in thousands):

March 2001 Restructuring

	Accrued Restructuring Expenses at January 1, 2002		Additional Restructuring Expenses in 2002		Amounts Utilized in 2002		Accrued Restructuring Expenses at December 31, 2002		Amounts Utilized in 2003		Accrued Restructuring Expenses at September 30, 2003	
Employee termination costs	\$	2	\$		\$	(2)	\$		\$		\$	
Facility closures and related costs		394		693		(426)		661		(217)		444
Total	\$	396	\$	693	\$	(428)	\$	661	\$	(217)	\$	444

June 2001 Restructuring

	Accrued Restructuring Expenses at January 1, 2002		Additional Restructuring Expenses in 2002		Amounts Utilized in 2002		Accrued Restructuring Expenses at December 31, 2002		Amounts Utilized in 2003		Accrued Restructuring Expenses at September 30, 2003	
Facility closures and related costs	\$	845	\$	857	\$	(777)	\$	925	\$	(316)	\$	609

We believe that there are no unresolved issues or additional liabilities that may result in a significant adjustment to restructuring expenses accrued as of September 30, 2003.

9. Stockholders Equity

During September 2003, we received net proceeds of approximately \$145.2 million from a secondary public offering of 9,904,000 shares of our common stock at a price of \$15.50 per share.

On May 17, 2003 we adopted a plan to provide certain rights to our stockholders, or a rights plan. Terms of the rights plan provide for a dividend distribution of one preferred share purchase right for each outstanding share of our common stock. The dividend was payable on May 30, 2003 to our stockholders of record on that date. Each such purchase right entitles the registered holder to purchase one one-hundredth of a share of our Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock at a price of \$50.00, subject to adjustment. Each one one-hundredth of a share of this series of preferred stock has designations and powers, preferences and rights, and qualifications, limitations and restrictions that make its value approximately equal to the value of one share of our common stock.

During March 2003, we raised net proceeds of approximately \$16.5 million in a private placement of 4,750,000 shares of our common stock at a price of \$3.75 per share. The shares in the private placement were sold at a price per share that was approximately 14% less than the five-day volume weighted average price of our common stock. We agreed to sell the shares in the private placement at a discount to the market price because the purchasers could not resell the shares to the public until the resale was registered. In connection with the private placement, we granted a warrant to the placement agent to purchase 183,000 shares of our common stock for \$4.50 per share.

During December 2002, we received gross proceeds of \$6.0 million from the sale of 6,000 shares of preferred stock and warrants in a private placement. The preferred stock carried a 7% cumulative dividend. On May 1, 2003, we converted all of the outstanding shares of preferred stock into 1,846,152 shares of our common stock at a per share price of \$3.25. The warrants granted to the holders of the preferred stock entitle them to purchase an aggregate of 369,229 shares of our common stock at a per share price of \$3.25. The warrants terminate upon the earlier of December 19, 2007 or our consummation of certain acquisition transactions.

10. Income Taxes

We have federal and state net operating loss carryforwards as of December 31, 2002 of approximately \$65.9 million and \$63.1 million, respectively. These net operating loss carryforwards are available to offset taxable income generated in 2003 and future years, and such federal and state amounts will begin to expire in the tax years ending 2009 and 2003, respectively. In addition, we have federal tax credit carryforwards as of December 31, 2002 of approximately \$1.9 million of which \$0.2 million can be carried forward indefinitely to offset future taxable income, and the remaining \$1.7 million will begin to expire in the tax year ending 2008. We also have state tax credit carryforwards as of December 31, 2002 of approximately \$1.7 million, of which \$1.6 million can be carried forward indefinitely to offset future taxable income, and the remaining \$0.1 million will begin to expire in the tax year ending 2006. Pursuant to current tax regulations, the annual use of certain of our federal and state net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards is limited as a result of a cumulative change in ownership of more than 50%. Future additional changes in ownership may further limit the use of such amounts.

11. Legal Matters

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

On October 17, 2003, Crossroads Systems, or Crossroads, filed a lawsuit against us in the United States District Court in Austin, Texas, alleging that our products infringe two United States patents assigned to Crossroads, Patent Numbers 5,941,972 and 6,425,035. We were served with the lawsuit on October 27, 2003. The patents involve storage routers and methods for providing virtual local storage. Patent Number 5,941,972 involves the interface of Small Computer Systems Interface, or SCSI, storage devices and the Fibre Channel protocol and Patent Number 6,425,035 involves the interface of any one transport medium and a second transport medium. We believe that we have meritorious defenses to Crossroads' claims and intend to vigorously defend against them. We expect to incur significant legal expenses in connection with this litigation. These defense costs, and other expenses related to this litigation, will be expensed as incurred and will negatively affect our operating results.

In addition to the action discussed above, we are subject to various legal proceedings and claims, asserted or unasserted, which arise from time to time in the ordinary course of business. The outcome of such claims against us

cannot be predicted with certainty. We believe that such litigation and claims will not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or operating results.

12. Segments and Geographic Information

Operating segments are defined as components of an enterprise about which separate financial information is available that is evaluated regularly by our chief operating decision-maker, or decision making group, in deciding how to allocate resources and in assessing performance. Our chief operating decision-maker is the Chief Executive Officer. Our operating segments are managed separately because each segment represents a strategic business unit that offers different products or services.

Our operating segments are organized on the basis of products and services. We have identified operating segments that consist of our SANnet family of systems, legacy and other systems and services. We currently evaluate performance based on stand-alone segment revenue and gross margin. Because we do not currently maintain information regarding operating income at the operating segment level, such information is not presented.

We previously also maintained and disclosed information by market segment, which consisted of e-commerce, telecommunications and service providers; government; and commercial and other customers. In 2001, we began to focus on indirect sales through channel partners regardless of the market segment served by those channel partners. In May 2002, we signed a key agreement with a channel partner, Sun Microsystems, Inc., or Sun, and Sun began to ship product to its own customers during October 2002. Sales to Sun accounted for approximately 62% of our revenue during the fourth quarter of 2002, approximately 75% of our revenue during the first quarter of 2003, approximately 85% of our revenue during the second quarter of 2003, and approximately 86% of our revenue during the quarter ended September 30, 2003. We have limited visibility into the type of market segments to which Sun, and many other channel partners, sell, and therefore we have no way to identify or track revenue generated by those channel partners by market segment. Going forward, we expect sales to channel partners to increase. Therefore, we have ceased to disclose information by market segment.

Information concerning revenue by product and service is as follows (in thousands):

	SANnet Family		Legacy and Other		Services		Total	
Three months ended:								
September 30, 2003:								
Net revenue	\$	49,179	\$	968	\$	832	\$	50,979
Gross profit (loss)	\$	12,482	\$	(524)	\$	255	\$	12,213
September 30, 2002:								
Net revenue	\$	4,737	\$	2,929	\$	918	\$	8,584
Gross profit (loss)	\$	1,539	\$	(884)	\$	213	\$	868
Nine months ended:								
September 30, 2003:								

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

Net revenue	\$	123,283	\$	4,083	\$	2,562	\$	129,928
Gross profit (loss)	\$	30,457	\$	(3,662)	\$	967	\$	27,762
September 30, 2002:								
Net revenue	\$	20,764	\$	7,618	\$	2,298	\$	30,680
Gross profit (loss)	\$	6,486	\$	(3,249)	\$	268	\$	3,505

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

Information concerning operating assets by product and service, derived by specific identification for assets related to specific segments and an allocation based on segment volume for assets related to multiple segments, is as follows (in thousands):

	SANnet Family		Legacy and Other		Services		Total	
As of:								
September 30, 2003	\$	199,815	\$	8,004	\$	4,570	\$	212,389
December 31, 2002	\$	23,590	\$	3,033	\$	5,605	\$	32,228

Information concerning principal geographic areas in which we operate is as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2002		2003		2002		2003	
Net revenue:								
United States	\$	6,832	\$	48,172	\$	20,943	\$	122,040
Europe		1,056		2,262		7,418		5,586
Asia		696		545		2,319		2,302
	\$	8,584	\$	50,979	\$	30,680	\$	129,928
Operating income (loss):								
United States	\$	(7,062)	\$	4,036	\$	(25,456)	\$	4,727
Europe		(93)		105		(55)		(60)
Asia		(127)		(28)		(310)		216
	\$	(7,282)	\$	4,113	\$	(25,821)	\$	4,883

Net revenue is recorded in the geographic area in which the sale is originated.

13. Sun Microsystems Loan Agreement

On October 24, 2002, we entered into a loan and security agreement with Sun, pursuant to which Sun loaned us approximately \$4.5 million. The loan was secured by all of our assets. The loan was subject to a fixed interest rate of 2.0% per annum and due to be repaid no later than June 30, 2003. We repaid all principal and interest due under the loan and terminated our loan and security agreement with Sun during the first quarter of 2003.

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

Cautionary Statement for Forward-Looking Information

Certain statements contained in this report, including, statements regarding the development, growth and expansion of our business, our intent, belief or current expectations, primarily with respect to our future operating performance, and the products we expect to offer and other statements regarding matters that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and are subject to the safe harbor created by these sections. Future filings with the SEC, future press releases and future oral or written statements made by us or with our approval, which are not statements of historical fact, may also contain forward-looking statements. Because such statements include risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Some of the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements can be found under the caption Certain Risk Factors Related to the Company's Business, and elsewhere in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made, and we undertake no obligation to update such statements to reflect events that occur or circumstances that exist after the date on which they are made.

The following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our condensed consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included elsewhere in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q and our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in our annual report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2002.

Overview

We are a provider of storage systems for organizations requiring high reliability, high performance networked storage and data management solutions in an open systems architecture. Our storage solutions consist of integrated hardware and software products employing a modular system that allows end-users to add capacity as needed. Our broad range of products, from medium capacity stand-alone storage units to complete turn-key, multi-terabyte storage area networks, provides end-users with a cost-effective means of addressing increasing storage demands without sacrificing performance.

Our products and services are sold worldwide to end-users primarily through our channel partners, including original equipment manufacturers, or OEMs, systems integrators, or SIs, and value added resellers, or VARs. In May 2002, we entered into a three-year OEM agreement with Sun to provide our storage hardware and software products for private label sales by Sun. We have been shipping our products to Sun for resale to Sun's customers since October 2002. We have continued to develop new products primarily for resale by Sun, such as our SANnet II FC which began shipping to Sun in March 2003. We are discussing with Sun the extent and timing of additional new product shipments. We intend to continue expanding our non-OEM sales channels through SIs and VARs in order to decrease our revenue concentration with OEMs.

As part of our focus on indirect sales channels, we have outsourced substantially all of our manufacturing operations to Soletron Corporation, or Soletron, a leading electronics manufacturing services company. Our agreement with Soletron allows us to reduce sales cycle times and manufacturing infrastructure, enhance working capital and improve margins by taking advantage of Soletron's manufacturing and procurement economies of scale.

We derive revenue primarily from sales of our SANnet II family of products. In prior periods, we derived a significant portion of our revenue from sales of our legacy products and SANnet I family of products. Except for one OEM customer to whom we continue to sell our SANnet I products, we have transitioned all customers to our SANnet II products. We derive a portion of our revenue from services associated with the maintenance service we provide for our installed products. In May 2003, we entered into a services agreement with Anacomp, Inc. to provide all maintenance, warranty and non-warranty services for our SANnet I and certain legacy products.

Cost of goods sold includes costs of materials, subcontractor costs, salary and related benefits for the production and service departments, depreciation and amortization of equipment used in the production and service departments, production facility rent and allocation of overhead.

Sales and marketing expenses consist primarily of salaries and commissions, advertising and promotional costs and travel expenses. Research and development expenses consist primarily of project-related expenses and salaries for employees directly engaged in research and development. General and administrative expenses consist primarily of compensation to officers and employees performing administrative functions and expenditures for administrative facilities. Restructuring expenses consist primarily of employee severance, lease termination costs and other office closure expenses related to the consolidation of excess facilities.

Other income is comprised primarily of interest income earned on our cash, cash equivalents, restricted cash and short-term investments and other miscellaneous income and expense items.

In August 1999, Box Hill Systems Corp. merged with Artecon, Inc. and we changed our name to Dot Hill Systems Corp. We reincorporated in Delaware in 2001. Our headquarters is located in Carlsbad, California, and we maintain international offices in Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and use judgment that may impact the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. As a part of our on-going internal processes, we evaluate our estimates, including those related to inventory write-downs, warranty cost accruals, revenue recognition, bad debt allowances, long-lived assets valuation, intangible assets valuation, income taxes, including deferred income tax asset valuation, litigation and contingencies. We base these estimates upon both historical information and other assumptions that we believe are valid and reasonable under the circumstances. These assumptions form the basis for making judgments and determining the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not apparent from other sources. Actual results could vary from those estimates under different assumptions and conditions.

We believe the following critical accounting policies affect our more significant estimates and assumptions used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements.

Revenue Recognition

We recognize revenue from hardware sales upon transfer of title. Certain of our sales arrangements include multiple elements. Generally these arrangements include delivery of the product, installation, training and product maintenance. Maintenance related to product sales entitles the customer to basic product support and significantly greater response time in resolving warranty-related issues. We allocate revenue to each element of the arrangement based on its relative fair value. For maintenance contracts, this is typically the price charged when such contracts are sold separately or renewed. Because professional services related to installation and training can be provided by other third party organizations,

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

we allocate revenue related to professional services based on rates that are consistent with other like companies providing similar service, that is, the market rate for such services. Revenue from product maintenance contracts is deferred and recognized ratably over the contract term, generally twelve months. Revenue from installation and training is recognized as the services are performed.

For software sales, we apply Statement of Position No. 97-2, *Software Revenue Recognition*, whereby revenue is recognized from software licenses at the time the product is delivered, provided there are no significant obligations related to the sale, the resulting receivable is deemed collectible and there is vendor-specific objective evidence supporting the value of the separate contract elements. For arrangements with multiple elements, we allocate revenue to each element using the residual method based on vendor specific objective evidence of the undelivered items. A portion of the arrangement fee equal to the fair value of the undelivered elements, typically software maintenance

contracts, is deferred and recognized ratably over the contract term, generally twelve months. Vendor specific objective evidence is based on the price charged when the element is sold separately. A typical arrangement includes a software licensing fee and maintenance agreement.

Valuation of Inventories

Inventories are comprised of purchased parts and assemblies, which include direct labor and overhead. We record inventories at the lower of cost or market value, with cost generally determined on a first-in, first-out basis. We perform periodic valuation assessments based on projected sales forecasts and analyzing upcoming changes in future configurations of our products and record inventory write-downs for excess and obsolete inventory. Although we strive to ensure the accuracy of our forecasts, we periodically are faced with uncertainties. The outcomes of these uncertainties are not within our control, and may not be known for prolonged periods of time. Any significant unanticipated changes in demand or technological developments could have a significant impact on the value of our inventories and commitments, and consequently, on our operating results. If actual market conditions become less favorable than those forecasted, additional inventory write-downs might be required, adversely affecting operating results.

Results of Operations

The following table sets forth certain items from our statements of operations as a percentage of net revenue for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2002		2003	2002		2003
Net revenue	100.0%		100.0%	100.0%		100.0%
Cost of goods sold	89.9		76.0	88.6		78.6
Gross profit	10.1		24.0	11.4		21.4
Operating expenses:						
Sales and marketing	49.2		6.8	57.8		7.9
Research and development	28.9		5.5	23.9		5.9
General and administrative	16.8		3.6	13.9		3.8
Total operating expenses	94.9		15.9	95.6		17.6
Operating income (loss)	(84.8)		8.1	(84.2)		3.8
Net income (loss)	(84.8)%		8.4%	(72.8)%		4.1%

The financial statements contained in our third quarter earnings release issued on October 22, 2003 included aggregate charges to cost of goods sold of \$591,025 related to translation of product documentation. Of the \$591,025, \$250,268 had been invoiced to us by one of our channel partners and expensed, and \$341,757 had been accrued to reflect expected additional translation charges. Subsequent to the issuance of our earnings release, we obtained additional information regarding the nature and amount of the charges and the timing of products sales to which the charges were applicable that led us to conclude that it would be more appropriate under GAAP to capitalize the charges as incurred and amortize them over an eight quarter period. Due to the material nature of the aggregate amount in question, we determined that these expenses should be adjusted and capitalized as incurred.

Accordingly, in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q our cost of goods sold has been reduced by \$512,642 and our net income has been increased by \$512,642 compared to the cost of goods sold and net income reflected in our earnings release of October 22, 2003. The \$512,642 difference reflects reversal of the \$591,025 charge reflected in our earnings release, net of a current period amortization adjustment of \$78,383. The remaining deferred charges will be amortized to cost of goods sold over the next seven quarters.

Three Months Ended September 30, 2003 Compared to Three Months Ended September 30, 2002

Net Revenue

Net revenue increased \$42.4 million, or 493.9%, to \$51.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from \$8.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in net revenue was attributable to increased orders for our product from our channel partner, Sun, which accounted for 86.1% of our net revenue for the three months ended September 30, 2003.

Cost of Goods Sold

Cost of goods sold increased \$31.1 million, or 402.4%, to \$38.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from \$7.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2002. As a percentage of net revenue, cost of goods sold decreased to 76.0% for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from 89.9% for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in the dollar amount of cost of goods sold was attributable to greater volume

of product sales during the three months ended September 30, 2003. The decrease in cost of goods sold as a percentage of our net revenue was primarily attributable to a more efficient absorption of fixed production costs and to a lesser extent a decrease in inventory write-downs of \$0.6 million.

Gross Profit

Gross profit increased \$11.3 million, or 1,307.0%, to \$12.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from \$0.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2002. As a percentage of net revenue, gross profit increased to 24.0% for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from 10.1% for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in the dollar amount of gross profit was attributable to greater volume of product sales during the three months ended September 30, 2003. The increase in gross profit as a percentage of our net revenue was primarily attributable to a more efficient absorption of fixed production costs and to a lesser extent a decrease in inventory write-downs. Products that we sold to Sun generally carried a lower gross profit than products we sold to other customers.

Sales and Marketing Expenses

Sales and marketing expenses decreased \$0.7 million, or 18.2%, to \$3.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from \$4.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2002. As a percentage of net revenue, sales and marketing expenses decreased to 6.8% for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from 49.2% for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The decrease in the dollar amount of sales and marketing expenses was attributable to a reduction in our sales and marketing headcount of 26 employees between September 30, 2002 and September 30, 2003. The reduction was made in conjunction with our shift toward an indirect sales model, implementation of fixed cost reduction measures, such as closure of excess and unused facilities, and the refocus of our marketing resources on a smaller population of potential customers.

Research and Development Expenses

Research and development expenses increased \$0.3 million, or 12.5%, to \$2.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from \$2.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2002. As a percentage of net revenue, research and development expenses decreased to 5.5% for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from 28.9% for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in the dollar amount of research and development expenses was due to an increase in salary and related expenses of \$0.6 million attributable to an increase in the number of our full-time direct engineering team members, partially offset by a reduction of prototype costs related to the development of our SANnet II product line of \$0.4 million. We expect to continue to increase research and development expenses and plan to add more members to our research and development team during the fourth quarter of 2003.

General and Administrative Expenses

General and administrative expenses increased \$0.5 million, or 28.5%, to \$1.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from \$1.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2002. As a percentage of net revenue, general and administrative expenses decreased to 3.6% for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from 16.8% for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in the dollar

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

amount of general and administrative expense during the three months ended September 30, 2003 was attributable to an increase of payroll-related expenses of \$0.3 million and an increase in regulatory fees of \$0.2 million related to the listing of our common stock on the NASDAQ. The decrease in general and administrative expenses as a percentage of our net revenue was due to an increase in our net revenue period over period.

Other Income

Other income increased by \$0.2 million to \$0.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from \$0.0 for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The increase was primarily attributable to a decrease in interest expense of \$0.1 million from a diminished use of our line of credit and an increase in interest income of \$0.1 million as a result of our increased cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments balances.

Income Taxes

Our effective income tax rate for the third quarter of 2003 of 1.0% reflects our federal alternative minimum tax and state minimum tax liabilities. We did not record any income tax expense or benefit during the third quarter of 2002.

We have federal and state net operating loss carryforwards as of December 31, 2002 of approximately \$65.9 million and \$63.1 million, respectively. These net operating loss carryforwards are available to offset taxable income generated in 2003 and future years, and such federal and state amounts will begin to expire in the tax years ending 2009 and 2003, respectively. In addition, we have federal tax credit carryforwards as of December 31, 2002 of approximately \$1.9 million of which \$0.2 million can be carried forward indefinitely to offset future taxable income, and the remaining \$1.7 million will begin to expire in the tax year ending 2008. We also have state tax credit carryforwards as of December 31, 2002 of \$1.7 million, of which \$1.6 million can be carried forward indefinitely to offset future taxable income, and the remaining \$0.1 million will begin to expire in the tax year ending 2006. Pursuant to current tax regulations, the annual use of certain of our federal and state net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards is limited as a result of a cumulative change in ownership of more than 50%. Future additional changes in ownership may further limit the use of such amounts.

Net Income (Loss)

Net income increased \$11.5 million to net income of \$4.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from a net loss of \$7.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The increase of \$11.5 million was due to an increase in gross profit of \$11.3 million and an increase in other income of \$0.2 million.

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2003 Compared to Nine Months Ended September 30, 2002

Net Revenue

Net revenue increased \$99.2 million, or 323.5%, to \$129.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from \$30.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in net revenue was attributable to increased orders for our products from our channel partner, Sun, which accounted for 83.0% of our net revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2003.

Cost of Goods Sold

Cost of goods sold increased \$75.0 million, or 276.0%, to \$102.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from \$27.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. As a percentage of net revenue, cost of goods sold decreased to 78.6% for the nine months ended

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

September 30, 2003 from 88.6% for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in the dollar amount of cost of goods sold was attributable to greater volume of product sales during the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The decrease in cost of goods sold as a percentage of our net revenue was primarily attributable to a more efficient absorption of fixed production costs and to a lesser extent a decrease in inventory write-downs of \$3.7 million.

Gross Profit

Gross profit increased \$24.2 million, or 692.1%, to \$27.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from \$3.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. As a percentage of net revenue, gross profit increased to 21.4% for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from 11.4% for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in the dollar amount of gross profit was attributable to greater volume of product sales during the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The increase in gross profit as a percentage of our net revenue was primarily attributable to a more efficient absorption of fixed production costs and to a lesser extent a decrease in inventory write-downs. Products that we sold to Sun generally carried a lower gross profit than products we sold to other customers.

Sales and Marketing Expenses

Sales and marketing expenses decreased \$7.4 million, or 42.1%, to \$10.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from \$17.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. As a percentage of net revenue, sales and marketing expenses decreased to 7.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from 57.8% for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The decrease in the dollar amount of sales and marketing expenses was attributable to a reduction in our sales and marketing headcount of 26 employees between September 30, 2002 and September 30, 2003. The reduction was made in conjunction with our shift toward an indirect sales model, implementation of fixed cost reduction measures, such as closure of excess and unused facilities, and the refocus of our marketing resources on a smaller population of potential customers.

Research and Development Expenses

Research and development expenses increased \$0.3 million, or 4.6%, to \$7.7 million for the nine-months ended September 30, 2003 from \$7.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. As a percentage of net revenue, research and development expenses decreased to 5.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from 23.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in the dollar amount of research and development expenses was primarily attributable to an increase in salary and related expenses of \$1.3 million attributable to an increase in the number of our full-time direct engineering team members, an increase of regulatory testing costs of \$0.4, offset by a reduction of prototype costs related to the development of our SANnet II product line of \$1.6 million. We expect to continue to invest in research and development and plan to add more members to our research and development team during the fourth quarter of 2003.

General and Administrative Expenses

General and administrative expenses increased \$0.6 million, or 15.7%, to \$4.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from \$4.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. As a percentage of net revenue, general and administrative expenses decreased to 3.8% for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from 13.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in the dollar amount of general and administrative expense was attributable to increased legal and other professional expenses of \$0.3 million, an increased premium for directors and officers insurance of \$0.1 million, and regulatory fees of \$0.2 million related to the listing of our common stock on the NASDAQ.

Other Income

Other income increased \$0.3 million, or 195.5%, to \$0.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from \$0.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase was primarily attributable to an increase in currency gains as a result of a weakening U.S. dollar.

Income Taxes

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

Our effective income tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 of 1.0% reflects our federal alternative minimum tax and state minimum tax liabilities. Our effective income tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2002 was 12.9%, primarily as a result of an income tax benefit resulting from tax refunds made available by recent tax law changes.

We have federal and state net operating loss carryforwards as of December 31, 2002 of approximately \$65.9 million and \$63.1 million, respectively. These net operating loss carryforwards are available to offset taxable income generated in 2003 and future years, and such federal and state amounts will begin to expire in the tax years ending 2009 and 2003, respectively. In addition, we have federal tax credit carryforwards as of December 31, 2002 of approximately \$1.9 million of which \$0.2 million can be carried forward indefinitely to offset future taxable income, and the remaining \$1.7 million will begin to expire in the tax year ending 2008. We also have state tax credit carryforwards as of December 31, 2002 of \$1.7 million, of which \$1.6 million can be carried forward indefinitely to offset future taxable income, and the remaining \$0.1 million will begin to expire in the tax year ending 2006. Pursuant to current tax regulations, the annual use of certain of our federal and state net operating loss and tax credit

carryforwards is limited as a result of a cumulative change in ownership of more than 50%. Future additional changes in ownership may further limit the use of such amounts.

Net Income (Loss)

Net income increased \$27.7 million to net income of \$5.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from a net loss of \$22.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. This increase of \$27.7 million was due to an increase in gross profit of \$24.2 million, a decrease in operating expenses of \$6.5 million, an increase in other income of \$0.3 million and a decrease in income tax benefit of \$3.3 million.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

As of September 30, 2003, we had \$185.3 million of cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments and working capital of \$170.8 million.

During September 2003, we received net proceeds of approximately \$145.2 million from a secondary public offering of 9,904,000 shares of our common stock at a price of \$15.50 per share.

We have an agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, which allows us to borrow up to \$15.0 million under a revolving line of credit that expires May 1, 2004. The maximum amount we may borrow under this line is limited by the amount of our cash and investment balances held at the bank at any given time and may be reduced by the amount of any outstanding letters of credit with the bank. Borrowings under this line of credit are collateralized by a pledge of our deposits held at the bank. As of September 30, 2003, the amount available on this line was \$15.0 million. Borrowings under this line of credit incur interest at the bank's prime rate or 50 basis points above LIBOR, at our option. Each month we pay interest only on outstanding balances, with the principal due at maturity. As of September 30, 2003, there was no balance outstanding under this line of credit.

Our Japanese subsidiary has three lines of credit with Tokyo Mitsubishi Bank and one line of credit with National Life Finance Corporation in Japan, for borrowings of up to an aggregate of 70 million yen, or approximately \$0.6 million as of September 30, 2003, at interest rates ranging from 1.7% to 2.6%. Interest is due monthly, with principal due and payable on various dates through August 2008. Borrowings are secured by the inventories of our Japanese subsidiary. As of September 30, 2003, the total amount outstanding under the four credit lines was approximately 28.9 million yen, or approximately \$0.3 million.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2003, we had cash flow from operations of \$14.9 million. We presently expect cash, cash equivalents, short-term investments and cash generated from operations to be sufficient to meet our operating and capital requirements for at least the next twelve months and to enable us to pursue acquisitions or significant capital improvements. The actual amount and timing of working capital and capital expenditures that we may incur in future periods may vary significantly and will depend upon numerous factors, including the amount and timing of the receipt of revenues from continued operations, our ability to manage our relationships with third party manufacturers, the status of our relationship with key customers, partners and suppliers, the timing and extent of the introduction of new products and services and growth in personnel and operations.

Certain Risk Factors Related to the Company's Business

Our business, results of operations and financial condition may be materially and adversely affected due to any of the following risks. The risks described below are not the only ones we face. Additional risks we are not presently aware of or that we currently believe are immaterial may also impair our business operations. The trading price of our common stock could decline due to any of these risks. In assessing these risks, you should also refer to the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this Form 10-Q, including our financial statements and related notes.

Under our OEM agreement with Sun, Sun is not required to make minimum purchases or purchase exclusively from us, and we cannot assure you that our relationship with Sun will not be terminated or will generate significant sales.

Our business is highly dependent on our relationship with Sun. Sales to Sun accounted for 25.0% and 83.0% of our net revenue for the year ended December 31, 2002 and the nine months ended September 30, 2003, respectively. Our OEM agreement with Sun has an initial term of three years and may be renewed at the discretion of Sun. However, there are no minimum purchase requirements or guarantees in our agreement with Sun, the agreement does not obligate Sun to purchase its storage solutions exclusively from us and Sun may cancel purchase orders submitted under the agreement at any time. Sun may terminate the entire contract prior to the contract expiration date upon the occurrence of certain events that are not remedied within a specified cure period. The decision by Sun not to renew its contract with us, to terminate the contract, to cease making purchases or to cancel purchase orders would cause our revenues to decline substantially. We cannot be certain if, when or to what extent Sun might terminate its contract with us, cancel purchase orders, cease making purchases or elect not to renew the contract upon the expiration of the initial term. We expect to receive a substantial majority of our projected net revenue for the year ended December 31, 2003 from sales of our products to Sun. We cannot assure you that we will achieve these expected sales levels. If we do not achieve the sales levels we expect to receive from Sun, our business and result of operations will be significantly harmed.

Any decline in Sun's sales could harm our business.

A substantial majority of our revenues are generated by sales to Sun, which sells our products as separate units or bundled with its servers. If Sun's storage related sales decline, our revenues will also decline and our business could be materially harmed. In addition, Sun's quarterly operating results typically fluctuate downward in the first quarter of their fiscal year when compared with the immediately preceding fourth quarter. If these fluctuations cause Sun to decrease purchases of our storage products, our results in the first quarter of Sun's fiscal years, which is our third quarter, could be harmed.

We are dependent on sales to a relatively small number of customers.

Because we intend to expand sales to channel partners, we expect to experience continued concentration in our customer base. As a result, if our relationship with any of our customers is disrupted, we would lose a significant portion of our anticipated net revenue. We cannot guarantee that our relationship with Sun or other channel partners will expand or not otherwise be disrupted. Factors that could influence our relationship with significant channel partners, including Sun, include:

our ability to maintain our products at prices that are competitive with those of other storage system suppliers;

our ability to maintain quality standards for our products sufficient to meet the expectations of our channel partners; and

our ability to produce, ship and deliver a sufficient quantity of our products in a timely manner to meet the needs of our channel partners.

None of our contracts with our existing channel partners, including Sun, contain any minimum purchasing commitments. Further, we do not expect that future contracts with channel partners, if any, will include any minimum purchasing commitments. Changes in the timing or volume of purchases by our major customers could result in lower revenue. In addition, our existing contracts do not require our channel partners to purchase our products exclusively or on a preferential basis over the products of any of our competitors. Consequently, our channel partners may sell the products of our competitors.

The loss of one or more suppliers could slow or interrupt the production and sales of our products.

Solectron, our third party manufacturer, relies on third parties to supply key components of our storage products. Many of these components are available only from limited sources in the quantities and quality we require. Solectron purchases the majority of our redundant arrays of independent disks, or RAID, controllers from Infortrend Technology, Inc., or Infortrend. Solectron may not be able to purchase the type or quantity of components from third party suppliers as needed in the future.

From time to time there is significant market demand for disk drives, RAID controllers and other components, and we may experience component shortages, selective supply allocations and increased prices of such components. In such event, we may be required to purchase our components from alternative suppliers. Even if alternative sources of supply for critical components such as disk drives and controllers become available, incorporating substitute components into our products could delay our ability to deliver our products in a timely manner. For example, we estimate that replacing Infortrend's RAID controllers with those of another supplier would involve several months of hardware and software modification, which could significantly harm our ability to meet our customers' orders for our products, damage our customer relationships and result in a loss of sales.

Manufacturing disruptions could harm our business.

We rely on Solectron to manufacture substantially all of our products. If our agreement with Solectron is terminated or if Solectron does not perform its obligations under our agreement, it could take several months to establish alternative manufacturing for our products and we may not be able to fulfill our customers' orders in a timely manner. Under our OEM agreement with Sun, Sun has the right to require that we use a third party to manufacture our products. Such an external manufacturer must meet Sun's engineering, qualification and logistics requirements. If our agreement with Solectron terminates, we may be unable to find another external manufacturer that meets Sun's requirements.

With our increased use of third-party manufacturers, our ability to control the timing of shipments has continued and will continue to decrease. Delayed shipment could result in the deferral or cancellation of purchases of our products. Any significant deferral or cancellation of these sales would harm our results of operations in any particular quarter. Net revenue for a period may be lower than predicted if large orders forecasted for that period are delayed or are not realized, which could result in cash flow problems or a decline in our stock price.

We experienced losses in each of the past three years and may continue to experience losses in the future.

For the years ended December 31, 2000, 2001 and 2002, we incurred net losses of \$0.9 million, \$43.4 million and \$34.3 million, respectively. We cannot assure you that we will be profitable in any future period. We have expended, and will continue to be required to expend, substantial

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

funds to pursue engineering, research and development projects, enhance marketing efforts and otherwise operate our business. Our future capital requirements will depend on, and could increase substantially as a result of, many factors, including:

our plans to maintain and enhance our engineering, research, development and product testing programs;

the success of our manufacturing strategy;

the success of our sales and marketing efforts;

the extent and terms of any development, marketing or other arrangements;

changes in economic, regulatory or competitive conditions; and

costs of filing, prosecuting, defending and enforcing intellectual property rights.

Our available cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments as of September 30, 2003 totaled \$185.3 million. We presently expect cash, cash equivalents, short-term investments, cash generated from operations, and the net proceeds from the offering to be sufficient to meet our operating and capital requirements through at least the next twelve months. However, unanticipated events, such as Sun's failure to meet its product purchase forecast or extraordinary expenses or operating expenses in excess of our projections, may require us to raise additional funds. We may not be able to raise additional funds on commercially reasonable terms or at all. Any sales of our debt or equity securities in the future may have a substantial dilutive effect on our existing stockholders. If we are able to borrow funds, we may be required to grant liens on our assets to the provider of any source of financing or enter into operating, debt service or working capital covenants with any provider of financing that could hinder our ability to operate our business in accordance with our plans. As a result, our ability to borrow money on a secured basis may be impaired, and we may not be able to issue secured debt on commercially reasonable terms or at all.

Our quarterly operating results have fluctuated significantly in the past and are not a good indicator of future performance.

Our quarterly operating results have fluctuated significantly in the past as shown in the following table and are not a good indicator of future performance.

Quarter		Net Revenue			Net Income (Loss)	
		(in millions)				
First Quarter 2001		\$	18.6		\$	(28.7)
Second Quarter 2001			14.9			(5.7)
Third Quarter 2001			12.3			(3.3)
Fourth Quarter 2001			10.5			(5.7)
First Quarter 2002			10.9			(6.2)
Second Quarter 2002			11.2			(8.9)
Third Quarter 2002			8.6			(7.3)
Fourth Quarter 2002			16.3			(11.9)
First Quarter 2003			30.5			(1.5)
Second Quarter 2003			48.4			2.6
Third Quarter 2003			51.0			4.3

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

In addition, the announcement of financial results that fall short of the results anticipated by the public markets could have an immediate and significant negative effect on the trading price of our common stock in any given period.

We may have difficulty predicting future operating results due to both internal and external factors affecting our business and operations, which could cause our stock price to decline.

Our operating results may vary significantly in the future depending on a number of factors, many of which are out of our control, including:

the size, timing, cancellation or rescheduling of significant orders;

product configuration, mix and quality issues;

market acceptance of our new products and product enhancements and new product announcements or introductions by our competitors;

manufacturing costs;

deferrals of customer orders in anticipation of new products or product enhancements;

changes in pricing by us or our competitors;

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

hardware component costs and availability, particularly with respect to hardware components obtained from Infortrend, a sole-source provider;

our success in creating brand awareness and in expanding our sales and marketing programs;

the level of competition;

potential reductions in inventories held by channel partners;

slowing sales of the products of our channel partners;

technological changes in the open systems storage market;

levels of expenditures on research, engineering and product development;

changes in our business strategies;

costs of litigation and settlements;

personnel changes; and

general economic trends and other factors.

If our customers delay or cancel orders or return products, our results of operations could be harmed.

We generally do not enter into long-term purchase contracts with customers, and customers usually have the right to extend or delay shipment of their orders, return products and cancel orders. As a result, sales in any period are generally dependent on orders booked and shipped in that period. Delays in shipment orders, product returns and order cancellations in excess of the levels we expect would harm our results of operations.

Our sales cycle varies substantially and future net revenue in any period may be lower than our historical revenues or forecasts.

Our sales are difficult to forecast because the open systems storage market is rapidly evolving and our sales cycle varies substantially from customer to customer. Customer orders for our products can range in value from a few thousand dollars to over a million dollars. The length of time between initial contact with a potential customer and the sale of our product may last from three to 24 months. This is particularly true during times of economic slowdown, for sales to channel partners and for the sale and installation of complex solutions. We have shifted our business strategy to focus primarily on channel partners, with whom sales cycles are generally lengthier, more costly and less certain than direct sales to end-users.

Additional factors that may extend our sales cycle, particularly orders for new products, include:

the amount of time needed for technical evaluations by customers;

customers' budget constraints and changes to customers' budgets during the course of the sales cycle;

customers' internal review and testing procedures; and

our engineering work to integrate a storage solution with a customer's system.

Our net revenue is difficult for us to predict since it is directly affected by the timing of large orders. Due to the unpredictable timing of customer orders, we may ship products representing a significant portion of our net sales for a quarter during the last month of that quarter. In addition, our expense levels are based, in part, on our expectations as to future sales. As a result, if sales levels are below expectations, our operating results may be disproportionately affected. We cannot assure you that we will experience sales growth in future periods.

The market for our products is subject to substantial pricing pressure that decreases our margins.

Pricing pressures exist in the data storage market and have harmed and may in the future continue to harm our net revenue and earnings. These pricing pressures are due, in part, to continuing decreases in component prices, such as those of disks and RAID controllers. Decreases in component prices are customarily passed-on to customers by storage companies through a continuing decrease in price of storage hardware systems. In addition, because we expect to continue to make most of our sales to a small number of customers, we are subject to continued pricing pressures from our customers, particularly our OEM customers. Pricing pressures are also due, in part, to the current difficult economic conditions, which have led many companies in our industry to pursue a strategy of decreasing prices in order to win sales, the narrowing of functional differences among competitors, which forces companies to compete on price as opposed to features of products, and the introduction of new technologies, which leaves older technology more vulnerable to pricing pressures. To the extent we are unable to offset those pressures with commensurate cost reductions from our suppliers or by providing new products and features, our margins will be harmed.

Our success depends significantly upon our ability to protect our intellectual property and to avoid infringing the intellectual property of third parties, which could result in costly, time-consuming litigation or even the inability to offer certain products.

We rely primarily on patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets, nondisclosure agreements and common law to protect our intellectual property. For example, we have registered trademarks for SANnet, SANpath, SANscape and Dot Hill and the Dot Hill logo. We also had eight U.S. patents and no patents pending as of September 30, 2003. We do not expect that our patents will provide us with any meaningful competitive advantage relative to the other protections we rely on. Despite our efforts to protect our intellectual property, unauthorized parties may attempt to copy aspects of our products or obtain and use information that we regard as proprietary. In addition, the laws of foreign

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

countries may not adequately protect our intellectual property rights. Our efforts to protect our intellectual property from third party discovery and infringement may be insufficient and third parties may independently develop technologies similar to ours, duplicate our products or design around our patents.

Third parties have in the past asserted, and in the future may assert, that our products and technologies infringe their intellectual property, which could result in infringement lawsuits being filed against us. On October 17, 2003, Crossroads filed a lawsuit against us in the United States District Court in Austin, Texas, alleging that our products infringe two United States patents assigned to Crossroads, Patent Numbers 5,941,972 and 6,425,035. We were served with the lawsuit on October 27, 2003. The patents involve storage routers and methods for providing virtual local storage. Patent Number 5,941,972 involves the interface of SCSI storage devices and the Fibre Channel protocol and Patent Number 6,425,035 involves the interface of any one transport medium and a second transport medium. We expect that providers of storage products will increasingly be subject to infringement claims as the number of products and competitors increases. In addition to the allegations of Crossroads, we receive from time to time letters from third parties suggesting that we may require a license from such third parties to manufacture or sell

our products. We evaluate all such communications to assess whether to seek a license from the patent owner. We may require licenses that could have a material impact on our business. In addition, we cannot assure you that we would prevail in any litigation related to infringement claims against us. Moreover, we cannot assure you that additional third parties will not assert infringement claims against us in the future.

In defending against the claims of Crossroads and any other future claimants, we will likely incur substantial legal fees and expenses and our management's attention may be distracted from the operations of our business. Further, any settlement or adverse judgment involving a determination that our products or technology infringe the intellectual property of Crossroads or any other third party could require us to pay substantial damages or royalties to a third party which could impede our ability to price our products competitively and could adversely affect our gross profit. In such event we could also be required to obtain a license from Crossroads or any other third party to continue to sell our products or use our technologies. We may not be able to obtain a license on commercially reasonable terms, or at all. If we or our suppliers were unable to license protected technology, we could be prohibited from marketing products that incorporate the protected technology. We could also incur substantial costs to redesign our products in a manner to avoid infringement of third party intellectual property rights.

The market for storage systems is intensely competitive and our results of operations, pricing and business could be harmed if we fail to maintain or expand our market position.

The storage market is intensely competitive and is characterized by rapidly changing technology. We compete primarily against independent storage system suppliers, including EMC Corporation, Hitachi Data Systems, LSI Logic Storage Systems and Network Appliance. We also compete with traditional suppliers of computer systems, including Dell Computer Corporation, Hewlett-Packard Company and IBM Corporation, which market storage systems as well as other computer products.

Many of our existing and potential competitors have longer operating histories, greater name recognition and substantially greater financial, technical, sales, marketing and other resources than us. As a result, they may have more advanced technology, larger distribution channels, stronger brand names, better customer service and access to more customers than we do. Other large companies with significant resources could become direct competitors, either through acquiring a competitor or through internal efforts. Additionally, a number of new, privately held companies are currently attempting to enter the storage market, some of which may become significant competitors in the future. Any of these existing or potential competitors may be able to respond more quickly to new or emerging technologies and changes in customer requirements, devote greater resources to the development, promotion and sale of products or deliver competitive products at lower prices than us.

We also expect that competition will increase as a result of industry consolidation and the creation of companies with new, innovative product offerings. Current and potential competitors have established or may establish cooperative relationships among themselves or with third parties to increase the ability of their products to address the needs of our prospective customers. Accordingly, it is possible that new competitors or alliances among competitors may emerge and rapidly acquire significant market share. Increased competition is likely to result in price reductions, reduced operating margins and potential loss of market share, any of which could harm our business.

We believe that the principal competitive factors affecting the storage systems market include:

Product performance, features, scalability and reliability;

Price;

Product breadth;

Timeliness of new product introductions; and

Interoperability and ease of management.

We cannot assure you that we will be able to successfully incorporate these factors into our products and compete against current or future competitors or that competitive pressures we face will not harm our business. If we are unable to develop and market products to compete with the products of competitors, our business will be materially and adversely affected. In addition, if major channel partners who are also competitors cease purchasing our products in order to concentrate on sales of their own products, our business will be harmed.

The open systems storage market is rapidly changing and we may be unable to keep pace with or properly prepare for the effects of those changes.

The open systems data storage market in which we operate is characterized by rapid technological change, frequent new product introductions, evolving industry standards and consolidation among our competitors, suppliers and customers. Customer preferences in this market are difficult to predict and changes in those preferences and the introduction of new products by us or our competitors could render our existing products obsolete. Our success will depend upon our ability to address the increasingly sophisticated needs of customers, to enhance existing products, and to develop and introduce on a timely basis, new competitive products, including new software and hardware, and enhancements to existing software and hardware, that keep pace with technological developments and emerging industry standards. If we cannot successfully identify, manage, develop, manufacture or market product enhancements or new products, our business will be harmed. In addition, consolidation among our competitors, suppliers and customers may harm our business by increasing the resources of our competitors, reducing the number of suppliers available to us for our product components and increasing competition for customers by reducing customer-purchasing decisions.

A significant percentage of our expenses are fixed, and if we fail to generate revenues in associated periods, our operating results will be harmed.

Although we have taken a number of steps to reduce operating costs, we may have to take further measures to reduce expenses if we continue to experience operating losses or do not achieve a stable net income. A number of factors could preclude us from successfully bringing costs and expenses in line with our net revenue, such as the fact that our expense levels are based in part on our expectations as to future sales, and that a significant percentage of our expenses are fixed, which limits our ability to reduce expenses quickly in response to any shortfalls in net revenue. As a result, if net revenue does not meet our projections, operating results may be negatively affected. We may experience shortfalls in net revenue for various reasons, including:

significant pricing pressures that occur because of declines in selling prices over the life of a product or because of increased competition;

sudden shortages of raw materials or fabrication, test or assembly capacity constraints that lead our suppliers and manufacturers to allocate available supplies or capacity to other customers, which, in turn, may harm our ability to meet our sales obligations; and

the reduction, rescheduling or cancellation of customer orders.

In addition, we typically plan our production and inventory levels based on internal forecasts of customer demand, which is highly unpredictable and can fluctuate substantially. From time to time, in response to anticipated long lead times to obtain inventory and materials from our outside suppliers, we may order materials in advance of anticipated customer demand. This advance ordering has continued and may result in excess inventory levels or unanticipated inventory write-downs due to expected orders that fail to materialize.

Our business and operating results may suffer if we encounter significant product defects.

Our products may contain undetected errors or failures when first introduced or as we release new versions. During 2003, we plan to introduce a number of new products, particularly in our SANnet II family of systems. We may discover errors in our products after shipment, resulting in a loss of or delay in market acceptance, which could harm our business. Our standard warranty provides that if the system does not function to published specifications, we will

repair or replace the defective component or system without charge. Significant warranty costs, particularly those that exceed reserves, could adversely impact our business. In addition, defects in our products could result in our customers claiming damages against us for property damage or consequential damage and could also result in our loss of customers and goodwill. Any such claim could distract management's attention from operating our business and, if successful, result in damage claims against us that might not be covered by our insurance.

Our success depends on our ability to attract and retain key personnel.

Our performance depends in significant part on our ability to attract and retain talented senior management and other key personnel. Our key personnel include James Lambert, our President and Chief Executive Officer, Dana Kammersgard, our Chief Technical Officer, and Preston Romm, our Chief Financial Officer. If any one of these individuals were to terminate his employment with us, we would be required to locate and hire a suitable replacement. Competition for attracting talented employees in the technology industry is intense. We may be unable to identify suitable replacements for any employees that we lose. In addition, even if we are successful in locating suitable replacements, the time and cost involved in recruiting, hiring, training and integrating new employees, particularly key employees responsible for significant portions of our operations, could harm our business by delaying our production schedule, our research and development efforts, our ability to execute on our business strategy and our client development and marketing efforts.

Many of our customer relationships are based on personal relationships between the customer and our sales representatives. If these representatives terminate their employment with us, we may be forced to expend substantial resources to attempt to retain the customers that the sales representatives serviced. Ultimately, if we were unsuccessful in retaining these customers, our revenue would decline.

We have recently made several reductions in our workforce. Although the reductions were designed to reduce our operating costs, the reductions have increased the responsibilities of our remaining employees. As a result, we face risks associated with transferring the duties of our former employees to our remaining employees. In addition to the expense involved in retraining employees, there is a risk that our current work force will be unable to effectively manage all of the duties of our former employees, which could adversely impact our research and development efforts, our general accounting and operating activities, our sales efforts and our production capabilities.

Our executive officers and directors and their affiliates own a significant percentage of our outstanding shares, which could prevent us from being acquired and adversely affect our stock price.

As of September 30, 2003, our executive officers, directors and their affiliates beneficially owned approximately 8.6% of our outstanding shares of common stock. These individual stockholders may be able to influence matters requiring approval by our stockholders, including the election of a majority of our directors. The voting power of these stockholders under certain circumstances could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control of us. This concentration of ownership may also make it more difficult or expensive for us to obtain financing. Further, any substantial sale of shares by these individuals could depress the market price of our common stock and impair our ability to raise capital in the future through the sale of our equity securities.

Protective provisions in our charter and bylaws and the existence of our stockholder rights plan could prevent a takeover which could harm our stockholders.

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain a number of provisions that could impede a takeover or prevent us from being acquired, including, but not limited to, a classified board of directors, the elimination of our stockholders' ability to take action by written consent and limitations on the ability of our stockholders to remove a director from office without cause. Our board of directors may issue additional shares of common stock or establish one or more classes or series of preferred stock with such designations, relative voting rights, dividend rates, liquidation and other rights, preferences and limitations as determined by our board of directors without stockholder approval. In addition, we adopted a stockholder rights plan in May 2003 that is designed to impede takeover transactions that are not supported by our board of directors. Each of these charter and bylaw provisions and the stockholder rights plan gives

our board of directors, acting without stockholder approval, the ability to prevent, or render more difficult or costly, the completion of a takeover transaction that our stockholders might view as being in their best interests.

The exercise of outstanding warrants may result in dilution to our stockholders.

Dilution of the per share value of our common stock could result from the exercise of outstanding warrants. As of September 30, 2003, there were outstanding warrants to purchase 2,065,315 shares of our common stock. The warrants have exercise prices ranging from \$2.97 to \$4.50 per share and expire at various dates through March 14, 2008. When the exercise price of the warrants is less than the trading price of our common stock, exercise of the warrants would have a dilutive effect on our stockholders. The possibility of the issuance of shares of our common stock upon exercise of the warrants could cause the trading price of our common stock to decline.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Interest Rate and Credit Risk

Our exposure to market rate risk for changes in interest rates relates to our investment portfolio. Our primary investment strategy is to preserve the principal amounts invested, maximize investment yields, and maintain liquidity to meet projected cash requirements. Accordingly, we invest in instruments such as money market funds, certificates of deposit, U.S. Government/Agencies bonds, notes, bills and municipal bonds that meet high credit quality standards, as specified in our investment policy guidelines. Our investment policy also limits the amount of credit exposure to any one issue, issuer, and type of instrument. We do not currently use derivative financial instruments in our investment portfolio and we do not enter into market risk sensitive instruments for trading purposes. We do not expect to incur any material losses with respect to our investment portfolio.

The following table provides information about our investment portfolio at December 31, 2002 and September 30, 2003. For investment securities, the table presents carrying values at December 31, 2002 and September 30, 2003 and, as applicable, and related weighted average interest rates by expected maturity dates.

	December 31, 2002			September 30, 2003		
	(amounts in thousands)					
Cash equivalents	\$	10,084		\$	160,218	
Average interest rate	3.3%			0.6%		
Short-term investments	\$			\$	12,625	
Average interest rate				2.1%		
Total portfolio	\$	10,084		\$	172,843	
Average interest rate	3.3%			1.0%		

Edgar Filing: DOT HILL SYSTEMS CORP - Form 10-Q

We have a line of credit agreement, which accrues interest at a variable rate. As of September 30, 2003, we had no balance under this line. Were we to incur a balance under this line, we would be exposed to interest rate risk on such debt.

Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Risk

A portion of our international business is presently conducted in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. Foreign currency transaction gains and losses arising from normal business operations are credited to or charged against earnings in the period incurred. As a result, fluctuations in the value of the currencies in which we conduct our business relative to the U.S. dollar will cause currency transaction gains and losses, which we have experienced in the past and continue to experience. Due to the substantial volatility of currency exchange rates, among other factors, we cannot predict the effect of exchange rate fluctuations upon future operating results. There can be no assurances that we will not experience currency losses in the future. We have not previously undertaken hedging transactions to cover currency exposure and we do not intend to engage in hedging activities in the future.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, after evaluating the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, Rule 13a-14) as of the end of the period covered by this Periodic Report on Form 10-Q, have concluded that as of the end of such period, our disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time period specified in the Commission's rules and forms.

Changes in Internal Controls

There have been no significant changes in our internal controls that occurred during the period covered by this Periodic Report on Form 10-Q. We are not aware of any significant change in any other factors that could significantly affect our internal controls subsequent to the period covered by this Periodic Report on Form 10-Q.

Part II. Other Information

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

On October 17, 2003, Crossroads filed a lawsuit against us in the United States District Court in Austin, Texas, alleging that our products infringe two United States patents assigned to Crossroads, Patent Numbers 5,941,972 and 6,425,035. We were served with the lawsuit on October 27, 2003. The patents involve storage routers and methods for providing virtual local storage. Patent Number 5,941,972 involves the interface of SCSI storage devices and the Fibre Channel protocol and Patent Number 6,425,035 involves the interface of any one transport medium and a second transport medium. We believe that we have meritorious defenses to Crossroads' claims and intend to vigorously defend against them. We expect to incur significant legal expenses in connection with this litigation. These defense costs, and other expenses related to this litigation, will be expensed as incurred and will negatively affect our future operating results.

In addition to the action discussed above, we are subject to various legal proceedings and claims, asserted or unasserted, which arise in the ordinary course of business. The outcome of the claims against us cannot be predicted with certainty. We believe that such litigation and claims will not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or operating results.

Item 2. Changes in Securities and Use of Proceeds

None.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

None.

Item 5. Other Information

None.

Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K

a. List of Exhibits

Exhibit Number	Description
3.1	Certificate of Incorporation of the registrant (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 19, 2001 and incorporated herein by reference).
3.2	Bylaws of the registrant (filed as Exhibit 3.3 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 19, 2003 and incorporated herein by reference).
4.1	Certificate of Incorporation of the registrant (included in Exhibit 3.1).
4.2	Bylaws of the registrant (included in Exhibit 3.2).
4.3	Form of Common Stock Certificate (filed as Exhibit 4.3 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 14, 2003 and incorporated herein by reference).
4.4	Certificate of Designation of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, as filed with the Secretary of State of Delaware on May 19, 2003 (filed as Exhibit 3.3 of the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed May 19, 2003 and incorporated herein by reference).
4.5	Form of Rights Certificate (filed as Exhibit 4.10 of the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed May 19, 2003 and

incorporated herein by reference).

- 31.1 Certification pursuant to 17 CFR 240.13a-14(a) or 17 CFR 240.15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2 Certification pursuant to 17 CFR 240.13a-14(a) or 17 CFR 240.15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1 Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

b. Reports on Form 8-K.

1. The registrant filed a current report on Form 8-K, dated July 23, 2003, announcing the registrant's second quarter 2003 earnings.
2. The registrant filed a current report on Form 8-K, dated August 12, 2003, announcing the filing of a registration statement on Form S-3 related to a proposed public offering of the registrant's common stock.
3. The registrant filed a current report on Form 8-K, dated September 5, 2003, reaffirming the registrant's prior earnings guidance for the third and fourth quarters of 2003.
4. The registrant filed a current report on Form 8-K, dated September 18, 2003, announcing a public offering of the registrant's common stock.
5. The registrant filed a current report on Form 8-K, dated September 23, 2003, announcing that the underwriters of the public offering of the registrant's common stock had exercised their option to purchase an additional 1,500,000 shares from the registrant and selling stockholders to cover over-allotments.

SIGNATURES

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

Date: November 14, 2003

By /s/ JAMES L. LAMBERT
James L. Lambert
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: November 14, 2003

By /s/ PRESTON S. ROMM
Preston S. Romm
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)