TIDEL TECHNOLOGIES INC

Form SC 13G March 13, 2006

OMB APPROVAL

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

## **SCHEDULE 13G**

| Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No)* |  |
|---|--|
| Tidel Technologies Inc.                                   |  |
| (Name of Issuer)  |  |
| Common Stock  |  |
| (Title of Class of Securities)                            |  |
| 886368109   |  |
| (CUSIP Number)  |  |
|   |  |

March 8, 2006

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

[x] Rule 13d-1(b)

|   | Edgar Filing: TIDEL TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form SC 13G   |  |
|---|--|--|
| [x] Rule 13d  | l-1(c)   |  |
| the subject class of  | this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respectations, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the ed in a prior cover page.   |  |
| Section 18 of the S   | quired in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose ecurities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section bject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes). |  |
| SEC 1745 (01-06)  | Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.  |  |
| CUSIP No. <b>88636</b>  | 8109   |  |
| 1.  | Names of Reporting Persons.  I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).  Gruber and McBaine Capital Management, LLC.   |  |
| 2.  | Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)  |  |
|   | (a) X<br>(b)   |  |
| 3.  | SEC Use Only   |  |
| 4.  | Citizenship or Place of Organization  California   |  |
|   | 5. Sole Voting Power 0   |  |
| Number of<br>Shares<br>Beneficially<br>Owned by<br>Each Reporting | 6.   |  |

|                            |   |   | Shared Voting<br>Power <b>502,450</b> |
|----------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
|                            |   | 7.  | Sole Dispositive<br>Power <b>0</b>    |
|                            |   | 8.  | Shared Dispositive<br>Power           |
|                            |   |   | 502,450                               |
| 9.                         | Aggregate Amount  | Beneficially Owned by Eac   | ch Reporting Person <b>502,450</b>    |
| 10.                        | Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions) |   |                                       |
| 11.                        | Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) 2.4%                              |   |                                       |
| 12.                        | Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions) IA & OO                                 |   |                                       |
| CUSIP No. <b>886368109</b> |   |   |                                       |
|                            | 1.  | Names of Reporting Pers<br>I.R.S. Identification Nos<br>only).<br>Jon D. Gruber | sons of above persons (entities       |
|                            | 2.  | Check the Appropriate B (See Instructions)                                      | ox if a Member of a Group             |
|                            |   | (a) X<br>(b)  |                                       |
|                            |   |   |                                       |

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|   | 4.  | Citizenship or Pla  | ace of | Organization                            |
|---|-----|---|--------|---|
| Number of                                   |     | 5.  |        | Sole Voting Power <b>71,050</b>         |
| Shares Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting |     | 6   |        | Shared Voting Power <b>502,450</b>      |
| Person With                                 |     | 7.  |        | Sole Dispositive Power <b>71,050</b>    |
|   |     | 8.  |        | Shared Dispositive Power <b>502,450</b> |
|   | 9.  | Aggregate Amou<br>Reporting Person                                    |        | neficially Owned by Each                |
|   | 10. |   |        | Amount in Row (9) Excludes structions)  |
|   | 11. | Percent of Class I 2.8%   | Repre  | sented by Amount in Row (9)             |
|   | 12. | Type of Reporting   | g Pers | son (See Instructions) <b>IN</b>        |
| CUSIP No. <b>886368109</b>                  |     |   |        |   |
|   | 1.  | Names of Reporti<br>I.R.S. Identificati<br>only).<br>J. Patterson Mcl | on No  | os. of above persons (entities          |

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|   | 2.  | Check the Ap  |             | Box if a Member of a Group               |
|---|-----|---|-------------|--|
|   |     | (a)   | X           |  |
|   |     | (b)   |             |  |
|   | 3.  | SEC Use On  | ly          |  |
|   | 4.  | Citizenship o   |             | Organization                             |
| Number of   |     |   | 5.          | Sole Voting Power <b>5,500</b>           |
| Shares Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person With |     |   | 6.          | Shared Voting Power <b>502,450</b>       |
|   |     |   | 7.          | Sole Dispositive Power <b>5,500</b>      |
|   |     |   | 8.          | Shared Dispositive Power <b>502,450</b>  |
|   | 9.  | Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person <b>507,950</b> Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions) |             |  |
|   | 10. |   |             | e Amount in Row (9) Excludes structions) |
|   | 11. |   |             | sented by Amount in Row (9)              |
|   | 12. | Type of Repo  | orting Pers | son (See Instructions) <b>IN</b>         |

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#### CUSIP No. 886368109

|   | 1. | Names of Reporting Persons. I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only). Eric B. Swergold |  |
|---|----|---|--|
|   | 2. | Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)  (a) X  (b)                           |  |
|   | 3. | SEC Use Only  |  |
|   | 4. | Citizenship or Place of Organization  United States   |  |
| Number of   |    | 5. Sole Voting Power <b>0</b>   |  |
| Shares Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person With |    | Shared Voting Power <b>502,450</b>  |  |
|   |    | 7. Sole Dispositive Power <b>0</b>  |  |
|   |    | Shared Dispositive Power <b>502,450</b>   |  |
|   | 9. | Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person <b>502,450</b>                               |  |
| 10.   |    | Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes<br>Certain Shares (See Instructions)                    |  |

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|         | 11.        | Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) 2.4%   |
|---------|------------|--|
|         | 12.        | Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions) IN   |
|         |            |  |
| Item 1. |            |  |
|         |            | Name of Issuer:  |
|         | (a)        | Tidel Technologies Inc.  |
|         |            | Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:   |
|         | (b)        | 2900 Wilcrest Drive, Suite 205   |
|         |            | Houston, TX 77042  |
| Item 2. |            |  |
|         |            | Name of Person Filing:   |
|         |            | Gruber & McBaine Capital Management, LLC ("GMCM")  |
|         | (a)        | Jon D. Gruber ("Gruber")   |
|         |            | J. Patterson McBaine ("McBaine")   |
|         |            | Eric Swergold ("Swergold")   |
|         | <i>a</i> . | Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence:   |
|         | (b)        | 50 Osgood Place, Penthouse, San<br>Francisco, CA 94133   |
|         | (c)        | Citizenship: See item 4 of cover sheet.  |
|         | (d)        | Title of Class of Securities: Common Stock   |
|         | (e)        | CUSIP Number: <b>886368109</b>   |
| Item 3. |            | this statement is filed pursuant to 240.13d-1(b) or 0.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a: |

| (a) | []  | Broker or dealer registered under section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 780).  |
|-----|-----|---|
| (b) | []  | Bank as defined in section 3(a)(6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).  |
| (c) | []  | Insurance company as defined in section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).  |
| (d) | []  | Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C 80a-8).   |
| (e) | [x] | An investment adviser in accordance with 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);  |
| (f) | []  | An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);   |
| (g) | [x] | A parent holding company or control person in accordance with 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);   |
| (h) | []  | A savings associations as defined<br>in Section 3(b) of the Federal<br>Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C.<br>1813);   |
| (i) | []  | A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3); |
| (j) | [x] | Group, in accordance with 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).   |

Item 4. Ownership.

See Items 5-9 and 11 of the cover page for each Filer.

# Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following [x].

Item 6.

Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

GMCM is a registered investment advisor whose clients have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of the Stock. Gruber & McBaine are the Managers, controlling persons and portfolio managers of GMCM. No individual clients holdings of the Stock are more than five percent of the outstanding Stock. Lagunitas is an investment limited partnerships of which GMCM is the general partner.

Item 7.

Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company or Control Person.

Not Applicable

Item 8.

Identification and Classification of Members of the Group

GMCM, Gruber, McBaine and Swergold constitute a group within the meaning of Rule 13d-5(b). Lagunitas is not a member of any group and disclaims beneficial ownership of the securities with respect to its ownership is reposited.

Item 9.

Notice of Dissolution of Group

Not Applicable

Item 10.

Certification

(a) The following certification shall be included with respect to GMCM, Gruber and McBaine:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any

transaction having that purpose or effect.

(b) The following certification shall be included with respect to Lagunitas and Swergold:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

#### **SIGNATURE**

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: March 10, 2006

Gruber & McBaine Capital Management, LLC

By: /s/ J. Patterson McBaine

Title: Manager

/s/ Jon D. Gruber

Jon D. Gruber

/s/ J. Patterson McBaine

J. Patterson McBaine

/s/ Eric B. Swergold

Eric B. Swergold

Attention: Intentional misstatements or omissions of fact constitute Federal criminal violations

(See 18 U.S.C. 1001)

SIGNATURE 10

SIGNATURE 11