

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC  
Form 10-K  
March 05, 2013

---

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
FORM 10-K  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012

or

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

Commission file number: 000-51026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monolithic Power Systems, Inc.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

77-0466789  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

79 Great Oaks Boulevard, San Jose, CA 95119 (408) 826-0600  
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code and telephone number)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$0.001 Par Value	The NASDAQ Global Select Market

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:  
None

\_\_\_\_\_  
Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act

of 1933.  Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act").  Yes  No

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

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company

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

The number of shares of the registrant's stock outstanding as of June 30, 2012 was 34,820,281. The closing price of the registrant's common stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market as of June 30, 2012 was \$19.85. The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant based upon the closing price of the Common Stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market on June 30, 2012 was \$383,762,611.\*

There were 36,501,530 shares of the registrant's common stock issued and outstanding as of February 20, 2013.

---

#### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's Proxy Statement for the registrant's 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K to the extent stated herein. The Proxy Statement will be filed within 120 days of the registrant's fiscal year ended December 31, 2012.

---

\*Excludes 15,487,152 shares of the registrant's common stock held by executive officers, directors and stockholders whose ownership exceeds 5% ("affiliates") of the Common Stock outstanding at June 30, 2012. Exclusion of such shares should not be construed to indicate that any such person possesses the power, direct or indirect, to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of the registrant or that such person is controlled by or under common control with the registrant.

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.  
TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
<b>PART I</b>		
Item 1.	Business	5
	Executive Officers of the Registrant	11
Item 1A	Risk Factors	12
Item 1B	Unresolved Staff Comments	29
Item 2.	Properties	29
Item 3.	Legal Proceedings	29
Item 4.	Mine Safety Disclosures	30
<b>PART II</b>		
	Market for the Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of	
Item 5.	Equity Securities	30
Item 6.	Selected Financial Data	32
Item 7.	Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	33
Item 7A.	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	46
Item 8.	Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	48
Item 9.	Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	80
Item 9A.	Controls and Procedures	80
Item 9B.	Other Information	83
<b>PART III</b>		
Item 10.	Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance	83
Item 11.	Executive Compensation	83
	Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder	
Item 12.	Matters	83
Item 13.	Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence	83
Item 14.	Principal Accounting Fees and Services	83
<b>PART IV</b>		
Item 15.	Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules	84
	Signatures	88

Except as the context otherwise requires, the terms “Monolithic Power Systems”, “MPS”, “Registrant”, “Company”, “we”, “us” and “our” as used herein are references to Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This annual report on Form 10-K and the documents incorporated herein by reference contain 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, that have been made pursuant to and in reliance on the provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements include among other things, statements concerning:

- the above-average industry growth of product and market areas that we have targeted,
- our plan to introduce additional new products within our existing product families as well as in new product categories and families,
- our intention to exercise our purchase option with respect to our manufacturing facility in Chengdu, China.
- our belief that we will continue to incur significant legal expenses that vary with the level of activity in each of our legal proceedings,
  - the effect of auction-rate securities on our liquidity and capital resources,
- the application of our products in the Communications, Computing, Consumer and Industrial markets continuing to account for a majority of our revenue,
  - estimates of our future liquidity requirements,
  - the cyclical nature of the semiconductor industry,
  - protection of our proprietary technology,
  - near term business outlook for 2013,
- the factors that we believe will impact our ability to achieve revenue growth,
- the outcome of the IRS audit of our tax return for the tax years ended December 31, 2005 through 2007,
  - the percentage of our total revenue from various market segments, and
  - the factors that differentiate us from our competitors.

In some cases, words such as “would,” “could,” “may,” “should,” “predict,” “potential,” “targets,” “continue,” “anticipate,” “expect,” “intend,” “plan,” “believe,” “seek,” “estimate,” “project,” “forecast,” “will,” the negative of these terms or other variations of these terms and similar expressions relating to the future identify forward-looking statements.

All forward-looking statements are based on our current outlook, expectations, estimates, projections, beliefs and plans or objectives about our business and our industry. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks and uncertainties. Actual events or results could differ materially and adversely from those expressed in any such forward-looking statements.

Risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially include those set forth throughout this annual report on Form 10-K and, in particular, in the section entitled “Item 1A. Risk Factors”.

Except as required by law, we disclaim any duty to and undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information relating to existing conditions, future events or otherwise or to release publicly the results of any future revisions we may make to forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such statements, which speak only as of the date of this annual report on Form 10-K. Readers should carefully review future reports and documents that we file from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission, such as our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and any current reports on Form 8-K.

## PART I

### ITEM 1. BUSINESS

#### General

Monolithic Power Systems is a fabless semiconductor company that designs, develops and markets proprietary, advanced analog and mixed-signal semiconductors. We combine advanced process technology with our highly experienced analog designers to produce high-performance power management integrated circuits (ICs) for DC to DC converters and Lighting Control Products. Our products are used extensively in computing and network communications products, flat panel TVs, set top boxes and a wide variety of consumer and portable electronics products, automotive and industrial markets. We partner with world-class manufacturing organizations to deliver top quality, ultra-compact, high-performance solutions through productive, cost-efficient channels. Founded in 1997 and headquartered in San Jose, California, we have expanded our global presence with offices in Taiwan, China, Korea and Japan, which operate under MPS International, Ltd. We have marketing representatives in Europe and Singapore.

#### Industry Overview

Semiconductors comprise the basic building blocks of electronic systems and equipment. Within the semiconductor industry, components can be classified either as discrete devices, such as individual transistors, or as ICs, in which a number of transistors and other elements are combined to form a more complicated electronic circuit. ICs can be further divided into three primary categories: digital, analog, and mixed-signal. Digital ICs, such as memory devices and microprocessors, can store or perform arithmetic functions on data that is represented by a series of ones and zeroes. Analog ICs, in contrast, handle real world signals such as temperature, pressure, light, sound, or speed. In addition, analog ICs also perform power management functions, such as regulating or converting voltages, for electronic devices. Mixed-signal ICs combine digital and analog functions onto a single chip and play an important role in bridging real world phenomena to digital systems.

**Analog and Mixed-Signal Markets.** We focus on the market for 'high performance' analog and mixed-signal ICs. 'High performance' products generally are differentiated by functionality and performance factors which include integration of higher levels of functionality onto a single chip, greater precision, higher speed and lower heat and noise. There are several key factors that distinguish analog and mixed-signal IC markets from digital IC markets and in particular the high performance portion of the analog and mixed signal IC market. These factors include longer product life cycles, numerous market segments, technology that is difficult to replicate, relative complexity of design and process technology, importance of experienced design engineers, lower capital requirements and diversity of end markets. We have, however, targeted product and market areas that we believe have the ability to offer above average industry growth over the long term.

#### Products and Applications

We currently have two primary product families that address multiple applications within the computing, consumer electronics, communications, and industrial/automotive markets. Our products are differentiated with respect to their high degree of integration and strong levels of accuracy and efficiency, making them cost-effective relative to many competing solutions. These product families include:

**Direct Current (DC) to DC Converters.** DC to DC converter ICs are used to convert and control voltages within a broad range of electronic systems, such as portable electronic devices, wireless LAN access points, computers, set top boxes, TVs and monitors, automobiles and medical equipment. We believe that our DC to DC converters are differentiated in the market, particularly with respect to their high degree of integration, high voltage operation, high

load current, high switching speed and small footprint. These features are important to our customers as they result in fewer components, a smaller form factor, more accurate regulation of voltages, and, ultimately, lower system cost and increased reliability through the elimination of many discrete components and power devices.



Lighting Control Products and AC/DC Offline Solutions. Lighting control ICs are used in backlighting and general illumination products. Lighting control ICs for backlighting are used in systems that provide the light source for LCD panels typically found in notebook computers, LCD monitors, car navigation systems, and LCD televisions. Backlighting solutions are typically either white light emitting diode (“WLED”) lighting sources or cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFL). WLED lighting control ICs step-up or step-down a DC voltage, or convert from an AC line voltage supplied by the utility company (also called AC/DC Offline) and provide efficient precision power and protection to a LED string or to multiple LED strings. The CCFL ICs function by converting low-voltage direct current (DC) or battery voltage to high-voltage alternating current (AC). We believe our CCFL ICs were the first to utilize a full bridge resonant topology that allows for high efficiency, extended lifetimes for cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFLs), and lower signal interference with adjacent components. The full bridge topology is now the industry standard for these products.

In addition to AC/DC offline solutions for lighting illumination applications, MPS also offers AC/DC power conversion solutions for a diverse number of end products that plug into a wall outlet.

We currently target our products at the consumer electronics, communications and computing markets, with the consumer market representing the largest portion of our revenue.

The following is a brief summary of our product family for various applications. For each of these applications, we are currently shipping products or have design wins, which are decisions by original equipment manufacturers, or OEMs, or original design manufacturers, or ODMs, to use our ICs:

Application	WLED Lighting Illumination (non-backlight)	LCD Backlight (Inverters or WLED)	DC to DC Converters (Buck & Boost)	µP Reset & Supervisory	Audio Amplifiers	AC/DC Offline (Switching & Linear)	Chargers	Current Limit Switches
<b>Computing</b>								
Computers and PDA devices		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LCD Monitors		X	X	X	X			
Disk Drives/ Storage Networks			X					X
<b>Consumer Electronics</b>								
LCD TV Displays		X	X	X	X			X
Plasma TV Displays		X	X	X	X			X
Set Top Boxes			X	X	X	X		X
Blu-Ray & DVD Players		X	X	X	X			
Digital Still Cameras			X	X	X		X	
Commercial & Industrial Bulb & CFL Replacement	X					X		

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-K

GPS and Infotainment systems	X	X	X	X			X
Communications							
Cellular Handsets		X			X	X	X
Networking Infrastructure		X	X			X	
VOIP		X	X				
Wireless Access Points		X	X				

We derive a majority of our revenue from the sales of our DC to DC converter IC product family to the consumer electronics, communications, computing and industrial markets. In the future, we will continue to introduce additional new products within our existing product families, such as high current, high voltage, small form factor switching voltage regulators, as well as expand our newer product families in battery chargers, voltage references and low dropout regulators. Our ability to achieve revenue growth will depend in part upon our ability to enter new market segments, gain market share, grow in regions outside of Greater China, expand our customer base and successfully secure manufacturing capacity.

Please refer to the table showing our revenue by product family in the section entitled “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Results of Operations”.

#### Customers, Sales, and Marketing

We sell our products through third party distributors, value-added resellers and directly to OEMs, ODMs, and electronic manufacturing service (EMS) providers. Our third party distributors are subject to distribution agreements with us which allow the distributor to sell our products to end customers and other resellers. Distributors may distribute our products to end customers which include OEMs, ODMs or EMS providers. Our value-added resellers may second source our products and provide other services to customers. ODMs typically design and manufacture electronic products on behalf of OEMs, and EMS providers typically provide manufacturing services for OEMs and other electronic product suppliers.

As a result of consolidations in recent years among distributors, sales to our largest distributor accounted for approximately 32% of revenues in 2012, 27% of revenues in 2011 and 21% of revenue in 2010. No other customers accounted for more than 10% of revenues in any periods presented.

Current distribution agreements with several of our major distributors provide that each distributor shall have the non-exclusive right to sell and use its best efforts to promote and develop a market for our products. These agreements may be terminated by either us or the distributor generally up to three months’ notice. These agreements provide that payment for purchases from us will generally occur within 30 to 45 days from the date of invoice. In addition, we allow for limited stock rotation in certain agreements.

We have sales offices located in the United States, Taiwan, China, Korea, and Japan and have marketing representatives in Europe and Singapore. Our products typically require a highly technical sales and applications engineering effort where we assist our customers in the design and use of our products in their application. We maintain a staff of applications engineers who work directly with our customers' engineers in the development of their systems electronics containing our products.

Because our sales are billed and payable in United States dollars, our sales are not directly subject to fluctuating currency exchange rates. However, because 89% of our revenue in 2012 was attributable to direct or indirect sales to customers in Asia, changes in the relative value of the dollar may create pricing pressures for our products.

Our sales are made primarily pursuant to standard individual purchase orders. Our backlog consists of orders that we have received from customers which have not yet shipped. Our manufacturing lead times are generally 4 to 12 weeks and we often build inventory in advance of customer orders based on our forecast of future customer orders. This subjects us to certain risks, most notably the possibility that sales will not meet our forecast, which could lead to inventories in excess of demand. If excess inventory exists, it may be necessary for us to sell it at a substantial discount or dispose of it altogether, either of which would negatively affect our profit margins.

We operate in the cyclical semiconductor industry where there is seasonal demand for certain of our products. While we are not and will not be immune from current and future industry downturns, we have targeted product and market areas that we believe have the ability to offer above average industry performance over the long term.

#### Research and Development

We have assembled a qualified team of engineers in the United States and China with core competencies in analog and mixed-signal design. Through our research and development efforts, we have developed a collection of intellectual property and know-how that we are able to leverage across our products and markets. These include the development of high efficiency power devices, the design of precision analog circuits, expertise in mixed-signal integration and the development of proprietary semiconductor process technologies.

Our research and development efforts are generally targeted at three areas: systems architecture, circuit design and implementation, and process technology. In the area of systems architecture, we are exploring new ways of solving our customers' system design challenges and are investing in the development of systems expertise in new markets and applications that align well with our core capabilities. In the area of circuit design and implementation, our initiatives include expanding our portfolio of products and adding new features to our products.

Please refer to the discussion of the amount spent on research and development during each of the last three fiscal years in the section entitled "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Results of Operations – Research and Development". In the area of process technology, we are investing research and development resources to provide leading-edge analog power processes for our next generation of integrated circuits. Process technology is a key strategic component to our future growth.

#### Patents and Intellectual Property Matters

We rely on our proprietary technologies, which include both our proprietary circuit designs for our products and our proprietary manufacturing process technologies. Our future success and competitive position depend in part upon our ability to obtain and maintain protection of our proprietary technologies.



In general, we have elected to pursue patent protection for aspects of our circuit designs that we believe are patentable and to protect our manufacturing process technologies by maintaining those process technologies as trade secrets. As of January 22, 2013, we had approximately 893 patents issued and pending, of which 133 have been issued in the United States. Our U.S. issued patents are scheduled to expire at various times through December 2031 and our other issued patents are scheduled to expire at various times through December 2032. Our patents are material to our business, but we do not rely on any one particular patent for our success. We also rely on a combination of nondisclosure agreements and other contractual provisions, as well as our employees' commitment to confidentiality and loyalty, to protect our technology, know-how, and processes. In April 2008, we entered into a patent license agreement with another integrated circuit company, which is a value-added reseller, pursuant to which we have granted this company a license (with certain limited sublicense rights) under certain of our patents to make, use, and sell certain of this company's own integrated circuit products for a period of two years, with an automatic renewal for successive one year periods, unless either party terminates, and for which this company is obligated to pay us royalties based on sales of those products. In October 2012, we renewed this patent license agreement with same terms and conditions, which will remain in effect until terminated by either party with prior written notice. We also seek to register certain of our trademarks as we deem appropriate. We have not registered any of our copyrights and do not believe registration of copyrights is material to our business. Despite precautions that we take, it may be possible for unauthorized third parties to copy aspects of our current or future technology or products or to obtain and use information that we regard as proprietary. There can be no assurance that the steps we take will be adequate to protect our proprietary rights, that our patent applications will lead to issued patents, that others will not develop or patent similar or superior products or technologies, or that our patents will not be challenged, invalidated, or circumvented by others. Furthermore, the laws of the countries in which our products are or may be developed, manufactured or sold may not protect our products and intellectual property rights to the same extent as laws in the United States. Our failure to adequately protect our proprietary technologies could harm our business.

The semiconductor industry is characterized by frequent claims of infringement and litigation regarding patent and other intellectual property rights. For a more complete description of our legal matters, please read the section entitled Item 3. Legal Proceedings and Note 10 to our consolidated financial statements. Patent infringement is an ongoing risk, in part because other companies in our industry could have patent rights that may not be identifiable when we initiate development efforts. Litigation may be necessary to enforce our intellectual property rights, and we may have to defend ourselves against infringement claims. Any such litigation could be very costly and may divert our management resources. Further, we have agreed to indemnify certain of our customers and a supplier in some circumstances against liability from infringement by our products. In the event any third party were to make an infringement claim against us or our customers, we could be enjoined from selling selected products or could be required to indemnify our customers or supplier or pay royalties or other damages to third parties. If any of our products is found to infringe and we are unable to obtain necessary licenses or other rights on acceptable terms, we would either have to change our product so that it does not infringe or stop making the infringing product, which could have a material adverse effect on our operating results, financial condition, and cash flows.

### Manufacturing

We utilize a fabless business model, working with third parties to manufacture and assemble our integrated circuits. This fabless approach allows us to focus our engineering and design resources on our strengths and to reduce our fixed costs and capital expenditures. In contrast to many fabless semiconductor companies, who utilize standard process technologies and design rules established by their foundry partners, we have developed our own proprietary process technology and collaborate with our foundry partners to install our technology on their equipment in their facilities for use solely on our behalf. This close collaboration and control over the manufacturing process has historically resulted in favorable yields and product performance for our integrated circuits.

We currently contract with three suppliers to manufacture our wafers in foundries located in China. Once our silicon wafers have been produced, they are shipped to our facility in Chengdu, China for wafer sort. Our semiconductor products are then assembled and packaged by independent subcontractors in China and Malaysia. The assembled ICs are then sent for final testing primarily at our Chengdu facility prior to shipping to our customers.

We do not use conflict minerals, as defined in Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, that originated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the manufacturing of our products.

In September 2004, we signed an agreement with a Chinese local authority to construct a facility in Chengdu, China, initially for the testing of our ICs. Pursuant to this agreement, we agreed to contribute capital in the form of cash, in-kind assets, and/or intellectual property, of at least \$5.0 million to our wholly-owned Chinese subsidiary as the registered capital for the subsidiary and have exercised the option to purchase land use rights for the facility for approximately \$0.2 million. Following the five-year lease term, we now have an option to acquire the facility in Chengdu for approximately \$1.8 million which consists of total construction costs incurred minus total rent paid by us during the lease term. This option became exercisable in March 2011. We will likely exercise our purchase option and enter into a purchase agreement for this facility in the future. The facility has been fully operational since 2006 and we have benefitted from shorter manufacturing cycle times and lower labor and overhead costs. Furthermore, we are continuing to expand our product testing capabilities in our China facility and are able to take advantage of the rich pool of local engineering talent to expand our manufacturing support and engineering operations. We constructed a 150,000 square foot research and development facility in Chengdu, China which was put into operation in October 2010.

## Key Personnel and Employees

Our performance is substantially dependent on the performance of our executive officers and key employees. Due to the relative complexity of the design of our analog and mixed-signal ICs, our engineers generally have more years of experience and greater circuit design aptitude than the more prevalent digital circuit design engineer. Analog engineers with advanced skills are limited in number and difficult to replace. The loss of the services of key officers, managers, engineers and other technical personnel would harm our business. Our future success will depend, in part, on our ability to attract, train, retain, and motivate highly qualified technical and managerial personnel. We may not be successful in attracting and retaining such personnel. Our employees are not represented by a collective bargaining organization, and we have never experienced a work stoppage or strike. Our management considers employee relations to be good. As of December 31, 2012, we employed 993 employees located in the United States, Taiwan, China, Japan, Korea, Europe and Singapore.

## Competition

The analog and mixed-signal semiconductor industry is highly competitive, and we expect competitive pressures to continue. Our ability to compete effectively and to expand our business will depend on our ability to continue to recruit both applications engineering and design engineering personnel, our ability to introduce new products, and our ability to maintain the rate at which we introduce these new products. Our industry is characterized by decreasing unit selling prices over the life of a product. We compete with domestic and international semiconductor companies, many of which have substantially greater financial and other resources with which to pursue engineering, manufacturing, marketing, and distribution of their products. We are in direct and active competition, with respect to one or more of our product lines, with at least 10 manufacturers of such products, of varying size and financial strength. The number of our competitors has grown due to expansion of the market segments in which we participate. We consider our primary competitors to include Analog Devices, Fairchild Semiconductor International, International Rectifier, Intersil Corporation, Linear Technology, Maxim Integrated Products, Micrel Inc., Microchip Technology, Microsemi Corporation, O2Micro International, ON Semiconductor, Richtek Technology Corporation, Rohm Co., Ltd., Semtech Corporation, STMicroelectronics N.V., Texas Instruments Incorporated and Volterra.

We expect continued competition from existing competitors as well as competition from new entrants into the semiconductor market. We believe that we are competitive with respect to these factors, particularly because our ICs typically are smaller in size, are highly integrated, possess higher levels of power management functionalities and achieve high performance specifications at lower price points than most of our competition. However, we cannot assure you that our products will continue to compete favorably or that we will be successful in the face of increasing competition from new products and enhancements introduced by existing competitors or new companies entering this market.

## Geographical and Segment Information

Please refer to the geographical and segment information for each of the last three fiscal years in Note 13 to our consolidated financial statements.

Please refer to the discussion of risks attendant to our foreign operations in the section entitled "Item 1A: Risk Factors".



## Available Information

We were incorporated in California in 1997 and reincorporated in Delaware in November 2004. Our executive offices are located at 79 Great Oaks Boulevard, San Jose CA 95119. Our telephone number is (408) 826-0600. Our e-mail address is investors@monolithicpower.com, and our website is www.monolithicpower.com. Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those filed or furnished pursuant to Sections 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, are available free of charge. These may be obtained from our website, as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or at the SEC website at www.sec.gov. Information contained on our website is not a part of this Form 10-K.

## Executive Officers of the Registrant

The executive officers of the Company, and their ages as of March 1, 2013 are as follows:

Name	Age	Position
Michael R. Hsing	53	President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director
Meera P. Rao	52	CFO and Principal Financial and Accounting Officer
Deming Xiao	50	President of MPS Asia Operations
Maurice Sciammas	53	Senior Vice President of Worldwide Sales and Marketing
Saria Tseng	42	Vice President, Strategic Corporate Development, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

Michael R. Hsing has served on our board of directors and has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer since founding Monolithic Power Systems in August 1997. Before founding our company, Mr. Hsing held senior technical positions at companies such as Supertex, Inc. and Micrel, Inc. Mr. Hsing is an inventor on numerous patents related to the process development of bipolar mixed-signal semiconductor manufacturing. Mr. Hsing holds a B.S.E.E. from the University of Florida.

Meera P. Rao has served as our Chief Financial Officer since January 2011. Ms. Rao joined us in January 2009 and served as our Vice President of Finance and Corporate Controller. Prior to joining MPS, she was the principal in her own consulting practice, working with various semiconductor companies, including MPS, where she set up our business operations in Chengdu, China in 2006. Ms. Rao has more than 20 years of experience with semiconductor and high technology companies and has held various senior executive positions, including CFO of Integration Associates, Vice President of Finance and Interim CFO at Atrica, Vice President of Finance at Raza Foundries, Corporate Controller and Interim CFO at nVIDIA, as well as various positions at Advanced Micro Devices (AMD). Ms. Rao is a CPA and holds an MBA from the University of Rochester.

Maurice Sciammas currently serves as our Senior Vice President of Worldwide Sales and Marketing, a position he has had since 2007. Mr. Sciammas joined the Company in July 1999 and served as Vice President of Products and Vice President of Sales (excluding greater China) until he was appointed to his current position. Before joining the Company, he was Director of IC Products at Supertex from 1990 to 1999. He has also held positions at Micrel, Inc. He holds a B.S.E.E. degree from San Jose State University.

Deming Xiao has served as our President of our Asia Operations since January 2008. Since joining us in May 2001, Mr. Xiao has held several executive positions, including Foundry Manager and Senior Vice President of Operations. Before joining us, from June 2000 to May 2001, Mr. Xiao was Engineering Account Manager at Chartered Semiconductor Manufacturing, Inc. Prior to that, Mr. Xiao spent 6 years as the Manager of Process Integration Engineering at Fairchild Imaging Sensors. Mr. Xiao holds a B.S. in Semiconductor Physics from Sichuan University, Chengdu, China and a M.S.E.E. from Wayne State University.

Saria Tseng has served as our Vice President and General Counsel since November 2004. Ms. Tseng joined the Company from MaXXan Systems, Inc., a privately held provider of intelligent storage networking solutions, where she was also Vice President and General Counsel from January 2001 to November 2004. Prior to her corporate experience, Ms. Tseng was an attorney at Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich, LLP from July 1999 to January 2001. Previously, she practiced law at Wang & Wang and Jones Day, Reavis & Pogue. Ms. Tseng is a member of the state bar in both California and New York and is a member of the bar association of the Republic of China (Taiwan). She holds Masters of Law degrees from Boalt Hall, University of California at Berkeley and the Chinese Culture University in Taipei.

## ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Our business involves risks and uncertainties. You should carefully consider the risks described below, together with all of the other information in this annual report on Form 10-K and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission in evaluating our business. If any of the following risks actually occur, our business, financial condition, operating results, and growth prospects would likely be adversely affected. In such an event, the trading price of our common stock could decline, and you could lose all or part of your investment in our common stock. Our past financial performance should not be considered to be a reliable indicator of future performance, and investors should not use historical trends to anticipate results or trends in future periods. These risks involve forward-looking statements and our actual results may differ substantially from those discussed in these forward-looking statements.

The future trading price of our common stock could be subject to wide fluctuations in response to a variety of factors.

The future trading price of our common stock is likely to be highly volatile and could be subject to wide fluctuations in price in response to various factors, many of which are beyond our control, including:

- our results of operations and financial performance;
- general economic, industry and global market conditions;
- our ability to outperform the market, and outperform at a level that meets or exceeds our investors' expectations;
- whether our forward guidance meets the expectations of our investors;
- the depth and liquidity of the market for our common stock;
- developments generally affecting the semiconductor industry;
- commencement of or developments relating to our involvement in litigation;
- investor perceptions of us and our business strategies;
- changes in securities analysts' expectations or our failure to meet those expectations;
- actions by institutional or other large stockholders;
- terrorist acts or acts of war;
- actual or anticipated fluctuations in our results of operations;
- developments with respect to intellectual property rights;
- announcements of technological innovations or significant contracts by us or our competitors;
- introduction of new products by us or our competitors;



- our sale of common stock or other securities in the future;
- conditions and trends in technology industries;
- changes in market valuation or earnings of our competitors;

our ability to develop new products, enter new market segments, gain market share, manage litigation risk, diversify our customer base and successfully secure manufacturing capacity;

- our ability to increase our gross margins; and
- changes in the estimation of the future size and growth rate of our markets.

In addition, the stock market in general often experiences substantial volatility that is seemingly unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies. These broad market fluctuations may adversely affect the trading price of our common stock.

We expect our operating results to fluctuate from quarter to quarter and year to year, which may make it difficult to predict our future performance and could cause our stock price to decline and be volatile.

Our revenue, expenses, and results of operations are difficult to predict, have varied significantly in the past and will continue to fluctuate significantly in the future due to a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control. We expect fluctuations to continue for a number of reasons, including:

• a deterioration in general demand for electronic products as a result of worldwide financial crises and associated macro-economic slowdowns;

- a deterioration in business conditions at our distributors, value-added resellers and/or end-customers;
- adverse general economic conditions in the countries where our products are sold or used;
- the timing of developments and related expenses in our litigation matters;

• the possibility of additional lost business as a result of customer and prospective customer concerns about adverse outcomes in our litigations or about being litigation targets;

- continued dependence on our turns business (orders received and shipped within the same fiscal quarter);
- increases in assembly costs due to commodity price increases, such as the price of gold;
- the timing of new product introductions by us and our competitors;
- changes in our revenue mix between OEM's, ODM's, distributors and value-added resellers;
- changes in product mix;
- the acceptance of our new products in the marketplace;
- our ability to develop new process technologies and achieve volume production;

- our ability to meet customer product demand in a timely manner;
- the scheduling, rescheduling, or cancellation of orders by our customers;
- the cyclical nature of demand for our customers' products;

- the fluctuations in our estimate for stock rotation reserves;
  - our ability to manage our inventory levels, including the levels of inventory held by our distributors;
    - inventory levels and product obsolescence;
  - seasonality and variability in the computer, consumer electronics, and communications markets;
  - the availability of adequate manufacturing capacity from our outside suppliers;
    - increases in prices for finished wafers due to general capacity shortages;
  - the potential loss of future business resulting from current capacity issues;
    - changes in manufacturing yields;
  - movements in exchange rates, interest rates or tax rates; and
- determining the probability of accounting charges associated with performance based equity awards granted to our employees.

Due to the factors noted above and other risks described in this section, many of which are beyond our control, you should not rely on quarter-to-quarter or year-over-year comparisons to predict our future financial performance. Unfavorable changes in any of the above factors may seriously harm our business and cause our stock price to decline and be volatile.

Our business has been and may continue to be significantly impacted by the deterioration in worldwide economic conditions and uncertainty in the outlook for the global economy makes it more likely that our actual results will differ materially from expectations.

Global credit and financial markets have experienced disruptions, and may continue to experience disruptions in the future, including diminished liquidity and credit availability, declines in consumer confidence, declines in economic growth, increases in unemployment rates, and continued uncertainty about economic stability. These economic uncertainties affect businesses such as ours in a number of ways, making it difficult to accurately forecast and plan our future business activities. The continued or further tightening of credit in financial markets may lead consumers and businesses to postpone spending, which may cause our customers to cancel, decrease or delay their existing and future orders with us. In addition, financial difficulties experienced by our suppliers or distributors could result in product delays, increased accounts receivable defaults and inventory challenges. The volatility in the credit markets has severely diminished liquidity and capital availability. Demand for consumer electronics is a function of the health of the economies in the United States, Japan and around the world. As a result of the recent global recession experienced by the U.S. and other economies around the world, as well as the European sovereign debt crisis, the overall demand for electronics has been and may continue to be adversely affected. We cannot predict the timing, strength or duration of any economic disruption or subsequent economic recovery, worldwide, in the United States, in our industry, or in the consumer electronics market. These and other economic factors have had and may continue to have a material adverse effect on demand for our products and on our financial condition and operating results.

We may not be profitable on a quarterly or annual basis.

Our profitability is dependent on many factors, including:

our sales, which because of our turns business (i.e., orders received and shipped within the same fiscal quarter), is difficult to accurately forecast;

consumer electronic sales, which has experienced and may continue to experience a downturn as a result of the worldwide economic crisis;



- changes in revenue mix between OEM's, ODM's, distributors and value-added resellers;
- changes in product mix;
- changes in revenue mix between end market segments (i.e. Communication, Computing, Consumer and Industrial);
- our competition, which could adversely impact our selling prices and our potential sales;
- our manufacturing costs, including our ability to negotiate with our vendors and our ability to efficiently run our test facility in China;
- manufacturing capacity constraints;
- determining the probability and magnitude of stock compensation accounting charges; and
- our operating expenses, including general and administrative expenses, selling and marketing expenses, stock-based compensation expenses, litigation expenses, and research and development expenses relating to products that will not be introduced and will not generate revenue until later periods, if at all.

We may not achieve profitability on a quarterly or annual basis in the future. Unfavorable changes in our operations, including any of the factors noted above, may have a material adverse effect on our quarterly or annual profitability.

For example, due to product shortages early in 2010, several major customers in Korea sought alternative suppliers, which impacted our revenue particularly in 2011 and may continue to impact our revenue in future periods. If we are unable to find alternative sources of revenue to offset this lost revenue, our profitability may be impacted, which could materially and adversely affect our stock price and results of operations.

We may not experience growth rates comparable to past years.

In the past, our revenues increased significantly in certain years due to increased sales of certain of our products. Due to various factors, including increased competition, loss of certain of our customer install base, unfavorable changes in our operations, reduced global electronics demand, end-customer market downturn, market acceptance and penetration of our current and future products and ongoing litigation, we may not experience growth rates comparable to past periods, which could materially and adversely affect our stock price and results of operations.

We may be unsuccessful in developing and selling new products with margins similar to or better than what we have experienced in the past, which would impact our overall gross margin and financial performance.

Our success depends on products that are differentiated in the market, which result in gross margins that have historically been above the industry averages. During the year ended December 31, 2011, our gross margin decreased materially as compared to the same period in 2010. Should we fail to improve our gross margin in the future, and accordingly develop and introduce sufficiently differentiated products that result in higher gross margins than industry averages, our financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

The highly cyclical nature of the semiconductor industry, which has produced significant and sometimes prolonged downturns, could materially adversely affect our operating results, financial condition and cash flows.

Historically, the semiconductor industry has been highly cyclical and, at various times, in particular since 2008, has experienced significant downturns and wide fluctuations in supply and demand. These conditions have caused

significant variances in product demand and production capacity, as well as rapid erosion of average selling prices. The industry may experience severe or prolonged downturns in the future, which could result in downward pressure on the price of our products as well as lower demand for our products. Because significant portions of our expenses are fixed in the short term or incurred in advance of anticipated sales, we may not be able to decrease our expenses in a timely manner to offset any sales shortfall. These conditions could have a material adverse effect on our operating results, financial condition and cash flows.

If demand for our products declines in the major end markets that we serve, our revenue will decrease and our results of operations and financial condition would be materially and adversely affected.

We believe that the application of our products in the computer, consumer electronics, communications and industrial markets will continue to account for the majority of our revenue. If the demand for our products declines in the major end markets that we serve, our revenue will decrease and our results of operations and financial condition would be materially and adversely affected. In addition, as technology evolves, the ability to integrate the functionalities of various components, including our discrete semiconductor products, onto a single chip and/or onto other components of systems containing our products increases. Should our customers require integrated solutions that we do not offer, demand for our products could decrease, and our business and results of operations would be materially and adversely affected.

We may be unsuccessful in developing and selling new products or in penetrating new markets required to maintain or expand our business.

Our competitiveness and future success depend on our ability to design, develop, manufacture, assemble, test, market, and support new products and enhancements on a timely and cost-effective basis. A fundamental shift in technologies in any of our product markets could have a material adverse effect on our competitive position within these markets. Our failure to timely develop new technologies or to react quickly to changes in existing technologies could materially delay our development of new products, which could result in product obsolescence, decreased revenue, and/or a loss of market share to competitors.

As we develop new product lines, we must adapt to market conditions that are unfamiliar to us, such as competitors and distribution channels that are different from those we have known in the past. Some of our new product lines require us to re-equip our labs to test parameters we have not tested in the past. If we are unable to adapt rapidly to these new and additional conditions, we may not be able to successfully penetrate new markets.

The success of a new product depends on accurate forecasts of long-term market demand and future technological developments, as well as on a variety of specific implementation factors, including:

- timely and efficient completion of process design and device structure improvements;
- timely and efficient implementation of manufacturing, assembly, and test processes;
- the ability to secure and effectively utilize fabrication capacity in different geometries;
  - product performance;
  - product availability;
  - the quality and reliability of the product; and
  - effective marketing, sales and service.

To the extent that we fail to timely introduce new products or to quickly penetrate new markets, our revenue and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.



We derive most of our revenue from direct or indirect sales to customers in Asia and have significant operations in Asia, which may expose us to political, cultural, regulatory, economic, foreign exchange, and operational risks.

We derive most of our revenue from customers located in Asia through direct or indirect sales through distribution arrangements and value-added reseller agreements with parties located in Asia. As a result, we are subject to increased risks due to this geographic concentration of business and operations. For the year ended December 31, 2012, approximately 89% of our revenue was from customers in Asia. There are risks inherent in doing business in Asia, and internationally in general, including:

• changes in, or impositions of, legislative or regulatory requirements, including tax laws in the United States and in the countries in which we manufacture or sell our products;

• trade restrictions, including restrictions imposed by the United States government on trading with parties in foreign countries;

- currency exchange rate fluctuations impacting intra-company transactions;
  - transportation delays;
- changes in tax regulations in China that may impact our tax status in Chengdu;
- multi-tiered distribution channels that lack visibility to end customer pricing and purchase patterns;
  - international political relationships and threats of war;
    - terrorism and threats of terrorism;
    - epidemics and illnesses;
- work stoppages and infrastructure problems due to adverse weather conditions or natural disasters;
  - work stoppages related to employee dissatisfaction;
  - economic, social and political instability;
  - changes in import/export regulations, tariffs, and freight rates;
- longer accounts receivable collection cycles and difficulties in collecting accounts receivables;
  - enforcing contracts generally; and
- less effective protection of intellectual property and contractual arrangements.

If we fail to expand our customer base and significantly reduce the geographical concentration of our customers, we will continue to be subject to the foregoing risks, which could materially and adversely affect our revenue and financial condition.

We depend on a limited number of customers for a significant percentage of our revenues.

Historically, we have generated most of our revenues from a limited number of customers. For example, as a result of consolidations in recent years among distributors, sales to our largest distributor accounted for approximately 32% of revenue in 2012, 27% of revenue in 2011 and 21% of revenue in 2010. We continue to rely on a limited number of customers for a significant portion of our revenue. Because we rely on a limited number of customers for significant percentages of our revenues, a decrease in demand for our products from any of our major customers for any reason (including due to market conditions, catastrophic events or otherwise) could have a materially adverse impact on our financial conditions and results of operations.

We are subject to anti-corruption laws in the jurisdictions in which we operate, including the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, or the FCPA. Our failure to comply with these laws could result in penalties which could harm our reputation and have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We are subject to the FCPA, which generally prohibits companies and their intermediaries from making improper payments to foreign officials for the purpose of obtaining or keeping business and/or other benefits, along with various other anticorruption laws. Although we have implemented policies and procedures designed to ensure that we, our employees and other intermediaries comply with the FCPA and other anticorruption laws to which we are subject, there is no assurance that such policies or procedures will work effectively all of the time or protect us against liability under the FCPA or other laws for actions taken by our employees and other intermediaries with respect to our business or any businesses that we may acquire. We have significant operations in Asia, which places us in frequent contact with persons who may be considered “foreign officials” under the FCPA, resulting in an elevated risk of potential FCPA violations. If we are not in compliance with the FCPA and other laws governing the conduct of business with government entities (including local laws), we may be subject to criminal and civil penalties and other remedial measures, which could have an adverse impact on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity. Any investigation of any potential violations of the FCPA or other anticorruption laws by U.S. or foreign authorities could harm our reputation and have an adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We receive a significant portion of our revenue from distribution arrangements, value-added resellers and direct customers, and the loss of any one of these distributors, value-added resellers or direct customers or failure to collect a receivable from them could adversely affect our operations and financial position.

We market our products through distribution arrangements and value-added resellers and through our direct sales and applications support organization to customers that include OEMs, ODMs and electronic manufacturing service providers. Receivables from our customers are generally not secured by any type of collateral and are subject to the risk of being uncollectible. As a result of consolidations in recent years among distributors, sales to our largest distributor accounted for approximately 32% of our total revenue for the year ended December 31, 2012. Significant deterioration in the liquidity or financial condition of any of our major customers or any group of our customers could have a material adverse impact on the collectability of our accounts receivable and our future operating results. We primarily conduct our sales on a purchase order basis, and we do not have any long-term supply contracts.

Moreover, we believe a high percentage of our products are eventually sold to a number of OEMs. Although we communicate with OEMs in an attempt to achieve “design wins,” which are decisions by OEMs and/or ODMs to incorporate our products, we do not have purchase commitments from these end users. Therefore, there can be no assurance that the OEMs and/or ODMs will continue to incorporate our ICs into their products. OEM technical specifications and requirements can change rapidly, and we may not have products that fit new specifications from an end-customer for whom we have had previous design wins. We cannot be certain that we will continue to achieve design wins from large OEMs, that our direct customers will continue to be successful in selling to the OEMs, or that the OEMs will be successful in selling products which incorporate our ICs. The loss of any significant customer, any material reduction in orders by any of our significant customers or by their OEM customers, the cancellation of a significant customer order, or the cancellation or delay of a customer’s or OEM’s significant program or product could reduce our revenue and adversely affect our operations and financial condition.

Due to the nature of our business as a component supplier, we may have difficulty both in accurately predicting our future revenue and appropriately managing our expenses.

Because we provide components for end products and systems, demand for our products is influenced by our customers’ end product demand. As a result, we may have difficulty in accurately forecasting our revenue and

expenses. Our revenue depends on the timing, size, and speed of commercial introductions of end products and systems that incorporate our products, all of which are inherently difficult to forecast, as well as the ongoing demand for previously introduced end products and systems. In addition, demand for our products is influenced by our customers' ability to manage their inventory. Our sales to distributors are subject to higher volatility because they service demand from multiple levels of the supply chain which, in itself, is inherently difficult to forecast. If our customers, including distributors, do not manage their inventory correctly or misjudge their customers' demand, our shipments to and orders from our customers may vary significantly on a quarterly basis.



Our ability to increase product sales and revenues may be constrained by the manufacturing capacity of our suppliers.

Although we provide our suppliers with rolling forecasts of our production requirements, their ability to provide wafers to us is limited by the available capacity, particularly capacity in the geometries we require, at the facilities in which they manufacture wafers for us. As a result, this lack of capacity has at times, such as in 2010, constrained our product sales and revenue growth. In addition, an increased need for capacity to meet internal demands or demands of other customers could cause our suppliers to reduce capacity available to us. Our suppliers may also require us to pay amounts in excess of contracted or anticipated amounts for wafer deliveries or require us to make other concessions in order to acquire the wafer supply necessary to meet our customer requirements. If our suppliers extend lead times, limit supplies or the types of capacity we require, or increase prices due to capacity constraints or other factors, our revenue and gross margin may materially decline. In addition, if we experience supply delays or limitations, our customers may reduce their purchase levels with us and/or seek alternative solutions to meet their demand, which could materially and adversely impact our business and results of operations.

For example, due to lack of capacity, which resulted in product shortages in 2010, several major customers in Korea sought alternative suppliers, which impacted our revenue in 2011 and 2012 and may continue to impact our revenue in future periods. If we are faced with capacity issues similar to what we experienced in 2010, our product sales and revenue may be further impacted, which could materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations.

We currently depend on three third-party suppliers to provide us with wafers for our products. If any of our wafer suppliers become insolvent or capacity constrained and are unable and/or fail to provide us sufficient wafers at acceptable yields and at anticipated costs, our revenue and gross margin may decline or we may not be able to fulfill our customer orders.

We have a supply arrangement with three suppliers for the production of wafers. Should any of our suppliers become insolvent or capacity constrained, we may not be able to fulfill our customer orders, which would likely cause a decline in our revenue.

While certain aspects of our relationship with these suppliers are contractual, many important aspects of this relationship depend on our suppliers' continued cooperation and our management relationships. In addition, the fabrication of ICs is a highly complex and precise process. Problems in the fabrication process can cause a substantial percentage of wafers to be rejected or numerous ICs on each wafer to be non-functional. This could potentially reduce yields. The failure of our suppliers to supply us wafers at acceptable yields could prevent us from fulfilling our customer orders for our products and would likely cause a decline in our revenue.

Further, as is common in the semiconductor industry, our customers may reschedule or cancel orders on relatively short notice. Under our agreement with our suppliers, we have an option to order wafers based on a committed forecast that can cover a period of one to six months. If our customers cancel orders after we submit a committed forecast to our suppliers for the corresponding wafers, we may be required to purchase wafers that we may not be able to resell, which would adversely affect our operating results, financial condition, and cash flows.

We might not be able to deliver our products on a timely basis if our relationships with our assembly and test subcontractors are disrupted or terminated.

All of our products are assembled by third-party subcontractors and a portion of our testing is currently performed by third-party subcontractors. We do not have any long-term agreements with these subcontractors. As a result, we may not have direct control over product delivery schedules or product quality. Also, due to the amount of time typically required to qualify assembly and test subcontractors, we could experience delays in the shipment of our products if we were forced to find alternate third parties to assemble or test our products. In addition, events such as the recent

global economic crisis may materially impact our assembly supplier's ability to operate. Any future product delivery delays or disruptions in our relationships with our subcontractors could have a material adverse effect on our operating results, financial condition, and cash flows.

There may be unanticipated costs associated with adding to or supplementing our third-party supplier's manufacturing capacity.

We anticipate that future growth of our business will require increased manufacturing capacity on the part of third-party supply foundries, assembly shops, or testing facilities for our products. In order to facilitate such growth, we may need to enter into strategic transactions, investments and other activities. Such activities are subject to a number of risks, including:

- the costs and expense associated with such activities;
- the availability of modern foundries to be developed, acquired, leased or otherwise made available to us or our third-party suppliers;
- the ability of foundries and our third-party suppliers to obtain the advanced equipment used in the production of our products;
  - delays in bringing new foundry operations online to meet increased product demand; and
- unforeseen environmental, engineering or manufacturing qualification problems relating to existing or new foundry facilities.

These and other risks may affect the ultimate cost and timing of any expansion of our third-party supplier's capacity.

We purchase inventory in advance based on expected demand for our products, and if demand is not as expected, we may have insufficient or excess inventory, which could adversely impact our financial position.

As a fabless semiconductor company, we purchase our inventory from a third party manufacturer in advance of selling our product. We place orders with our manufacturer based on existing and expected orders from our customers for particular products. While our contracts with our customers and distributors include lead time requirements and cancellation penalties that are designed to protect us from misalignment between customer orders and inventory levels, we must nonetheless make some predictions when we place orders with our manufacturer. In the event that our predictions are inaccurate due to unexpected increases in orders or unavailability of product within the time frame that is required, we may have insufficient inventory to meet our customer demands. In the event that we order products that we are unable to sell due to a decrease in orders, unexpected order cancellations, injunctions due to patent litigations, or product returns, we may have excess inventory which, if not sold, may need to be disposed of or would result in a decrease in our revenues in future periods as the excess inventory at our distributors is sold. If any of these situations were to arise, it could have a material impact on our business and financial position.

The outcome of currently ongoing and future examinations of our income tax returns by the IRS could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

We are subject to examination of our income tax returns by the IRS and other tax authorities. Our U.S. Federal income tax returns for the years ended December 31, 2005 through December 31, 2007 are under examination by the IRS. In April 2011, we received from the IRS a Notice of Proposed Adjustment, or "NOPA", relating to a cost-sharing agreement entered into by the Company and its international subsidiaries on January 1, 2004. In the NOPA, the IRS objected to the Company's allocation of certain litigation expenses between the Company and our international subsidiaries and the amount of "buy-in payments" made by our international subsidiaries to the Company in connection with the cost-sharing agreement, and proposed to increase our U.S. taxable income according to a few alternative methodologies. The methodology resulting in the largest potential adjustment, if the IRS were to prevail on all matters

in dispute, would result in potential federal and state income tax liabilities of up to \$37.0 million, plus interest and penalties, if any. We believe that the IRS's position in the NOPA is incorrect and that our tax returns for those years were correct as filed. We are contesting these proposed adjustments vigorously. In February 2012, we received a revised NOPA from the IRS (Revised NOPA). In this Revised NOPA, the IRS raised the same issues as in the NOPA issued in April 2011 but under a different methodology. Under the Revised NOPA, the largest potential federal income tax adjustment, if the IRS were to prevail on all matters in dispute, has decreased to \$10.5 million, plus interest and penalties, if any. We responded to the IRS Revised NOPA in May 2012, but have not yet received a response from the IRS.

The IRS also audited the research and development credits carried forward into year 2005 and the credits generated in the years 2005 through 2007. We received a NOPA from the IRS in February 2011, proposing to reduce the research and development credits generated in year 2005 through 2007 and the carryforwards, which would then reduce the value of such credits carried forward to subsequent tax years.

We have reviewed and responded to the above proposed adjustments. We regularly assess the likelihood of an adverse outcome resulting from such examinations to determine the adequacy of our provision for income taxes. As of December 31, 2012, based on the technical merits of our tax return filing positions, we believe that it is more-likely-than-not that the benefit of such positions will be sustained upon the resolution of our audits resulting in no significant impact on our consolidated financial position and the results of operations and cash flows.

The French subsidiary of the Company is currently under audit for taxable years 2009 and 2010. The Company is in the process of responding to the questions raised by the tax authority. We do not believe the resolution of the audits will result in a significant impact on our consolidated financial position, results of operations and cash flows. Aside from U.S. and France, there are no other income tax audits in process in any other material jurisdiction.

Changes in effective tax rates or adverse outcomes resulting from examination of our income tax returns could adversely affect our results.

Our future effective tax rates could be adversely affected by earnings being lower than anticipated in countries where we have lower statutory rates and higher than anticipated in countries where we have higher statutory rates, by changes in the valuation of our deferred tax assets and liabilities, or by changes in tax laws, regulations, accounting principles or interpretations thereof and discrete items such as future exercises or dispositions of stock options and restricted stock releases. In addition, we are subject to the continuous examination of our income tax returns by the Internal Revenue Service and other tax authorities. We regularly assess the likelihood of adverse outcomes resulting from these examinations to determine the adequacy of our provision for income taxes. There can be no assurance that the outcomes from these continuous examinations will not have an adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition.

The complexity of calculating our tax provision may result in errors that could result in restatements of our financial statements.

Due to the complexity associated with the calculation of our tax provision, we have hired independent tax advisors to assist us in the calculation. If we or our independent tax advisors fail to resolve or fully understand certain issues that we may have had in the past and issues that may arise in the future, we could be subject to errors, which would result in us having to restate our financial statements. For example, because of the complexity of our tax structure, we have had errors in our financial statements in the calculation of our tax provision that previously resulted in restatements of our prior year financial results. Restatements are generally costly and could adversely impact our results of operations and/or have a negative impact on the trading price of our common stock.

If we are unsuccessful in legal proceedings brought against us or any of our competitors, we could be prevented from selling many of our products and/or be required to pay substantial damages. An unfavorable outcome or an additional award of damages, attorneys' fees or an injunction could cause our revenue to decline significantly and could severely harm our business and operating results.

From time to time we are party to various legal proceedings. If we are not successful in litigation that could be brought against us or our customers, we could be ordered to pay monetary fines and/or damages. If we are found liable for willful patent infringement, damages could be doubled or tripled. We and/or our customers could also be prevented from selling some or all of our products. Moreover, our customers and end-users could decide not to use our

products or our products or our customers' accounts payable to us could be seized. Finally, interim developments in these proceedings could increase the volatility in our stock price as the market assesses the impact of such developments on the likelihood that we will or will not ultimately prevail in these proceedings.

Given our inability to control the timing and nature of significant events in our legal proceedings that either have arisen or may arise, our legal expenses are difficult to forecast and may vary substantially from our publicly-disclosed forecasts with respect to any given quarter, which could contribute to increased volatility in our stock price and financial condition.

Historically, we have incurred significant expenses in connection with various legal proceedings that vary with the level of activity in the proceeding. It is difficult for us to forecast our legal expenses for any given quarter, which adversely affects our ability to forecast our expected results of operations in general. We may also be subject to unanticipated legal proceedings, which would result in our incurrence of unexpected legal expenses. If we fail to meet the expectations of securities or industry analysts as a result of unexpected changes in our legal expenses, our stock price could be impacted.

Future legal proceedings may divert our financial and management resources.

The semiconductor industry is characterized by frequent claims of infringement and litigation regarding patent and other intellectual property rights. Patent infringement is an ongoing risk, in part because other companies in our industry could have patent rights that may not be identifiable when we initiate development efforts. Litigation may be necessary to enforce our intellectual property rights, and we may have to defend ourselves against additional infringement claims. Such litigation is very costly. In the event any third party makes a new infringement claim against us or our customers, we could incur additional ongoing legal expenses. In addition, in connection with these legal proceedings, we may be required to post bonds to defend our intellectual property rights in certain countries for an indefinite period of time, until such dispute is resolved. If our legal expenses materially increase or exceed anticipated amounts, our capital resources and financial condition be adversely affected. Further, if we are not successful in any of our intellectual property defenses, our financial condition could be adversely affected and our business could be harmed. In addition, our management team may also be required to devote a great deal of time, effort and energy to these legal proceedings, which could distract management's focus on our operations and adversely affect our business.

We will continue to vigorously defend and enforce our intellectual property rights around the world, especially as it relates to patent litigation.

From time to time, we are faced with having to defend our intellectual property rights throughout the world. Should we become engaged in such proceedings, it could divert management's attention from focusing on and implementing our business strategy. Further, should we not be successful in any of our intellectual property enforcement actions, our revenue may be affected and our business could be harmed.

Failure to protect our proprietary technologies or maintain the right to certain technologies may negatively affect our ability to compete.

We rely heavily on our proprietary technologies. Our future success and competitive position depend in part upon our ability to obtain and maintain protection of certain proprietary technologies used in our products. We pursue patents for some of our new products and unique technologies, and we also rely on a combination of nondisclosure agreements and other contractual provisions, as well as our employees' commitment to confidentiality and loyalty, to protect our technology, know-how, and processes. Despite the precautions we take, it may be possible for unauthorized third parties to copy aspects of our current or future technology or products or to obtain and use information that we regard as proprietary. We intend to continue to protect our proprietary technology, including through patents. However, there can be no assurance that the steps we take will be adequate to protect our proprietary rights, that our patent applications will lead to issued patents, that others will not develop or patent similar or superior products or technologies, or that our patents will not be challenged, invalidated, or circumvented by others.

Furthermore, the laws of the countries in which our products are or may be developed, manufactured, or sold may not protect our products and intellectual property rights to the same extent as laws in the United States. Our failure to adequately protect our proprietary technologies could harm our business.



The downgrade of the credit rating for U.S. long-term sovereign debt and that of certain Eurozone countries could affect global and domestic financial markets, which may affect our business, financial condition and liquidity.

Although a downgrade of long-term sovereign credit ratings is not unprecedented, a downgrade of the U.S. credit rating is, and the potential impact is uncertain. Management will continue to monitor the situation and there could be future changes in capital requirements or a rebalancing of investment portfolios in response to management's assessment of the related risk weightings. At this time, however, U.S. treasuries continue to trade in active markets, and the yield curve on U.S. treasuries remains an appropriate basis for determining risk-free rates.

Should there be a deterioration of the global and financial markets as a result of the downgraded credit rating for U.S. long-term sovereign debt, and that of certain Eurozone countries, our business, financial condition and liquidity could be adversely affected.

The market for government-backed student loan auction-rate securities has suffered a decline in liquidity which may impact the liquidity and potential value of our investment portfolio.

The market for government-backed student loan auction-rate securities with interest rates that reset through a Dutch auction every 7 to 35 days, became illiquid in 2008. We experienced our first failed auction in mid-February 2008. At December 31, 2012, the Company's investment portfolio included \$11.8 million, net of impairment charges of \$0.5 million, in government-backed student loan auction-rate securities. As of that date, \$12.3 million, the face value of our auction-rate security investments, have failed to reset through successful auctions and it is unclear as to when these investments will regain their liquidity. The underlying maturity of these auction-rate securities is up to 35 years.

Based on certain assumptions described in Note 2, "Fair Value Measurements", to our consolidated financial statements and the Liquidity and Capital Resources section of "Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" of this annual report on Form 10-K, we recorded temporary and other-than-temporary impairment charges on these investments. The valuation is subject to fluctuations in the future, which will depend on many factors, including the quality of underlying collateral, estimated time for liquidity including potential to be called or restructured, underlying final maturity, insurance guaranty and market conditions, among others.

Should there be further deterioration in the market for auction-rate securities, the value of our portfolio may decline, which may have an adverse impact on our cash position and our earnings. If the accounting rules for these securities change, there may be an adverse impact on our earnings. It is unlikely that we will be able to liquidate our auction-rate securities in the short term.

We face risks in connection with our internal control over financial reporting.

Effective internal controls over financial reporting are necessary for us to provide reliable and accurate financial reports. If we cannot provide reliable financial reports or prevent fraud or other financial misconduct, our business and operating results could be harmed. Our failure to implement and maintain effective internal control over financial reporting could result in a material misstatement of our financial statements or otherwise cause us to fail to meet our financial reporting obligations. This, in turn, could result in a loss of investor confidence in the accuracy and completeness of our financial reports, which could have an adverse effect on our results of operations and/or have a negative impact on the trading price of our common stock, and could subject us to stockholder litigation. For example, because of the complexity of our tax structure, we have had errors in our financial statements in the calculation of our tax provision that previously resulted in restatements of our prior year financial results. Although we believe that we have implemented appropriate internal control over financial reporting related to the computation of our income tax provision, we cannot be certain that any measures we have taken or may take in the future will ensure that we

implement and maintain adequate internal control over financial reporting and that we will avoid any material weakness in the future. In addition, we cannot assure you that we will not in the future identify further material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting that we have not discovered to date, which may impact the reliability of our financial reporting and financial statements.

Our products must meet exacting specifications, and undetected defects and failures may occur, which may cause customers to return or stop buying our products and may expose us to product liability risk.

Our customers generally establish demanding specifications for quality, performance, and reliability that our products must meet. Integrated circuits as complex as ours often encounter development delays and may contain undetected defects or failures when first introduced or after commencement of commercial shipments, which might require product replacement or recall. Further, our third-party manufacturing processes or changes thereof, or raw material used in the manufacturing processes may cause our products to fail. We have from time to time in the past experienced product quality, performance or reliability problems. Our standard warranty period is one year, which exposes the company to significant risks of claims for defects and failures. If defects and failures occur in our products, we could experience lost revenue, increased costs, including warranty expense and costs associated with customer support, delays in, cancellations or rescheduling of orders or shipments, and product returns or discounts, any of which would harm our operating results.

In addition, product liability claims may be asserted with respect to our technology or products. Although we currently have insurance, there can be no assurance that we have obtained a sufficient amount of insurance coverage, that asserted claims will be within the scope of coverage of the insurance, or that we will have sufficient resources to satisfy any asserted claims.

The price and availability of commodities (e.g., gold, platinum, copper and silicon) may adversely impact our ability to deliver our products in a timely and cost-effective manner and may adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Our products incorporate commodities such as gold, platinum, copper and silicon. An increase in the price or a decrease in the availability of these commodities and other like commodities that we use could negatively impact our business and results of operations.

Devaluation of the U.S. Dollar relative to other foreign currencies, including the renminbi, may adversely affect results of operations.

Our manufacturing and packaging suppliers are and will continue to be primarily located in China for the foreseeable future. Should the value of the renminbi continue to rise against the U.S. Dollar, there could be an increase in our manufacturing costs relative to competitors who have manufacturing facilities located in the U.S., which could adversely affect our operations. In addition, because we collect payments from all customers in U.S. dollars, fluctuations in the value of foreign currencies could have an adverse impact on our customers' business, which could negatively impact our business and results of operations.

We and our manufacturing partners are or will be subject to extensive Chinese government regulation, and the benefit of various incentives from Chinese governments that we and our manufacturing partners receive may be reduced or eliminated, which could increase our costs or limit our ability to sell products and conduct activities in China.

Most of our manufacturing partners are located in China. In addition, we have established a facility in China, initially for the testing of our ICs. The Chinese government has broad discretion and authority to regulate the technology industry in China. China's government has implemented policies from time to time to regulate economic expansion in China. It also exercises significant control over China's economic growth through the allocation of resources, controlling payment of foreign currency-denominated obligations, setting monetary policy and providing preferential treatment to particular industries or companies. New regulations or the readjustment of previously implemented regulations could require us and our manufacturing partners to change our business plans, increase our costs, or limit our ability to sell products and conduct activities in China, which could adversely affect our business and operating

results.

In addition, the Chinese government and provincial and local governments have provided, and continue to provide, various incentives to encourage the development of the semiconductor industry in China. Such incentives include tax rebates, reduced tax rates, favorable lending policies, and other measures, some or all of which may be available to our manufacturing partners and to us with respect to our facility in China. Any of these incentives could be reduced or eliminated by governmental authorities at any time. Any such reduction or elimination of incentives currently provided to our manufacturing partners could adversely affect our business and operating results.

24

---

There are inherent risks associated with the operation of our testing facility in China, which could increase product costs or cause a delay in product shipments.

We have a testing facility in China that began operations in 2006. In addition to the risks discussed elsewhere in this annual report on Form 10-K, we face the following risks, among others, with respect to our testing facility in China:

- inability to hire and maintain a qualified workforce;
- inability to maintain appropriate and acceptable manufacturing controls; and
- higher than anticipated overhead and other costs of operation.

If we are unable to maintain our testing facility in China at fully operational status with qualified workers, appropriate manufacturing controls and reasonable cost levels, we may incur higher costs than our current expense levels, which would affect our gross margins. In addition, if capacity restraints result in significant delays in product shipments, our business and results of operations would be adversely affected.

The average selling prices of products in our markets have historically decreased over time and will likely do so in the future, which could harm our revenues and gross profits.

Average selling prices of semiconductor products in the markets we serve have historically decreased over time. Our gross profits and financial results will suffer if we are unable to offset any reductions in our average selling prices by reducing our costs, developing new or enhanced products on a timely basis with higher selling prices or gross profits, or increasing our sales volumes. Additionally, because we do not operate our own manufacturing or assembly facilities, we may not be able to reduce our costs as rapidly as companies that operate their own facilities, and our costs may even increase, which could also reduce our margins.

Because of the lengthy sales cycles for our products and the fixed nature of a significant portion of our expenses, we may incur substantial expenses before we earn associated revenue and may not ultimately achieve our forecasted sales for our products.

The introduction of new products presents significant business challenges because product development plans and expenditures must be made up to two years or more in advance of any sales. It takes us up to 12 months or more to design and manufacture a new product prototype. Only after we have a prototype do we introduce the product to the market and begin selling efforts in an attempt to achieve design wins. This sales process requires us to expend significant sales and marketing resources without any assurance of success. Volume production of products that use our ICs, if any, may not be achieved for an additional period of time after an initial sale. Sales cycles for our products are lengthy for a number of reasons, including:

- our customers usually complete an in-depth technical evaluation of our products before they place a purchase order;
- the commercial adoption of our products by OEMs and ODMs is typically limited during the initial release of their product to evaluate product performance and consumer demand;
- our products must be designed into a customer's product or system; and

• the development and commercial introduction of our customers' products incorporating new technologies frequently are delayed.

As a result of our lengthy sales cycles, we may incur substantial expenses before we earn associated revenue because a significant portion of our operating expenses is relatively fixed and based on expected revenue. The lengthy sales cycles of our products also make forecasting the volume and timing of orders difficult. In addition, the delays inherent in lengthy sales cycles raise additional risks that customers may cancel or change their orders. Our sales are made by purchase orders. Because industry practice allows customers to reschedule or cancel orders on relatively short notice, backlog is not always a good indicator of our future sales. If customer cancellations or product changes occur, we could lose anticipated sales and not have sufficient time to reduce our inventory and operating expenses.

Our success depends on our investment of significant amount of resources in research and development. We may have to invest more resources in research and development than anticipated, which could increase our operating expenses and negatively impact our operating results.

Our success depends on us investing significant amounts of resources into research and development. Our research and development expenses as a percent of our total revenue were 22.8% and 22.7% for the year ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. We expect to have to continue to invest heavily in research and development in the future in order to continue to innovate and come to market with new products in a timely manner and increase our revenue and profitability. If we have to invest more resources in research and development than we anticipate, we could see an increase in our operating expenses which may negatively impact our operating results. Also, if we are unable to properly manage and effectively utilize our research and development resources, we could see adverse effects on our business, financial condition and operating results.

In addition, if new competitors, technological advances by existing competitors, our entry into new markets, or other competitive factors require us to invest significantly greater resources than anticipated in our research and development efforts, our operating expenses would increase. If we are required to invest significantly greater resources than anticipated in research and development efforts without a corresponding increase in revenue, our operating results could decline. Research and development expenses are likely to fluctuate from time to time to the extent we make periodic incremental investments in research and development and these investments may be independent of our level of revenue which could negatively impact our financial results. In order to remain competitive, we anticipate that we will continue to devote substantial resources to research and development, and we expect these expenses to increase in absolute dollars in the foreseeable future due to the increased complexity and the greater number of products under development.

The loss of any of our key personnel or the failure to attract or retain specialized technical and management personnel could impair our ability to grow our business.

Our future success depends upon our ability to attract and retain highly qualified technical and managerial personnel. We are particularly dependent on the continued services of our key executives, including Michael Hsing, our President and Chief Executive Officer, who founded our company and developed our proprietary process technology. In addition, personnel with highly skilled analog and mixed-signal design engineering expertise are scarce and competition for personnel with these skills is intense. There can be no assurance that we will be able to retain existing key employees or that we will be successful in attracting, integrating or retaining other highly qualified personnel with critical capabilities in the future. If we are unable to retain the services of existing key employees or are unsuccessful in attracting new highly qualified employees quickly enough to meet the demands of our business, including design cycles, our business could be harmed.

If we fail to retain key employees in sales, applications, finance and legal or to make continued improvements to our internal systems, particularly in the accounting and finance area, our business may suffer.

If we fail to continue to adequately staff our sales, applications, financial and legal staff, maintain or upgrade our business systems and maintain internal controls that meet the demands of our business, our ability to operate effectively will suffer. The operation of our business also depends upon our ability to retain these employees, as these employees hold a significant amount of institutional knowledge about us and our products, and, if they were to terminate their employment, our sales and internal control over financial reporting could be adversely affected.

We intend to continue to expand our operations, which may strain our resources and increase our operating expenses.

We plan to continue to expand our domestic and foreign operations through internal growth, strategic relationships, and/or acquisitions. We expect that any such expansion will strain our systems and operational and financial controls. In addition, we are likely to incur significantly higher operating costs. To manage our growth effectively, we must continue to improve and expand our systems and controls, as well as hire experienced administrative and financial personnel. If we fail to do so, our growth will be limited. If we fail to effectively manage our planned expansion of operations, our business and operating results may be harmed.



We may engage in future acquisitions that dilute the ownership interests of our stockholders and cause us to incur debt or to assume contingent liabilities, and we may be unable to successfully integrate these companies into our operations, which would adversely affect our business.

As a part of our business strategy, from time to time we review acquisition prospects that would complement our current product offerings, enhance our design capability or offer other competitive opportunities. In the event of future acquisitions, we could use a significant portion of our available cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments, issue equity securities which would dilute current stockholders' percentage ownership, incur substantial debt or contingent liabilities, and/or incur impairment charges related to goodwill or other intangibles. Such actions by us could impact our operating results and/or the price of our common stock.

In addition, we may be unable to identify or complete prospective acquisition for various reasons, including competition from other companies in the semiconductor industry, the valuation expectations of acquisition candidates and applicable antitrust laws or related regulations. If we are unable to identify and complete acquisitions, we may not be able to successfully expand our business and product offerings.

To the extent we are successful in completing strategic acquisitions, if we are unsuccessful in integrating any acquired company into our operations or if integration is more difficult than anticipated, we may experience disruptions that could harm our business and not realize the anticipated benefits of the acquisitions. Some of the risks that may adversely affect our ability to integrate or realize any anticipated benefits from the acquired companies, businesses or assets include those associated with:

- unexpected losses of key employees or customers of the acquired companies or businesses;
- conforming the acquired company's standards, processes, procedures and controls with our operations;
  - coordinating new product and process development;
  - hiring additional management and other critical personnel;
  - increasing the scope, geographic diversity and complexity of our operations;
  - difficulties in consolidating facilities and transferring processes and know-how;
- other difficulties in the assimilation of acquired operations, technologies or products;

the risk of undisclosed liabilities of the acquired businesses and potential legal disputes with founders or stockholders of acquired companies;

- our inability to commercialize acquired technologies;

the risk that the future business potential as projected is not realized and as a result, we may be required to take a charge to earnings that would impact our profitability;

- the need to take impairment charges or write-downs with respect to acquired assets and technologies;
  - diversion of management's attention from other business concerns; and
  - adverse effects on existing business relationships with customers.



We compete against many companies with substantially greater financial and other resources, and our market share may be reduced if we are unable to respond to our competitors effectively.

The analog and mixed-signal semiconductor industry is highly competitive, and we expect competitive pressures to continue. Our ability to compete effectively and to expand our business will depend on our ability to continue to recruit applications and design talent, our ability to introduce new products, and our ability to maintain the rate at which we introduce these new products. We compete with domestic and non-domestic semiconductor companies, many of which have substantially greater financial and other resources with which to pursue engineering, manufacturing, marketing, and distribution of their products. We are in direct and active competition, with respect to one or more of our product lines, with at least 10 manufacturers of such products, of varying size and financial strength. The number of our competitors has grown due to the expansion of the market segments in which we participate. We consider our competitors to include, but not be limited to: Fairchild Semiconductor, Intersil, Linear, Maxim Integrated Products, Micrel, Microsemi, National Semiconductor, O2Micro, RichTek, Rohm, Semtech, STMicroelectronic, Texas Instruments and Volterra. We expect continued competition from existing competitors as well as competition from new entrants in the semiconductor market.

We cannot assure you that our products will continue to compete favorably or that we will be successful in the face of increasing competition from new products and enhancements introduced by existing competitors or new companies entering this market, which would materially and adversely affect our results of operations and our financial condition.

If securities or industry analysts downgrade our stock or do not continue to publish research or reports about our business, our stock price and trading volume could decline.

The trading market for our common stock will depend, in part, on the research and reports that industry or securities analysts publish about us or our business. We do not have any control over these analysts. If one or more of the analysts who cover us downgrade our stock, our stock price would likely decline. If one or more of these analysts cease coverage of us or fail to regularly publish reports on us, we could lose visibility in the financial markets, which in turn could cause our stock price or trading volume to decline.

Because of their significant stock ownership, our officers and directors will be able to exert significant influence over our future direction.

Executive officers, directors, and affiliated entities beneficially owned in aggregate, approximately 17% of our outstanding common stock as of December 31, 2012. These stockholders, if acting together, would be able to significantly influence all matters requiring approval by our stockholders, including the election of directors and the approval of mergers or other business combination transactions.

Major earthquakes or other natural disasters and resulting systems outages may cause us significant losses.

Our corporate headquarters, the production facilities of our third-party wafer suppliers, our IC testing facility, a portion of our assembly and research and development activities, and certain other critical business operations are located in or near seismically active regions and are subject to periodic earthquakes. We do not maintain earthquake insurance and could be materially and adversely affected in the event of a major earthquake. Much of our revenue, as well as our manufacturers and assemblers, are concentrated in Asia. Such concentration increases the risk that other natural disasters, labor strikes, terrorism, war, political unrest, epidemics, and/or health advisories could disrupt our operations. In addition, we rely heavily on our internal information and communications systems and on systems or support services from third parties to manage our operations efficiently and effectively. Any of these are subject to failure due to a natural disaster or other disruption. System-wide or local failures that affect our information

processing could have material adverse effects on our business, financial condition, operating results, and cash flows.

Our facilities in Chengdu, China are located in a seismically active area, as evidenced by the May 2008 earthquake that was centered in the Sichuan Province of China. Although there was no damage to our facilities as a result of that earthquake, should there be additional earthquakes in the area, we may incur losses and our business, financial condition and/or operating results may suffer.

We have a sales facility in Japan, which is located in a seismically active area, as evidenced by the March 2011 earthquake that was centered off the coast of Japan's Miyagi Prefecture. While there was no damage to our facilities as a result of the earthquake, our customers may have experienced disruptions in their supply chains that may impact our revenue in future quarters. Additional earthquakes in the region may have a more significant impact longer term, which could affect our results of operations and financial conditions.

#### ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

#### ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

Our primary operating locations are currently in San Jose, California and Chengdu, China. Up until May 2012, we were leasing approximately 55,110 square feet in San Jose, which served as our corporate headquarters, as well as our sales and research and development center. Certain test procedures and manufacturing also took place in our San Jose facility. The landlord exercised their right to terminate the lease which required us to seek new headquarters facility before May 1, 2012 deadline.

In 2011, we purchased a property located at 79 Great Oaks Boulevard in San Jose, CA, to be used as our corporate headquarters and sales offices. Such property consists of an approximately 106,262 square foot office building and approximately 5.5 acres of land. Based on information provided by a third party valuation, the \$11.0 million purchase price for the property was allocated as follows: \$5.0 million attributed to the building and \$6.0 million attributed to the land. The Company invested an additional \$7.7 million in building improvements. We moved into our new headquarters and started to depreciate the building in May 2012.

We lease approximately 56,000 square feet in Chengdu which serves as our test facility and manufacturing hub and we constructed a 150,000 square foot research and development facility in Chengdu, which was put into operation in October 2010.

We also lease sales and research and development offices in the United States, Japan, China, Taiwan and Korea. We believe that our existing facilities are adequate for our current operations.

#### ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Company and certain of its subsidiaries are parties to actions and proceedings incident to the Company's business in the ordinary course of business, including litigation regarding its shareholders, a former employee and its intellectual property, challenges to the enforceability or validity of its intellectual property and claims that the Company's products infringe on the intellectual property rights of others. These proceedings often involve complex questions of fact and law and may require the expenditure of significant funds and the diversion of other resources to prosecute and defend. The Company defends itself vigorously against any such claims.

##### O2 Micro

On May 3, 2012, the United States District Court for the Northern District of California issued an order finding O2 Micro International, Ltd. ("O2 Micro") liable for approximately \$9.1 million in attorneys' fees and non-taxable costs, plus interest, in connection with the patent litigation that the Company won in 2010. This award is in addition to the approximately \$0.3 million in taxable costs that the Court had earlier ordered O2 Micro to pay to the Company in connection with the same lawsuit. The Court then entered judgment for the Company. In October 2012, O2 Micro filed an appeal against this judgment.

Silergy

In December 2011, the Company entered into a settlement and license agreement with Silergy Corp and Silergy Technologies for infringement of the Company's patent whereby the Company will receive a total of \$2 million which will be paid in equal installments of \$0.3 million in each quarter of 2012 and the remainder will be paid in two equal installments in first two quarters of 2013. For the year ended December 31, 2012, the Company received payments totaling \$1.2 million, which were recorded as credits to litigation expense (benefit) in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

## Linear

On August 12, 2012, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit issued an order affirming the judgment issued by the United States District Court for the District of Delaware finding Linear Technology Corporation (“Linear”) liable for approximately \$2.3 million in attorneys’ fees and non-taxable costs, plus interest, in connection with the litigation regarding a contract dispute that the Company won in 2011. During the fourth quarter of 2012, the Company received a payment from Linear of \$2.3 million plus \$0.2 million reimbursement of additional attorney fees in connection with the cost of defending the appeal, which was recorded as a credit to litigation expense (benefit) in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

## ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

## PART II

## ITEM 5. Market for the Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholders Matters, and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities.

## Market Price of Our Common Stock

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol “MPWR”. The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low sales price per share of our common stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market. These prices represent quotations among dealers without adjustments for retail mark-ups, markdowns or commissions, and may not represent prices of actual transactions.

	High	Low
2012		
Fourth quarter ended December 31, 2012	\$22.38	\$17.17
Third quarter ended September 30, 2012	\$23.07	\$17.07
Second quarter ended June 30, 2012	\$22.40	\$17.70
First quarter ended March 31, 2012	\$19.91	\$14.58
2011		
Fourth quarter ended December 31, 2011	\$15.61	\$9.49
Third quarter ended September 30, 2011	\$15.64	\$10.16
Second quarter ended June 30, 2011	\$18.56	\$13.41
First quarter ended March 31, 2011	\$17.12	\$12.95

## Holders of Our Common Stock

As of February 20, 2013, there were 16 registered holders of record of our common stock.

## Dividend Policy

On December 11, 2012, our Board declared MPS’s first ever cash dividend of \$1.00 per share to stockholders of record as of December 21, 2012. The cash dividend was paid on December 28, 2012 and totaled approximately \$35.7 million. Other than this dividend, we have not paid cash dividends on our common stock since our inception. We currently do not anticipate paying any further cash dividends in the future.





### Performance of Our Common Stock

The following graph compares the cumulative 60-month total return provided shareholders on our common stock relative to the cumulative total returns of the Nasdaq Composite Index, the S & P 500 Index and the Philadelphia Semiconductor Index. An investment of \$100 (with reinvestment of all dividends) is assumed to have been made in our common stock on December 31, 2007 and its relative performance is tracked through December 31, 2012.

The information contained in the Stock Performance Graph section shall not be deemed to be “soliciting material” or “filed” or incorporated by reference in future filings with the SEC, or subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, except to the extent that the Company specifically incorporates it by reference into a document filed under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

### Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities

There were no sales of unregistered securities during the year ended December 31, 2012.

## ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following financial data is derived from our audited annual consolidated financial statements as of and for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009 and 2008. You should read the following table in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and the related notes contained elsewhere in this report on Form 10-K. Operating results for any year are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for any future periods.

## Consolidated Statement of Operations Data:

	Year ended December 31,				
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
	(in thousands, except per share amounts)				
Revenue	\$ 213,813	\$ 196,519	\$ 218,840	\$ 165,008	\$ 160,511
Cost of revenue (1)	100,665	94,925	97,383	67,330	61,184
Gross profit	113,148	101,594	121,457	97,678	99,327
Operating expenses:					
Research and development (2)	48,796	44,518	44,372	38,295	34,850
Selling, general and administrative (3)	50,018	40,280	41,169	36,752	35,256
Litigation expense (benefit), net	(2,945 )	3,379	5,418	9,457	6,714
Patent litigation settlement (provision reversal)	-	-	-	(6,356 )	-
Total operating expenses	95,869	88,177	90,959	78,148	76,820
Income from operations	17,279	13,417	30,498	19,530	22,507
Interest income and other, net	611	309	922	618	2,935
Income before income taxes	17,890	13,726	31,420	20,148	25,442
Income tax provision	2,134	425	1,857	474	1,216
Net income	\$ 15,756	\$ 13,301	\$ 29,563	\$ 19,674	\$ 24,226
Basic net income per share	\$ 0.45	\$ 0.39	\$ 0.83	\$ 0.57	\$ 0.72
Diluted net income per share	\$ 0.43	\$ 0.38	\$ 0.78	\$ 0.54	\$ 0.67
Weighted average common shares outstanding:					
Basic	34,871	34,050	35,830	34,310	33,509
Diluted	36,247	35,160	37,826	36,634	36,120
(1) Includes stock-based compensation expense	\$ 510	\$ 312	\$ 393	\$ 246	\$ 344
(2) Includes stock-based compensation expense	6,922	5,909	6,742	6,408	5,821
	11,220	6,905	9,675	7,957	6,993

(3) Includes stock-based  
compensation expense

Total stock-based compensation expense	\$ 18,652	\$ 13,126	\$ 16,810	\$ 14,611	\$ 13,158
---	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

32

---

## Consolidated Balance Sheet Data:

	As of December 31,				
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
	(in thousands)				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$75,104	\$96,371	\$48,010	\$46,717	\$83,266
Short-term investments	85,521	77,827	129,709	118,914	21,922
Long-term investments	11,755	13,675	19,180	19,445	37,425
Restricted cash	-	-	-	-	7,360
Working capital	190,841	185,435	195,403	179,577	117,365
Total assets	287,162	273,867	281,603	241,821	195,299
Long-term tax liabilities	5,408	4,920	5,015	4,915	4,762
Common stock	194,079	159,336	178,269	175,518	147,298
Total stockholders' equity	258,294	242,877	246,895	212,957	164,645
Cash dividend per common share:					
Declared	\$1.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Paid	\$1.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-

## ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and related notes which appear elsewhere in this annual report on Form 10-K.

## Overview

We are a fabless semiconductor company that designs, develops, and markets proprietary, advanced analog and mixed-signal semiconductors. We currently offer products that serve multiple markets, including consumer electronics, communications, computing (which includes storage) and industrial markets. We believe that we differentiate ourselves by offering solutions that are more highly integrated, smaller in size, more energy efficient, more accurate with respect to performance specifications and, consequently, more cost-effective than many competing solutions. We plan to continue to introduce additional new products within our existing product families, as well as in new product categories.

We operate in the cyclical semiconductor industry where there is seasonal demand for certain of our products. We are not and will not be immune from current and future industry downturns, but we have targeted product and market areas that we believe have the ability to offer above average industry performance over the long term.

We work with third parties to manufacture and assemble our integrated circuits ("ICs"). This has enabled us to limit our capital expenditures and fixed costs, while focusing our engineering and design resources on our core strengths.

Following the introduction of a product, our sales cycle generally takes a number of quarters to achieve revenue and volume production is usually achieved several months after we receive an initial customer order for a new product. Typical lead time for orders is fewer than 90 days. These factors, combined with the fact that orders in the semiconductor industry can typically be cancelled or rescheduled without significant penalty to the customer, make the forecasting of our orders and revenue difficult.

We derive most of our revenue from sales through distribution arrangements or direct sales to customers in Asia, where the components we produce are incorporated into an end-user product. For the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, 89% and 90%, respectively, of our revenue was attributable to direct or indirect sales to customers in Asia. We derive a majority of our revenue from the sales of our DC to DC converter product family which services the consumer electronics, communications, computing (which includes storage) and industrial markets. We believe our ability to achieve revenue growth will depend, in part, on our ability to develop new products, enter new market segments, gain market share, manage litigation risk, diversify our customer base and successfully secure manufacturing capacity.

## 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 generally accepted accounting principles in the U.S. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amount of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. We evaluate our estimates on an on-going basis, including those related to revenue recognition, stock-based compensation, long-term investments, short-term investments, inventories, income taxes, warranty obligations and contingencies. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making the judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Estimates and judgments used in the preparation of our financial statements are, by their nature, uncertain and unpredictable, and depend upon, among other things, many factors outside of our control, such as demand for our products and economic conditions. Accordingly, our estimates and judgments may prove to be incorrect and actual results may differ, perhaps significantly, from these estimates.

We believe the following critical accounting policies reflect our more significant judgments used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements.

**Revenue Recognition.** We recognize revenue in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) – Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) 605-10-S25 Revenue Recognition – Overall – Recognition. ASC 605-10-S25 requires that four basic criteria must be met before revenue can be recognized: (1) persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists; (2) delivery has occurred or services have been rendered; (3) the fee is fixed or determinable; and (4) collectability is reasonably assured. Determination of criteria (3) and (4) are based on management’s judgment regarding the fixed nature of the fee charged for products delivered and the collectability of those fees. The application of these criteria has resulted in our generally recognizing revenue upon shipment (when title passes) to customers. Should changes in conditions cause management to determine these criteria are not met for certain future transactions, revenue recognized for any reporting period could be adversely impacted.

Approximately 91% of our distributor sales, including sales to our value-added resellers, for the year ended December 31, 2012 were made through distribution arrangements with third parties. These arrangements do not include any special payment terms (our normal payment terms are 30-45 days for our distributors), price protection or exchange rights. Returns are limited to our standard product warranty. Certain of our large distributors have contracts that include limited stock rotation rights that permit the return of a small percentage of the previous six months’ purchases.

Approximately 9% of our distributor sales for the year ended December 31, 2012 were made through small distributors primarily based on purchase orders. These distributors also have limited or no stock rotation rights.

Our revenue consists primarily of sales of assembled and tested finished goods. We also sell die in wafer form to our customers and value-added resellers, and we receive royalty revenue from third parties and value-added resellers.

We maintain a sales reserve for stock rotation rights, which is based on historical experience of actual stock rotation returns on a per distributor basis, where available, and information related to products in the distribution channel. This reserve is recorded at the time of sale. Historically, these returns were not material to our consolidated financial statements. In the future, if we are unable to estimate our stock rotation returns accurately, we may not be able to recognize revenue from sales to our distributors based on when we sell inventory to our distributors. Instead, we may have to recognize revenue when the distributor sells through such inventory to an end-customer.



We generally recognize revenue upon shipment of products to the distributor for the following reasons (based on ASC 605-15-25-1 Revenue Recognition – Products – Recognition – Sales of Products When Right of Return Exists):

- (1) Our price is fixed and determinable at the date of sale. We do not offer special payment terms, price protection or price adjustments to distributors where we recognize revenue upon shipment
- (2) Our distributors are obligated to pay us and this obligation is not contingent on the resale of our products
- (3) The distributor's obligation is unchanged in the event of theft or physical destruction or damage to the products
- (4) Our distributors have stand-alone economic substance apart from our relationship
- (5) We do not have any obligations for future performance to directly bring about the resale of our products by the distributor
- (6) The amount of future returns can be reasonably estimated. We have the ability and the information necessary to track inventory sold to and held at our distributors. We maintain a history of returns and have the ability to estimate the stock rotation returns on a quarterly basis.

If we enter into arrangements that have rights of return that are not estimable, we recognize revenue under such arrangements only after the distributor has sold our products to an end customer.

The terms in a majority of our distribution agreements include the non-exclusive right to promote, develop a market for, and sell our products in certain regions of the world and the ability to terminate the distribution agreement by either party with up to three months' notice. We provide a one year warranty against defects in materials and workmanship. Under this warranty, we will repair the goods, provide replacements at no charge, or, under certain circumstances, provide a refund to the customer for defective products. Estimated warranty returns and warranty costs are based on historical experience and are recorded at the time product revenue is recognized.

Two of our U.S. distributors have distribution agreements where revenue is recognized upon sale by these distributors to their end customers because these distributors have certain rights of return which management believes are not estimable. The deferred income balance from these two distributors as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 was \$1.4 million and \$0.9 million, respectively.

**Inventory Valuation.** We value our inventory at the lower of the standard cost (which approximates actual cost on a first-in, first-out basis) or its current estimated market value. We write down inventory for obsolescence or lack of demand, based on assumptions about future demand and market conditions. If actual market conditions are less favorable than those projected by management, additional inventory write-downs may be required. Conversely, if market conditions are more favorable, inventory may be sold that was previously reserved.

**Accounting for Income Taxes.** ASC 740-10 Income Taxes – Overall prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. This interpretation also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods and disclosure. In accordance with ASC 740-10, we recognize federal, state and foreign current tax liabilities or assets based on our estimate of taxes payable or refundable in the current fiscal year by tax jurisdiction. We also recognize federal, state and foreign deferred tax assets or liabilities for our estimate of future tax effects attributable to temporary differences and carryforwards. We record a valuation allowance to reduce any deferred tax assets by the amount of any tax benefits that, based on available evidence and judgment, are not expected to be realized.

Our calculation of current and deferred tax assets and liabilities is based on certain estimates and judgments and involves dealing with uncertainties in the application of complex tax laws. Our estimates of current and deferred tax assets and liabilities may change based, in part, on added certainty or finality or uncertainty to an anticipated outcome, changes in accounting or tax laws in the U.S., or foreign jurisdictions where we operate, or changes in other facts or



circumstances. In addition, we recognize liabilities for potential U.S. and foreign income tax for uncertain income tax positions taken on our tax returns if it has less than a 50% likelihood of being sustained. If we determine that payment of these amounts is unnecessary or if the recorded tax liability is less than our current assessment, we may be required to recognize an income tax benefit or additional income tax expense in our financial statements in the period such determination is made. We have calculated our uncertain tax positions which were attributable to certain estimates and judgments primarily related to transfer pricing, cost sharing and our international tax structure exposure.

As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, we had a valuation allowance of \$12.5 million and \$14.6 million, respectively, attributable to management's determination that it is more likely than not that most of the deferred tax assets in the United States will not be realized. Should it be determined that additional amounts of the net deferred tax asset will not be realized in the future, an adjustment to increase the deferred tax asset valuation allowance will be charged to income in the period such determination is made. Likewise, in the event we were to determine that it is more likely than not that we would be able to realize our deferred tax assets in the future in excess of our net recorded amount, an adjustment to the valuation allowance for the deferred tax asset would increase income in the period such determination was made.

As a result of the cost sharing arrangements with the Company's international subsidiaries (cost share arrangements), relatively small changes in costs that are not subject to sharing under the cost share arrangements can significantly impact the overall profitability of the U.S. entity. Because of the U.S. entity's inconsistent earnings history and uncertainty of future earnings, the Company has determined that it is more likely than not that the U.S. deferred tax benefits will not be realized.

In November 2012, California taxpayers voted in favor of mandating the use of a single sales factor for California state apportionment, effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2012. As a result of this law change that happened, our California deferred tax assets were revalued down. As we have a valuation allowance against our U.S. deferred tax assets, this revaluation of our California deferred tax assets did not impact income tax expense.

The Company incurred significant stock-based compensation expense, some of which related to incentive stock options for which no corresponding tax benefit will be recognized unless a disqualifying disposition occurs. Disqualifying dispositions result in a reduction of income tax expense in the period when the disqualifying disposition occurs. Tax benefits related to realized tax deductions in excess of previously expensed stock compensation are recorded as an addition to paid-in-capital.

Contingencies. We and certain of our subsidiaries are parties to actions and proceedings incident to our business in the ordinary course of business, including litigation regarding our intellectual property, challenges to the enforceability or validity of our intellectual property and claims that our products infringe on the intellectual property rights of others. The pending proceedings involve complex questions of fact and law and will require the expenditure of significant funds and the diversion of other resources to prosecute and defend. In addition, from time to time, we become aware that we are subject to other contingent liabilities. When this occurs, we will evaluate the appropriate accounting for the potential contingent liabilities using ASC 450-20-25-2 Contingencies – Loss Contingencies - Recognition to determine whether a contingent liability should be recorded. In making this determination, management may, depending on the nature of the matter, consult with internal and external legal counsel and technical experts. Based on the facts and circumstances in each matter, we use our judgment to determine whether it is probable that a contingent loss has occurred and whether the amount of such loss can be estimated. If we determine a loss is probable and estimable, we record a contingent loss in accordance with ASC 450-20-25-2. In determining the amount of a contingent loss, we take into account advice received from experts for each specific matter regarding the status of legal proceedings, settlement negotiations (which may be ongoing), prior case history and other factors. Should the judgments and estimates made by management need to be adjusted as additional information becomes available, we may need to record additional contingent losses that could materially and adversely impact our results of operations. Alternatively, if the judgments and estimates made by management are adjusted, for example, if a particular contingent loss does not occur, the contingent loss recorded would be reversed which could result in a favorable impact on our results of operations.

Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation. We account for stock-based compensation under the provisions of ASC 718-10-30 Compensation – Stock Compensation – Overall – Initial Measurement. This standard requires us to measure the cost of employee services received in exchange for an award of equity instruments based on the grant-date fair

value of the award. We currently use the Black-Scholes option-pricing model to estimate the fair value of our share-based payments. The Black-Scholes option-pricing model is based on a number of assumptions, including historical volatility, expected life, risk-free interest rate and expected dividends. The fair value for time-based stock awards and stock awards that are contingent upon the achievement of financial performance metrics is based on the grant date share price.

We recognize compensation expense equal to the grant-date fair value for all share-based payment awards that are expected to vest. This expense is recorded on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period of the entire award, unless the awards are subject to market or performance conditions, in which case we recognize compensation expense over the requisite service period of each separate vesting tranche. We recognize compensation expense for our performance share units when it becomes probable that the performance criteria specified in the plan will be achieved. The amount of stock-based compensation that the Company recognizes is also based on an expected forfeiture rate. If there is a difference between the forfeiture assumptions used in determining stock-based compensation costs and the actual forfeitures which become known over time, we may change the forfeiture rate, which could have a significant impact on our stock-based compensation expense.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments. ASC 820-10 Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures – Overall defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America, and requires that assets and liabilities carried at fair value be classified and disclosed in one of the three categories, as follows:

Level 1: Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets;

Level 2: Significant other observable inputs; and

Level 3: Significant unobservable inputs.

ASC 820-10-35-51 Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure – Overall – Subsequent Measurement – Determining Fair Value When the Volume and Level of Activity for the Asset or Liability Have Significantly Decreased and Identifying Transactions That Are Not Orderly provides additional guidance for estimating fair value in accordance with ASC 820-10 Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures – Overall, when the volume and level of activity for the asset or liability have significantly decreased.

Our financial instruments include cash and cash equivalents and short-term and long-term investments. Cash equivalents are stated at cost, which approximates fair market value. Short-term and long-term investments are stated at their fair market value.

The face value of our holdings in auction rate securities is \$12.3 million, all of which is classified as long-term available-for-sale investments.

Investments in available-for-sale securities are recorded at fair value, and unrealized gains or losses (that are deemed to be temporary) are recognized through shareholders' equity, as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income in our consolidated balance sheet and in our consolidated statement of comprehensive income. We record an impairment charge to earnings when an available-for-sale investment has experienced a decline in value that is deemed to be other-than-temporary.

We followed the guidelines of ASC 320 in determining if the impairment is temporary or other-than-temporary (“OTTI”). During the year ended December 31, 2012, we were able to redeem a security at face value for which an OTTI of \$40,000 had previously been recorded for and therefore, recognized a gain of \$40,000 in interest income and other, net, in our Consolidated Statement of Operations.

Based on certain assumptions described in Note 2, “Fair Value Measurements” to our consolidated financial statements and the Liquidity and Capital Resources section of Part II, Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” of this annual report on Form 10-K, we recorded impairment charges on our holdings in auction-rate securities. The valuation of these securities is subject to fluctuations in the future, which will

depend on many factors, including the collateral quality, potential to be called or restructured, underlying final maturity, insurance guaranty, liquidity and market conditions, among others.

## Recently Adopted and New Accounting Pronouncements

In February 2013, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) No. 2013-02, Reporting of Amounts Reclassified Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income. This ASU adds new disclosure requirement for items reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income (“AOCI”). The ASU is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning on or after December 15, 2012 and must be applied prospectively. The Company is evaluating the impact of the standard on its consolidated financial statements and related disclosures.

In June 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-05 relating to Comprehensive Income (Topic 220) – Presentation of Comprehensive Income (ASU 2011-05), which requires an entity to present the total of comprehensive income, the components of net income, and the components of other comprehensive income either in a single continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements. The ASU is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning on or after December 15, 2011 and must be applied retrospectively. The Company adopted this standard effective January 1, 2012.

In May 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-04, Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (Topic 820) – Fair Value Measurement (ASU 2011-04), to provide a consistent definition of fair value and ensure that the fair value measurement and disclosure requirements are similar between U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards. ASU 2011-04 changes certain fair value measurement principles and enhances the disclosure requirements particularly for level 3 fair value measurements. The ASU is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning on or after December 15, 2011 and should be applied prospectively. The Company adopted this standard effective January 1, 2012.

## Results of Operations

The table below shows the Consolidated Statements of Operations amounts (in thousands) and shows each as a percentage of revenue.

	2012		Year ended December 31, 2011			2010	
			(in thousands, except percentages)				
Revenue	\$213,813	100.0	% \$196,519	100.0	% \$218,840	100.0	%
Cost of revenue	100,665	47.1	94,925	48.3	97,383	44.5	
Gross profit	113,148	52.9	101,594	51.7	121,457	55.5	
<b>Operating expenses:</b>							
Research and development	48,796	22.8	44,518	22.7	44,372	20.3	
Selling, general and administrative	50,018	23.4	40,280	20.5	41,169	18.8	
Litigation expense (benefit), net	(2,945)	(1.4)	3,379	1.7	5,418	2.5	
Total operating expenses	95,869	44.8	88,177	44.9	90,959	41.6	
Income from operations	17,279	8.1	13,417	6.8	30,498	13.9	
Interest income and other, net	611	0.3	309	0.2	922	0.5	

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-K

Income before income taxes	17,890	8.4	13,726	7.0	31,420	14.4
Income tax provision	2,134	1.0	425	0.2	1,857	0.9
Net income	\$15,756	7.4	% \$13,301	6.8	% \$29,563	13.5 %

38

---

The following table shows our revenue by product family (amounts in thousands, except percentages):

Product Family	Year ended December 31,						Percent Change	
	2012	% of Revenue	2011*	% of Revenue	2010*	% of Revenue	2012 to 2011	2011 to 2010
DC to DC Converters	\$188,736	88.3 %	\$170,032	86.5 %	\$190,286	87.0 %	11.0 %	(10.6 %)
Lighting Control Products	25,077	11.7 %	26,487	13.5 %	28,554	13.0 %	(5.3 %)	(7.2 %)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$213,813</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>\$196,519</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>\$218,840</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>8.8 %</b>	<b>(10.2 %)</b>

\*2011 and 2010 revenue associated with Audio Amplifiers has been included with DC to DC Converters to conform with current year presentation.

### Revenue

Revenue for the year ended December 31, 2012 was \$213.8 million, an increase of \$17.3 million, or 8.8%, from \$196.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2011. This increase was primarily due to increased demand for our DC to DC converters. Revenue from our DC to DC converters was \$188.7 million, an increase of \$18.7 million, or 11.0%, over the same period in 2011 primarily due to increased demand for our DC to DC converters, Mini-Monster and CLS products. Sales of our lighting control products for the year ended December 31, 2012 were down by 5.3% compared to the same period in 2011 primarily due to reductions in demand for our CCFL and WLED products.

Revenue for the year ended December 31, 2011 was \$196.5 million, a decrease of \$22.3 million, or 10.2%, from \$218.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. For the year ended December 31, 2011, the decrease in revenue from the same period last year was largely attributable to having lost certain DC to DC converters product customers in Korea as a lack of production capacity resulted in product shortages during 2010. Audio sales, which are reported in DC to DC converters beginning in 2012, were \$4.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, a decrease of \$2.8 million from the same period in 2010 due to a change in product mix. The sales of our lighting control products were down for the year ended December 31, 2011 from the similar period in 2010 because of a reduction in the demand for our CCFL products, which was partially offset by increased sales of our WLED products.

### Cost of Revenue and Gross Margin

	Year ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
	(in thousands, except percentages)		
Cost of Revenue (1)	\$100,665	\$94,925	\$97,383
Cost of revenue as a percentage of revenue	47.1 %	48.3 %	44.5 %
Gross Profit	\$113,148	\$101,594	\$121,457
Gross Margin	52.9 %	51.7 %	55.5 %
(1) Includes stock-based compensation expense	\$510	\$312	\$393

Cost of revenue consists primarily of costs incurred to manufacture, assemble and test our products, as well as other overhead costs relating to the aforementioned costs including stock-based compensation expense. Gross profit as a percentage of revenue, or gross margin, was 52.9% for the year ended December 31, 2012, compared to 51.7% for the year ended December 31, 2011. The increase in gross profit margin year-over-year was primarily due to lower inventory reserves and improved product mix compared to the same period in 2011.



Gross margin was 51.7% for the year ended December 31, 2011 and 55.5% for the year ended December 31, 2010. For the year ended December 31, 2011, gross margin declined between years as a result of declining average selling prices for certain of our products, unabsorbed test manufacturing costs and an increase in inventory reserves.

#### Research and Development

Research and development expenses consist of salary and benefit expenses for design and product engineers, expenses related to new product development, and related facility costs.

	Year ended December 31,			Percentage Change	
	2012	2011	2010	2012 to 2011	2011 to 2010
	(in thousands, except percentages)				
Research and development (“R&D”) (1)	\$48,796	\$44,518	\$44,372	9.6	% 0.3
R&D as a percentage of revenue	22.8	% 22.7	% 20.3	%	%
(1) Includes stock-based compensation expense	\$6,922	\$5,909	\$6,742		

R&D expenses were \$48.8 million, or 22.8% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2012 and \$44.5 million, or 22.7% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2011. R&D expenses increased year-over-year primarily due to an increase in cash and stock-based compensation expenses and an increase in expenses associated with increased new product development. Our R&D headcount as of December 31, 2012 was 388 employees, compared to 374 employees as of December 31, 2011.

R&D expenses were \$44.5 million, or 22.7% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2011 and \$44.4 million, or 20.3% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2010. For the year ended December 31, 2011, R&D expenses remained flat with the same period in 2010 due to lower stock-based compensation expenses. These were partially offset by an increase in cash compensation expenses and new product development expenses.

#### Selling, General and Administrative

Selling, general and administrative expenses include salary and benefit expenses for sales, marketing and administrative personnel, sales commissions, travel expenses, related facilities costs, outside legal and accounting fees, and fees associated with Sarbanes-Oxley compliance requirements.

	Year ended December 31,			Percentage Change	
	2012	2011	2010	2012 to 2011	2011 to 2010
	(in thousands, except percentages)				
Selling, general and administrative (“SG&A”) (1)	\$50,018	\$40,280	\$41,169	24.2	% (2.2
SG&A as a percentage of net revenue	23.4	% 20.5	% 18.8	%	%)
(1) Includes stock-based compensation expense	\$11,220	\$6,905	\$9,675		

SG&A expenses were \$50.0 million, or 23.4% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2012 and \$40.3 million, or 20.5% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2011. SG&A expenses increased year-over-year primarily due to an increase in cash and stock-based compensation expenses, professional services fees and sales commission on higher revenue compared to the same period in 2011. Our SG&A headcount as of December 31, 2012 was 250 employees, compared to 238 employees as of December 31, 2011.

SG&A expenses were \$40.3 million, or 20.5% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2011 and \$41.2 million, or 18.8% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2010. For the year ended December 31, 2011, SG&A expenses decreased from the same period in 2010 due to lower stock-based compensation expenses. These were partially offset by an increase in cash compensation expenses.

#### Litigation expense (benefit), net

	Year ended December 31,			Percentage Change	
	2012	2011	2010	2012 to 2011	2011 to 2010
	(in thousands, except percentages)				
Litigation expense (benefit), net	\$(2,945 )	\$3,379	\$5,418	(187.2 %)	(37.6 %)
Litigation expense (benefit), net, as a percentage of revenue	(1.4 %)	1.7 %	2.5 %		

Litigation benefit, net, was (\$2.9) million, or (1.4%) of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2012, compared to an expense of \$3.4 million, or 1.7% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2011. The year-over-year decrease in litigation expense was primarily due to \$3.7 million received in connection with settlements reached with Linear and Silergy. These payments were recorded as credits to litigation expense (benefit), net, in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we incurred legal expenses primarily to recover attorneys' fees from O2Micro relating to our lawsuits involving O2Micro, which were resolved in the second quarter of 2010. Compared with 2011, litigation expenses decreased as a result of us being party to fewer material legal actions.

Litigation expenses were \$3.4 million, or 1.7% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2011, compared to \$5.4 million, or 2.5% of revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2010. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we incurred legal expenses primarily to recover attorneys' fees from O2Micro relating to our earlier lawsuits with them, which were resolved in the second quarter of 2010. During the year ended December 31, 2010, we incurred legal expenses primarily for the defense of those lawsuits. Overall, our litigation expense decreased as a result of us being party to fewer material legal actions.

For a more complete description of our current material litigation matters, please see Part I, Item 3 "Legal Proceedings" and Note 10 "Litigation" of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

#### Interest Income and Other, Net

For the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, interest income and other, net, was \$0.6 million, \$0.3 million and \$0.9 million, respectively. Interest income increased from 2011 to 2012 due to higher average cash and investment balances in 2012 as compared to 2011. Interest income decreased from 2010 to 2011 due to lower cash and investment balances in 2011, which resulted from stock repurchase activity and the purchase of our San Jose headquarters as well as interest rate declines year-over-year.

#### Income Tax Provision

The income tax provision for the year ended December 31, 2012 was \$2.1 million or 11.9% of our income before income taxes. This differs from the federal statutory rate of 34% primarily because our foreign income was taxed at lower rates and because of the benefit that we realized as a result of stock options exercised and restricted units released.

The income tax provision for year ended December 31, 2011 was \$0.4 million or 3.1% of our income before income taxes. This differs from the federal statutory rate of 34% primarily because our foreign income was taxed at lower rates and because of the benefit that we realized as a result of stock options exercised and restricted units released.

The income tax provision for the year ended December 31, 2010 was \$1.9 million or 5.9% of our income before income taxes. This was lower than the federal statutory rate of 34% primarily because our foreign income was taxed at lower rates and because of the benefit that we realized as a result of stock options exercised and restricted units released.

For additional information, see Note 8 "Income Taxes" of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

	December 31,	
	2012	2011
	(In thousands)	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$75,104	\$96,371
Short-term investments	85,521	77,827
Total cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments	\$160,625	\$174,198
Percentage of total assets	55.9	% 63.6
		%
Total current assets	\$214,301	\$211,505
Total current liabilities	(23,460 )	(26,070 )
Working Capital	\$190,841	\$185,435

As of December 31, 2012, we had cash and cash equivalents of \$75.1 million and short-term investments of \$85.5 million compared with cash and cash equivalents of \$96.4 million and short-term investments of \$77.8 million as of December 31, 2011. The decrease of \$21.3 million in cash and cash equivalents in 2012 compared to 2011 was primarily due to the \$35.7 million cash dividend paid to common stockholders on December 28, 2012, investment in equipment and building improvements at our new headquarters located in San Jose, California and investment in short-term securities. These uses of cash were partially offset by cash generated from operating activities and proceeds from the exercise of stock options and purchases under our employee stock purchase plan. We have financed our operations primarily with cash generated from operating activities, proceeds received from the exercise of stock options and proceeds from the issuance of shares through our employee stock purchase plan. As of December 31, 2012, \$43.8 million of the \$75.1 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$17.0 million of the \$85.5 million of short-term investments were held by our international subsidiaries. If these funds are needed for our operations in the U.S., we may be required to accrue and pay U.S. taxes to repatriate these funds. However, our intent is to indefinitely reinvest these funds outside of the U.S. and our current plans do not demonstrate a need to repatriate them to fund our U.S. operations.

The significant components of our working capital are cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments, accounts receivable, inventories, deferred income taxes and prepaid expenses and other current assets, reduced by accounts payable, accrued and other current liabilities, deferred revenue and customer prepayments.

As of December 31, 2012, we had working capital of \$190.8 million compared with working capital of \$185.4 million as of December 31, 2011. The \$5.4 million increase in working capital since December 31, 2011 was due to a \$2.8 million net increase in current assets and a \$2.6 million net decrease in current liabilities. The increase in current assets was primarily due to an increase in inventories, short-term investments and accounts receivable, which were partially offset by a reduction in cash and cash equivalents. The reduction in cash and cash equivalents was primarily due to the \$35.7 million cash dividend paid to common stockholders on December 28, 2012, which was partially offset by cash generated from operating activities. In addition, accounts receivable increased primarily reflecting an increase in shipments. The decrease in current liabilities was primarily due to a decrease in accrued compensation and related benefits, which were partially offset by an increase in accounts payable.

## Summary of Cash Flows

The table below summarizes the cash and cash equivalents provided by (used in) in our operating, investing and financing activities for the periods presented:

	2012	December 31, 2011	2010
	(In thousands)		
Cash provided by operating activities	\$24,912	\$43,685	\$48,494
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(26,837 )	36,222	(33,751 )
Cash used in financing activities	(19,553 )	(31,975 )	(14,047 )
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	211	429	597
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	\$(21,267 )	\$48,361	\$1,293

For the year ended December 31, 2012, net cash provided by operating activities was \$24.9 million, primarily due to cash contributed from our operating results during the year partially offset by increases in both inventories and accounts receivable. The increase in accounts receivable resulted in large measure from an increase in shipments. The increase in inventories was primarily due to an increase in strategic wafer and die bank inventories as well as finished goods to meet anticipated future demand. Net cash provided by operating activities decreased by \$18.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2012 as compared to the same period in 2011, primarily due to a \$27.8 million increase in working capital requirements for the year ended December 31, 2012 as compared to the same period in 2011 partially offset by cash provided by our operating results during the year 2012 compared to 2011. For the year ended December 31, 2011, net cash provided by operating activities was \$43.7 million primarily reflecting cash generated from our operating results. For the year ended December 31, 2010, net cash provided by operating activities was \$48.5 million primarily reflecting cash contributed from our operating results, partially offset by an increase in inventories to support the deliveries in the first quarter of 2011.

For the year ended December 31, 2012, net cash used in investing activities was \$26.8 million in support of our investment in equipment, building improvements at our new headquarters located in San Jose, California and net purchases of short-term investments. For the year ended December 31, 2011, net cash provided by investing activities was \$36.2 million as proceeds from the sale of short-term investments were used to fund our stock repurchase program and to purchase our corporate headquarters in San Jose, California. For the year ended December 31, 2010, net cash used in investing activities was \$33.8 million reflecting the construction of and equipment purchases for our facilities in Chengdu and the net purchase of short-term investments.

We use professional investment management firms to manage the majority of our invested cash. Our fixed income portfolio is primarily invested in US government securities and auction-rate securities. The balance of the fixed income portfolio is managed internally and invested primarily in money market securities for working capital purposes.

We used the guidelines of ASC 320 to determine whether the impairment was temporary or other-than temporary. During the year ended December 31, 2012, we were able to redeem a security at face value for which an OTTI of \$40,000 had previously been recorded for and therefore, recognized a gain of \$40,000 in interest income and other, net, in our Consolidated Statement of Operations.

Our investment portfolio as of December 31, 2012 included \$11.8 million, in government-backed student loan auction-rate securities, net of impairment charges of \$0.52 million; of which, \$0.49 million was temporary and \$0.03 million was other-than-temporary. This compares to an investment balance of auction-rate securities as of December

31, 2011 of \$13.7 million, net of impairment charges of \$0.7 million; of which, \$0.6 million was temporary and \$0.1 million was other-than-temporary.

The underlying maturities of these auction-rate securities are up to 35 years. As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the portion of the impairment classified as temporary was based on the following analysis:

1. The decline in the fair value of these securities is not attributable to adverse conditions specifically related to these securities or to specific conditions in an industry or in a geographic area;
2. Management possesses both the intent and ability to hold these securities for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in fair value;
3. Management believes that it is more likely than not that we will not have to sell these securities before recovery of its cost basis;
4. Except for the credit loss of \$70,000 recognized in the year ended December 31, 2009 for our holdings in auction rate securities described below, we do not believe that there is any additional credit loss associated with other auction-rate securities because we expect to recover the entire amortized cost basis;
5. \$6.3 million of the auction-rate securities were downgraded by Moody's to A3-Baa3 during the year ended December 31, 2009. There have been no further downgrades since;
6. All scheduled interest payments have been made pursuant to the reset terms and conditions; and
7. All redemptions of auction-rate securities representing 68% of the original portfolio purchased by us in February 2008 have been at par.

Based on the guidance of ASC 320-10-35 and ASC 320-10-50, we evaluated the potential credit loss of each of the auction-rate securities that are currently held by us. Based on such analysis, we determined that those securities that are not 100% Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELPS) guaranteed are potentially subject to credit risks based on the extent to which the underlying debt is collateralized and the security-specific student-loan default rates. Our portfolio includes two such securities. The senior parity ratio for the two securities is approximately 106%. If, therefore, the student-loan default rate and borrowing rate increases for these issuers, the remaining balance in these trusts may not be sufficient to cover the senior debt. We therefore concluded that there is potential credit risk for these two securities and as such, used the discounted cash flow model to determine the amount of credit loss to be recorded. In valuing the potential credit loss, the following parameters were used: 2.0 year expected term, cash flows based on the 90-day t-bill rates for 2.0 year forwards and a risk premium of 5.9%, the amount of interest that we were receiving on these securities when the market was last active. During the year ended December 31, 2009, the potential credit loss associated with these securities was \$70,000, which we deemed other-than-temporary and recorded in other expense in its Consolidated Statement of Operations during 2009. There have been no such losses since. During the year ended December 31, 2012, we were able to redeem one of these two securities at par and therefore, recognized a gain of \$40,000 in interest income and other, net, in our Consolidated Statement of Operations.

Unless a rights offering or other similar offer is made to redeem at par and accepted by us, we intend to hold the balance of these investments through successful auctions at par, which we believe could take approximately 2.0 years.

Determining the fair value of the auction-rate securities requires significant management judgment regarding projected future cash flows which will depend on many factors, including the quality of the underlying collateral, estimated time for liquidity including potential to be called or restructured, underlying final maturity, insurance guaranty and market conditions, among others. To determine the fair value of the auction-rate securities at December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, we used a discounted cash flow model, for which there are four unobservable inputs: estimated time-to-liquidity, discount rate, credit quality of the issuer and expected interest receipts. A significant increase in the time-to-liquidity or the discount rate inputs or a significant decrease in the credit quality of the issuer or the expected interest receipts inputs in isolation would result in a significantly lower fair value measurement.

The following are the values used in the discounted cash flow model:



	December 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Time-to-Liquidity	24 months	24 months
Expected Return	1.8%	1.8%
(Based on the requisite treasury rate, plus a contractual penalty rate)		
Discount Rate	2.5% - 7.3%	3.1% - 7.9%
(Based on the requisite LIBOR, the cost of debt and a liquidity risk premium)		
	depending on the credit-rating of the security	depending on the credit-rating of the security

From December 31, 2011 to December 31, 2012, we kept the time-to-liquidity constant at 2.0 years. We sold \$2.1 million in auction-rate securities at par and reversed the impairment related to these securities in the amount of \$0.2 million. This reduced the overall impairment from \$0.7 million at December 31, 2011 to \$0.5 million at December 31, 2012.

Net cash used in financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2012 was \$19.6 million primarily reflecting the \$35.7 million cash dividend paid to common stockholders on December 28, 2012, partially offset by a combined \$15.2 million of cash received from the exercise of stock options and proceeds from stock sold through our Employee Stock Purchase Plan. Net cash used in financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2011 was \$32.0 million primarily reflecting \$38.5 million of stock repurchases, which was partially offset by a combined \$6.5 million of proceeds from the exercise of stock options and proceeds from stock sold through our Employee Stock Purchase Plan. Net cash used in financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2010 was \$14.0 million primarily reflecting \$31.5 million in common stock repurchases, partially offset by a combined \$16.2 million of proceeds from the exercise of stock options and proceeds from stock sold through our Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

On July 27, 2010, the Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase program that authorized MPS to repurchase up to \$50.0 million in the aggregate of its common stock between August 2, 2010 and December 31, 2011. In February 2011, the Board of Directors approved an authorization increase from \$50.0 million to \$70.0 million. The repurchase program is now complete and the following shares have been repurchased through the open market and subsequently retired:

	2011	Shares Repurchased	Average Price per Share	Value (in thousands)
February		817,500	\$ 15.47	\$ 12,648
March		75,000	\$ 14.17	\$ 1,062
April		917,200	\$ 14.82	\$ 13,617
May		657,800	\$ 16.48	\$ 10,843
June		18,000	\$ 16.79	\$ 302
		2,485,500		\$ 38,472
	2010	Shares Repurchased	Average Price per Share	Value (in thousands)
August		983,189	\$ 17.29	\$ 16,998
November		916,600	\$ 15.85	\$ 14,529
		1,899,789		\$ 31,527

Although cash requirements will fluctuate based on the timing and extent of many factors such as those discussed above, we believe that cash generated from operations, together with the liquidity provided by existing cash balances and short-term investments, will be sufficient to satisfy our liquidity requirements for the next 12 months. For further details regarding our operating, investing and financing activities, see the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows.

In the future, in order to strengthen our financial position, in the event of unforeseen circumstances, or in the event we need to fund our growth in future financial periods, we may need to raise additional funds by any one or a combination of the following: issuing equity securities, issuing debt or convertible debt securities, incurring indebtedness secured by our assets, or selling certain product lines and/or portions of our business. There can be no guarantee that we will be able to raise additional funds on terms acceptable to us, or at all.



From time to time, we have engaged in discussions with third parties concerning potential acquisitions of product lines, technologies and businesses, and we continue to consider potential acquisition candidates. Any such transactions could involve the issuance of a significant number of new equity securities, debt, and/or cash consideration. We may also be required to raise additional funds to complete any such acquisition, through either the issuance of equity and debt securities or incurring indebtedness secured by our assets. If we raise additional funds or acquire businesses or technologies through the issuance of equity securities, our existing stockholders may experience significant dilution.

#### Contractual Obligations

In May 2012, we moved from our previous leased headquarters in San Jose, California to our current Company-owned headquarters also located in San Jose, California.

We also lease our research and development and sales offices in the United States, Japan, China, Taiwan and Korea. Certain of our facility leases provide for periodic rent increases.

In September 2004, we signed an agreement with the Chinese local authority to construct a facility in Chengdu, China. Pursuant to this agreement, we agreed to contribute capital in the form of cash, in-kind assets, and/or intellectual property, of at least \$5.0 million to our wholly-owned Chinese subsidiary as the registered capital for the subsidiary and exercised the option to purchase land use rights for the facility of approximately \$0.2 million. Following the five-year lease term, we now have an option to acquire this facility in Chengdu for approximately \$1.8 million which consist of total construction cost incurred minus total rent paid by us during the lease term. This option became exercisable in March 2011 and does not expire. We will likely exercise our purchase option and enter into a purchase agreement for this facility in the future. We constructed a 150,000 square foot research and development facility in Chengdu, China which was put into operation in October 2010.

As of December 31, 2012, our total outstanding purchase commitments, primarily for wafers from our three foundries and assembly services, were \$15.5 million. This compares to purchase commitments of \$18.6 million as of December 31, 2011.

The following table summarizes our contractual obligations at December 31, 2012, and the effect such obligations are expected to have on our liquidity and cash flow over the next five years (in thousands).

	Total	Payments by Period				
		2013	2014	2015	2016	Thereafter
Operating leases	\$ 1,165	\$ 912	\$ 206	\$ 45	\$ 2	\$ -
Outstanding purchase commitments	15,542	15,542	-	-	-	-
	\$ 16,707	\$ 16,454	\$ 206	\$ 45	\$ 2	\$ -

Because of the uncertainty as to the timing of payments related to our liabilities for unrecognized tax benefits, we have excluded estimated obligations of \$4.9 million from the table above.

#### Off Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of December 31, 2012, we had no off-balance sheet arrangements as defined in Item 303(a)(4) of the Securities and Exchange Commission's Regulation S-K.

#### ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

### Interest Rate Risk

Our cash equivalents and investments are subject to market risk, primarily interest rate and credit risk. Our investments are managed by outside professional managers within investment guidelines set by us. Such guidelines include security type, credit quality and maturity and are intended to limit market risk by restricting our investments to high quality debt instruments with relatively short-term maturities.

We do not use derivative financial instruments in our investment portfolio. Investments in debt securities are classified as available-for-sale or trading. For available-for-sale investments, no gains or losses are recognized by us in our results of operations due to changes in interest rates unless such securities are sold prior to maturity or are determined to be other-than-temporarily impaired. Available-for-sale investments are reported at fair value with the related unrealized gains or losses being included in accumulated other comprehensive income, a component of stockholders' equity. Trading securities are reported at fair value with unrealized gains and losses included in earnings.

Fluctuations in interest rates of plus or minus 10% could impact our annual results of operations by approximately \$0.1 million.

#### Foreign Currency Exchange Risk

Our sales outside the United States are transacted in U.S. dollars. Accordingly, our sales are not generally impacted by foreign currency rate changes. In 2012, the primary functional currency of the Company's offshore operations was the local currency, primarily the New Taiwan Dollar and the Chinese Yuan. To date, fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates have not had a material impact on our results of operations. However, fluctuations of +/- 10% on intercompany transactions of \$50.3 million in such local currencies could impact our annual results of operations by approximately \$5.0 million.

#### Value Change to Long-Term Investments

As of December 31, 2012, all of our holdings in auction rate securities, which have a face value of \$12.3 million, have failed to reset as a result of current market conditions. Should these auctions continue to fail and if the credit rating for these securities decline, a 10% decline in the fair value could impact our results of operations by approximately \$1.2 million.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Contents

	Page
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	49
Consolidated Balance Sheets	50
Consolidated Statements of Operations	51
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income	52
Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity	53
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows	54
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	55

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of  
Monolithic Power Systems, Inc.  
San Jose, California

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2012. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2012, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012, based on the criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission, and our report dated March 5, 2013 expressed an unqualified opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

San Jose, California  
March 5, 2013



## MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**  
(in thousands, except par value and share amounts)

	December 31,	
	2012	2011
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$75,104	\$96,371
Short-term investments	85,521	77,827
Accounts receivable, net of allowances of \$20 in 2012 and \$5 in 2011	19,383	15,097
Inventories	32,115	20,104
Deferred income tax assets, net - current	1	421
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	2,177	1,685
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>214,301</b>	<b>211,505</b>
Property and equipment, net	59,412	47,794
Long-term investments	11,755	13,675
Deferred income tax assets, net - long-term	669	239
Other assets	1,025	654
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$287,162</b>	<b>\$273,867</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$9,859	\$8,904
Accrued compensation and related benefits	7,686	9,321
Accrued liabilities	5,915	7,845
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>23,460</b>	<b>26,070</b>
Non-current income tax liabilities	5,408	4,920
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>28,868</b>	<b>30,990</b>
Commitments and contingencies (Note 9)		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, \$0.001 par value; shares authorized: 150,000,000; shares issued and outstanding: 35,673,282 and 33,826,032 in 2012 and 2011, respectively	194,079	159,336
Retained earnings	60,040	79,948
Accumulated other comprehensive income	4,175	3,593
<b>Total stockholders' equity</b>	<b>258,294</b>	<b>242,877</b>
<b>Total liabilities and stockholders' equity</b>	<b>\$287,162</b>	<b>\$273,867</b>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

## MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS  
(in thousands, except per share amounts)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
Revenue	\$213,813	\$196,519	\$218,840
Cost of revenue (1)	100,665	94,925	97,383
Gross profit	113,148	101,594	121,457
Operating expenses:			
Research and development (2)	48,796	44,518	44,372
Selling, general and administrative (3)	50,018	40,280	41,169
Litigation expense (benefit), net	(2,945 )	3,379	5,418
Total operating expenses	95,869	88,177	90,959
Income from operations	17,279	13,417	30,498
Interest income and other, net	611	309	922
Income before income taxes	17,890	13,726	31,420
Income tax provision	2,134	425	1,857
Net income	\$15,756	\$13,301	\$29,563
Basic net income per share	\$0.45	\$0.39	\$0.83
Diluted net income per share	\$0.43	\$0.38	\$0.78
Weighted average common shares outstanding:			
Basic	34,871	34,050	35,830
Diluted	36,247	35,160	37,826
(1) Includes stock-based compensation expense	\$510	\$312	\$393
(2) Includes stock-based compensation expense	6,922	5,909	6,742
(3) Includes stock-based compensation expense	11,220	6,905	9,675
Total stock-based compensation expense	\$18,652	\$13,126	\$16,810

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

## MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
(in thousands)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
Net income	\$ 15,756	\$ 13,301	\$ 29,563
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax:			
Auction-rate securities valuation reserve adjustment, net of \$0 tax in 2012, 2011 and 2010	140	270	160
Unrealized gain (loss) on available-for-sale securities, net of \$0 tax in 2012, 2011 and 2010	34	(37 )	104
Foreign currency translation adjustments, net of \$0 tax in 2012, 2011 and 2010	408	1,381	1,361
Comprehensive income	\$ 16,338	\$ 14,915	\$ 31,188

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

## MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY  
(in thousands, except share amounts)

	Common Stock		Retained	Accumulated	Total
	Shares	Amount	Earnings	Other Comprehensive Income	Stockholders' Equity
Balance as of January 1, 2010	35,165,316	\$ 175,518	\$ 37,085	\$ 354	\$ 212,957
Net income			29,563		29,563
Auction rate securities valuation reserve adjustment				160	160
Unrealized gains on available-for-sale securities				104	104
Foreign currency translation				1,361	1,361
Exercise of stock options and related tax benefit including net excess tax benefit of (\$1,256)	1,452,245	15,597			15,597
Repurchase of common shares	(1,899,789 )	(31,527 )			(31,527 )
Shares purchased through employee stock purchase plan	114,387	1,885			1,885
Stock-based compensation expense, net of forfeitures		16,803			16,803
Compensation expense for non-employee stock options		(7 )			(7 )
Release of restricted stock upon vesting	230,874				-
Balance as of December 31, 2010	35,063,033	\$ 178,269	\$ 66,647	\$ 1,979	\$ 246,895
Net income			13,301		13,301
Auction rate securities valuation reserve adjustment				270	270
Unrealized losses on available-for-sale securities				(37 )	(37 )
Foreign currency translation				1,381	1,381
Exercise of stock options and related tax benefit including net excess tax benefit of (\$27)	685,417	4,630			4,630
Repurchase of common shares	(2,485,500 )	(38,472 )			(38,472 )
Shares purchased through employee stock purchase plan	149,981	1,773			1,773
Stock-based compensation expense, net of forfeitures		13,123			13,123
Compensation expense for non-employee stock options		13			13
Release of restricted stock upon vesting	413,101				-
Balance as of December 31, 2011	33,826,032	\$ 159,336	\$ 79,948	\$ 3,593	\$ 242,877
Net income			15,756		15,756
Auction rate securities valuation reserve adjustment				140	140

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-K

Unrealized gains on available-for-sale securities					34	34
Foreign currency translation					408	408
Cash dividend				(35,664 )		(35,664 )
Exercise of stock options and related tax benefit including net excess tax benefit of (\$869)	1,151,884	14,232				14,232
Shares purchased through employee stock purchase plan	151,770	1,852				1,852
Stock-based compensation expense, net of forfeitures		18,642				18,642
Compensation expense for non-employee stock options		17				17
Release of restricted stock upon vesting	543,596					-
Balance as of December 31, 2012	35,673,282	\$ 194,079	\$ 60,040	\$ 4,175		\$ 258,294

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

## MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(in thousands)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Net income	\$ 15,756	\$ 13,301	\$ 29,563
<b>Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:</b>			
Depreciation and amortization	9,332	8,732	8,016
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	81	33	1
Amortization and realized gain on available-for-sale securities	254	376	688
Deferred income tax assets	(8 )	(403 )	(56 )
Gain on auction-rate securities	(40 )	-	-
Tax benefit from stock option transactions	3,009	1,958	3,349
Excess tax benefit from stock option transactions	(869 )	(27 )	(1,256 )
Stock-based compensation	18,652	13,126	16,810
<b>Changes in operating assets and liabilities:</b>			
Accounts receivable	(4,286 )	3,250	(2,826 )
Inventories	(12,004 )	5,699	(6,184 )
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(456 )	673	378
Accounts payable	754	(957 )	1,155
Accrued and other long-term liabilities	(2,097 )	(438 )	556
Accrued income taxes payable and noncurrent tax liabilities	(1,533 )	(2,127 )	(1,995 )
Accrued compensation and related benefits	(1,633 )	489	295
Net cash provided by operating activities	24,912	43,685	48,494
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Property and equipment purchases	(21,059 )	(21,022 )	(22,779 )
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	13	-	-
Purchases of short-term investments	(143,094 )	(78,250 )	(208,621 )
Proceeds from sale of short-term investments	135,183	129,719	197,243
Proceeds from sale of long-term investments	2,100	5,775	425
Changes in restricted assets	20	-	(19 )
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(26,837 )	36,222	(33,751 )
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>			
Proceeds from issuance of common stock	13,390	4,697	14,339
Proceeds from employee stock purchase plan	1,852	1,773	1,885
Repurchase of common stock	-	(38,472 )	(31,527 )
Dividend payment	(35,664 )	-	-
Excess tax benefits from stock option transactions	869	27	1,256
Net cash used in financing activities	(19,553 )	(31,975 )	(14,047 )
Effect of change in exchange rates	211	429	597
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(21,267 )	48,361	1,293

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-K

Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	96,371	48,010	46,717
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$75,104	\$96,371	\$48,010
Supplemental disclosures for cash flow information:			
Cash paid for taxes	\$807	\$675	\$35
Supplemental disclosures of non-cash investing and financing activities:			
Liability accrued for equipment purchases	\$1,728	\$1,483	\$4,264
Reversal of temporary impairment of auction-rate securities	\$(140 )	\$(270 )	\$(160 )

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

**Business** — Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. (“MPS” or “the Company”) was incorporated in the State of California on August 22, 1997. On November 17, 2004, the Company was reincorporated in the State of Delaware. MPS designs, develops and markets proprietary, advanced analog and mixed-signal semiconductors. The Company combines advanced process technology with its highly experienced analog designers to produce high-performance power management integrated circuits (ICs) for DC to DC converters, LED drivers, Cold Cathode Fluorescent Lamp (CCFL) backlight controllers, Class-D audio amplifiers, and other Linear ICs. MPS products are used extensively in computing and network communications products, LCD monitors and TVs, and a wide variety of consumer and portable electronics products. MPS contracts with world-class manufacturing organizations to deliver top quality, ultra-compact, high-performance solutions through productive, cost-efficient channels.

**Basis of Presentation** — The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

**Foreign Currency** — The Company’s foreign subsidiaries operate primarily using their respective local currencies, and therefore, the local currency has been determined to be the functional currency for each foreign subsidiary. Accordingly, all assets and liabilities of the Company’s foreign subsidiaries are translated using exchange rates in effect at the end of the period. Revenue and costs are translated using average exchange rates for the period. The resulting translation adjustments are presented as a separate component of accumulated other comprehensive income in stockholders’ equity in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. Foreign currency transaction gains and losses are reported in interest income and other, net in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

**Use of Estimates** — The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”) 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 reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Certain Significant Risks and Uncertainties** — Financial instruments which potentially subject the Company to concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents, short-term and long-term investments and accounts receivable. The Company’s cash consists of checking and savings accounts. The Company’s cash equivalents include short-term, highly liquid investments purchased with remaining maturities at the date of purchase of three months or less. The Company’s short-term investments consist primarily of government agencies and treasuries and the Company’s long-term investments consist of government-backed student loan auction-rate securities. The Company generally does not require its customers to provide collateral or other security to support accounts receivable. To manage credit risk, management performs ongoing credit evaluations of its customers’ financial condition. The Company requires cash in advance for certain customers in addition to ongoing credit evaluations for those where credit has been extended.

The Company participates in the dynamic high technology industry and believes that changes in any of the following areas could have a material adverse effect on the Company’s future financial position, results of operations or cash flows: advances and trends in new technologies and industry standards; competitive pressures in the form of new products or price reductions on current products; changes in product mix; changes in the overall demand for products



offered by the Company; changes in third-party manufacturers; changes in key suppliers; changes in certain strategic relationships or customer relationships; litigation or claims against the Company based on intellectual property, patent, product, regulatory or other factors; fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates; risk associated with changes in domestic and international economic and/or political regulations; availability of necessary components or subassemblies; availability of foundry capacity; and the Company's ability to attract and retain employees necessary to support its growth.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments — ASC 820-10 Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures – Overall defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and requires that assets and liabilities carried at fair value be classified and disclosed in one of three categories, as follows:

- Level 1: Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets;
- Level 2: Significant other observable inputs; and
- Level 3: Significant unobservable inputs.

ASC 820-10-35-51 Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure – Overall – Subsequent Measurement – Determining Fair Value When the Volume and Level of Activity for the Asset or Liability Have Significantly Decreased and Identifying Transactions That Are Not Orderly provides additional guidance for estimating fair value in accordance with ASC 820-10 Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures – Overall, when the volume and level of activity for the asset or liability have significantly decreased.

The Company's financial instruments include cash and cash equivalents and short-term and long-term investments. Cash equivalents are stated at cost, which approximates fair market value. Short-term and long-term investments are stated at their fair market value.

At December 31, 2012, the face value of the Company's holdings in auction rate securities is \$12.3 million, all of which is classified as long-term available-for-sale investments.

Investments in available-for-sale securities are recorded at fair value, and unrealized gains or losses (that are deemed to be temporary) are recognized through shareholders' equity, as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income in the Consolidated Balance Sheets and in Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income. The Company records an impairment charge to earnings when an available-for-sale investment has experienced a decline in value that is deemed to be other-than-temporary.

The Company used the guidelines of ASC 320 to determine whether the impairment is temporary or other-than-temporary. During the year ended December 31, 2012, we were able to redeem a security at face value for which an other-than-temporary impairment ("OTTI") of \$40,000 had previously been recorded for and therefore, recognized a gain of \$40,000 in interest income and other, net, in our Consolidated Statement of Operations.

The valuation of the auction-rate securities is subject to fluctuations in the future, which will depend on many factors, including the quality of the underlying collateral, estimated time to liquidity including potential to be called or restructured, underlying final maturity, insurance guaranty and market conditions, among others.

Inventories — Inventories are stated at the lower of the standard cost (which approximates actual cost on a first-in, first-out basis) or current estimated market value. The Company writes down inventory for obsolescence or lack of demand, based on assumptions about future demand and market conditions. If actual market conditions are less favorable than those projected by management, additional inventory write-downs may be required. Conversely, if market conditions are more favorable, inventory may be sold that was previously reserved. The Company monitors manufacturing variances and revises standard costs if necessary.

Property and Equipment — Property and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets, generally three to forty years. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the shorter of the estimated useful life or the lease period. The Chengdu building was placed in service in October 2010. In May 2012, the Company moved to the Company-owned headquarters located in San Jose, California. Buildings and building improvements have a depreciation life of up to 40 years.

Long-Lived Assets — The Company evaluates long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. An impairment loss would be recognized when the sum of the undiscounted future net cash flows expected to result from the use of the asset and its eventual disposition is less than its carrying amount. Such impairment loss would be measured as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset and its fair value based on the present value of estimated future cash flows.

Other Assets — Other assets consist primarily of intangible assets for the land use rights in Chengdu, purchased patents and long-term lease deposits. We amortize the land use rights over 50 years and the purchased patents up to five years.

Revenue Recognition — The Company recognizes revenue in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) – Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) 605-10-S25 Revenue Recognition – Overall – Recognition. ASC 605-10-S25 requires that four basic criteria must be met before revenue can be recognized: (1) persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists; (2) delivery has occurred or services have been rendered; (3) the fee is fixed or determinable; and (4) collectability is reasonably assured. Determination of criteria (3) and (4) are based on management’s judgment regarding the fixed nature of the fee charged for products delivered and the collectability of those fees. The application of these criteria has resulted in the Company generally recognizing revenue upon shipment (when title passes) to customers.

Approximately 91% of the Company’s distributor sales, including sales to the Company’s value-added resellers, for the year ended December 31, 2012 were made through distribution arrangements with third parties. These agreements do not include any special payment terms (the Company’s normal payment terms are 30-45 days for the distributors), price protection or exchange rights. Returns are limited to the Company’s standard product warranty. Certain of the Company’s large distributors have contracts that include limited stock rotation rights that permit the return of a small percentage of the previous six months’ purchases.

Approximately 9% of the Company’s distributor sales for the year ended December 31, 2012 were made through small distributors primarily based on purchase orders. These distributors also have limited or no stock rotation rights.

The Company’s revenue consists primarily of sales of assembled and tested finished goods. The Company also sells die in wafer form to its customers and value-added resellers, and the Company receives royalty revenue from third parties and value-added resellers.

The Company maintains a sales reserve for stock rotation rights, which is based on historical experience of actual stock rotation returns on a per distributor basis, where available, and information related to products in the distribution channel. This reserve is recorded at the time of sale. Historically, these returns were not material to the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

The Company generally recognizes revenue upon shipment of products to the distributor for the following reasons (based on ASC 605-15-25-1 Revenue Recognition – Products – Recognition – Sales of Products When Right of Return Exists):

- (1) The Company’s price is fixed or determinable at the date of sale. The Company does not offer special payment terms, price protection or price adjustments to distributors where the Company recognizes revenue upon shipment
- (2) The Company’s distributors are obligated to pay the Company and this obligation is not contingent on the resale of the Company’s products
- (3) The distributor’s obligation is unchanged in the event of theft or physical destruction or damage to the products
- (4) The Company’s distributors have stand-alone economic substance apart from the Company’s relationship
- (5) The Company does not have any obligations for future performance to directly bring about the resale of the Company’s products by the distributor
- (6)

The amount of future returns can be reasonably estimated. The Company has the ability and the information necessary to track inventory sold to and held at its distributors. The Company maintains a history of returns and has the ability to estimate the stock rotation returns on a quarterly basis.

If the Company enters into arrangements that have rights of return that are not estimable, the Company recognizes revenue under such arrangements only after the distributor has sold its products to an end customer.

The terms in a majority of the Company's distribution agreements include the non-exclusive right to sell and the agreement to use best efforts to promote and develop a market for the Company's products in certain regions of the world and the ability to terminate the distribution agreement by either party with up to three months' notice. The Company provides a one year warranty against defects in materials and workmanship. Under this warranty, the Company will repair the goods, provide replacements at no charge or under certain circumstances, provide a refund to the customer for defective products. Estimated warranty returns and warranty costs are based on historical experience and are recorded at the time product revenue is recognized.

Two of the Company's U.S. distributors have distribution agreements where revenue is recognized upon sale by these distributors to their end customers because these distributors have certain rights of return which management believes are not estimable. The deferred income balance from these two distributors for the year ended December 31, 2012 and 2011 was \$1.4 million and \$0.9 million, respectively.

**Warranty Reserves** — We generally provide a 12-month warranty against defects in materials and workmanship and will either repair the goods or provide replacement products at no charge to the customer for defective products. We record estimated warranty costs by product, which are based on historical experience over the preceding 12 months, at the time we recognize product revenue. Reserve requirements are recorded in the period of sale and are based on an assessment of the products sold with warranty and historical warranty costs incurred. Historically, the warranty expenses were not material to the Company's consolidated financial statements.

**Stock-Based Compensation** — The Company accounts for stock-based compensation under the provisions of ASC 718-10-30 Compensation – Stock Compensation – Overall – Initial Measurement. This standard requires the Company to measure the cost of employee services received in exchange for an award of equity instruments based on the grant-date fair value of the award. The Company currently uses the Black-Scholes option-pricing model to estimate the fair value of its share-based payments. The Black-Scholes option-pricing model is based on a number of assumptions, including historical volatility, expected life, risk-free interest rate and expected dividends. The fair value for time-based stock awards and stock awards that are contingent upon the achievement of financial performance metrics is based on the grant date share price.

We recognize compensation expense equal to the grant-date fair value for all share-based payment awards that are expected to vest. This expense is recorded on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period of the entire award, unless the awards are subject to market or performance conditions, in which case we recognize compensation expense over the requisite service period of each separate vesting tranche. We recognize compensation expense for our performance share units when it becomes probable that the performance criteria specified in the plan will be achieved. The amount of stock-based compensation that the Company recognizes is also based on an expected forfeiture rate. If there is a difference between the forfeiture assumptions used in determining stock-based compensation costs and the actual forfeitures which become known over time, we may change the forfeiture rate, which could have a significant impact on our stock-based compensation expense.

**Research and Development** — Costs incurred in research and development are charged to operations as incurred.

**Accounting for Income Taxes** — ASC 740-10 Income Taxes – Overall prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. This interpretation also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods and disclosure. In accordance with ASC 740-10, the Company recognizes federal, state and foreign current tax liabilities or assets based on our estimate of taxes payable or refundable in the current fiscal year by tax jurisdiction. The Company also recognizes federal, state and foreign deferred tax assets or liabilities for its estimate of future tax effects attributable to temporary differences and carryforwards. The Company records a valuation allowance to reduce any deferred tax assets by the amount of any tax benefits that, based on

available evidence and judgment, are not expected to be realized.

The Company's calculation of current and deferred tax assets and liabilities is based on certain estimates and judgments and involves dealing with uncertainties in the application of complex tax laws. The Company's estimates of current and deferred tax assets and liabilities may change based, in part, on added certainty or finality or uncertainty to an anticipated outcome, changes in accounting or tax laws in the U.S., or foreign jurisdictions where the Company operates, or changes in other facts or circumstances. In addition, the Company recognizes liabilities for potential U.S. and foreign income tax for uncertain income tax positions taken on its tax returns if it has less than a 50% likelihood of being sustained. If the Company determines that payment of these amounts is unnecessary or if the recorded tax liability is less than its current assessment, the Company may be required to recognize an income tax benefit or additional income tax expense in its financial statements in the period such determination is made. The Company has calculated its uncertain tax positions which were attributable to certain estimates and judgments primarily related to transfer pricing, cost sharing and its international tax structure exposure.

As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company had a valuation allowance of \$12.5 million and \$14.6 million, respectively, attributable to management's determination that it is more likely than not that most of the deferred tax assets in the United States will not be realized. Should it be determined that additional amounts of the net deferred tax asset will not be realized in the future, an adjustment to increase the deferred tax asset valuation allowance will be charged to income in the period such determination is made. Likewise, in the event the Company were to determine that it is more likely than not that it would be able to realize its deferred tax assets in the future in excess of its net recorded amount, an adjustment to the valuation allowance for the deferred tax asset would increase income in the period such determination was made.

As a result of the cost sharing arrangements with the Company's international subsidiaries (cost share arrangements), relatively small changes in costs that are not subject to sharing under the cost share arrangements can significantly impact the overall profitability of the US entity. Because of the US entity's inconsistent earnings history and uncertainty of future earnings, the Company has determined that it is more likely than not that the US deferred tax benefits will not be realized.

In November 2012, California taxpayers voted in favor of mandating the use of a single sales factor for California state apportionment, effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2012. As a result of this change in law, the Company's California deferred tax assets were revalued down. As the Company has a valuation allowance against its U.S. deferred tax assets, this revaluation of its California deferred tax assets did not impact income tax expense.

The Company incurred significant stock-based compensation expense, some of which related to incentive stock options for which no corresponding tax benefit will be recognized unless a disqualifying disposition occurs. Disqualifying dispositions result in a reduction of income tax expense in the period when the disqualifying disposition occurs. Tax benefits related to realized tax deductions in excess of previously expensed stock compensation are recorded as an addition to paid-in-capital.

Contingencies. The Company and certain of its subsidiaries are parties to actions and proceedings incident to its business in the ordinary course of business, including litigation regarding the Company's intellectual property, challenges to the enforceability or validity of its intellectual property and claims that its products infringe on the intellectual property rights of others. The pending proceedings involve complex questions of fact and law and will require the expenditure of significant funds and the diversion of other resources to prosecute and defend. In addition, from time to time, the Company becomes aware that it is subject to other contingent liabilities. When this occurs, the Company will evaluate the appropriate accounting for the potential contingent liabilities using ASC 450-20-25-2 Contingencies – Loss Contingencies - Recognition to determine whether a contingent liability should be recorded. In making this determination, management may, depending on the nature of the matter, consult with internal and external legal counsel and technical experts. Based on the facts and circumstances in each matter, the Company uses its judgment to determine whether it is probable that a contingent loss has occurred and whether the amount of such loss can be estimated. If the Company determines a loss is probable and estimable, the Company records a contingent loss in accordance with ASC 450-20-25-2. In determining the amount of a contingent loss, the Company takes into account advice received from experts for each specific matter regarding the status of legal proceedings, settlement negotiations (which may be ongoing), prior case history and other factors. Should the judgments and estimates made by management need to be adjusted as additional information becomes available, the Company may need to record additional contingent losses that could materially and adversely impact its results of operations. Alternatively, if the judgments and estimates made by management are adjusted, for example, if a particular contingent loss does not occur, the contingent loss recorded would be reversed which could result in a favorable impact on the Company's results of operations.





Litigation Expenses. The Company expenses litigation costs in the period in which they are incurred. Due to the uncertainties inherent in litigation proceedings, the Company generally recognizes the proceeds resulting from settlement of litigation or favorable judgments when the cash is received. The proceeds are recorded as a reduction in litigation expense to the extent that litigation costs were previously incurred in the related case. Proceeds in excess of cumulative costs incurred for a case is recorded to interest income and other, net on the Consolidated Statements of Operations. Litigation expense (benefit), net on the Consolidated Statements of Operations include primarily patent litigation and other contract-related matters.

Comprehensive Income— Comprehensive income represents the change in the Company’s net assets during the period from non-owner sources. Accumulated other comprehensive income presented in the Consolidated Balance Sheet at December 31, 2012 consisted primarily of \$4.7 million related to translation gains, partially offset by \$0.5 million related to the impairment of the Company’s holdings in auction-rate securities. Accumulated other comprehensive income presented in the Consolidated Balance Sheet at December 31, 2011 consisted primarily of approximately \$4.2 million related to translation gains, partially offset by \$0.6 million related to the impairment of the Company’s holdings in auction-rate securities.

#### Recently Adopted and New Accounting Pronouncements

In February 2013, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) No. 2013-02, Reporting of Amounts Reclassified Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income. This ASU adds new disclosure requirement for items reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income (“AOCI”). The ASU is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning on or after December 15, 2012 and must be applied prospectively. The Company is evaluating the impact of the standard on its consolidated financial statements and related disclosures.

In June 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-05 relating to Comprehensive Income (Topic 220) – Presentation of Comprehensive Income (ASU 2011-05), which requires an entity to present the total of comprehensive income, the components of net income, and the components of other comprehensive income either in a single continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements. The ASU is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning on or after December 15, 2011 and must be applied retrospectively. The Company adopted this standard effective January 1, 2012.

In May 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-04, Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (Topic 820) – Fair Value Measurement (ASU 2011-04), to provide a consistent definition of fair value and ensure that the fair value measurement and disclosure requirements are similar between U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards. ASU 2011-04 changes certain fair value measurement principles and enhances the disclosure requirements particularly for level 3 fair value measurements. The ASU is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning on or after December 15, 2011 and should be applied prospectively. The Company adopted this standard effective January 1, 2012.

#### 2. Fair Value Measurements

The following is a schedule of the Company’s cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments and long-term investments as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 (in thousands):

	Estimated Fair Market Value as of	
	December 31,	
	2012	2011

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-K

Cash, cash equivalents and investments		
Cash in banks	\$59,145	\$43,305
Money market funds	15,959	51,066
Government agencies/ treasuries	85,521	79,827
Auction-rate securities backed by student-loan notes	11,755	13,675
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	\$172,380	\$187,873

Reported as:	December 31,	
	2012	2011
Cash and cash equivalents	\$75,104	\$96,371
Short-term investments	85,521	77,827
Long-term investments	11,755	13,675
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	\$172,380	\$187,873

The contractual maturities of the Company's investments classified as available-for-sale as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 is as follows (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2012	2011
Due in less than 1 year	\$ 52,880	\$ 45,133
Due in 1 - 5 years	32,641	32,694
Due in greater than 5 years	11,755	13,675
	\$ 97,276	\$ 91,502

The following table details the fair value measurements as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 within the fair value hierarchy of the financial assets that are required to be recorded at fair value (in thousands):

	Fair Value Measurements at December 31, 2012 Using			
	Total	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets Level 1	Significant Other Observable Inputs Level 2	Significant Unobservable Inputs Level 3
Money market funds	\$15,959	\$15,959	\$-	\$ -
US treasuries and US government agency bonds	85,521	-	85,521	-
Long-term available-for-sale auction-rate securities	11,755	-	-	11,755
	\$113,235	\$15,959	\$85,521	\$ 11,755

	Fair Value Measurements at December 31, 2011 Using			
	Total	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets Level 1	Significant Other Observable Inputs Level 2	Significant Unobservable Inputs Level 3
Money market funds	\$51,066	\$51,066	\$-	\$ -
US treasuries and US government agency bonds	79,827	-	79,827	-
Long-term available-for-sale auction-rate securities	13,675	-	-	13,675
	\$144,568	\$51,066	\$79,827	\$ 13,675



The following tables summarize unrealized gains and losses related to our investments in marketable securities designated as available-for-sale (in thousands):

As of December 31, 2012

	Adjusted Cost	Unrealized Gains	Unrealized Losses	Total Fair Value	Fair Value of Investments in Unrealized Loss Position
Money market funds	\$ 15,959	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,959	\$ -
US treasuries and US government agency bonds	85,483	45	(7 )	85,521	14,121
Auction-rate securities backed by student-loan notes	12,245	-	(490 )	11,755	11,755
	\$ 113,687	\$ 45	\$ (497 )	\$ 113,235	\$ 25,876

As of December 31, 2011

	Adjusted Cost	Unrealized Gains	Unrealized Losses	Total Fair Value	Fair Value of Investments in Unrealized Loss Position
Money market funds	\$ 51,066	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,066	\$ -
US treasuries and US government agency bonds	79,830	14	(17 )	79,827	25,281
Auction-rate securities backed by student-loan notes	14,305	-	(630 )	13,675	13,675
	\$ 145,201	\$ 14	\$ (647 )	\$ 144,568	\$ 38,956

At December 31, 2012, fixed income available-for-sale securities included \$85.5 million securities issued by government agencies and treasuries which are classified as short-term investments on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. The Company also had \$16.0 million invested in money market funds. At December 31, 2012, there was \$7,000 in unrealized losses from these investments. The impact of gross unrealized gains and losses was not material. At December 31, 2012, the Company also had \$11.8 million of auction-rate securities, all of which are classified as long-term available-for-sale investments.

At December 31, 2011, fixed income available-for-sale securities included securities issued by government agencies and treasuries, \$77.8 million of which are classified as short-term investments and \$2.0 million which are classified as cash equivalents on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. The Company also had \$51.1 million invested in money market funds. At December 31, 2011, there was \$17,000 in unrealized losses from these investments. The impact of gross unrealized gains and losses was not material. At December 31, 2011, the Company also had \$13.7 million of

auction-rate securities, all of which are classified as long-term available-for-sale investments.

Temporary impairment charges are recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) within stockholders' equity and have no impact on net income. Other-than-temporary impairment exists when the Company either has the intent to sell the security, it will more likely than not be required to sell the security before anticipated recovery or it does not expect to recover the entire amortized cost basis of the security. Other-than-temporary impairment charges are recorded in interest income and other, net in the Consolidated Statement of Operations.

The Company's level 2 assets consist of U.S. treasuries and U.S. government agency bonds. These securities generally have market prices available from multiple sources, which are used as inputs into a distribution-curve based algorithm to determine fair value.

The Company's level 3 assets consist of government-backed student loan auction-rate securities, with interest rates that reset through a Dutch auction every 7 to 35 days and which became illiquid in 2008.

The following table provides a reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances for the assets measured at fair value using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) (in thousands):

	Auction-Rate Securities
Beginning balance at January 1, 2011	\$19,180
Sales and settlement at par	(5,775 )
Unrealized gain	270
Ending balance at December 31, 2011	13,675
Sales and settlement at par	(2,100 )
Total realized and unrealized gains:	
Included in interest income and other, net	40
Included in other comprehensive income	140
Ending balance at December 31, 2012	\$11,755

During the year ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company sold \$2.1 million and \$5.8 million, respectively, in auction-rate securities at par, all of which were classified as long-term investments.

The Company's investment portfolio as of December 31, 2012 included \$11.8 million in government-backed student loan auction-rate securities, net of impairment charges of \$0.52 million; of which, \$0.49 million was temporary and \$0.03 million was recorded as other-than-temporary. This compares to an investment balance for auction-rate securities as of December 31, 2011 of \$13.7 million, net of impairment charges of \$0.7 million; of which, \$0.6 million was temporary and \$0.1 million was recorded as other-than-temporary.

The underlying maturities of these auction-rate securities are up to 35 years. As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the portion of the impairment classified as temporary was based on the following analysis:

1. The decline in the fair value of these securities is not largely attributable to adverse conditions specifically related to these securities or to specific conditions in an industry or in a geographic area;
2. Management possesses both the intent and ability to hold these securities for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in fair value;
3. Management believes that it is more likely than not that the Company will not have to sell these securities before recovery of its cost basis;
4. Except for the credit loss of \$70,000 recognized in the year ended December 31, 2009 for the Company's holdings in auction rate securities described below, the Company does not believe that there is any additional credit loss associated with other auction-rate securities because the Company expects to recover the entire amortized cost basis;
5. \$6.3 million of auction-rate securities were downgraded by Moody's to A3-Baa3 during the year ended December 31, 2009. There have been no further downgrades since;
6. All scheduled interest payments have been made pursuant to the reset terms and conditions; and
7. All redemptions of auction-rate securities representing 68% of the original portfolio purchased by the Company in February 2008 have been at par.

Based on the guidance of ASC 320-10-35 and ASC 320-10-50, the Company evaluated the potential credit loss of each of the auction-rate securities that are currently held by the Company. Based on such analysis, the Company determined that those securities that are not 100% FFELPS guaranteed are potentially subject to credit risks based on



the extent to which the underlying debt is collateralized and the security-specific student-loan default rates. The Company's portfolio includes two such securities. The senior parity ratio for the two securities is approximately 106%. If, therefore, the student-loan default rate and borrowing rate increases for these issuers, the remaining balance in these trusts may not be sufficient to cover the senior debt. The Company therefore concluded that there is potential credit risk for these two securities and as such, used the discounted cash flow model to determine the amount of credit loss to be recorded. In valuing the potential credit loss, the following parameters were used: 2.0 year expected term, cash flows based on the 90-day t-bill rates for 2.0 year forwards and a risk premium of 5.9%, the amount of interest that the Company was receiving on these securities when the market was last active. During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Company was able to redeem a security at face value for which an OTTI of \$40,000 had previously been recorded for and therefore, recognized a gain of \$40,000 in interest income and other, net, in our Consolidated Statement of Operations.

Unless a rights offering or other similar offer is made to redeem at par and accepted by the Company, the Company intends to hold the balance of these investments through successful auctions at par, which the Company believes could take approximately 2.0 years.

Determining the fair value of the auction-rate securities requires significant management judgment regarding projected future cash flows which will depend on many factors, including the quality of the underlying collateral, estimated time for liquidity including potential to be called or restructured, underlying final maturity, insurance guaranty and market conditions, among others. To determine the fair value of the auction-rate securities at December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the Company used a discounted cash flow model, for which there are four unobservable inputs: estimated time-to-liquidity, discount rate, credit quality of the issuer and expected interest receipts. A significant increase in the time-to liquidity or the discount rate inputs or a significant decrease in the credit quality of the issuer or the expected interest receipts inputs in isolation would result in a significantly lower fair value measurement.

The following are the values used in the discounted cash flow model:

	December 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Time-to-Liquidity	24 months	24 months
Expected Return	1.8%	1.8%
(Based on the requisite treasury rate, plus a contractual penalty rate)		
Discount Rate	2.5% - 7.3%	3.1% - 7.9%
(Based on the requisite LIBOR, the cost of debt and a liquidity risk premium)	depending on the credit-rating of the security	depending on the credit-rating of the security

If the auctions continue to fail, the liquidity of the Company's investment portfolio may be negatively impacted and the value of its investment portfolio could decline.

### 3. Inventories

Inventories consist of the following (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2012	2011
Work in progress	\$20,992	\$11,596
Finished goods	11,123	8,508
Total inventories	\$32,115	\$20,104

## 4. Property and Equipment, net

Property and equipment consist of the following (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2012	2011
Computers, software and equipment	\$65,937	\$53,514
Leasehold improvements	2,053	3,281
Vehicles	1,002	977
Building	28,319	21,632
Land	5,600	6,044
Furniture and fixtures	2,518	1,403
Total	105,429	86,851
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization	(46,017 )	(39,057 )
Property and equipment, net	\$59,412	\$47,794

In May 2012, the Company moved from its previous leased headquarters in San Jose, California to its current Company-owned headquarters also located in San Jose, California. The property consists of an approximately 106,262 square foot office building and approximately 5.5 acres of land. The \$11.0 million purchase price for the property was allocated based on information provided by a third party valuation report, with \$5.0 million attributable to the building and \$6.0 million attributable to the land. In 2012, the Company invested an additional \$7.0 million in building improvements. The Company moved into its new headquarters and started to depreciate the building in May 2012. Buildings and building improvements have a depreciation life of up to 40 years.

Depreciation expense for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 was \$9.3 million, \$8.7 million and \$7.9 million, respectively.

## 5. Accrued Liabilities

Accrued liabilities consist of the following (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2012	2011
Deferred revenue and customer prepayments	\$2,198	\$3,603
Stock rotation reserve	961	1,086
Legal expenses and settlement costs	402	911
Warranty	331	561
Other	2,023	1,684
Total accrued liabilities	\$5,915	\$7,845

## 6. Stockholders' Equity

The Company has two stock option plans and an employee stock purchase plan—the 1998 Stock Option Plan, the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan (“2004 Plan”) and the 2004 Employee Stock Purchase Plan. The Company recognized stock-based compensation expenses for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, as follows (in thousands):

	Year ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
Non-Employee	\$17	\$13	\$(7 )
ESPP	632	538	609
Restricted Stock	12,468	7,216	8,271
Stock Options	5,535	5,369	7,937
	\$18,652	\$13,136	\$16,810

The income tax benefit for stock-based compensation expenses was \$0.2 million, \$0.1 million and \$0.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

### Special Cash Dividend on Shares of Common Stock

On December 11, 2012, the Company’s Board of Directors declared a special cash dividend of \$1.00 per common share, which was paid on December 28, 2012 to all shareholders of record as of the close of business on December 21, 2012. This was the first cash dividend in the Company’s history.

Any future dividends will be subject to the approval of the Company’s Board of Directors.

### Stock Option Modification

In connection with the payment of the special dividend on December 28, 2012, the Company’s Board of Directors approved a modification whereby the number of shares of each option outstanding as of December 28, 2012 was increased by a ratio of 1.0471 and the exercise price was reduced by the ratio of 1.0471. Consequently, the Company granted an additional 171,484 shares from the 2004 Plan.

This modification was permissible pursuant to the Company’s 2004 Plan and therefore, resulted in an incremental compensation cost of \$2.9 million, of which \$2.8 million was recognized during the fourth quarter of 2012. The remaining \$0.1 million will be recognized over the remaining vesting period of the modified stock options. The Company used the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following weighted-average assumptions: expected term of 1.9 years, expected volatility of 41.0%, risk-free interest rate of 0.3% and no dividend yield.

### Restricted Stock Unit (“RSUs”) Modification

On December 28, 2012, the Company’s Board of Directors approved the RSU Modification of unvested RSUs whereby for each unvested RSU or performance-based RSU (“PSU”) as of December 28, 2012, the holder will receive 1.0471 shares upon vesting of the original awards granted. Consequently, the Company granted an additional 73,805 shares from the 2004 Plan, based on 100% of the performance targets. An additional 26,851 PSUs will be released if the highest pre-determined performance targets are met.

This modification was permissible pursuant to the Company’s 2004 Plan and therefore, would result in an incremental compensation cost of \$1.5 million based on the assumption that approximately 100% of the PSUs granted will be

vested, which will be recognized over the remaining vesting period of the awards through fourth quarter of 2016. An additional \$0.5 million of stock-based compensation expense will be recorded as a result of this modification if the highest pre-determined performance targets are met. See below for information regarding the vesting terms of the RSUs and PSUs.

#### 1998 Stock Option Plan

Under the Company's 1998 Stock Option Plan (the 1998 Plan), the Company reserved 11,807,024 shares of common stock for issuance to the Company's employees, directors and consultants. Options granted under the 1998 Plan have a maximum term of ten years and generally vest over four years at the rate of 25 percent one year from the date of grant and 1/48th monthly thereafter. On November 19, 2004, the effective date of the Company's initial public offering, the 1998 Plan was terminated for future grants and the remaining 1,392,750 shares available for grant were moved to the Company's 2004 Equity Incentive Plan (the 2004 Plan). In addition, throughout the year, shares underlying options from the 1998 Plan that are cancelled (for example, upon termination of service) are transferred to the 2004 Plan based on the number of cancellations that occur throughout the year.

## 2004 Equity Incentive Plan

The Company's Board of Directors adopted the Company's 2004 Equity Incentive Plan in March 2004, and the Company's stockholders approved it in November 2004. Under the 2004 Plan, options granted prior to July 13, 2006 have a maximum term of ten years and options granted thereafter have a maximum term of seven years. New hire and refresh grants generally vest over four years at the rate of 50 percent two years from the date of grant and 1/16th quarterly thereafter. There were 800,000 shares initially reserved for issuance under the 2004 Plan. The 2004 Plan provides for annual increases in the number of shares available for issuance beginning on January 1, 2005 equal to the least of: 5% of the outstanding shares of common stock on the first day of the year, 2,400,000 shares, or a number of shares determined by the Board of Directors.

The following is a summary of the 1998 Plan and 2004 Plan, which includes stock options, RSUs and PSUs:

Available for grant as of January 1, 2012	4,291,737
Additions to plan	1,641,301
Grants	(1,152,320 )
Performance awards adjustment	18,359
Cancellations	158,167
Available for grant as of December 31, 2012	4,957,244

The awards granted in 2012 include approximately 356,752 shares of PSUs based on 100% of the performance targets. The performance awards adjustment reflects those PSUs for which the performance targets will not be met based on management's probability assessment as of December 31, 2012.

A summary of the status of the Company's stock option plans is presented in the table below:

	Stock Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term (Years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Outstanding at January 1, 2010 (4,112,763 options exercisable at a weighted-average exercise price of \$10.93 per share)	7,410,914	\$ 13.48	5.04	\$ 77,918,848
Options granted (weighted-average fair value of \$8.95 per share)	370,500	19.92		
Options exercised	(1,452,245)	9.87		
Options forfeited and expired	(494,051 )	15.67		
Outstanding at December 31, 2010 (4,264,268 options exercisable at a weighted-average exercise price of \$13.33 per share)	5,835,118	\$ 14.61	4.30	\$ 19,035,591
Options granted (weighted-average fair value of \$5.85 per share)	152,500	13.96		
Options exercised	(685,417 )	6.85		
Options forfeited and expired	(438,962 )	18.66		
Outstanding at December 31, 2011 (4,202,786 options exercisable at a weighted-average	4,863,239	\$ 15.31	3.44	\$ 8,817,049

exercise price of \$15.05 per share)					
Options granted (weighted-average fair value of \$8.22 per share)	178,484	(1)	15.63		
Options exercised	(1,151,884)		11.62		
Options forfeited and expired	(76,478	)	20.90		
Modification adjustment	-		(0.74	)	
Outstanding at December 31, 2012	3,813,361	\$	15.62	2.56	\$ 25,379,573
Options exercisable at December 31, 2012 and expected to become exercisable	3,799,748	\$	15.62	2.55	\$ 25,288,257
Options vested and exercisable at December 31, 2012	3,603,762	\$	15.59	2.42	\$ 24,105,872

(1) Includes 171,484 options granted as a result of the Stock Option Modification as discussed above.

The following summarizes information as of December 31, 2012 concerning outstanding and exercisable options:

Range of Exercises Prices	Options Outstanding			Options Exercisable		
	Number of Options Outstanding as if 12/31/2012	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life (Years)	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Number of Options Exercisable as of 12/31/2012	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Exercise Price
\$0.76 - \$11.32	546,691	1.81	\$ 8.52	522,609	\$ 8.41	\$ 8.41
\$11.44 - \$12.43	388,118	2.32	\$ 12.37	382,792	\$ 12.37	\$ 12.37
\$12.52 - \$14.90	450,417	3.00	\$ 14.17	386,542	\$ 14.25	\$ 14.25
\$14.94 - \$14.97	82,757	2.17	\$ 14.93	81,635	\$ 14.93	\$ 14.93
\$15.03 - \$15.03	586,548	2.82	\$ 15.03	585,480	\$ 15.03	\$ 15.03
\$15.14 - \$16.41	383,861	2.22	\$ 15.53	359,242	\$ 15.53	\$ 15.53
\$16.51 - \$18.29	392,703	2.25	\$ 17.68	373,249	\$ 17.72	\$ 17.72
\$18.63 - \$20.30	445,551	3.15	\$ 19.70	410,922	\$ 19.72	\$ 19.72
\$20.41 - \$22.85	422,592	2.86	\$ 21.85	393,194	\$ 21.87	\$ 21.87
\$23.03 - \$24.84	114,123	2.76	\$ 24.18	108,097	\$ 24.24	\$ 24.24
	3,813,361			3,603,762		

Total intrinsic value of options exercised was \$10.0 million, \$5.8 million and \$17.4 million, respectively, for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010. The net cash proceeds from the exercise of stock options were \$13.4 million, \$4.7 million and \$14.3 million, respectively, for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010. At December 31, 2012, unamortized compensation expense related to unvested options was approximately \$1.6 million. The weighted average period over which compensation expense related to these unvested options will be recognized is approximately 1.9 years.

The employee stock-based compensation expense recognized under ASC 718-10-30 Compensation – Stock Compensation – Overall – Initial Measurement, was determined using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. Option pricing models require the input of subjective assumptions and these assumptions can vary over time. The Company used the following weighted-average assumptions to determine the fair value of the options awards granted, excluding stock option modification discussed above:

	2012	2011	2010
Expected term (years)	4.1	4.1	4.1
Expected volatility	53.4 %	52.9 %	55.9 %
Risk-free interest rate	0.6 %	1.1 %	1.8 %
Dividend yield	-	-	-

In estimating the expected term, the Company considers its historical stock option exercise experience, post vesting cancellations and remaining contractual term of the options outstanding. In estimating the expected volatility, the Company uses its own historical data to determine its estimated expected volatility. The Company uses the U.S. Treasury yield for its risk-free interest rate and a dividend yield of zero as generally it does not issue dividends. The cash dividend paid in December 2012 was a special dividend and the Company currently does not expect to pay dividend in the future. The Company applies a forfeiture rate that is based on options that have been forfeited historically.





## Restricted Stock

A portion of the Company's shares of common stock were issued under restricted stock purchase agreements. A summary of our restricted stock awards is presented in the table below:

	Restricted Stock Awards	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value Per Share	Weighted Average Remaining Recognition Period (Years)
Outstanding at January 1, 2010	6,550	\$16.62	0.14
Awards released	(6,550 )	16.62	
Outstanding at December 31, 2010	-	\$-	-
Outstanding at December 31, 2011	-	\$-	-
Outstanding at December 31, 2012	-	\$-	-

A summary of the RSUs and PSUs is presented in the table below:

	Restricted Stock Units	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value Per Share	Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value Per Share	Total	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value Per Share	Weighted Average Remaining Recognition Period (Years)
Outstanding at January 1, 2010	289,896	\$ 18.67	-	\$ -	289,896	\$ 18.67	2.22
Awards granted	518,240	19.50	416,000	20.73	934,240	20.05	
Awards released	(158,499 )	18.56	(72,375 )	20.73	(230,874 )	19.24	
Awards forfeited	(33,088 )	18.38	-	-	(33,088 )	18.38	
Outstanding at December 31, 2010	616,549	\$ 19.41	343,625	\$ 20.73	960,174	\$ 19.88	2.91
Awards granted	853,480	14.40	-	-	853,480	14.40	
Awards released	(310,976 )	17.78	(102,125 )	20.73	(413,101 )	18.51	
Awards forfeited	(76,622 )	18.39	(24,375 )	20.73	(100,997 )	18.95	
Outstanding at December 31, 2011	1,082,431	\$ 16.00	217,125	\$ 20.73	1,299,556	\$ 16.87	2.71
Awards modification (1)	(76,500 )	15.69	76,500	15.69	-	-	
Awards granted (2)	617,084	18.69	356,752	18.38	973,836	18.57	
Performance awards adjustment (3)	-	-	(18,359 )	19.18	(18,359 )	19.18	
Awards released	(447,096 )	17.30	(96,500 )	20.73	(543,596 )	17.91	
Awards forfeited	(77,356 )	16.61	(4,333 )	19.07	(81,689 )	16.74	
Outstanding at December 31, 2012	1,098,563	\$ 16.96	531,185	\$ 18.49	\$ 1,629,748	\$ 17.46	2.18

- (1) See 2011 CEO awards below.
- (2) Includes a total of 73,805 RSUs and PSUs granted as a result of the RSU modification as discussed above.
- (3) The performance awards adjustment reflects those PSUs for which the performance targets will not be met based on management's probability assessment as of December 31, 2012.

The intrinsic value related to RSUs released for the years ended 2012, 2011 and 2010 was \$10.5 million, \$5.8 million and \$4.5 million, respectively. The total intrinsic value of RSUs outstanding at December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, under the current assumption related to vesting of PSUs granted in 2012, were \$36.3 million, \$19.6 million and \$15.9 million, respectively. At December 31, 2012, unamortized compensation expense related to unvested RSUs was approximately \$19.2 million with a weighted-average remaining recognition period of 2.2 years. However, if the highest pre-determined performance targets related to the PSUs are met, unamortized compensation expense will increase by approximately \$9.1 million.

#### 2010 PSU Awards:

On February 25, 2010, the Board granted 416,000 PSUs to the Company's executive officers ("2010 Executive PSUs"). These performance units generally vest over four years, with a graded acceleration feature that allows all or a portion of these awards to be accelerated if certain performance conditions are satisfied. The number of shares to be accelerated is based on achieving certain performance targets as set forth in the Company's annual operating plan approved by the Board, as determined by the Compensation Committee in its sole discretion. In February 2013, the Compensation Committee determined that the pre-determined performance goals for the 2010 Executive PSUs was met and therefore accelerated the vesting in February 2013.

2011 CEO Awards:

The Company granted 153,000 time-based RSUs to its CEO on February 8, 2011. In the fourth quarter of 2011, the Compensation Committee proposed modifying half of the time-based RSUs to PSUs and on February 7, 2012, the Board approved the performance goals based on the Company's 2012 revenue ("2012 Modification"). The time-based RSUs that were not modified vest over two years on a quarterly basis from February 2011 to February 2013. The PSUs vest upon achievement of the pre-determined performance goals and the CEO's continued employment through the date that the Compensation Committee approves the release of the shares. The maximum number of PSUs the CEO may receive is 100% of the RSUs originally granted. In February 2013, the Compensation Committee determined that the pre-determined performance goals for the 2012 Modification were met and therefore the PSUs were released in February 2013.

2012 PSU Awards:

On February 14, 2012, the Board granted 413,000 awards to the Company's executive officers. 50% of the RSUs granted to Company's executive officers will vest over two years on a quarterly basis ("Time-based RSUs") and 50% of the units represents a target number of RSUs awarded upon achievement of certain goals ("2012 Executive PSUs") for the Company's revenue in 2013. Half of these PSUs will vest if the pre-determined performance goals are met and the employee is employed by the Company when the Compensation Committee approves the release of the shares. The remainder vests over the following two years on a quarterly basis. The maximum number of shares an executive employee may receive is 300% of the PSUs originally granted. The PSUs earned will be reduced by a maximum of 15% in the event that the Company's total shareholder return ("TSR"), defined as the cumulative change in share price plus dividends, as compared to the Company's compensation peer group, is below a specified percentile for calendar years 2012 and 2013.

On April 24, 2012, the Company granted 344,650 awards to its existing non-executive employees. These grants include 219,317 time-based RSUs and 125,333 PSUs. The PSUs will be a target number of shares awarded upon achievement of a pre-determined revenue target for the Company as a whole, certain regions or product-line divisions in 2013 ("2012 Non-Executive PSUs"). Half of these PSUs will vest if the pre-determined performance goals are met and the employee is employed by the Company when the Compensation Committee approves the release of the shares. The remainder vests over the following two years on a quarterly basis. The maximum number of shares an employee may receive is 300% of the PSUs originally granted.

Based on the Company's revenue forecast as of December 31, 2012, the Company has determined that it is probable that it will be able to achieve the pre-determined performance goals such that approximately 100% of the PSUs granted will be vested for the 2012 Executive PSUs and the 2012 Non-Executive PSUs. Stock-based compensation for the PSUs expected to meet the pre-determined goals is determined based on grant date fair value adjusted for expected forfeiture rate and is being amortized over the requisite service period of each separate vesting tranche.

## 2004 Employee Stock Purchase Plan

Under the 2004 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the Purchase Plan), eligible employees may purchase common stock through payroll deductions. Participants may not purchase more than 2,000 shares in a six-month offering period or stock having a value greater than \$25,000 in any calendar year as measured at the beginning of the offering period in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code and applicable Treasury Regulations. A total of 200,000 shares of common stock were reserved for issuance under the Purchase Plan. The Purchase Plan provides for an automatic annual increase beginning on January 1, 2005 by an amount equal to the least of 1,000,000 shares; 2% of the outstanding shares of common stock on the first day of the year; or a number of shares as determined by the Board of Directors. For the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, 151,770 shares, 149,981 shares and 114,387 shares, respectively, were issued under the Purchase Plan. The following is a summary of the Purchase Plan and changes during the year ended December 31, 2012:

Available shares as of January 1, 2012	3,693,210
Additions to plan	676,520
Purchases	(151,770 )
Available shares as of December 31, 2012	4,217,960

The Purchase Plan is considered compensatory under ASC 718-50-25-2 Compensation – Stock Compensation – Employee Share Purchase Plans – Recognition, and is accounted for in accordance with ASC 718-50-30-2 Compensation – Stock Compensation – Employee Share Purchase Plans – Initial Measurements – Look-Back Plans. The intrinsic value for stock purchased was \$1.0 million, \$0.3 million and \$0.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The unamortized expense as of December 31, 2012 was \$0.1 million, which will be recognized over 0.1 years. The Black-Scholes option pricing model was used to value the employee stock purchase rights. For the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, the following assumptions were used in the valuation of the stock purchase rights:

	2012	2011	2010
Expected term (years)	0.5	0.5	0.5
Expected volatility	45.8 %	39.2 %	39.5 %
Risk-free interest rate	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.2 %
Dividend yield	-	-	-

Cash proceeds from employee stock purchases for the year ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 was \$1.9 million, \$1.8 million and \$1.9 million, respectively.

## 7. Net Income Per Share

Basic net income per share excludes dilution and is computed by dividing net income by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted net income per share reflects the potential dilution that would occur if outstanding securities or other contracts to issue common stock were exercised or converted into common stock, and calculated using the treasury stock method. For the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and, 2010, the Company had securities outstanding, which could potentially dilute basic net income per share in the future, but were excluded from the computation of diluted net income per share in the periods presented, as their effect would have been anti-dilutive. The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted net income per share (in thousands, except per share amounts):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-K

Numerator:			
Net income	\$ 15,756	\$ 13,301	\$ 29,563
Denominator:			
Weighted average outstanding shares used to compute basic net income per share	34,871	34,050	35,830
Effect of dilutive securities	1,376	1,110	1,996
Weighted average outstanding shares used to compute diluted net income per share	36,247	35,160	37,826
Net income per share - basic	\$ 0.45	\$ 0.39	\$ 0.83
Net income per share - diluted	\$ 0.43	\$ 0.38	\$ 0.78

For the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, approximately 1.1 million, 4.9 million and 2.0 million common stock equivalents, respectively, were excluded from the calculation of diluted net income per share because their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive.

## 8. Income Taxes

The components of income before income taxes for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 are as follows (in thousands):

	Year ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
United States	\$ 807	\$ (2,031 )	\$ 2,770
International	17,083	15,757	28,650
Total	\$ 17,890	\$ 13,726	\$ 31,420

Management's intent is to indefinitely reinvest any undistributed earnings from its foreign subsidiaries. Accordingly no provision for Federal and state income or foreign withholding taxes have been provided thereon, nor is it practical to determine the amount of this liability. Upon distribution of those earnings in the form of dividends or otherwise, the Company will be subject to United States income taxes and potential foreign withholding taxes. Up to December 31, 2012 the unremitted earnings of foreign subsidiaries is \$110.0 million.

The components of the income tax provision are as follows (in thousands):

	Year ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
<b>Current:</b>			
Federal	\$ 840	\$ 447	\$ 1,369
State	3	(593)	15
Foreign	1,302	992	534
<b>Deferred:</b>			
Federal	1,610	742	(1,415)
State	385	994	(848)
Foreign	(11)	(421)	(61)
Valuation allowance	(1,995)	(1,736)	2,263
Income tax provision	\$ 2,134	\$ 425	\$ 1,857

The effective tax rate differs from the applicable U.S. statutory federal income tax rate as follows:

	Year ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
U.S. statutory federal tax rate	34.0%	34.0%	34.0%
Research and development credits	(3.6)	(0.5)	(2.9)
Stock compensation	0.1	5.6	(0.7)
Foreign income taxed at lower rates	(28.4)	(31.8)	(29.3)
Change in valuation allowance on federal timing differences	7.0	(6.1)	4.3
Litigation reserves & other	2.8	1.9	0.5
Effective tax rate	11.9%	3.1%	5.9%

The components of deferred tax assets and liabilities consist of the following (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2012	2011

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-K

Deferred tax assets:			
Research tax credits	\$	4,930	\$ 5,162
Stock compensation		5,487	6,553
Other costs not currently deductible		2,424	2,767
Depreciation and amortization		317	774
Total deferred tax assets		13,158	15,256
Valuation allowance		(12,488)	(14,596)
Net deferred tax assets	\$	670	\$ 660



As a result of the cost sharing arrangements with the Company's international subsidiaries (cost share arrangements), relatively small changes in costs that are not subject to sharing under the cost share arrangements can significantly impact the overall profitability of the US entity. Because of the US entity's inconsistent earnings history and uncertainty of future earnings, the Company has determined that it is more likely than not that the U.S. deferred tax benefits would not be realized. The Company will continue to evaluate if its facts and circumstances warrant a reversal of the valuation allowance against the US deferred tax benefits during fiscal year 2013.

As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company had a valuation allowance of \$12.5million and \$14.6 million, respectively, attributable to management's determination that it is more likely than not that most of the deferred tax assets in the United States will not be realized. Should it be determined that additional amounts of the net deferred tax asset will not be realized in the future, an adjustment to increase the deferred tax asset valuation allowance will be charged to income in the period such determination is made. Likewise, in the event the Company were to determine that it is more likely than not that it would be able to realize its deferred tax assets in the future in excess of its net recorded amount, an adjustment to the valuation allowance for the deferred tax asset would increase income in the period such determination was made.

In November 2012, California taxpayers voted in favor of mandating the use of a single sales factor for California state apportionment, effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2012. As a result of this change in law, the Company's California deferred tax assets were revalued down. As the Company has a valuation allowance against its U.S. deferred tax assets, this revaluation of the Company's California deferred tax assets does not have any income tax expense impact to its financial statements.

During 2012, the Company also assessed the deductibility of restricted stock units granted to its executives and determined that due to Section 162m limitation, some of these grants will result in limited benefits to the Company when vested. As a result, we have reduced our U.S. deferred tax assets and valuation allowance.

As of December 31, 2012, the federal and state net operating loss carryforwards for income tax purposes were approximately \$14.2 million and \$30.3 million, respectively. The federal net operating loss carryforwards will begin to expire in 2027 and the State net operating loss carry forwards will expire beginning in 2018. \$14.2 million of the federal net operating loss carry forwards and \$25.3 million of the state operating loss carry forwards are related to excess tax benefits as a result of stock option exercises and therefore will be recorded in additional paid-in-capital in the period that they become realized.

As of December 31, 2012, the Company had research tax credit carryforwards of \$10.8 million for federal income tax purposes, which will begin to expire in 2022 and \$10.3million for state income tax purposes, which can be carried forward indefinitely. \$3.6 million of the federal research tax credit and \$1.4 million of the state research tax credit carryovers are related to excess tax benefits as a result of stock option exercises and therefore will be recorded in additional-paid-in-capital in the period that they become realized.

In the event of a change in ownership, as defined under federal and state tax laws, the Company's net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards could be subject to annual limitations. The annual limitations could result in the expiration of the net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards prior to utilization.

ASC 740-10 Income Taxes - Overall sets forth the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in an entity's financial statements and prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attributes for financial statement disclosure of tax positions taken or expected to be taken on a tax return. Under ASC 740-10, the impact of an uncertain income tax position on the income tax return must be recognized at the largest amount that is more-likely-than-not to be sustained upon audit by the relevant taxing authority. An uncertain income tax position will not be recognized if it has less than a 50% likelihood of being sustained. Additionally, ASC 740-10 provides guidance

on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure and transition.

At December 31, 2012, the Company had \$13.1 million of unrecognized tax benefits, \$4.9 million of which would affect its effective tax rate if recognized after considering the valuation allowance. At December 31, 2011, the Company had \$12.2 million of unrecognized tax benefits, \$4.5 million of which would affect its effective tax rate if recognized after considering the valuation allowance.

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of gross unrecognized tax benefits is as follows (in thousands):

Balance at January 1, 2010	\$	9,006
Gross increase for tax positions of prior year		-
Gross increases for tax position of current year		983
Reductions for prior year tax positions		-
Settlement		(883)
Reduction due to statutes expiring		-
Balance at December 31, 2010		9,106
Gross increase for tax positions of prior year		1,710
Gross increases for tax position of current year		1,388
Reductions for prior year tax positions		-
Settlement		-
Reduction due to statutes expiring		-
Balance at December 31, 2011		12,204
Gross increase for tax positions of prior year		188
Gross increases for tax position of current year		689
Reductions for prior year tax positions		-
Settlement		-
Reduction due to statutes expiring		-
Balance at December 31, 2012	\$	13,081

The Company recognizes interest and penalties, if any, related to uncertain tax positions in its income tax provision. At December 31, 2012, 2011, and 2010, the Company has approximately \$0.8 million, \$0.7 million and \$0.6 million respectively, of accrued interest related to uncertain tax positions.

Uncertain tax positions relate to the allocation of income and deductions among the Company's global entities and to the determination of the research and development tax credit. The Company estimates that there will be no material changes in its uncertain tax positions in the next 12 months.

The Company files income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction, and various U.S. states and foreign jurisdictions. Generally, the Company is no longer subject to U.S. federal, state and local, or non-U.S. income tax examinations by tax authorities for years prior to 2005 because of the statute of limitations. However, because the Company is currently under an IRS audit for tax years ended December 31, 2005 through December 31, 2007, the statute of limitations for tax years ended December 31, 2005 through December 31, 2007 was extended to June 30, 2013.

We are subject to examination of our income tax returns by the IRS and other tax authorities. Our U.S. Federal income tax returns for the years ended December 31, 2005 through December 31, 2007 are under examination by the IRS. In April 2011, we received from the IRS a Notice of Proposed Adjustment, or "NOPA", relating to a cost-sharing agreement entered into by the Company and its international subsidiaries on January 1, 2004. In the NOPA, the IRS objected to the Company's allocation of certain litigation expenses between the Company and our international subsidiaries and the amount of "buy-in payments" made by our international subsidiaries to the Company in connection with the cost-sharing agreement, and proposed to increase our U.S. taxable income according to a few alternative

methodologies. The methodology resulting in the largest potential adjustment, if the IRS were to prevail on all matters in dispute, would result in potential federal and state income tax liabilities of up to \$37.0 million, plus interest and penalties, if any. We believe that the IRS's position in the NOPA is incorrect and that our tax returns for those years were correct as filed. We are contesting these proposed adjustments vigorously. In February 2012, we received a revised NOPA from the IRS (Revised NOPA). In this Revised NOPA, the IRS raised the same issues as in the NOPA issued in April 2011 but under a different methodology. Under the Revised NOPA, the largest potential federal income tax adjustment, if the IRS were to prevail on all matters in dispute, has decreased to \$10.5 million, plus interest and penalties, if any. We responded to the IRS Revised NOPA in May 2012, but have not yet received a response from the IRS.

We have reviewed and responded to the above proposed adjustments. We regularly assess the likelihood of an adverse outcome resulting from such examinations to determine the adequacy of our provision for income taxes. As of December 31, 2012, based on the technical merits of our tax return filing positions, we believe that it is more-likely-than-not that the benefit of such positions will be sustained upon the resolution of our audits resulting in no significant impact on our consolidated financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

The French subsidiary of the Company is currently under audit for taxable years 2009 and 2010. The Company is in the process of responding to the questions raised by the tax authority. We do not believe the resolution of the audits will result in a significant impact on our consolidated financial position, results of operations and cash flows. Aside from U.S. and France, there are no other income tax audits in process in any other material jurisdiction.

On January 2, 2013, the President signed into law The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. Under prior law, a taxpayer was entitled to a research tax credit for qualifying amounts paid or incurred on or before December 31, 2011. The 2012 American Taxpayer Relief Act extends the research credit for two years to December 31, 2013. The extension of the research credit is retroactive and includes amounts paid or incurred after December 31, 2011. As a result of the retroactive extension, we expect an increase to our federal R&D credits carryforwards of approximately \$1.0 million for qualifying amounts incurred in 2012. The benefit will be recognized in the period of enactment, which is the first quarter of 2013. However, due to our current valuation allowance position, we do not expect the federal R&D credit to provide a tax benefit.

## 9. Commitments and Contingencies

The following table summarizes the Company's commitments as of December 31, 2012 (in thousands):

	Total	2013	Payments by Period			Thereafter
			2014	2015	2016	
Operating leases	\$ 1,165	\$ 912	\$ 206	\$ 45	\$ 2	\$ -
Outstanding purchase commitments	15,542	15,542	-	-	-	-
	\$ 16,707	\$ 16,454	\$ 206	\$ 45	\$ 2	\$ -

### Lease Obligations

Until May, 2012, the Company leased its headquarters and sales offices in San Jose, California. The landlord of the San Jose facility exercised their right to terminate the lease, effective April 18, 2012. In May 2012, the Company moved to an owned facility also located in San Jose, California.

In September 2004, the Company entered into a five-year lease arrangement for its manufacturing facility located in Chengdu, China. Pursuant to this agreement, the Company contributed capital in the form of cash, in-kind assets, and/or intellectual property, of at least \$5.0 million to its wholly-owned Chinese subsidiary as the registered capital for the subsidiary and exercised the option to purchase land use rights for the facility of approximately \$0.2 million. Following the five-year lease term, the Company now has the option to acquire the facility for approximately \$1.8 million which consists of total construction costs minus total rent paid by the Company during the lease term. This option became exercisable in March 2011 and does not expire. The Company will likely exercise its purchase option and enter into a purchase agreement for this facility in the future.



The Company also leases sales and research and development offices in the United States, Japan, China, Taiwan and Korea. Certain of the Company's facility leases provide for periodic rent increases. Rent expense for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 was \$1.6 million, \$2.1 million and \$1.8 million, respectively.

#### Warranty and Indemnification Provisions

The Company generally provides a standard one-year warranty against defects in materials and workmanship and will either repair the goods or provide replacements at no charge to the customer for defective units. In such cases, the Company accrues for the related costs at the time the decision to permit the return is made. Reserve requirements are recorded in the period of sale and are based on an assessment of the products sold with warranty and historical warranty costs incurred.

The changes in warranty reserves during 2012, 2011 and 2010 are as follows (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 561	\$ 764	\$ 294
Warranty provision for product sales	917	870	801
Settlements made during the period	(675 )	(626 )	(107 )
Unused warranty provision	(472 )	(447 )	(224 )
Balance at end of period	\$ 331	\$ 561	\$ 764

The Company provides indemnification agreements to a supplier and certain direct or indirect customers. The Company agrees to reimburse these parties for any damages, costs and expenses incurred by them as a result of legal actions taken against them by third parties for infringing upon their intellectual property rights as a result of using the Company's products and technologies. These indemnification provisions are varied in their scope and are subject to certain terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions. There were no indemnification costs in 2012, 2011 and 2010. These costs are charged to operations as incurred. The Company also provides for indemnification of its directors and officers.

#### 10. Litigation

The Company and certain of its subsidiaries are parties to actions and proceedings in the ordinary course of business, including litigation regarding its shareholders, a former employee and its intellectual property, challenges to the enforceability or validity of its intellectual property and claims that the Company's products infringe on the intellectual property rights of others. These proceedings often involve complex questions of fact and law and may require the expenditure of significant funds and the diversion of other resources to prosecute and defend. The Company defends itself vigorously against any such claims.

#### O2 Micro

On May 3, 2012, the United States District Court for the Northern District of California issued an order finding O2 Micro International, Ltd. ("O2 Micro") liable for approximately \$9.1 million in attorneys' fees and non-taxable costs, plus interest, in connection with the patent litigation that the Company won in 2010. This award is in addition to the approximately \$0.3 million in taxable costs that the Court had earlier ordered O2 Micro to pay to the Company in connection with the same lawsuit. The Court then entered judgment for the Company. In October 2012, O2 Micro filed an appeal against this judgment.

Silergy

In December 2011, the Company entered into a settlement and license agreement with Silergy Corp and Silergy Technologies for infringement of the Company's patent whereby the Company will receive a total of \$2 million which will be paid in equal installments of \$0.3 million in each quarter of 2012 and the remainder will be paid in two equal installments in first two quarters of 2013. For the year ended December 31, 2012, the Company received payments totaling \$1.2 million, which were recorded as credits to litigation expense (benefit) in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.



## Linear

On August 12, 2012, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit issued an order affirming the judgment issued by the United States District Court for the District of Delaware finding Linear Technology Corporation (“Linear”) liable for approximately \$2.3 million in attorneys’ fees and non-taxable costs, plus interest, in connection with the litigation regarding a contract dispute that the Company won in 2011. During the fourth quarter of 2012, the Company received a payment from Linear of \$2.3 million plus \$0.2 million reimbursement of additional attorney fees in connection with the cost of defending the appeal, which was recorded as a credit to litigation expense (benefit) in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

## 11. Employee Benefits Plan

The Company sponsors a 401(k) savings and profit-sharing plan (“the Plan”) for all employees in the United States who meet certain eligibility requirements. Participants may contribute up to the amount allowable as a deduction for federal income tax purposes. The Company is not required to contribute and did not contribute to the Plan for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010.

## 12. Major Customers

The following table summarizes those customers with accounts receivable balances greater than 10% of the Company's total accounts receivable or with sales greater than 10% of the Company's total revenue:

Customers	Revenue Year ended December 31,			Accounts Receivable, Net As of December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010	2012	2011	
A	32	% 27	% 21	% 34	% 33	%
B	*	*	*	11	% *	

\* Represents less than 10%.

The Company corrected the 2011 and 2010 amounts reported in the table above from the amounts previously reported to disclose a group of entities under common control as a single customer, rather than as separate customers. Under the corrected disclosures, Customer A is reported as representing 27% of the Company's total revenue in 2011 (rather than as two separate customers representing 17% and 10% of revenue as previously reported) and 21% of the Company's total revenue in 2010 (rather than 14% as previously reported). In addition, under the corrected disclosures, Customer A is reported as representing 33% of the Company's total accounts receivable as of December 31, 2011 (rather than 12% as previously reported). These corrections had no impact on the amounts previously reported in the Company's consolidated balance sheet, consolidated statements of operations or consolidated statements of cash flows.

## 13. Segment Information

As defined by the requirements of ASC 280-10-55, Segment Reporting – Overall – Implementation Guidance and Illustrations, the Company operates in one reportable segment that includes the design, development, marketing and sale of high-performance, mixed-signal analog semiconductors for the communications, computing, consumer and industrial markets. The Company’s chief operating decision maker is its chief executive officer. The Company does not specifically allocate any of its resources to or measure the performance of, individual product families.

The Company derived a substantial majority of its revenue from sales to customers located outside North America during 2012, 2011 and 2010, with geographic revenue based on the customers' ship-to location.

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-K

The following is a summary of revenue by geographic region based on customer ship-to location for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 (in thousands):

Country	Year ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
China	\$124,278	\$113,469	\$105,233
Taiwan	27,477	23,634	25,840
South East Asia	21,641	14,789	10,219
Europe	16,201	14,416	20,416
Korea	9,434	14,183	33,761
Japan	8,516	10,681	14,255
USA	5,711	4,422	8,415
Other	555	925	701
Total	\$213,813	\$196,519	\$218,840

The following is a summary of net revenue by product family for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 (in thousands):

Product Family	Year ended December 31,						Percent Change	
	2012	% of Revenue	2011*	% of Revenue	2010*	% of Revenue	2012 to 2011 Change	2011 to 2010 Change
DC to DC Converters	\$188,736	88.3 %	\$170,032	86.5 %	\$190,286	87.0 %	11.0 %	(10.6 %)
Lighting Control Products	25,077	11.7 %	26,487	13.5 %	28,554	13.0 %	(5.3 %)	(7.2 %)
Total	\$213,813	100.0 %	\$196,519	100.0 %	\$218,840	100.0 %	8.8 %	(10.2 %)

\*2011 and 2010 revenue associated with Audio Amplifiers has been included with DC to DC Converters to conform with current year presentation.

The following is a summary of long-lived assets by geographic region, excluding restricted assets, as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2012	2011
China	\$37,071	\$32,566
United States	23,163	15,662
Taiwan	90	98
Japan	57	70
Other	55	51
TOTAL	\$60,436	\$48,447

#### 14. Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

The Company had insignificant activity and balance in its accounts receivable allowances in 2012, 2011 and 2010.

#### 15. Stock Repurchase Program

On July 27, 2010, the Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase program that authorized MPS to repurchase up to \$50.0 million in the aggregate of its common stock between August 2, 2010 and December 31, 2011. In February 2011, the Board of Directors approved an increase from \$50.0 million to \$70.0 million. From August 2010 through June 2011, the Company repurchased 4,385,289 shares for a total of \$70.0 million.

The following shares have been repurchased through the open market and subsequently retired:

2011	Shares Repurchased	Average Price per Share	Value (in thousands)
February	817,500	\$ 15.47	\$ 12,648
March	75,000	\$ 14.17	\$ 1,062
April	917,200	\$ 14.82	\$ 13,617
May	657,800	\$ 16.48	\$ 10,843
June	18,000	\$ 16.79	\$ 302
	2,485,500		\$ 38,472

2010	Shares Repurchased	Average Price per Share	Value (in thousands)
August	983,189	\$ 17.29	\$ 16,998
November	916,600	\$ 15.85	\$ 14,529
	1,899,789		\$ 31,527

#### 16. Quarterly Financial Data (Unaudited)

	Three months ended			
	March 31, 2012	June 30, 2012	September 30, 2012	December 31, 2012
Revenue	\$50,484	\$58,607	\$56,508	\$48,214
Cost of revenue (1)	24,074	27,435	26,495	22,661
Gross profit	26,410	31,172	30,013	25,553
Operating expenses:				
Research and development (2)	11,118	12,468	11,967	13,243
Selling, general and administrative (3)	11,966	12,167	11,955	13,930
Litigation expense (benefit), net	128	(244 )	(229 )	(2,600 )
Total operating expenses	23,212	24,391	23,693	24,573
Income from operations	3,198	6,781	6,320	980
Interest income (expense) and other, net	106	359	156	(10 )
Income before income taxes	3,304	7,140	6,476	970
Income tax provision	309	548	555	722
Net income	\$2,995	\$6,592	\$5,921	\$248
Basic net income per share	\$0.09	\$0.19	\$0.17	\$0.01
Diluted net income per share	\$0.08	\$0.18	\$0.16	\$0.01
Weighted average common shares outstanding:				
Basic	34,105	34,665	35,145	35,556
Diluted	35,538	35,997	36,438	36,763

(1) Includes stock-based compensation expense \$95 \$118 \$112 \$185

(2) Includes stock-based compensation expense 1,266 1,524 1,465 2,667

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-K

(3) Includes stock-based compensation expense	1,954	2,187	2,605	4,474
Total stock-based compensation expense	\$3,315	\$3,829	\$4,182	\$7,326

79

---

	Three months ended			
	March 31, 2011	June 30, 2011	September 30, 2011	December 31, 2011
Revenue	\$44,468	\$51,628	\$52,962	\$47,461
Cost of revenue (1)	22,163	25,070	25,148	22,544
Gross profit	22,305	26,558	27,814	24,917
Operating expenses:				
Research and development (2)	10,086	11,237	11,792	11,403
Selling, general and administrative (3)	9,490	10,343	10,249	10,198
Litigation expense	813	939	722	905
Total operating expenses	20,389	22,519	22,763	22,506
Income from operations	1,916	4,039	5,051	2,411
Interest income and other, net	183	24	3	99
Income before income taxes	2,099	4,063	5,054	2,510
Income tax provision (benefit)	206	581	(419)	57
Net income	\$1,893	\$3,482	\$5,473	\$2,453
Basic net income per share	\$0.05	\$0.10	\$0.16	\$0.07
Diluted net income per share	\$0.05	\$0.10	\$0.16	\$0.07
Weighted average common shares outstanding:				
Basic	35,024	33,846	33,594	33,759
Diluted	36,105	34,903	34,240	34,374
(1) Includes stock-based compensation expense	\$63	\$89	\$83	\$77
(2) Includes stock-based compensation expense	1,427	1,550	1,576	1,356
(3) Includes stock-based compensation expense	1,497	2,036	1,715	1,657
Total stock-based compensation expense	\$2,987	\$3,675	\$3,374	\$3,090

## ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None

## ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

### Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Rule 13a-15(e) and Rule 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Our disclosure controls and procedures have been designed to ensure that material information relating to us, including our consolidated subsidiaries, required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and

procedures, management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives. In addition, the design of disclosure controls and procedures must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints and that management is required to apply its judgment in evaluating the benefits of possible controls and procedures relative to their costs.



Based on our evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective at December 31, 2012 and provide reasonable assurance that information we are required to disclose in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

#### Management's Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f) and Rule 15d-(f). Our internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of our financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP").

Our internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of our assets; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are made only in accordance with authorizations of our management and directors; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of our assets that could have a material effect on our financial statements.

A deficiency in internal control over financial reporting exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A deficiency in design exists when (a) a control necessary to meet the control objective is missing or (b) an existing control is not properly designed so that, even if the control operates as designed, the control objective would not be met. A deficiency in operation exists when a properly designed control does not operate as designed, or when the person performing the control does not possess the necessary authority or competence to perform the control effectively. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting that is less severe than a material weakness; yet important enough to merit attention by those responsible for oversight of the company's financial reporting. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the company's annual or interim financial statements will not be prevented or detected on a timely basis.

Our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012. In performing this assessment, management used the criteria established by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in Internal Control— Integrated Framework. Based upon this assessment, our management has concluded that, as of December 31, 2012, our internal control over financial reporting was effective.

Our independent registered public accounting firm, Deloitte & Touche LLP, which audited the consolidated financial statements included in this annual report on Form 10-K, has issued an attestation report, included elsewhere herein, on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting.

#### Inherent Limitations on Effectiveness of Controls

While our disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting are designed to provide reasonable assurance that their respective objectives will be met, we do not expect that our disclosure controls and procedures or our internal control over financial reporting are or will be capable of preventing or detecting all errors and all fraud. Any control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the control system's objectives will be met. The design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Further, because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that misstatements due to error or fraud will not occur or that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within the company have been detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. Controls can also be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by management override of the controls. The design of any system of controls is based in part on certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions. Projections of any evaluation of controls effectiveness to future periods are subject to risks.

#### Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the quarter ended December 31, 2012 that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of  
Monolithic Power Systems, Inc.  
San Jose, California

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Monolithic Power Systems, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2012, based on the criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the company's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the company's board of directors, management, and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012, based on the criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2012, of the Company and our report dated March 5, 2013 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

San Jose, California  
March 5, 2013

82

---

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Reference is made to the information regarding directors and nominees, code of ethics, corporate governance matters and disclosure relating to compliance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 appearing under the captions “Election of Directors” and “Compliance with Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance” in our Proxy Statement for our Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the “2013 Annual Meeting”), which information is incorporated in this Form 10-K by reference. Information regarding executive officers is set forth under the caption “Executive Officers of the Registrant” in Part I of this Form 10-K.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information required by this item is set forth under “Executive Officer Compensation” in our Proxy Statement for the 2013 Annual Meeting, and is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The information required by this item is set forth under the captions “Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management” and “Equity Compensation Plan Information” in our Proxy Statement for the 2013 Annual Meeting, and is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The information required by this item is set forth under the captions “Certain Relationships and Related Transactions” and “Election of Directors” in our Proxy Statement for the 2013 Annual Meeting, and is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

The information required by this item is set forth under the caption “Accounting Fees” in our Proxy Statement for the 2013 Annual Meeting, and is incorporated herein by reference.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES.

(a) Documents filed as part of this report

(1) All financial statements

Index to Financial Statements

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Consolidated Balance Sheets

Consolidated Statements of Operations

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(2) Schedules

All schedules have been omitted because the required information is not present or not present in amounts sufficient to require submission of the schedules, or because the information required is included in the consolidated financial statements or notes thereto.

(3) Exhibits

Exhibit

Number Description

3.1 (1) Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation.

3.2 (2) Amended and Restated Bylaws.

10.1+

(3) Registrant's 1998 Stock Plan and form of option agreement.

10.2+

(4) Registrant's Amended 2004 Equity Incentive Plan and form of option agreement.

10.3+

(5) Registrant's 2004 Employee Stock Purchase Plan and form of subscription agreement.

10.4+

(6) Form of Directors' and Officers' Indemnification Agreement.

10.5† (7) Foundry Agreement between the Registrant and Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp. of Shanghai, dated August 14, 2001.

10.6 (8)

Edgar Filing: MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS INC - Form 10-K

Office Lease, First Amendment to Office Lease, and Second Amendment to Office Lease between the Registrant and Boccardo Corporation, dated May 6, 2002, October 30, 2003, and May 6, 2004, respectively.

10.7+

(9) Employment Agreement with Michael Hsing and Amendment thereof.

10.8+

(10) Employment Agreement with Maurice Sciammas and Amendment thereof.

84

---

- 10.9+ (11) Employment Agreement with Jim Moyer.
- 10.10+  
(12) Employment Agreement with Deming Xiao and Amendment thereof.
- 10.11+  
(13) Employment Agreement with Paul Ueunten and Amendment thereof.
- 10.12 (14) Distribution Agreement with Asian Information Technology Inc. Ltd., dated March 1, 2004.
- 10.13 (15) Business Purchase Agreement with Uppertech Hong Kong Ltd., dated March 1, 2004.
- 10.14† (16) Investment and Cooperation Contract, dated August 19, 2004.
- 10.15† (17) Patent License Agreement, dated May 1, 2004.
- 10.16† (18) Settlement Agreement with Linear Technology Corporation.
- 10.17+  
(19) Employment Agreement with C. Richard Neely, Jr. and Amendment thereof
- 10.18 (20) Settlement Agreement with Microsemi Corporation.
- 10.19 (21) Settlement Agreement with Micrel Corporation.
- 10.20+  
(22) Employment Agreement with Adriana Chiochi and Amendment thereof.
- 10.21+  
(23) Form of Performance Unit Agreement.
- 10.22 (24) Sublease Agreement between the Registrant and FedEx Freight West, Inc. and Brokaw Interests dated June 13, 2006.
- 10.23+  
(25) Letter Agreement with Victor Lee.
- 10.24 (26) Sublease Agreement between the Registrant and Anchor Bay Technologies for the property located at 983 University Avenue, Building A, Los Gatos, CA 95032 dated May 14, 2007.
- 10.25+  
(27) Letter Agreement with Douglas McBurnie.
- 10.26+  
(28) Letter Agreement with Karen A. Smith Bogart.
- 10.27 (29) Settlement Agreement with Taiwan Sumida Electronics.
- Registrant's Employee Bonus Plan, as amended effective March 6, 2008.



10.28+  
(30)

10.29 (32) Lease Agreement between the Registrant and Brokaw Interests, dated October 23, 2008

10.30 (33) Form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement

10.31+  
(35) Termination Agreement between the Company and Adriana Chiochi, dated December 15, 2009

10.32+  
(34) Letter Agreement with Jeff Zhou

10.33+(36) Employment Agreement with Meera P. Rao and Amendment thereof

14.1  
(31) Code of Ethics.

85

---

- 21.1 Subsidiaries of Monolithic Power Systems, Inc.
- 23.1 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
- 24.1 Power of Attorney (included on Signature page to this Form 10-K).
- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1\* Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 101.INS\*\* XBRL Instance
- 101.SCH\*\* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema
- 101.CAL\*\* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation
- 101.DEF\*\* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition
- 101.LAB\*\* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels
- 101.PRE\*\* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation

- 
- + Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.
  - † Confidential treatment requested for portions of this agreement, which portions have been omitted and filed separately with the Securities and Exchange Commission
  - \* This exhibit shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filings under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language in any filings.
  - \*\* XBRL information is furnished and not filed or a part of a registration statement or prospectus for purposes of sections 11 or 12 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, is deemed not filed for purposes of section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and otherwise is not subject to liability under these sections.
- (1) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Registrant’s Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.
  - (2) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.4 of the Registrant’s Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.
  - (3) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant’s Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and

- Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.
- (4) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Registrant's Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004 and to exhibits 9.01(c)(1) and (2) to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 7, 2004.
  - (5) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of the Registrant's Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.
  - (6) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of the Registrant's Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.
  - (7) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 of the Registrant's Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.
  - (8) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 of the Registrant's Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.

- (9) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 11, 2008 and Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 19, 2008.
- (10) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.8 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 11, 2008 and Exhibit 10.3 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 19, 2008.
- (11) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 of the Registrant's Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.
- (12) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 11, 2008 and Exhibit 10.4 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 19, 2008.
- (13) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 11, 2008 and Exhibit 10.6 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 19, 2008.
- (14) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 of the Registrant's Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.
- (15) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.12 of the Registrant's Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.
- (16) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.13 of the Registrant's Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.
- (17) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 of the Registrant's Form S-1 Registration Statement (Registration No. 333-117327), declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.
- (18) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant's quarterly report on Form 10-Q, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 13, 2006.
- (19) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.17 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 11, 2008 and Exhibit 10.2 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 19, 2008.
- (20) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18 of the Registrant's annual report on Form 10-K, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 28, 2006.
- (21) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 22, 2006.
- (22) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.20 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 11, 2008 and Exhibit 10.5 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 19, 2008.
- (23) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 1, 2006.
- (24) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 16, 2006.

- (25) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 14, 2006.
- (26) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 17, 2007
- (27) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 25, 2007
- (28) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 25, 2007
- (29) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 of the Registrant's quarterly report on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 1, 2007.
- (30) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.31 of the Registrant's annual report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 11, 2008.
- (31) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 14.1 of the Registrant's annual report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 16, 2007.
- (32) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 24, 2008.
- (33) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 15, 2008.
- (34) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 2, 2010.
- (35) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.31 of the Registrant's annual report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 16, 2010.
- (36) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.33 of the Registrant's annual report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 4, 2011.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this Form 10-K to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.

By: /s/ MICHAEL R. HSING  
Michael R. Hsing  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: March 5, 2013

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Michael R. Hsing and Meera P. Rao, and each of them, as his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and re-substitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place, and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments to this Report, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming that all said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or any of his or her substitute or substituted, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below on March 5, 2013 by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities indicated:

/s/ MICHAEL R. HSING Michael R. Hsing	President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director (Principal Executive Officer)
/s/ MEERA P. RAO Meera P. Rao	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer and Duly Authorized Officer)
/s/ KAREN A. SMITH BOGART Karen A. Smith Bogart	Director
/s/ HERBERT CHANG Herbert Chang	Director
/s/ EUGEN ELMIGER Eugen Elmiger	Director
/s/ VICTOR K. LEE Victor K. Lee	Director
/s/ DOUGLAS MCBURNIE Douglas McBurnie	Director

/s/ JAMES C. MOYER     Director  
James C. Moyer

/s/ JEFF ZHOU         Director  
Jeff Zhou