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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended December 31, 2011.

OR

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number: 0-21184



**MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATED**  
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

**Delaware**

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

**86-0629024**

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

**2355 W. Chandler Blvd., Chandler, AZ 85224-6199**  
**(480) 792-7200**

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number,  
Including Area Code, of Registrant's  
Principal Executive Offices)

Indicate by checkmark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to the 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 whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act:

Large accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

Yes  No

Shares Outstanding of Registrant's Common Stock

Class	Outstanding at January 31, 2012
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value	<b>192,059,479 shares</b>

MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES

INDEX

Page

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**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

<a href="#">Item 1.</a>	<a href="#">Financial Statements (Unaudited)</a>	
	<a href="#">Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets – December 31, 2011 and March 31, 2011</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
	<a href="#">Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income – Three and Nine Months Ended December 31, 2011 and 2010</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
	<a href="#">Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows – Nine Months Ended December 31, 2011 and 2010</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
	<a href="#">Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">Item 2.</a>	<a href="#">Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</a>	<a href="#">20</a>
<a href="#">Item 3.</a>	<a href="#">Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</a>	<a href="#">34</a>
<a href="#">Item 4.</a>	<a href="#">Controls and Procedures</a>	<a href="#">35</a>

**PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**

<a href="#">Item 1.</a>	<a href="#">Legal Proceedings</a>	<a href="#">35</a>
<a href="#">Item 1A.</a>	<a href="#">Risk Factors</a>	<a href="#">35</a>
<a href="#">Item 6.</a>	<a href="#">Exhibits</a>	<a href="#">47</a>

**SIGNATURES**

**CERTIFICATIONS**

**EXHIBITS**

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**Item 1. Financial Statements**

**MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**  
(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)  
(unaudited)

**ASSETS**

	December 31, 2011	March 31, 2011
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 605,725	\$ 703,924
Short-term investments	696,548	539,572
Accounts receivable, net	149,277	181,202
Inventories	217,853	180,800
Prepaid expenses	23,706	22,234
Deferred tax assets	87,337	88,822
Other current assets	49,634	58,429
Total current assets	1,830,080	1,774,983
Property, plant and equipment, net	533,652	540,513
Long-term investments	468,086	464,838
Goodwill	76,098	76,018
Intangible assets, net	75,051	77,929
Other assets	38,184	33,777
Total assets	\$ 3,021,151	\$ 2,968,058
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 40,039	\$ 68,433
Accrued liabilities	92,741	131,839
Deferred income on shipments to distributors	115,786	140,044
Total current liabilities	248,566	340,316
Junior convertible debentures	353,341	347,334
Long-term income tax payable	71,386	58,125
Deferred tax liability	397,709	399,527
Other long-term liabilities	8,844	10,318
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, \$0.001 par value; authorized 5,000,000 shares; no shares issued or outstanding	—	—
Common stock, \$0.001 par value; authorized 450,000,000 shares; 218,789,994 shares issued and 192,053,849 shares outstanding at December 31, 2011; 218,789,994 shares issued and 189,541,707 shares outstanding at March 31, 2011	192	190
Additional paid-in capital	1,270,343	1,268,128
Retained earnings	1,485,989	1,428,838
Accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income	(1,755)	3,357
Common stock held in treasury: 26,736,145 shares at December 31, 2011; 29,248,287 shares at March 31, 2011	(813,464)	(888,075)
Total stockholders' equity	1,941,305	1,812,438
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 3,021,151	\$ 2,968,058

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

**MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**  
(in thousands, except per share amounts)  
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	December 31,		December 31,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Net sales	\$ 329,156	\$ 367,824	\$ 1,044,265	\$ 1,107,220
Cost of sales (1)	145,377	151,427	445,744	458,375
Gross profit	183,779	216,397	598,521	648,845
Operating expenses:				
Research and development (1)	44,256	42,198	134,937	126,448
Selling, general and administrative (1)	52,056	56,100	161,637	170,896
Special (income) charges	(660)	646	(660)	1,679
	95,652	98,944	295,914	299,023
Operating income	88,127	117,453	302,607	349,822
Gains (losses) on equity method investments	14	280	(60)	185
Other income (expense):				
Interest income	4,374	3,955	12,408	12,371
Interest expense	(8,994)	(7,672)	(25,920)	(23,456)
Other, net	156	375	(1,262)	1,747
Income from continuing operations before income taxes	83,677	114,391	287,773	340,669
Income tax provision	6,188	12,461	31,704	42,114
Net income from continuing operations	77,489	101,930	256,069	298,555
Discontinued operations:				
Loss from discontinued operations before income taxes	—	(1,317)	—	(5,372)
Income tax benefit	—	(163)	—	(239)
Net loss from discontinued operations	—	(1,154)	—	(5,133)
Net income	\$ 77,489	\$ 100,776	\$ 256,069	\$ 293,422
Basic net income per common share – continuing operations	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.54	\$ 1.34	\$ 1.60
Basic net loss per common share – discontinued operations	—	(0.01)	—	(0.03)
Basic net income per common share	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.54	\$ 1.34	\$ 1.57
Diluted net income per common share – continuing operations	\$ 0.38	\$ 0.52	\$ 1.26	\$ 1.55
Diluted net loss per common share – discontinued operations	—	(0.01)	—	(0.03)
Diluted net income per common share	\$ 0.38	\$ 0.51	\$ 1.26	\$ 1.53
Dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.348	\$ 0.689	\$ 1.041	\$ 1.374
Basic common shares outstanding	191,640	187,488	190,854	186,444
Diluted common shares outstanding	203,291	196,255	202,686	192,344
(1) Includes share-based compensation expense as follows:				
Cost of sales	\$ 1,369	\$ 1,708	\$ 4,376	\$ 5,416
Research and development	3,851	3,324	10,820	9,516
Selling, general and administrative	4,742	4,377	13,274	12,853

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

**MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

(in thousands)  
(Unaudited)

	Nine months ended	
	December 31,	
	2011	2010
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net income	\$ 256,069	\$ 293,422
<b>Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:</b>		
Depreciation and amortization	75,170	80,153
Deferred income taxes	7,185	17,380
Share-based compensation expense related to equity incentive plans	28,470	27,785
Excess tax benefit from share-based compensation	(441)	(1,240)
Convertible debt derivatives - revaluation and amortization	427	(192)
Amortization of convertible debenture issuance costs	165	165
Amortization of debt discount on convertible debentures	5,580	5,101
Losses (gains) on equity method investments	60	(185)
Gain on sale of assets	(212)	(89)
Unrealized impairment loss on available-for-sale investments	3,213	1,263
Special income	(1,000)	—
<b>Changes in operating assets and liabilities:</b>		
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	31,925	(3,016)
Increase in inventories	(36,297)	(20,779)
(Decrease) increase in deferred income on shipments to distributors	(24,258)	41,422
Decrease in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(67,198)	(19,279)
Change in other assets and liabilities	15,140	8,213
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>293,998</b>	<b>430,124</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Purchases of available-for-sale investments	(962,119)	(859,307)
Sales and maturities of available-for-sale investments	793,238	838,995
Purchase of Silicon Storage Technology, Inc., net of cash received	—	(112,707)
Investments in other assets	(6,878)	(14,843)
Proceeds from sale of assets	212	30,559
Capital expenditures	(58,582)	(100,114)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(234,129)</b>	<b>(217,417)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>		
Payment of cash dividend	(198,919)	(256,808)
Proceeds from sale of common stock	40,410	51,347
Excess tax benefit from share-based compensation	441	1,240
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(158,068)</b>	<b>(204,221)</b>
<b>Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(98,199)</b>	<b>8,486</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	703,924	492,130
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>	<b>\$ 605,725</b>	<b>\$ 500,616</b>

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

**MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(Unaudited)

**(1) Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Microchip Technology Incorporated and its wholly-owned subsidiaries (the Company). All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. The Company owns 100% of the outstanding stock in all of its subsidiaries.

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). The information furnished herein reflects all adjustments which are, in the opinion of management, of a normal recurring nature and necessary for a fair statement of the results for the interim periods reported. Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in audited consolidated financial statements have been condensed or omitted pursuant to such SEC rules and regulations. It is suggested that these condensed consolidated financial statements be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2011. The results of operations for the nine months ended December 31, 2011 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2012 or for any other period.

**(2) Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements**

In the first quarter of fiscal 2012, the Company adopted new standards for revenue recognition with multiple deliverables. These new standards change the determination of whether the individual deliverables included in a multiple-element arrangement may be treated as separate units for accounting purposes. Additionally, these new standards modify the method in which revenue is allocated to the separately identified deliverables. The adoption of these new standards did not have a significant impact on the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements.

In the first quarter of fiscal 2012, the Company adopted new standards that remove certain tangible products and associated software from the scope of the software revenue recognition guidance. The adoption of these new standards did not have a significant impact on the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements.

In the first quarter of fiscal 2012, the Company adopted new standards for the application of the milestone method of revenue recognition for certain research and development arrangements entered into by its technology licensing segment. Under this standard, the Company will recognize arrangement consideration received for achieving specified performance measures during the period in which the milestones are achieved, provided certain criteria are met for the milestones to be considered substantive. This standard was adopted prospectively, and its adoption is not expected to have a significant impact on the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements.

**(3) Discontinued Operations and Assets Held for Sale**

Discontinued operations includes the following product families that were acquired in the acquisition of SST: NAND Drives, NAND controllers, Smart Card ICs, Combo Memory, Concurrent SuperFlash, Small-Sector Flash and many-time Programmable Flash memories and certain serial NOR Flash products from 512K to 64MB density in the geographic regions of Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and Philippines. These product lines were marketed for sale after the acquisition of SST on April 8, 2010 based on management's decision regarding them not being a strategic fit into the Company's product portfolio. On May 21, 2010, the Company completed a transaction to sell the NAND Drives, NAND controllers, Smart Card ICs, Combo Memory, Concurrent SuperFlash, Small-Sector Flash and many-time Programmable Flash memories to Greenliant Systems Ltd. The sale price in this transaction was determined by management to represent fair value, and accordingly, no gain or loss was recognized on the sale of the net assets. In this sale, the Company disposed of approximately \$23.6 million of assets held for sale, primarily comprised of inventory, property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and non-marketable securities.

On July 8, 2010, the Company granted an exclusive limited license for the manufacture of certain Serial NOR-Flash products to Professional Computer Technology, Ltd. (PCT). The license to PCT is limited to the industry segments of optical disc drives, set top boxes, electronic books, video games, digital displays, DVD player/recorder, notebook computers, netbooks, desktop computers, PC monitors, mass storage devices, printers/scanners/copiers/faxes, PC-CAM, point of sale devices,

## [Table of Contents](#)

graphic cards, servers/clients/workstations, and mobile phones. PCT has no license to sell these products to any other industry segment or geographic region other than those listed above. Certain multi-national customers are excluded from this license.

For financial statement purposes, the results of operations for these discontinued businesses have been segregated from those of the continuing operations and are presented in the Company's consolidated financial statements as discontinued operations.

The results of discontinued operations for the three and nine months ended December 31, 2010 are as follows (amounts in thousands):

	Three Months Ended December 31, 2010	Nine Months Ended December 31, 2010
Net sales	\$ 364	\$ 25,177
Cost of sales	(1,681)	(26,873)
Operating expenses	—	(3,676)
Income tax benefit	163	239
Net loss from discontinued operations	<u>\$ (1,154)</u>	<u>\$ (5,133)</u>

There were no discontinued operations for the three or nine months ended December 31, 2011.

#### **(4) Special (Income) Charges**

During the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011, the Company recognized \$0.7 million of special income associated with prior year acquisitions comprised of a \$1.0 million favorable adjustment to contingent consideration offset by \$0.3 million of severance-related charges. During the three and nine months ended December 31, 2010, the Company incurred \$0.6 million and \$1.7 million, respectively, of severance-related and office closing costs.

#### **(5) Segment Information**

The Company's reporting segments include semiconductor products and technology licensing. The Company does not allocate operating expenses, interest income, interest expense, other income or expense, or provision for or benefit from income taxes to these segments for internal reporting purposes, as the Company does not believe that allocating these expenses is beneficial in evaluating segment performance. Additionally, the Company does not allocate assets to segments for internal reporting purposes as it does not manage its segments by such metrics.

The following table represents revenues and gross profit for each segment for the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011 (amounts in thousands):

	Three Months Ended December 31, 2011		Nine Months Ended December 31, 2011	
	Net Sales	Gross Profit	Net Sales	Gross Profit
Semiconductor products	\$ 306,099	\$ 161,696	\$ 978,577	\$ 536,230
Technology licensing	23,057	22,083	65,688	62,291
	<u>\$ 329,156</u>	<u>\$ 183,779</u>	<u>\$ 1,044,265</u>	<u>\$ 598,521</u>

[Table of Contents](#)

The following table represents revenues and gross profit for each segment for the three and nine months ended December 31, 2010 (amounts in thousands):

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	December 31, 2010		December 31, 2010	
	Net Sales	Gross Profit	Net Sales	Gross Profit
Semiconductor products	\$ 348,766	\$ 198,347	\$ 1,055,532	\$ 600,179
Technology licensing	19,058	18,050	51,688	48,666
	<u>\$ 367,824</u>	<u>\$ 216,397</u>	<u>\$ 1,107,220</u>	<u>\$ 648,845</u>

**(6) Investments**

The Company's investments are intended to establish a high-quality portfolio that preserves principal, meets liquidity needs, avoids inappropriate concentrations, and delivers an appropriate yield in relationship to the Company's investment guidelines and market conditions. The following is a summary of available-for-sale and marketable equity securities at December 31, 2011 (amounts in thousands):

	Available-for-sale Securities			
	Adjusted Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
Government agency bonds	\$ 405,320	\$ 549	\$ (169)	\$ 405,700
Municipal bonds	17,628	121	—	17,749
Auction rate securities	11,691	—	—	11,691
Corporate bonds and debt	725,156	2,277	(4,172)	723,261
Marketable equity securities	6,820	—	(587)	6,233
	<u>\$ 1,166,615</u>	<u>\$ 2,947</u>	<u>\$ (4,928)</u>	<u>\$ 1,164,634</u>

The following is a summary of available-for-sale and marketable equity securities at March 31, 2011 (amounts in thousands):

	Available-for-sale Securities			
	Adjusted Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
Government agency bonds	\$ 431,355	\$ 159	\$ (923)	\$ 430,591
Municipal bonds	11,445	34	(22)	11,457
Auction rate securities	12,475	—	—	12,475
Corporate bonds and debt	519,499	4,116	(589)	523,026
Marketable equity securities	26,173	688	—	26,861
	<u>\$ 1,000,947</u>	<u>\$ 4,997</u>	<u>\$ (1,534)</u>	<u>\$ 1,004,410</u>

At December 31, 2011, the Company's available-for-sale debt securities, and marketable equity securities are presented on the condensed consolidated balance sheets as short-term investments of \$696.5 million and long-term investments of \$468.1 million. At March 31, 2011, the Company's available-for-sale debt securities and marketable equity securities are presented on the condensed consolidated balance sheets as short-term investments of \$539.6 million and long-term investments of \$464.8 million.



## [Table of Contents](#)

At December 31, 2011, \$11.7 million of the fair value of the Company's investment portfolio was invested in auction rate securities (ARS). With the continuing liquidity issues in the global credit and capital markets, the Company's ARS have experienced multiple failed auctions from September 2007 through the date of this report. While the Company continues to earn interest on these investments based on a pre-determined formula with spreads tied to particular interest rate indices, the estimated market value for these ARS no longer approximates the original purchase value.

The fair value of the failed ARS of \$11.7 million has been estimated based on market information and estimates determined by management and could change significantly based on market conditions. The Company evaluated the impairments in the value of these ARS, determining its intent to sell these securities prior to the recovery of its amortized cost basis resulted in the securities being other-than-temporarily impaired and recognized impairment charges on these investments of \$0.8 million and \$1.3 million in the nine-month periods ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The Company did not recognize an impairment charge on these investments in the three-month period ended December 31, 2011 compared to impairment charges of \$0.4 million in the three-month period ended December 31, 2010.

The Company believes that, based on its current unrestricted cash, cash equivalents and short-term investment balances, the current lack of liquidity in the credit and capital markets for ARS will not have a material impact on its liquidity, cash flow or ability to fund its operations.

At December 31, 2011, the Company evaluated its investment portfolio and noted unrealized losses of \$4.3 million on its debt securities, and \$0.6 million on its marketable equity securities, respectively, which were due to fluctuations in interest rates, credit market conditions, and/or market prices. Management does not believe any of the unrealized losses represent an other-than-temporary impairment based on its evaluation of available evidence as of December 31, 2011, except for the ARS described above and certain equity investments that are actively being sold. The Company's intent is to hold these investments until these assets are no longer impaired. For those debt securities not scheduled to mature until after December 31, 2012, such recovery is not anticipated to occur in the next year and these investments have been classified as long-term investments.

The amortized cost and estimated fair value of the available-for-sale securities at December 31, 2011, by maturity, excluding marketable equity securities of \$6.2 million and corporate debt of \$4.6 million, which have no contractual maturity, are shown below (amounts in thousands). Expected maturities can differ from contractual maturities because the issuers of the securities may have the right to prepay obligations without prepayment penalties, and the Company views its available-for-sale securities as available for current operations.

	Adjusted Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
Available-for-sale				
Due in one year or less	\$ 206,919	\$ 1,045	\$ (332)	\$ 207,632
Due after one year and through five years	936,560	1,902	(4,009)	934,453
Due after five years and through ten years	—	—	—	—
Due after ten years	11,691	—	—	11,691
	<u>\$ 1,155,170</u>	<u>\$ 2,947</u>	<u>\$ (4,341)</u>	<u>\$ 1,153,776</u>

The Company had net realized gains of \$0.1 million and \$0.2 million, respectively, from sales of available-for-sale marketable equity securities during the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011, compared to no material gains or losses for the three and nine months ended December 31, 2010. The Company had a net realized gain of \$0.1 million from sales of available-for-sale debt securities during the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011, compared to \$0.1 million in net realized gains during the three months ended December 31, 2010 and a net realized loss of \$0.1 million during the nine months ended December 31, 2010.

### *Marketable Equity Investments*

The Company had investments in public companies with a fair value of \$6.2 million as of December 31, 2011. Cash dividends and other distributions of earnings from the investees, if any, are included in other income at the date of record. The Company has classified the shares owned in these companies as marketable securities. As of December 31, 2011, the Company

## [Table of Contents](#)

had an unrealized loss in other comprehensive income of \$0.6 million on these marketable securities. During the three months ended December 31, 2011, the Company recorded an impairment charge of \$0.2 million on certain shares that it held due to the current market price and active selling of the shares.

### *Non-marketable Equity Investments*

The Company has certain investments in privately held companies with a carrying value of \$7.8 million at December 31, 2011. The investments in privately held companies are accounted for using the cost or the equity method of accounting, as appropriate. Each period the Company evaluates whether an event or change in circumstances has occurred that may indicate an investment has been impaired. If upon further investigation of such events the Company determines the investment has suffered a decline in value that is other than temporary, the Company writes down the investment to its estimated fair value. At December 31, 2011, the Company determined there were no such impairments. These investments are included in other assets on the condensed consolidated balance sheet.

### **(7) Fair Value Measurements**

Accounting rules for fair value clarify that fair value is an exit price, representing the amount that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. As such, fair value is a market-based measurement that should be determined based on assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability. As a basis for considering such assumptions, the Company utilizes a three-tier fair value hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs used in measuring fair value as follows:

- Level 1- Observable inputs such as quoted prices in active markets;
- Level 2- Inputs, other than the quoted prices in active markets, that are observable either directly or indirectly; and
- Level 3- Unobservable inputs in which there is little or no market data, which require the reporting entity to develop its own assumptions.

### *Marketable Debt Instruments*

Marketable debt instruments include instruments such as corporate bonds and debt, government agency bonds, bank deposits, municipal bonds, and money market fund deposits. When the Company uses observable market prices for identical securities that are traded in less active markets, the Company classifies its marketable debt instruments as Level 2. When observable market prices for identical securities are not available, the Company prices its marketable debt instruments using non-binding market consensus prices that are corroborated with observable market data; quoted market prices for similar instruments; or pricing models, such as a discounted cash flow model, with all significant inputs derived from or corroborated with observable market data. Non-binding market consensus prices are based on the proprietary valuation models of pricing providers or brokers. These valuation models incorporate a number of inputs, including non-binding and binding broker quotes; observable market prices for identical or similar securities; and the internal assumptions of pricing providers or brokers that use observable market inputs and, to a lesser degree, unobservable market inputs. The Company corroborates non-binding market consensus prices with observable market data using statistical models when observable market data exists. The discounted cash flow model uses observable market inputs, such as LIBOR-based yield curves, currency spot and forward rates, and credit ratings.

### *Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis*

Assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2011 are as follows (amounts in thousands):

[Table of Contents](#)

	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Instruments (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Balance
<b>Assets</b>				
Money market fund deposits	\$ 237,653	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 237,653
Marketable equity securities	6,233	—	—	6,233
Corporate bonds & debt	—	718,636	4,625	723,261
Government agency bonds	—	405,700	—	405,700
Deposit accounts	—	368,072	—	368,072
Municipal bonds	—	17,749	—	17,749
Auction rate securities	—	—	11,691	11,691
<b>Total assets measured at fair value</b>	<b>\$ 243,886</b>	<b>\$ 1,510,157</b>	<b>\$ 16,316</b>	<b>\$ 1,770,359</b>

Assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis at March 31, 2011 are as follows (amounts in thousands):

	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Instruments (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Balance
<b>Assets</b>				
Money market fund deposits	\$ 464,669	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 464,669
Marketable equity securities	26,861	—	—	26,861
Corporate bonds & debt	—	519,526	3,500	523,026
Government agency bonds	—	430,591	—	430,591
Deposit accounts	—	239,255	—	239,255
Municipal bonds	—	11,457	—	11,457
Auction rate securities	—	—	12,475	12,475
<b>Total assets measured at fair value</b>	<b>\$ 491,530</b>	<b>\$ 1,200,829</b>	<b>\$ 15,975</b>	<b>\$ 1,708,334</b>

The Company estimated the fair value of its ARS, which are classified as Level 3 securities, based on the following: (i) the underlying structure of each security; (ii) the present value of future principal and interest payments discounted at rates considered to reflect current market conditions; (iii) consideration of the probabilities of default, auction failure, or repurchase at par for each period; and (iv) estimates of the recovery rates in the event of default for each security. The estimated fair values that are categorized as Level 3 as well as the marketable equity securities could change significantly based on future market conditions.

The following tables present a reconciliation for all assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis, excluding accrued interest components, using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) for the nine months ended December 31, 2011, and the year ended March 31, 2011 (amounts in thousands):

[Table of Contents](#)

Nine months ended December 31, 2011	Auction Rate Securities	Corporate Debt	Total Gains (Losses)
Balance at March 31, 2011	\$ 12,475	\$ 3,500	\$ —
Total gains or losses (realized and unrealized):			
Included in earnings	(784)	—	(784)
Included in other comprehensive income (loss)	—	—	—
Purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements, net	—	787	—
Transfer into Level 3	—	338	—
Transfer out of Level 3	—	—	—
Balance at December 31, 2011	\$ 11,691	\$ 4,625	\$ (784)

Year ended March 31, 2011	Auction Rate Securities	Put Option on Auction Rate Securities	Corporate Debt	Total Gains (Losses)
Balance at March 31, 2010	\$ 37,237	\$ 1,814	\$ —	\$ —
Total gains or losses (realized and unrealized):				
Included in earnings	138	(1,814)	—	(1,676)
Included in other comprehensive income (loss)	—	—	—	—
Purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements, net	(24,900)	—	3,500	—
Transfer into Level 3	—	—	—	—
Transfer out of Level 3	—	—	—	—
Balance at March 31, 2011	\$ 12,475	\$ —	\$ 3,500	\$ (1,676)

Assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis are presented/classified on the condensed consolidated balance sheets at December 31, 2011 as follows (amounts in thousands):

	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Instruments (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Balance
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 237,653	\$ 368,072	\$ —	\$ 605,725
Short-term investments	1,550	694,998	—	696,548
Long-term investments	4,683	447,087	16,316	468,086
Total assets measured at fair value	\$ 243,886	\$ 1,510,157	\$ 16,316	\$ 1,770,359

## Table of Contents

Assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis are presented/classified in the consolidated balance sheets at March 31, 2011 as follows (amounts in thousands):

	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Instruments (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Balance
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 464,669	\$ 239,255	\$ —	\$ 703,924
Short-term investments	16,553	523,019	—	539,572
Long-term investments	10,308	438,555	15,975	464,838
<b>Total assets measured at fair value</b>	<b>\$ 491,530</b>	<b>\$ 1,200,829</b>	<b>\$ 15,975</b>	<b>\$ 1,708,334</b>

### *Financial Assets Not Recorded at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis*

The Company's non-marketable equity and cost method investments are not recorded at fair value on a recurring basis. These investments were recorded at fair value as of April 8, 2010, the date of the SST acquisition, and are monitored on a quarterly basis for impairment charges. The investments will only be recorded at fair value when an impairment charge is recognized. During the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011, there were no impairment charges recognized on these investments. These investments are included in other assets on the condensed consolidated balance sheet. See further discussion of non-marketable investments in Note 6.

### **(8) Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

The carrying amount of cash equivalents approximates fair value because their maturity is less than three months. The carrying amount of short-term and long-term investments approximates fair value as the securities are marked to market as of each balance sheet date with any unrealized gains and losses reported in stockholders' equity. Management believes the carrying amount of the equity and cost-method investments materially approximated fair value at December 31, 2011. The carrying amount of accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities approximates fair value due to the short-term maturity of the amounts. The fair value of the Company's junior subordinated convertible debentures was \$1.553 billion at December 31, 2011 and \$1.574 billion at March 31, 2011 based on the trading price of the bonds.

### **(9) Accounts Receivable**

Accounts receivable consists of the following (amounts in thousands):

	December 31, 2011	March 31, 2011
Trade accounts receivable	\$ 150,295	\$ 181,840
Other	1,653	2,200
	151,948	184,040
Less allowance for doubtful accounts	2,671	2,838
	<b>\$ 149,277</b>	<b>\$ 181,202</b>

### **(10) Inventories**

The components of inventories consist of the following (amounts in thousands):

	December 31, 2011	March 31, 2011
Raw materials	\$ 9,801	\$ 8,174
Work in process	138,676	141,462
Finished goods	69,376	31,164
	<u>\$ 217,853</u>	<u>\$ 180,800</u>

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost or market using the first-in, first-out method. Inventory impairment charges establish a new cost basis for inventory and charges are not subsequently reversed to income even if circumstances later suggest that increased carrying amounts are recoverable.

**(11) Property, Plant and Equipment**

Property, plant and equipment consists of the following (amounts in thousands):

	December 31, 2011	March 31, 2011
Land	\$ 46,529	\$ 46,497
Building and building improvements	372,910	375,611
Machinery and equipment	1,309,495	1,306,367
Projects in process	86,901	101,202
	<u>1,815,835</u>	<u>1,829,677</u>
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	1,282,183	1,289,164
	<u>\$ 533,652</u>	<u>\$ 540,513</u>

Depreciation expense attributed to property, plant and equipment was \$21.5 million and \$65.5 million for the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011, respectively, and \$23.6 million and \$69.9 million for the three and nine months ended December 31, 2010, respectively.

**(12) Accrued Liabilities**

Accrued liabilities consist of the following (amounts in thousands):

	December 31, 2011	March 31, 2011
Bankruptcy reorganization liability	\$ —	\$ 19,385
Other accrued expenses	92,741	112,454
	<u>\$ 92,741</u>	<u>\$ 131,839</u>

The bankruptcy reorganization liability was incurred as part of an acquisition completed in fiscal 2011 for which the liability was settled in the second quarter of fiscal 2012.

**(13) Income Taxes**

The provision for income taxes reflects tax on foreign earnings and federal and state tax on U.S. earnings. The Company had an effective tax rate of 11.0% for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011 and an effective tax rate from continuing operations of 12.4% for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2010. The Company's effective tax rate is lower than statutory rates in the U.S. due primarily to its mix of earnings in foreign jurisdictions with lower tax rates.

At March 31, 2011, the Company had \$58.1 million of unrecognized tax benefits. Unrecognized tax benefits increased by \$13.3 million in the nine months ended December 31, 2011 compared to March 31, 2011 primarily as a result of the ongoing accrual for uncertain tax positions and the accrual of deficiency interest on these positions.

The Company files U.S. federal, U.S. state, and foreign income tax returns. For U.S. federal, and in general for U.S. state tax returns, the fiscal 2009 through fiscal 2011 tax years remain open for examination by tax authorities. The Internal

## [Table of Contents](#)

Revenue Service (I.R.S.) is currently auditing the Company's fiscal years ended March 31, 2009 and 2010. For foreign tax returns, the Company is generally no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to fiscal 2004.

The Company recognizes liabilities for anticipated tax audit issues in the U.S. and other tax jurisdictions based on its estimate of whether, and the extent to which, additional tax payments are more likely than not. The Company believes that it has appropriate support for the income tax positions taken on its tax returns and that its accruals for tax liabilities are adequate for all open years based on an assessment of many factors including past experience and interpretations of tax law applied to the facts of each matter.

The Company believes that it maintains appropriate reserves to offset any potential income tax liabilities that may arise upon final resolution of matters for open tax years. If such reserve amounts ultimately prove to be unnecessary, the resulting reversal of such reserves would result in tax benefits being recorded in the period the reserves are no longer deemed necessary. If such amounts prove to be less than an ultimate assessment, a future charge to expense would be recorded in the period in which the assessment is determined. Although the timing of the resolution and/or closure of audits is highly uncertain, the Company does not believe it is reasonably possible that its unrecognized tax benefits would materially change in the next 12 months.

### **(14) 2.125% Junior Subordinated Convertible Debentures**

The Company's \$1.15 billion principal amount of 2.125% junior subordinated convertible debentures due December 15, 2037, are subordinated in right of payment to any future senior debt of the Company and are effectively subordinated in right of payment to the liabilities of the Company's subsidiaries. The debentures are convertible, subject to certain conditions, into shares of the Company's common stock at an initial conversion rate of 29.2783 shares of common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of debentures, representing an initial conversion price of approximately \$34.16 per share of common stock. As of December 31, 2011, none of the conditions allowing holders of the debentures to convert had been met. As a result of cash dividends paid since the issuance of the debentures, the conversion rate has been adjusted to 35.4501 shares of common stock per \$1,000 of principal amount of debentures, representing a conversion price of approximately \$28.21 per share of common stock.

As the debentures can be settled in cash upon conversion, for accounting purposes, the debentures were bifurcated into a liability component and an equity component, which are both initially recorded at fair value. The carrying value of the equity component at December 31, 2011 and at March 31, 2011 was \$822.4 million. The estimated fair value of the liability component of the debentures at the issuance date was \$327.6 million, resulting in a debt discount of \$822.4 million which was further discounted due to embedded features as described below. The unamortized debt discount was \$796.3 million at December 31, 2011 and \$801.9 million at March 31, 2011. The carrying value of the debentures was \$353.3 million at December 31, 2011 and \$347.3 million at March 31, 2011. The remaining period over which the unamortized debt discount will be recognized as non-cash interest expense is 26 years. In the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011, the Company recognized \$1.9 million and \$5.6 million in non-cash interest expense related to the amortization of the debt discount. In the three and nine months ended December 31, 2010, the Company recognized \$1.7 million and \$5.1 million in non-cash interest expense related to the amortization of the debt discount. The Company recognized \$6.1 million and \$18.3 million of interest expense related to the 2.125% coupon on the debentures in each of the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively.

The debentures also include certain embedded features related to the contingent interest payments, the Company making specific types of distributions (e.g., extraordinary dividends), the redemption feature in the event of changes in tax law, and penalty interest in the event of a failure to maintain an effective registration statement. These features qualify as derivatives and are bundled as a compound embedded derivative that is measured at fair value. The fair value of the derivative as of December 31, 2011 was \$0.8 million, compared to the value at March 31, 2011 of \$0.4 million, resulting in an increase in interest expense in the nine months ended December 31, 2011 of \$0.4 million. The fair value of the derivative as of December 31, 2010 was \$0.4 million, compared to the value at March 31, 2010 of \$0.7 million, resulting in a reduction of interest expense in the nine months ended December 31, 2010 of approximately \$0.3 million. The balance of the debentures on the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheet at December 31, 2011 of \$353.3 million includes the fair value of the embedded derivative.

### **(15) Credit Facility**

On August 12, 2011, the Company entered into a credit agreement among the Company, the lenders from time to time that are parties thereto and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent (the "Credit Agreement"). The Credit Agreement provides for a \$750 million revolving credit facility, with a \$100 million foreign currency sublimit, a \$25 million

## Table of Contents

letter of credit sublimit and a \$15 million swingline loan sublimit, terminating on August 12, 2016 (the "Maturity Date"). The Credit Agreement also contains an increase option permitting the Company, subject to certain requirements, to arrange with existing lenders and/or new lenders for them to provide up to an aggregate of \$250 million in additional commitments, which may be for revolving loans or term loans. Proceeds of loans made under the Credit Agreement may be used for working capital and general corporate purposes. No loans were made nor letters of credit issued under the Credit Agreement at closing, and no amounts were outstanding and no letters of credit were issued at December 31, 2011.

The loans bear interest, at the Company's option, at the base rate plus a spread of 0.50% to 1.50% or an adjusted LIBOR rate (based on one, two, three, or six-month interest periods) plus a spread of 1.50% to 2.50%, in each case with such spread being determined based on the consolidated leverage ratio for the preceding four fiscal quarter period. The base rate means the highest of JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.'s prime rate, the federal funds rate plus a margin equal to 0.50% and the adjusted LIBOR rate for a 1-month interest period plus a margin equal to 1.00%. Swingline loans accrue interest at a per annum rate based on the base rate plus the applicable margin for base rate loans. Base rate loans may only be made in U.S. Dollars. The Company is also obligated to pay other administration fees and letter of credit fees for a credit facility of this size and type.

Interest is due and payable in arrears quarterly for loans bearing interest at the base rate and at the end of an interest period (or at each three month interval in the case of loans with interest periods greater than three months) in the case of loans bearing interest at the adjusted LIBOR rate. Principal, together with all accrued and unpaid interest, is due and payable on the maturity date. The Company may prepay the loans and terminate the commitments, in whole or in part, at any time without premium or penalty, subject to certain conditions including minimum amounts in the case of commitment reductions and reimbursement of certain costs in the case of prepayments of LIBOR loans.

The Company's obligations under the Credit Agreement are guaranteed by certain of its subsidiaries meeting materiality thresholds set forth in the Credit Agreement. To secure the Company's obligations under the Credit Agreement, the Company and its domestic subsidiaries will be required to pledge the equity securities of certain of their respective material subsidiaries, subject to certain exceptions and limitations.

The Credit Agreement contains customary affirmative and negative covenants, including covenants that limit or restrict the Company and its subsidiaries' ability to, among other things, incur subsidiary indebtedness, grant liens, merge or consolidate, dispose of assets, make investments, make acquisitions, enter into certain transactions with affiliates, pay dividends or make distributions, repurchase stock, enter into restrictive agreements and enter into sale and leaseback transactions, in each case subject to customary exceptions for a credit facility of this size and type. The Company is also required to maintain compliance with a consolidated leverage ratio and a consolidated interest coverage ratio.

The Credit Agreement includes customary events of default that, include among other things, non-payment defaults, inaccuracy of representations and warranties, covenant defaults, cross default to material indebtedness, bankruptcy and insolvency defaults, material judgment defaults, ERISA defaults and a change of control default. The occurrence of an event of default could result in the acceleration of the obligations under the Credit Agreement. Under certain circumstances, a default interest rate will apply on all obligations during the existence of an event of default under the Credit Agreement at a per annum rate equal to 2.00% above the applicable interest rate for any overdue principal and 2.00% above the rate applicable for base rate loans for any other overdue amounts.

### **(16) Contingencies**

In the ordinary course of the Company's business, it is involved in a limited number of legal actions, both as plaintiff and defendant, and could incur uninsured liability in any one or more of them. The Company also periodically receives notifications from various third parties alleging infringement of patents, intellectual property rights or other matters. With respect to pending legal actions to which the Company is a party, although the outcomes of these actions are not generally determinable, the Company believes that the ultimate resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on its financial position, cash flows or results of operations. Litigation relating to the semiconductor industry is not uncommon, and the Company is, and from time to time has been, subject to such litigation. No assurances can be given with respect to the extent or outcome of any such litigation in the future.

The Company's technology license agreements generally include an indemnification clause that indemnifies the licensee against liability and damages (including legal defense costs) arising from any claims of patent, copyright, trademark or trade secret infringement by the Company's proprietary technology. The terms of these indemnification provisions approximate the terms of the technology license agreements, which typically range from five to ten years. The Company's current license agreements expire from 2012 through 2030. The possible amount of future payments the Company could be required to make



## [Table of Contents](#)

based on agreements that specify indemnification limits, if such indemnifications were required on all of these agreements, is approximately \$94 million. There are some licensing agreements in place that do not specify indemnification limits. The Company had not recorded any liabilities related to these indemnification obligations as of December 31, 2011.

Contingent liabilities in the amount of \$13.0 million were recorded in connection with the SST acquisition as an adverse outcome was determined to be probable and estimable. At December 31, 2011, there were no material changes to the amount recognized at the acquisition date for these contingencies.

### (17) Derivative Instruments

The Company has international operations and is thus subject to foreign currency rate fluctuations. To manage the risk of changes in foreign currency rates, the Company periodically enters into derivative contracts comprised of foreign currency forward contracts to hedge its asset and liability foreign currency exposure and a portion of its foreign currency operating expenses. Approximately 99% of the Company's sales are U.S. Dollar denominated. To date, the exposure related to foreign exchange rate volatility has not been material to the Company's operating results. As of December 31, 2011 and March 31, 2011, the Company had no foreign currency derivatives outstanding. The Company recognized an immaterial amount of net realized gains and losses on foreign currency derivatives in each of the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010.

### (18) Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive income consists of net income offset by net unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale investments. The components of other comprehensive income and related tax effects were as follows (amounts in thousands):

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Nine Months Ended December 31,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Change in unrealized gains and losses on investments, net of tax effect of \$97, \$1,344, \$(332) and \$(1,909), respectively.	\$ (1,159)	\$ 984	\$ (5,113)	\$ (258)

Comprehensive income was \$76.3 million and \$251.0 million in the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011, and \$101.8 million and \$293.2 million in the three and nine months ended December 31, 2010.

### (19) Equity Incentive Plans

#### *Share-Based Compensation Expense*

The following table presents the details of the Company's share-based compensation expense (amounts in thousands):

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Nine Months Ended December 31,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Cost of sales	\$ 1,369 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 1,708 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 4,376 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 5,416 <sup>(1)</sup>
Research and development	3,851	3,324	10,820	9,516
Selling, general and administrative	4,742	4,377	13,274	12,853
Pre-tax effect of share-based compensation	9,962	9,409	28,470	27,785
Income tax benefit	1,261	1,166	3,655	3,442
Net income effect of share-based compensation	\$ 8,701	\$ 8,243	\$ 24,815	\$ 24,343

(1) During the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011, \$1.7 million and \$4.9 million, respectively, of share-based compensation expense was capitalized to inventory and \$1.4 million and \$4.4 million, respectively, of previously capitalized share-based compensation expenses in inventory was sold. During the three and nine months ended December 31, 2010, \$1.7 million and \$5.4 million, respectively, of share-based compensation expense was capitalized to inventory and \$1.7 million and \$5.4 million, respectively, of previously capitalized share-based compensation expense in inventory was sold.

## [Table of Contents](#)

The amount of unearned share-based compensation currently estimated to be expensed in the remainder of fiscal 2012 through fiscal 2016 related to unvested share-based payment awards at December 31, 2011 is \$69.1 million. The weighted average period over which the unearned share-based compensation is expected to be recognized is approximately 2.05 years.

### *Combined Incentive Plan Information*

The total intrinsic value of restricted stock units (RSUs) which vested during the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011 was \$12.1 million and \$30.6 million, respectively. The aggregate intrinsic value of RSUs outstanding at December 31, 2011 was \$203.2 million, calculated based on the closing price of the Company's common stock of \$36.63 per share on December 31, 2011. At December 31, 2011, the weighted average remaining expense recognition period was 2.08 years.

The weighted average fair value per share of the RSUs awarded is calculated based on the fair market value of the Company's common stock on the respective grant dates discounted for the Company's expected dividend yield. The weighted average fair value per share of RSUs awarded in the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2011 was \$26.25 and \$30.42, respectively. The weighted average fair value per share of RSUs awarded in the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2010 was \$27.30 and \$25.16, respectively.

The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011 was \$6.5 million and \$19.7 million, respectively. This intrinsic value represents the difference between the fair market value of the Company's common stock on the date of exercise and the exercise price of each equity award.

The aggregate intrinsic value of options outstanding and options exercisable at December 31, 2011 was \$45.9 million. The aggregate intrinsic values were calculated based on the closing price of the Company's common stock of \$36.63 per share on December 31, 2011.

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the number of option shares exercisable was 3,932,126 and 6,209,925, respectively, and the weighted average exercise price per share was \$24.98 and \$25.04, respectively.

There were no stock options granted in either of the nine months ended December 31, 2011 and 2010.

### **(20) Net Income Per Common Share**

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted net income per common share from continuing operations (in thousands, except per share amounts):

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	December 31,		December 31,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Net income from continuing operations	\$ 77,489	\$ 101,930	\$ 256,069	\$ 298,555
Weighted average common shares outstanding	191,640	187,488	190,854	186,444
Dilutive effect of stock options and RSUs	4,266	4,335	4,311	4,423
Dilutive effect of convertible debt	7,385	4,432	7,521	1,477
Weighted average common and potential common shares outstanding	203,291	196,255	202,686	192,344
Basic net income per common share – continuing operations	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.54	\$ 1.34	\$ 1.60
Diluted net income per common share – continuing operations	\$ 0.38	\$ 0.52	\$ 1.26	\$ 1.55

Diluted net income per common share for continuing operations for the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2011 includes 7,385,008 and 7,521,453 shares, respectively, issuable upon the exchange of debentures (see Note 14). Diluted net income per common share for continuing operations for the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2010 includes 4,431,774 and 1,477,258 shares, respectively, issuable upon the exchange of debentures. The debentures have no impact on diluted net income per common share unless the average price of the Company's common stock exceeds the conversion price because the principal amount of the debentures will be settled in cash upon conversion. Prior to conversion, the Company will include, in the diluted net income per common share calculation, the effect of the additional shares that may be issued when the Company's common stock price exceeds the conversion price using the treasury stock method. The weighted average conversion price per share used in calculating the dilutive effect of the convertible debt for the

three and nine months ended December 31, 2011 was \$28.36 and \$28.64, respectively.

Diluted net loss per common share from discontinued operations for the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2010 was \$(0.01) and \$(0.03), respectively. There was no diluted net income or loss from discontinued operations for the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2011.

Weighted average common shares exclude the effect of option shares which are not dilutive. For the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2011, the number of option shares that were antidilutive was 62,541 and 53,374, respectively. For the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2010, the number of option shares that were antidilutive was 134,598 and 235,667, respectively.

**(21) Dividends**

A quarterly cash dividend of \$0.348 per share was paid on December 5, 2011 in the aggregate amount of \$66.8 million. Through the first nine months of fiscal 2012, cash dividends of \$1.041 per share have been paid in the aggregate amount of \$198.9 million. A quarterly cash dividend of \$0.349 per share was declared on February 2, 2012 and will be paid on March 6, 2012 to stockholders of record as of February 21, 2012. The Company expects the March 2012 payment of its quarterly cash dividend to be approximately \$67.1 million.

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

*This report, including "Part I – Item 2 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Part II - Item 1A Risk Factors" contains certain forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties, including statements regarding our strategy, financial performance and revenue sources. We use words such as "anticipate," "believe," "plan," "expect," "future," "intend" and similar expressions to identify forward-looking statements. Our actual results could differ materially from the results anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors including those set forth under "Risk Factors," beginning at page 35 and elsewhere in this Form 10-Q. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. We disclaim any obligation to update information contained in any forward-looking statement. These forward-looking statements include, without limitation, statements regarding the following:*

- The effects that adverse global economic conditions and fluctuations in the global credit and equity markets may have on our financial condition and results of operations;
- The effects and amount of competitive pricing pressure on our product lines;
- Our ability to moderate future average selling price declines;
- The effect of product mix, capacity utilization, yields, fixed cost absorption, competition and economic conditions on gross margin;
- The amount of, and changes in, demand for our products and those of our customers;
- The level of orders that will be received and shipped within a quarter;
- Our expectation that our inventory levels will stay about flat in the March 2012 quarter compared to the December 2011 quarter and that it will allow us to maintain competitive lead times;
- The effect that distributor and customer inventory holding patterns will have on us;
- Our belief that customers recognize our products and brand name and use distributors as an effective supply channel;
- Our belief that deferred cost of sales are recorded at their approximate carrying value and will have low risk of material impairment;
- Our belief that our direct sales personnel combined with our distributors provide an effective means of reaching our customer base;
- Our ability to increase the proprietary portion of our analog and interface product lines and the effect of such an increase;
- Our belief that our processes afford us both cost-effective designs in existing and derivative products and greater functionality in new product designs;
- The impact of any supply disruption we may experience;
- Our ability to effectively utilize our facilities at appropriate capacity levels and anticipated costs;
- That we adjust capacity utilization to respond to actual and anticipated business and industry-related conditions;
- That our existing facilities will provide sufficient capacity to respond to increases in demand with modest incremental capital expenditures;
- That manufacturing costs will be reduced by transition to advanced process technologies;
- Our ability to maintain manufacturing yields;
- Continuing our investments in new and enhanced products;
- The cost effectiveness of using our own assembly and test operations;
- Our anticipated level of capital expenditures;
- Continuation and amount of quarterly cash dividends;
- The sufficiency of our existing sources of liquidity to finance anticipated capital expenditures and otherwise meet our anticipated cash requirements, and the effects that our contractual obligations are expected to have on them;
- The impact of seasonality on our business;
- The accuracy of our estimates used in valuing employee equity awards;
- That the resolution of legal actions will not have a material effect on our business, and the accuracy of our assessment of the probability of loss and range of potential loss;
- The recoverability of our deferred tax assets;
- The adequacy of our tax reserves to offset any potential tax liabilities, having the appropriate support for our income tax positions and the accuracy of our estimated tax rate;
- Our belief that the expiration of any tax holidays will not have a material impact on our overall tax expense or effective tax rate;
- Our belief that the estimates used in preparing our consolidated financial statements are reasonable;

## [Table of Contents](#)

- Our belief that recently issued accounting pronouncements listed in this document will not have a significant impact on our consolidated financial statements;
- The adequacy of our patent strategy, and our belief that the impact of the expiration of any particular patent will not have a material effect on our business;
- Our actions to vigorously and aggressively defend and protect our intellectual property on a worldwide basis;
- Our ability to obtain patents and intellectual property licenses and minimize the effects of litigation;
- The level of risk we are exposed to for product liability claims;
- The effect of fluctuations in market interest rates on our income and/or cash flows;
- The effect of fluctuations in currency rates;
- The accuracy of our estimates of market information that determines the value of our Auction Rate Securities (ARS), and that the lack of markets for the ARS will not have a material impact on our liquidity, cash flow, or ability to fund operations;
- Our intention to indefinitely reinvest undistributed earnings of certain non-US subsidiaries in those subsidiaries;
- Our intent to maintain a high-quality investment portfolio that preserves principal, meets liquidity needs, avoids inappropriate concentrations and delivers an appropriate yield; and
- Our ability to collect accounts receivable.

We begin our Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (MD&A) with a summary of Microchip's overall business strategy to give the reader an overview of the goals of our business and the overall direction of our business and products. This is followed by a discussion of the Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates that we believe are important to understanding the assumptions and judgments incorporated in our reported financial results. We then discuss our Results of Operations for the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011 compared to the three and nine months ended December 31, 2010. We then provide an analysis of changes in our balance sheet and cash flows, and discuss our financial commitments in sections titled "Liquidity and Capital Resources," "Contractual Obligations" and "Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements."

### **Strategy**

Our goal is to be a worldwide leader in providing specialized semiconductor products for a wide variety of embedded control applications. Our strategic focus is on embedded control products, which include microcontrollers, high-performance linear and mixed signal devices, power management and thermal management devices, interface devices, Serial EEPROMs, and our patented KeeLoq® security devices. We provide highly cost-effective embedded control products that also offer the advantages of small size, high performance, low voltage/power operation and ease of development, enabling timely and cost-effective embedded control product integration by our customers. With our acquisition of SST in April 2010, we added Flash-IP solutions and SuperFlash memory products to our strategic focus. We license SuperFlash technology to foundries, integrated device manufacturers and design partners throughout the world for use in the manufacture of their advanced microcontroller products.

We sell our products to a broad base of domestic and international customers across a variety of industries. The principal markets that we serve include consumer, automotive, industrial, office automation and telecommunications. Our business is subject to fluctuations based on economic conditions within these markets.

Our manufacturing operations include wafer fabrication and assembly and test. The ownership of our manufacturing resources is an important component of our business strategy, enabling us to maintain a high level of manufacturing control resulting in us being one of the lowest cost producers in the embedded control industry. By owning our wafer fabrication facilities and our assembly and test operations, and by employing statistical process control techniques, we have been able to achieve and maintain high production yields. Direct control over manufacturing resources allows us to shorten our design and production cycles. This control also allows us to capture the wafer manufacturing and a portion of the assembly and test profit margin.

We employ proprietary design and manufacturing processes in developing our embedded control products. We believe our processes afford us both cost-effective designs in existing and derivative products and greater functionality in new product designs. While many of our competitors develop and optimize separate processes for their logic and memory product lines, we use a common process technology for both microcontroller and non-volatile memory products. This allows us to more fully leverage our process research and development costs and to deliver new products to market more rapidly. Our engineers utilize advanced computer-aided design (CAD) tools and software to perform circuit design, simulation and layout, and our in-house photomask and wafer fabrication facilities enable us to rapidly verify design techniques by processing test wafers quickly and efficiently.

We are committed to continuing our investment in new and enhanced products, including development systems, and in our design and manufacturing process technologies. We believe these investments are significant factors in maintaining our competitive position. Our current research and development activities focus on the design of new microcontrollers, digital signal controllers, memory and mixed-signal products, Flash-IP systems, new development systems, software and application-specific software libraries. We are also developing new design and process technologies to achieve further cost reductions and performance improvements in our products.

We market our products worldwide primarily through a network of direct sales personnel and distributors. Our distributors focus primarily on servicing the product and technical support requirements of a broad base of diverse customers. We believe that our direct sales personnel combined with our distributors provide an effective means of reaching this broad and diverse customer base. Our direct sales force focuses primarily on major strategic accounts in three geographical markets: the Americas, Europe and Asia. We currently maintain sales and support centers in major metropolitan areas in North America, Europe and Asia. We believe that a strong technical service presence is essential to the continued development of the embedded control market. Many of our field sales engineers (FSEs), field application engineers (FAEs), and sales management have technical degrees and have been previously employed in an engineering environment. We believe that the technical knowledge of our sales force is a key competitive advantage in the sale of our products. The primary mission of our FAE team is to provide technical assistance to strategic accounts and to conduct periodic training sessions for FSEs and distributor sales teams. FAEs also frequently conduct technical seminars for our customers in major cities around the world, and work closely with our distributors to provide technical assistance and end-user support.

## **Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

### *General*

Our discussion and analysis of Microchip's financial condition and results of operations is based upon our condensed consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. We review the accounting policies we use in reporting our financial results on a regular basis. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and related disclosure of contingent liabilities. On an ongoing basis, we evaluate our estimates, including those related to revenue recognition, business combinations, share-based compensation, inventories, income taxes, junior subordinated convertible debentures 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 judgments about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Our results may differ from these estimates due to actual outcomes being different from those on which we based our assumptions. We review these estimates and judgments on an ongoing basis. We believe the following critical accounting policies affect our more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our condensed consolidated financial statements. We also have other policies that we consider key accounting policies, such as our policy regarding revenue recognition to OEMs; however, we do not believe these policies require us to make estimates or judgments that are as difficult or subjective as our policies described below.

### *Revenue Recognition - Distributors*

Our distributors worldwide generally have broad price protection and product return rights, so we defer revenue recognition until the distributor sells the product to their customer. Revenue is recognized when the distributor sells the product to an end-customer, at which time the sales price becomes fixed or determinable. Revenue is not recognized upon shipment to our distributors since, due to discounts from list price as well as price protection rights, the sales price is not substantially fixed or determinable at that time. At the time of shipment to these distributors, we record a trade receivable for the selling price as there is a legally enforceable right to payment, relieve inventory for the carrying value of goods shipped since legal title has passed to the distributor, and record the gross margin in deferred income on shipments to distributors on our condensed consolidated balance sheets.

Deferred income on shipments to distributors effectively represents the gross margin on the sale to the distributor; however, the amount of gross margin that we recognize in future periods could be less than the deferred margin as a result of credits granted to distributors on specifically identified products and customers to allow the distributors to earn a competitive gross margin on the sale of our products to their end customers and price protection concessions related to market pricing conditions.

We sell the majority of the items in our product catalog to our distributors worldwide at a uniform list price. However, distributors resell our products to end customers at a very broad range of individually negotiated price points. The majority of our distributors' resales require a reduction from the original list price paid. Often, under these circumstances, we remit back to the distributor a portion of their original purchase price after the resale transaction is completed in the form of a credit against the distributors' outstanding accounts receivable balance. The credits are on a per unit basis and are not given to the distributor until they provide information to us regarding the sale to their end customer. The price reductions vary significantly based on the customer, product, quantity ordered, geographic location and other factors and discounts to a price less than our cost have historically been rare. The effect of granting these credits establishes the net selling price to our distributors for the product and results in the net revenue recognized by us when the product is sold by the distributors to their end customers. Thus, a portion of the "deferred income on shipments to distributors" balance represents the amount of distributors' original purchase price that will be credited back to the distributor in the future. The wide range and variability of negotiated price concessions granted to distributors does not allow us to accurately estimate the portion of the balance in the deferred income on shipments to distributors account that will be credited back to the distributors. Therefore, we do not reduce deferred income on shipments to distributors or accounts receivable by anticipated future concessions; rather, price concessions are typically recorded against deferred income on shipments to distributors and accounts receivable when incurred, which is generally at the time the distributor sells the product. At December 31, 2011, we had approximately \$172.5 million of deferred revenue and \$56.7 million in deferred cost of sales recognized as \$115.8 million of deferred income on shipments to distributors. At March 31, 2011, we had approximately \$208.1 million of deferred revenue and \$68.1 million in deferred cost of sales recognized as \$140.0 million of deferred income on shipments to distributors. The deferred income on shipments to distributors that will ultimately be recognized in our income statement will be lower than the amount reflected on the balance sheet due to additional price credits to be granted to the distributors when the product is sold to their customers. These additional price credits historically have resulted in the deferred income approximating the overall gross margins that we recognize in the distribution channel of our business.

Distributor advances, reflected as a reduction of deferred income on shipments to distributors on our condensed consolidated balance sheets, totaled \$60.3 million at December 31, 2011 and \$71.9 million at March 31, 2011. On sales to distributors, our payment terms generally require the distributor to settle amounts owed to us for an amount in excess of their ultimate cost. The sales price to our distributors may be higher than the amount that the distributors will ultimately owe us because distributors often negotiate price reductions after purchasing the product from us and such reductions are often significant. It is our practice to apply these negotiated price discounts to future purchases, requiring the distributor to settle receivable balances, on a current basis, generally within 30 days, for amounts originally invoiced. This practice has an adverse impact on the working capital of our distributors. As such, we have entered into agreements with certain distributors whereby we advance cash to the distributors to reduce the distributor's working capital requirements. These advances are reconciled at least on a quarterly basis and are estimated based on the amount of ending inventory as reported by the distributor multiplied by a negotiated percentage. Such advances have no impact on our revenue recognition or our condensed consolidated statements of income. We process discounts taken by distributors against our deferred income on shipments to distributors' balance and true-up the advanced amounts generally after the end of each completed fiscal quarter. The terms of these advances are set forth in binding legal agreements and are unsecured, bear no interest on unsettled balances and are due upon demand. The agreements governing these advances can be canceled by us at any time.

We reduce product pricing through price protection based on market conditions, competitive considerations and other factors. Price protection is granted to distributors on the inventory they have on hand at the date the price protection is offered. When we reduce the price of our products, it allows the distributor to claim a credit against its outstanding accounts receivable balances based on the new price of the inventory it has on hand as of the date of the price reduction. There is no immediate revenue impact from the price protection, as it is reflected as a reduction of the deferred income on shipments to distributors' balance.

Products returned by distributors and subsequently scrapped have historically been immaterial to our consolidated results of operations. We routinely evaluate the risk of impairment of the deferred cost of sales component of the deferred income on shipments to distributors account. Because of the historically immaterial amounts of inventory that have been scrapped, and historically rare instances where discounts given to a distributor result in a price less than our cost, we believe the deferred costs are recorded at their approximate carrying value.

#### *Business Combinations*

All of our business combinations are accounted for at fair value under the acquisition method of accounting. Under the acquisition method of accounting, (i) acquisition-related costs, except for those costs incurred to issue debt or equity securities, will be expensed in the period incurred; (ii) non-controlling interests will be valued at fair value at the acquisition date; (iii) in-process research and development will be recorded at fair value as an intangible asset at the acquisition date and

amortized once the technology reaches technological feasibility; (iv) restructuring costs associated with a business combination will be expensed subsequent to the acquisition date; and (v) changes in deferred tax asset valuation allowances and income tax uncertainties after the acquisition date will be recognized through income tax expense or directly in contributed capital. The measurement of fair value of assets accrued and liabilities assumed requires significant judgment. The valuation of intangible assets and acquired investments in privately held companies, in particular, requires that we use valuation techniques such as the income approach. The income approach includes the use of a discounted cash flow model, which includes discounted cash flow scenarios and requires the following significant estimates: revenue, expenses, capital spending and other costs, and discount rates based on the respective risks of the cash flows. The valuation of non-marketable equity investments acquired also takes into account variables such as conditions reflected in the capital markets, recent financing activity by the investees, the investees' capital structure and the terms of the investees' issued interests.

#### *Share-Based Compensation*

We measure fair value and recognize compensation expense for all share-based payment awards, including grants of employee stock options, RSUs and employee stock purchase rights, to be recognized in our financial statements based on their respective grant date fair values. Total share-based compensation during the nine months ended December 31, 2011 was \$29.2 million, of which \$24.1 million was reflected in operating expenses. Total share-based compensation reflected in cost of sales during the nine months ended December 31, 2011 was \$4.4 million. Total share-based compensation included in our inventory balance was \$4.1 million at December 31, 2011.

Determining the appropriate fair-value model and calculating the fair value of share-based awards at the date of grant requires judgment. The fair value of our RSUs is based on the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant discounted for expected future dividends. We use the Black-Scholes option pricing model to estimate the fair value of employee stock options and rights to purchase shares under our employee stock purchase plans. Option pricing models, including the Black-Scholes model, also require the use of input assumptions, including expected volatility, expected life, expected dividend rate, and expected risk-free rate of return. We use a blend of historical and implied volatility based on options freely traded in the open market as we believe this is more reflective of market conditions and a better indicator of expected volatility than using purely historical volatility. The expected life of the awards is based on historical and other economic data trended into the future. The risk-free interest rate assumption is based on observed interest rates appropriate for the terms of our awards. The dividend yield assumption is based on our history and expectation of future dividend payouts. We estimate the number of share-based awards which will be forfeited due to employee turnover. Quarterly changes in the estimated forfeiture rate can have a significant effect on reported share-based compensation, as the effect of adjusting the rate for all expense amortization after April 1, 2006 is recognized in the period the forfeiture estimate is changed. If the actual forfeiture rate is higher or lower than the estimated forfeiture rate, then an adjustment is made to increase or decrease the estimated forfeiture rate, which will result in a decrease or increase to the expense recognized in our financial statements. If forfeiture adjustments are made, they would affect our gross margin, research and development expenses, and selling, general and administrative expenses. The effect of forfeiture adjustments through the third quarter of fiscal 2012 was immaterial.

We evaluate the assumptions used to value our awards on a quarterly basis. If factors change and we employ different assumptions, share-based compensation expense may differ significantly from what we have recorded in the past. If there are any modifications or cancellations of the underlying unvested securities, we may be required to accelerate, increase or cancel any remaining unearned share-based compensation expense. Future share-based compensation expense and unearned share-based compensation will increase to the extent that we grant additional equity awards to employees or we assume unvested equity awards in connection with acquisitions.

#### *Inventories*

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost or market using the first-in, first-out method. We write down our inventory for estimated obsolescence or unmarketable inventory in an amount equal to the difference between the cost of inventory and the estimated market value based on assumptions about future demand and market conditions. If actual market conditions are less favorable than those we projected, additional inventory write-downs may be required. Inventory impairment charges establish a new cost basis for inventory and charges are not subsequently reversed to income even if circumstances later suggest that increased carrying amounts are recoverable. In estimating our inventory obsolescence, we primarily evaluate estimates of demand over a 12-month period and record impairment charges for inventory on hand in excess of the estimated 12-month demand.



## [Table of Contents](#)

In periods where our production levels are substantially below our normal operating capacity, the reduced production levels of our manufacturing facilities are charged directly to cost of sales. Approximately \$3.9 million was charged to cost of sales in the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011 as a result of decreased production in our wafer fabs. There were no such charges in the nine months ended December 31, 2010.

### *Income Taxes*

As part of the process of preparing our condensed consolidated financial statements, we are required to estimate our income taxes in each of the jurisdictions in which we operate. This process involves estimating our actual current tax exposure together with assessing temporary differences resulting from differing treatment of items for tax and accounting purposes. These differences result in deferred tax assets and liabilities, which are included within our condensed consolidated balance sheets. We must then assess the likelihood that our deferred tax assets will be recovered from future taxable income within the relevant jurisdiction and to the extent we believe that recovery is not likely, we must establish a valuation allowance. We have provided valuation allowances for certain of our deferred tax assets, including state net operating loss carryforwards, foreign tax credits and state tax credits, where it is more likely than not that some portion, or all of such assets, will not be realized. At December 31, 2011, the valuation allowances totaled \$77.3 million. Should we determine that we would not be able to realize all or part of our net deferred tax asset in the future, an adjustment to the deferred tax asset would be charged to income in the period such determination was made. At December 31, 2011, our gross deferred tax asset was \$87.3 million.

Various taxing authorities in the U.S. and other countries in which we do business scrutinize the tax structures employed by businesses. Companies of our size and complexity are regularly audited by the taxing authorities in the jurisdictions in which they conduct significant operations. For U.S. federal, and in general for U.S. state tax returns, our fiscal 2009 through fiscal 2011 tax years remain open for examination by tax authorities. The Internal Revenue Service (I.R.S.) is currently auditing our fiscal 2009 and fiscal 2010 tax returns. We recognize liabilities for anticipated tax audit issues in the U.S. and other tax jurisdictions based on our estimate of whether, and the extent to which, additional tax payments are more likely than not. We believe that we maintain adequate tax reserves to offset any potential tax liabilities that may arise upon these and other pending audits in the U.S. and other countries in which we do business. If such amounts ultimately prove to be unnecessary, the resulting reversal of such reserves would result in tax benefits being recorded in the period the reserves are no longer deemed necessary. If such amounts ultimately prove to be less than an ultimate assessment, a future charge to expense would be recorded in the period in which the assessment is determined.

### *Junior Subordinated Convertible Debentures*

We separately account for the liability and equity components of our junior subordinated convertible debentures in a manner that reflects our nonconvertible debt (unsecured debt) borrowing rate when interest cost is recognized. This results in a bifurcation of a component of the debt, classification of that component in equity and the accretion of the resulting discount on the debt to be recognized as part of interest expense in our condensed consolidated statements of income. Additionally, certain embedded features of the debentures qualify as derivatives and are bundled as a compound embedded derivative that is measured at fair value. Lastly, we include the dilutive effect of the shares of our common stock issuable upon conversion of the outstanding junior subordinated convertible debentures in our diluted income per share calculation regardless of whether the market price trigger or other contingent conversion feature has been met. We apply the treasury stock method as we have the intent and current ability to settle the principal amount of the junior subordinated convertible debentures in cash. This method results in incremental dilutive shares when the average fair value of our common stock for a reporting period exceeds the conversion price per share which was \$28.21 at December 31, 2011 and adjusts as dividends are recorded in the future.

### *Contingencies*

In the ordinary course of our business, we are involved in a limited number of legal actions, both as plaintiff and defendant, and could incur uninsured liability in any one or more of them. We also periodically receive notifications from various third parties alleging infringement of patents, intellectual property rights or other matters. With respect to pending legal actions to which we are a party, although the outcomes of these actions are not generally determinable, we believe that the ultimate resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on our financial position, cash flows or results of operations. Litigation relating to the semiconductor industry is not uncommon, and we are, and from time to time have been, subject to such litigation. No assurances can be given with respect to the extent or outcome of any such litigation in the future.

**Results of Continuing Operations**

The following table sets forth certain operational data as a percentage of net sales for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	December 31,		December 31,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Net sales	100.0 %	100.0%	100.0 %	100.0%
Cost of sales	44.2	41.2	42.7	41.4
Gross profit	55.8	58.8	57.3	58.6
Research and development	13.4	11.5	12.9	11.4
Selling, general and administrative	15.8	15.2	15.5	15.4
Special charges	(0.2)	0.2	(0.1)	0.2
Operating income	26.8 %	31.9%	29.0 %	31.6%

*Net Sales*

We operate in two industry segments and engage primarily in the design, development, manufacture and marketing of semiconductor products as well as the licensing of Flash intellectual property. We sell our products to distributors and original equipment manufacturers, referred to as OEMs, in a broad range of market segments, perform ongoing credit evaluations of our customers and generally require no collateral. In certain circumstances, a customer's financial condition may require collateral, and, in such cases, the collateral would be provided primarily by letters of credit.

Our net sales for the quarter ended December 31, 2011 were \$329.2 million, a decrease of 3.4% from the previous quarter's sales of \$340.6 million, and a decrease of 10.5% from net sales of \$367.8 million in the quarter ended December 31, 2010. Our net sales for the nine months ended December 31, 2011 were \$1,044.3 million, a decrease of 5.7% from net sales of \$1,107.2 million in the nine months ended December 31, 2010. The decreases in net sales for these periods were due primarily to general economic and semiconductor industry conditions. Average selling prices for our semiconductor products were down approximately 4% for the three-month period ended December 31, 2011 over the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. The average selling prices for our semiconductor products were essentially flat for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011 over the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. The number of units of our semiconductor products sold was down approximately 9% for the three-month period ended December 31, 2011, and down approximately 9% for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011 over the corresponding periods of the previous fiscal year.

The average selling prices and the unit volumes of our sales are impacted by the mix of our products sold and overall semiconductor market conditions. Key factors related to the amount of net sales during the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2011 compared to the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2010 include:

- global economic conditions in the markets we serve;
- semiconductor industry conditions;
- inventory holding patterns of our customers;
- increasing semiconductor content in our customers' products;
- customers' increasing needs for the flexibility offered by our programmable solutions;
- our new product offerings that have increased our served available market; and
- continued market share gains in the segments of the markets we address.

Sales by product line for the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 were as follows (dollars in thousands):

	Three Months Ended				Nine Months Ended			
	December 31,				December 31,			
	(unaudited)				(unaudited)			
	2011	%	2010	%	2011	%	2010	%
Microcontrollers	\$ 216,915	65.9	\$ 251,015	68.2	\$ 699,667	67.0	\$ 752,922	68.0
Memory products	41,705	12.7	53,512	14.6	137,517	13.2	170,400	15.4
Analog and interface products	43,014	13.1	44,239	12.0	127,864	12.2	132,211	11.9
Technology licensing	23,057	7.0	19,058	5.2	65,688	6.3	51,687	4.7
Other	4,465	1.3	—	—	13,529	1.3	—	—
Total sales	\$ 329,156	100.0%	\$ 367,824	100.0%	\$ 1,044,265	100.0%	\$ 1,107,220	100.0%

Microcontrollers

Our microcontroller product line represents the largest component of our total net sales. Microcontrollers and associated application development systems accounted for approximately 65.9% of our total net sales for the three-month period ended December 31, 2011 and approximately 67.0% of our total net sales for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011 compared to approximately 68.2% of our total net sales for the three-month period ended December 31, 2010 and approximately 68.0% of our total net sales for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2010.

Net sales of our microcontroller products decreased approximately 13.6% in the three-month period ended December 31, 2011 and approximately 7.1% in the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011 compared to the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2010. These sales decreases were driven primarily by general economic and semiconductor industry conditions in the end markets that we serve including the consumer, automotive, industrial control, communications and computing markets, which offset market share gains.

Historically, average selling prices in the semiconductor industry decrease over the life of any particular product. The overall average selling prices of our microcontroller products have remained relatively constant over time due to the proprietary nature of these products. We have experienced, and expect to continue to experience, pricing pressure in certain microcontroller product lines, primarily due to competitive conditions. We have been able in the past, and expect to be able in the future, to moderate average selling price declines in our microcontroller product lines by introducing new products with more features and higher prices. We may be unable to maintain average selling prices for our microcontroller products as a result of increased pricing pressure in the future, which would adversely affect our operating results.

Memory Products

Sales of our memory products accounted for approximately 12.7% of our total net sales for the three-month period ended December 31, 2011 and approximately 13.2% of our total net sales in the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011 compared to approximately 14.6% of our total net sales for the three-month period ended December 31, 2010 and approximately 15.4% of our total net sales in the nine-month period ended December 31, 2010.

Net sales of our memory products decreased approximately 22.1% in the three-month period ended December 31, 2011 and approximately 19.3% in the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011 compared to the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2010. These sales decreases were driven primarily by adverse customer demand conditions within the Serial EEPROM and Flash memory markets and general economic and semiconductor industry conditions.

Memory product pricing has historically been cyclical in nature, with steep price declines followed by periods of relative price stability, driven by changes in industry capacity at different stages of the business cycle. We have experienced, and expect to continue to experience, varying degrees of competitive pricing pressures in our memory products. We may be unable to maintain the average selling prices of our memory products as a result of increased pricing pressure in the future, which could adversely affect our operating results.

Analog and Interface Products

Sales of our analog and interface products accounted for approximately 13.1% of our total net sales for the three-month period ended December 31, 2011 and approximately 12.2% of our total net sales for the nine-month period ended

## Table of Contents

December 31, 2011 compared to approximately 12.0% of our total net sales for the three-month period ended December 31, 2010 and approximately 11.9% of our total net sales for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2010.

Net sales of our analog and interface products decreased approximately 2.8% in the three-month period ended December 31, 2011 and approximately 3.3% in the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011 compared to the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2010. These sales decreases were driven primarily by general economic and semiconductor industry conditions which offset market share gains achieved within the analog and interface market.

Analog and interface products can be proprietary or non-proprietary in nature. Currently, we consider more than 70% of our analog and interface product mix to be proprietary in nature, where prices are relatively stable, similar to the pricing stability experienced in our microcontroller products. The non-proprietary portion of our analog and interface business will experience price fluctuations driven primarily by the current supply and demand for those products. We may be unable to maintain the average selling prices of our analog and interface products as a result of increased pricing pressure in the future, which would adversely affect our operating results. We anticipate the proprietary portion of our analog and interface products will continue to increase over time.

### Technology Licensing

Technology licensing revenue includes a combination of royalties associated with technology licensed for the use of our SuperFlash technology and fees for engineering services. Technology licensing accounted for approximately 7.0% of our total net sales for the three-month period ended December 31, 2011 and approximately 6.3% of our total net sales for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011 compared to approximately 5.2% of our total net sales for the three-month period ended December 31, 2010 and approximately 4.7% of our total net sales for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2010.

Net sales related to our technology licensing increased approximately 21.0% in the three-month period ended December 31, 2011 and approximately 27.1% in the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011 compared to the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2010. These sales increases were driven primarily by the adoption of our technology by more manufacturers of semiconductors.

Revenue from technology licensing can fluctuate over time due to semiconductor industry and general economic conditions.

### Other

Revenue from assembly and test subcontracting services performed during the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2011 accounted for approximately 1.3% of our total net sales. Our assembly and test subcontracting services revenue are a result of our acquisition of Millennium Microtech Thailand (MMT) in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2011.

### Distribution

Distributors accounted for approximately 59% of our net sales in the three-month period ended December 31, 2011 and approximately 60% of our net sales in the three-month period ended December 31, 2010. Distributors accounted for approximately 59% of our net sales in the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011 and approximately 58% of our net sales in the nine-month period ended December 31, 2010. Our distributors focus primarily on servicing the product requirements of a broad base of diverse customers. We believe that distributors provide an effective means of reaching this broad and diverse customer base. We believe that customers recognize Microchip for its products and brand name and use distributors as an effective supply channel.

Our largest distributor accounted for approximately 9% of our net sales in the three-month period ended December 31, 2011 and approximately 10% of our net sales in the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011 compared to approximately 10% of our net sales in each of the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2010.

Generally, we do not have long-term agreements with our distributors and we, or our distributors, may terminate our relationships with each other with little or no advanced notice. The loss of, or the disruption in the operations of, one or more of our distributors could reduce our future net sales in a given quarter and could result in an increase in inventory returns.

## [Table of Contents](#)

At December 31, 2011, our distributors maintained 35 days of inventory of our products compared to 40 days of inventory at March 31, 2011. Over the past three fiscal years, the days of inventory maintained by our distributors have fluctuated between 33 days and 46 days. We do not believe that inventory holding patterns at our distributors will materially impact our net sales, due to the fact that we recognize revenue based on sell-through for all our distributors.

### Sales by Geography

Sales by geography for the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 were as follows (dollars in thousands):

	Three Months Ended				Nine Months Ended			
	December 31,				December 31,			
	(unaudited)				(unaudited)			
	2011	%	2010	%	2011	%	2010	%
Americas	\$ 69,239	21.0	\$ 76,615	20.8	\$ 220,040	21.1	\$ 230,864	20.9
Europe	69,310	21.1	81,220	22.1	240,524	23.0	240,277	21.7
Asia	190,607	57.9	209,989	57.1	583,701	55.9	636,079	57.4
Total sales	\$ 329,156	100.0%	\$ 367,824	100.0%	\$ 1,044,265	100.0%	\$ 1,107,220	100.0%

Americas sales include sales to customers in the U.S., Canada, Central America and South America. Sales to foreign customers accounted for approximately 82% of our net sales in each of the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2011. Sales to foreign customers accounted for approximately 80% of our net sales in each of the three and nine-month periods ended December 31, 2010. Substantially all of our foreign sales are U.S. Dollar denominated. Sales to customers in Asia have generally increased over time due to many of our customers transitioning their manufacturing operations to Asia and growth in demand from the emerging Asian market. Our sales force in the Americas and Europe supports a significant portion of the design activity for products which are ultimately shipped to Asia.

### *Gross Profit*

Our gross profit was \$183.8 million in the three months ended December 31, 2011 and \$216.4 million in the three months ended December 31, 2010. Our gross profit was \$598.5 million in the nine months ended December 31, 2011 and \$648.8 million in the nine months ended December 31, 2010. Gross profit as a percent of sales was 55.8% in the three months ended December 31, 2011 and 58.8% in the three months ended December 31, 2010. Gross profit as a percentage of sales was 57.3% in the nine months ended December 31, 2011 and 58.6% in the nine months ended December 31, 2010.

The most significant factors affecting our gross profit percentage in the periods covered by this Form 10-Q were:

- production levels being below the range of normal capacity levels, resulting in under absorption of fixed costs, in the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011 and at or above normal capacity levels in the three and nine months ended December 31, 2010;
- for the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011 and the three months ended December 31, 2010, inventory write-downs being higher than the gross margin impact of sales of inventory that was previously written down;
- for the nine months ended December 31, 2010, inventory write-downs being lower than the gross margin impact of sales of inventory that was previously written down; and
- fluctuations in our product mix of microcontrollers, analog products, memory products and technology licensing.

Other factors that impacted our gross profit percentage in the periods covered by this Form 10-Q include:

- continual cost reductions in wafer fabrication and assembly and test manufacturing, such as new manufacturing technologies and more efficient manufacturing techniques; and
- lower depreciation as a percentage of cost of sales.

We adjust our wafer fabrication and assembly and test capacity utilization as required to respond to actual and anticipated business and industry-related conditions. Our wafer fabrication facilities operated at or above normal capacity levels, which we typically consider to be 90% to 95% of the actual capacity of our installed equipment, during the six months ended September 30, 2011 and the nine months ended December 31, 2010. However, during the three months ended December 31, 2011, we reduced wafer starts and operated below normal capacity levels in our wafer fabrication facilities in

response to weaker global economic conditions. As a result, approximately \$3.9 million was charged to cost of sales in the three months ended December 31, 2011 due to decreased production. In the future, if production levels are below normal capacity, we will charge cost of sales for the unabsorbed capacity. During the six months ended September 30, 2011 and the nine months ended December 31, 2010, we operated at normal capacity levels at our Thailand facility. We lowered output at our Thailand facility during the third quarter of fiscal 2012 in response to weaker economic conditions and these actions had a negative impact on our gross margins.

The process technologies utilized in our wafer fabs impact our gross margins. Fab 2 currently utilizes various manufacturing process technologies, but predominantly utilizes our 0.5 to 1.0 micron processes. Fab 4 predominantly utilizes our 0.22 to 0.5 micron processes. We continue to transition products to more advanced process technologies to reduce future manufacturing costs. All of our production has been on 8-inch wafers during the periods covered by this Form 10-Q.

Our overall inventory levels were \$217.9 million at December 31, 2011, compared to \$180.8 million at March 31, 2011. We maintained 137 days of inventory on our balance sheet at December 31, 2011 compared to 107 days of inventory at March 31, 2011. We expect our inventory levels in the March 2012 quarter to be about flat to the levels at December 31, 2011. We believe this level of inventory will allow us to maintain competitive lead times and provide strong delivery performance to our customers and allow us to keep our fiscal 2012 and fiscal 2013 capital expenditures at low levels.

We anticipate that our gross margins will fluctuate over time, driven primarily by capacity utilization levels, the overall mix of microcontroller products, analog and interface products, memory products and technology licensing revenue and the percentage of net sales of each of these products in a particular quarter, as well as manufacturing yields, fixed cost absorption, and competitive and economic conditions in the markets we serve.

At December 31, 2011, approximately 69% of our assembly requirements were performed in our Thailand facility compared to approximately 60% of our assembly requirements at December 31, 2010. The percentage of our assembly work that is performed internally fluctuates over time based on supply and demand conditions in the semiconductor industry and our internal capacity capabilities. Third-party contractors located in Asia perform the balance of our assembly operations. At December 31, 2011, approximately 94% of our test requirements were performed in our Thailand facility compared to approximately 88% of our test requirements being performed in our Thailand facility at December 31, 2010. We believe that the assembly and test operations performed at our Thailand facility provide us with significant cost savings when compared to contractor assembly and test costs, as well as increased control over these portions of the manufacturing process.

We rely on outside wafer foundries for a portion of our wafer fabrication requirements. As a result of our acquisition of SST in the first quarter of fiscal 2011, we have become more reliant on outside foundries for our wafer fabrication requirements. In the nine months ended December 31, 2011, approximately 20% of our total net sales related to wafers that were purchased from outside foundries.

Our use of third parties involves some reduction in our level of control over the portions of our business that we subcontract. While we review the quality, delivery and cost performance of our third-party contractors, our future operating results could suffer if any third-party contractor is unable to maintain manufacturing yields, assembly and test yields and costs at approximately their current levels.

#### *Research and Development (R&D)*

R&D expenses for the three months ended December 31, 2011 were \$44.3 million, or 13.4% of net sales, compared to \$42.2 million, or 11.5% of net sales, for the three months ended December 31, 2010. R&D expenses for the nine months ended December 31, 2011 were \$134.9 million, or 12.9% of net sales, compared to \$126.4 million, or 11.4% of net sales, for the nine months ended December 31, 2010. We are committed to investing in new and enhanced products, including development systems software, and in our design and manufacturing process technologies. We believe these investments are significant factors in maintaining our competitive position. R&D costs are expensed as incurred. Assets purchased to support our ongoing research and development activities are capitalized when related to products which have achieved technological feasibility or that have alternative future uses and are amortized over their expected useful lives. R&D expenses include labor, depreciation, masks, prototype wafers, and expenses for the development of process technologies, new packages, and software to support new products and design environments.

R&D expenses increased \$2.1 million, or 4.9%, for the three months ended December 31, 2011 over the same period last year. R&D expenses increased \$8.5 million or 6.7% for the nine months ended December 31, 2011 over the same period last year. The primary reason for the dollar increase in R&D costs over these periods were higher headcount costs, offset by reductions in bonus costs and other discretionary spending.

*Selling, General and Administrative*

Selling, general and administrative expenses for the three months ended December 31, 2011 were \$52.1 million, or 15.8% of net sales, compared to \$56.1 million, or 15.2% of net sales, for the three months ended December 31, 2010. Selling, general and administrative expenses for the nine months ended December 31, 2011 were \$161.6 million, or 15.5% of net sales, compared to \$170.9 million, or 15.4% of net sales, for the nine months ended December 31, 2010. Selling, general and administrative expenses include salary and other expenses related to field sales, marketing and administrative personnel, advertising and promotional expenditures and legal expenses. Selling, general and administrative expenses also include costs related to our direct sales force and field applications engineers who work in sales offices worldwide to stimulate demand by assisting customers in the selection and use of our products.

Selling, general and administrative expenses decreased \$4.0 million, or 7.2%, for the three months ended December 31, 2011 over the same period last year. Selling, general and administrative expenses decreased \$9.3 million, or 5.4%, for the nine months ended December 31, 2011 over the same period last year. The primary reason for the dollar decreases in selling, general and administrative costs over these periods were reductions in bonus costs and other discretionary spending which offset additional headcount costs.

*Special (Income) Charges*

During the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011, we recognized \$0.7 million of special income associated with prior year acquisitions comprised of a \$1.0 million favorable adjustment to contingent consideration offset by \$0.3 million of severance-related charges. During the three and nine months ended December 31, 2010, we incurred \$0.6 million and \$1.7 million, respectively, of severance-related and office closure costs.

*Other Income (Expense)*

Interest income in the three months ended December 31, 2011 increased to \$4.4 million from \$4.0 million in the three months ended December 31, 2010. The primary reason for the increase in interest income during this period was due to \$0.4 million of impairment charges on our auction rate securities recognized in the three months ended December 31, 2010. Interest income in the nine months ended December 31, 2011 was \$12.4 million, which was essentially flat to the amount of interest income in the nine months ended December 31, 2010. Interest expense primarily related to our 2.125% junior subordinated convertible debentures in the three and nine months ended December 31, 2011 was \$9.0 million and \$25.9 million, respectively, compared to \$7.7 million and \$23.5 million, respectively, in the three and nine months ended December 31, 2010. During the three months ended December 31, 2011, other income, net was \$0.2 million compared to other income, net of \$0.4 million in the three months ended December 31, 2010. During the nine months ended December 31, 2011, other expense, net was \$1.3 million compared to other income, net of \$1.7 million in the nine months ended December 31, 2010. The increases in other expense, net in the nine months ended December 31, 2011 over the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year resulted primarily from \$1.5 million of expense, net in the nine months ended December 31, 2011 compared to \$2.0 million of income, net in the nine months ended December 31, 2010 related to our publicly traded securities as further discussed in Note 6 of the notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

*Provision for Income Taxes*

Our provision for income taxes reflects tax on foreign earnings and federal and state tax on U.S. earnings. We had an effective tax rate from continuing operations of 7.4% for the three-month period ended December 31, 2011 and 10.9% for the three-month period ended December 31, 2010. We had an effective tax rate from continuing operations of 11.0% for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011 and 12.4% for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2010. Our effective tax rate is lower than statutory rates in the U.S. due primarily to our mix of earnings in foreign jurisdictions with lower tax rates.

Various taxing authorities in the U.S. and other countries in which we do business are increasing their scrutiny of the tax structures employed by businesses. Companies of our size and complexity are regularly audited by the taxing authorities in the jurisdictions in which they conduct significant operations. For U.S. federal, and in general for U.S. state tax returns, our fiscal 2009 through fiscal 2011 tax returns remain open for examination by the taxing authorities. The I.R.S. is currently auditing our fiscal 2009 and fiscal 2010 tax returns. We recognize liabilities for anticipated tax audit issues in the U.S. and other tax jurisdictions based on our estimate of whether, and the extent to which, additional tax payments are probable. We believe that we maintain adequate tax reserves to offset any potential tax liabilities that may arise upon these and other pending audits in the U.S. and other countries in which we do business. If such amounts ultimately prove to be unnecessary, the

resulting reversal of such reserves would result in tax benefits being recorded in the period the reserves are no longer deemed necessary. If such amounts ultimately prove to be less than any final assessment, a future charge to expense would be recorded in the period in which the assessment is determined.

Our Thailand manufacturing operations currently benefit from numerous tax holidays that have been granted to us by the Thailand government based on our investments in property, plant and equipment in Thailand. Our tax holiday periods in Thailand expire at various times in the future. Any expiration of our tax holidays are expected to have a minimal impact on our overall tax expense due to other tax holidays and an increase in income in other taxing jurisdictions with lower statutory rates.

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

We had \$1,770.4 million in cash, cash equivalents and short-term and long-term investments at December 31, 2011, an increase of \$62.0 million from the March 31, 2011 balance. The increase in cash, cash equivalents and short-term and long-term investments over this time period is primarily attributable to cash generated from operating activities being offset by dividend payments of \$198.9 million.

Net cash provided from operating activities was \$294.0 million for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011 compared to \$430.1 million for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2010. The decrease in cash flow from operations in the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011 compared to the nine-month period ended December 31, 2010 was primarily due to changes in our operating assets and liabilities and lower net income during the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011.

During the nine months ended December 31, 2011, net cash used in investing activities was \$234.1 million compared to net cash used in investing activities of \$217.4 million for the nine months ended December 31, 2010. The increase in net cash used in investing activities was due primarily to an increase in net cash used in relation to our purchases, sales and maturities of available-for-sale investments in the nine months ended December 31, 2011, offset by our purchase of SST and higher capital expenditures during the nine months ended December 31, 2010.

Our level of capital expenditures varies from time to time as a result of actual and anticipated business conditions. Capital expenditures in the nine months ended December 31, 2011 were \$58.6 million compared to \$100.1 million for the nine months ended December 31, 2010. Capital expenditures are primarily for the expansion of production capacity and the addition of research and development equipment. We currently intend to spend approximately \$50 million during the next twelve months to invest in equipment and facilities to maintain, and selectively increase capacity to meet our currently anticipated needs.

We expect to finance capital expenditures through our existing cash balances and cash flows from operations. We believe that the capital expenditures anticipated to be incurred over the next twelve months will provide sufficient manufacturing capacity to meet our currently anticipated needs.

Net cash used in financing activities was \$158.1 million for the nine months ended December 31, 2011 compared to net cash used in financing activities of \$204.2 million for the nine months ended December 31, 2010. Proceeds from the exercise of stock options and employee purchases under our employee stock purchase plans were \$40.4 million for the nine months ended December 31, 2011 and \$51.4 million for the nine months ended December 31, 2010. We paid cash dividends to our stockholders of \$198.9 million in the nine months ended December 31, 2011 and \$256.8 million in the nine months ended December 31, 2010. The primary reason for the decrease in cash dividends paid to stockholders in the 2011 period was a \$65.0 million dividend paid on December 27, 2010 which was an acceleration of the dividend which would have normally been paid in March 2011.

On August 12, 2011, we entered into a credit agreement with certain lenders. The credit agreement provides for a \$750 million revolving credit facility, with a \$100 million foreign currency sublimit, a \$25 million letter of credit sublimit and a \$15 million swingline loan sublimit, terminating on August 12, 2016. The credit agreement also contains an increase option permitting us, subject to certain requirements, to arrange with existing lenders and/or new lenders for them to provide up to an aggregate of \$250 million in additional commitments, which may be for revolving loans or term loans. Proceeds of loans made under the credit agreement may be used for working capital and general corporate purposes. No loans were made nor letters of credit issued under the credit agreement at closing, and no amounts were outstanding and no letters of credit were issued at December 31, 2011. See Note 15 of the notes to condensed consolidated financial statements for more information regarding the credit agreement.



## [Table of Contents](#)

We enter into derivative transactions from time to time in an attempt to reduce our exposure to currency rate fluctuations. Although none of the countries in which we conduct significant foreign operations has had a highly inflationary economy in the last five years, there is no assurance that inflation rates or fluctuations in foreign currency rates in countries where we conduct operations will not adversely affect our operating results in the future. At December 31, 2011, we had no foreign currency forward contracts outstanding.

On December 11, 2007, we announced that our Board of Directors had authorized the repurchase of up to an additional 10.0 million shares of our common stock in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. As of December 31, 2011, we had repurchased 7.5 million shares under this 10.0 million share authorization for a total of \$234.7 million. There is no expiration date associated with this program. The timing and amount of future repurchases will depend upon market conditions, interest rates, and corporate considerations.

As of December 31, 2011, we held approximately 26.7 million shares as treasury shares.

On October 28, 2002, we announced that our Board of Directors had approved and instituted a quarterly cash dividend on our common stock. A quarterly dividend of \$0.348 per share was paid on December 5, 2011 in the aggregate amount of \$66.8 million. A quarterly dividend of \$0.349 per share was declared on February 2, 2012 and will be paid on March 6, 2012 to stockholders of record as of February 21, 2012. We expect the aggregate March cash dividend to be approximately \$67.1 million. Our Board is free to change our dividend practices at any time and to increase or decrease the dividend paid, or not to pay a dividend on our common stock on the basis of our results of operations, financial condition, cash requirements and future prospects, and other factors deemed relevant by our Board. Our current intent is to provide for ongoing quarterly cash dividends depending upon market conditions and our results of operations.

We believe that our existing sources of liquidity combined with cash generated from operations will be sufficient to meet our currently anticipated cash requirements for at least the next 12 months. However, the semiconductor industry is capital intensive. In order to remain competitive, we must constantly evaluate the need to make significant investments in capital equipment for both production and research and development. We may borrow under our credit agreement or seek additional equity or debt financing from time to time to maintain or expand our wafer fabrication and product assembly and test facilities, or for acquisitions or other purposes. The timing and amount of any such financing requirements will depend on a number of factors, including demand for our products, changes in industry conditions, product mix, competitive factors and our ability to identify suitable acquisition candidates. There can be no assurance that such financing will be available on acceptable terms, and any additional equity financing would result in incremental ownership dilution to our existing stockholders.

### **Contractual Obligations**

There have not been any material changes in our contractual obligations from what we disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2011.

### **Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

As of December 31, 2011, we are not involved in any off-balance sheet arrangements, as defined in Item 303(a)(4)(ii) of SEC Regulation S-K.

### **Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements**

*Goodwill.* In September 2011, the FASB issued an amendment to the existing guidance on the annual testing of goodwill for impairment. The amended guidance allows companies to assess qualitative factors to determine if it is more-likely-than-not that goodwill might be impaired and whether it is necessary to perform the two-step goodwill impairment test required under current accounting standards. This guidance is effective for annual and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2011, with early adoption permitted. The adoption of this amendment is not anticipated to have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements and related disclosures.

*Comprehensive Income.* In June 2011, the FASB issued an amendment to the existing guidance on the presentation of comprehensive income. Under the amended guidance, entities have the option to present the components of net income and other comprehensive income in either a single continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements. Entities no longer have the option of presenting the components of other comprehensive income within the statement of changes in stockholders' equity. This amendment is effective on a retrospective basis for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2011, which for us is the first quarter in fiscal 2013. The adoption of this amendment will result in a change to the current presentation of comprehensive income, but will not have any

impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements and related disclosures.

*Fair Value Measurement.* In May 2011, the FASB issued amendments to the existing guidance on fair value measurement. The amendments are intended to create consistency between U.S. generally accepted accounting standards and International Financial Reporting Standards on measuring fair value and disclosing information about fair value measurements. The amendments clarify the application of existing fair value measurement requirements including (i) the application of the highest and best use valuation premise concepts, (ii) measuring the fair value of an instrument classified in a reporting entity's stockholders' equity, and (iii) quantitative information required for fair value measurements categorized within Level 3. In addition, the amendments require additional disclosure for Level 3 measurements regarding the sensitivity of fair value to changes in unobservable inputs and any interrelationships between those inputs. These amendments are effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011, which for us is our fiscal year 2013. These changes are required to be applied prospectively. We do not anticipate that the adoption of these amendments will have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements and related disclosures.

### **Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

Our investments are intended to establish a high-quality portfolio that preserves principal, meets liquidity needs, avoids inappropriate concentrations, and delivers an appropriate yield in relationship to our investment guidelines and market conditions. Our investment portfolio, consisting of fixed income securities, money market funds, cash deposits, and marketable securities that we hold on an available-for-sale basis, was \$1,770.4 million as of December 31, 2011 compared to \$1,708.3 million as of March 31, 2011. Our available-for-sale debt securities, like all fixed income instruments, are subject to interest rate risk and will decline in value if market interest rates increase. We have the ability to hold our fixed income investments until maturity and, therefore, we would not expect to recognize any material adverse impact in income or cash flows if market interest rates increase.

At December 31, 2011, \$11.7 million of the fair value of our investment portfolio was invested in ARS. Historically, the carrying value of ARS approximated fair value due to the frequent resetting of the interest rates. With the continuing liquidity issues experienced in the global credit and capital markets, our ARS have experienced multiple failed auctions and are not liquid. While we continue to earn interest on these investments based on a pre-determined formula with spreads tied to particular interest rate indices, the estimated market value for a portion of these ARS no longer approximates the original purchase value. The fair value of the failed ARS of \$11.7 million has been estimated based on market information and estimates determined by management and could change significantly based on market conditions. We evaluated the impairments in the value of these ARS, determining our intent to sell these securities prior to the recovery of our amortized cost basis resulted in the securities being other-than-temporarily impaired and recognized impairment charges on these investments in prior periods. If the issuers are unable to successfully close future auctions or if their credit ratings deteriorate further, we may be required to further adjust the carrying value of the investments through an additional impairment charge to earnings. We believe that, based on our current unrestricted cash, cash equivalents and short-term investment balances, the current lack of liquidity in the markets for ARS will not have a material impact on our liquidity, cash flow or ability to fund our operations.

#### *Investments in Marketable Equity Investments*

Our available-for-sale marketable equity investments at December 31, 2011 consist of shares of public company common stock, the value of which is determined by the closing price of such shares on the respective markets on which the shares are traded as of the balance sheet date. These investments are classified as marketable securities and accounted for under the provisions of ASC 320 *Investments -- Debt and Equity Securities*. The market value of these investments was approximately \$6.2 million at December 31, 2011 compared to our cost basis of approximately \$6.8 million. The value of our investments in these securities would be materially impacted if there was a significant change in the market price of the shares. A hypothetical 30% favorable or unfavorable change in the stock prices compared to the stock prices at December 31, 2011 would have affected the value of our investments in marketable equity securities by approximately \$1.9 million. See Note 6 to our condensed consolidated financial statements for additional information about our investments in these marketable securities.

#### *Investments in Non-Marketable Equity Investments*

We have non-marketable equity investments in several companies, including those we acquired as a result of our acquisition of SST. These companies range from early-stage companies to more mature companies with established revenue and business models. These companies are dependent upon the successful execution of their product and technology development, acceptance of their products and technology in the markets they serve, and financial and operational efficiency. If any of these private companies are unsuccessful in these and other related initiatives, or if there are factors

beyond their control in the markets which they serve, their performance could be materially adversely affected resulting in a loss of some or all of their value, which would in turn require us to determine if an other-than-temporary impairment to fair value exists in such private equity or debt investments. If an other-than-temporary impairment of fair value exists, we will need to write down the investment to its fair value and recognize the related impairment charge to our income statement. Our non-marketable equity investments, excluding those accounted for under the equity method, had a carrying amount of \$5.6 million as of December 31, 2011. As of December 31, 2011, the carrying amount of our non-marketable equity method investments was \$2.2 million.

#### **Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

##### **Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

As of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, as required by paragraph (b) of Rule 13a-15 or Rule 15d-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, we evaluated under the supervision of our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) or 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended). Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information we are required to disclose in reports that we file or submit under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (i) is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms, and (ii) is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Our disclosure control and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management. Our disclosure controls and procedures include components of our internal control over financial reporting. Management's assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting is expressed at the level of reasonable assurance because a control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the control system's objectives will be met.

##### **Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

During the three months ended December 31, 2011, there was no change in our internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the evaluation required by paragraph (d) of Rule 13a-15 or Rule 15d-15 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

## **Part II. OTHER INFORMATION**

#### **Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

In the ordinary course of our business, we are involved in a limited number of legal actions, both as plaintiff and defendant, and could incur uninsured liability in any one or more of them. We also periodically receive notifications from various third parties alleging infringement of patents, intellectual property rights or other matters. With respect to pending legal actions to which we are a party, although the outcomes of these actions are not generally determinable, we believe that the ultimate resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on our financial position, cash flows or results of operations. Litigation relating to the semiconductor industry is not uncommon, and we are, and from time to time have been, subject to such litigation. No assurances can be given with respect to the extent or outcome of any such litigation in the future.

#### **Item 1A. Risk Factors**

When evaluating Microchip and its business, you should give careful consideration to the factors listed below, in addition to the information provided elsewhere in this Form 10-Q and in other documents that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

***Our operating results may be impacted by global economic conditions and may fluctuate in the future due to a number of factors that could reduce our net sales and profitability.***

Our operating results are affected by a wide variety of factors that could reduce our net sales and profitability, many of which are beyond our control. Some of the factors that may affect our operating results include:

- general economic, industry or political conditions in the U.S. or internationally;
- disruptions in our business or our customers' businesses due to terrorist activity, armed conflict, war, worldwide oil prices and supply, public health concerns, natural disasters or disruptions in the transportation system;
- changes in demand or market acceptance of our products and products of our customers;
- the mix of inventory we hold and our ability to satisfy orders from our inventory;
- levels of inventories at our customers;
- risk of excess and obsolete inventories;
- changes in utilization of our manufacturing capacity and fluctuations in manufacturing yields;
- our ability to secure sufficient wafer foundry, assembly and testing capacity;
- availability of raw materials and equipment;
- competitive developments including pricing pressures;
- unauthorized copying of our products resulting in pricing pressure and loss of sales;
- the level of orders that are received and can be shipped in a quarter;
- the level of sell-through of our products through distribution;
- fluctuations in the mix of products;
- changes or fluctuations in customer order patterns and seasonality;
- constrained availability from other electronic suppliers impacting our customers' ability to ship their products, which in turn may adversely impact our sales to those customers;
- costs and outcomes of any current or future tax audits or any litigation involving intellectual property, customers or other issues;
- changes in tax regulations and policies in the U.S. and other countries in which we do business;
- fluctuations in commodity prices; and
- property damage or other losses, whether or not covered by insurance.

We believe that period-to-period comparisons of our operating results are not necessarily meaningful and that you should not rely upon any such comparisons as indications of future performance. In future periods, our operating results may fall below our public guidance or the expectations of public market analysts and investors, which would likely have a negative effect on the price of our common stock. Adverse global economic conditions, the subsequent economic recovery and recent economic uncertainty have caused our operating results to fluctuate significantly and make comparability between periods less meaningful.

***Our operating results will suffer if we ineffectively utilize our manufacturing capacity or fail to maintain manufacturing yields.***

The manufacture and assembly of integrated circuits, particularly non-volatile, erasable CMOS memory and logic devices such as those that we produce, are complex processes. These processes are sensitive to a wide variety of factors, including the level of contaminants in the manufacturing environment, impurities in the materials used, the performance of our wafer fabrication and assembly and test personnel and equipment, and other quality issues. As is typical in the semiconductor industry, we have from time to time experienced lower than anticipated manufacturing yields. Our operating results will suffer if we are unable to maintain yields at approximately the current levels. This could include delays in the recognition of revenue, loss of revenue or future orders, and customer-imposed penalties for failure to meet contractual shipment deadlines. Our operating results are also adversely affected when we operate at less than optimal capacity. During the third and fourth quarters of fiscal 2009, we reduced wafer starts in both Fab 2 and Fab 4, implemented rotating unpaid time off and had multiple planned shutdowns in our Thailand facility to help control inventory levels in response to adverse economic conditions. This lower capacity utilization resulted in certain costs being charged directly to expense and lower gross margins. From the March 2010 quarter through the September 2011 quarter, we were running at more optimal levels of capacity utilization. However, in the third quarter of fiscal 2012, we reduced wafer starts to control inventory balances in response to a slowdown in global economic conditions. These recent actions had a negative impact on our gross margins.

***We are dependent on orders that are received and shipped in the same quarter and are therefore limited in our visibility of future product shipments.***

Our net sales in any given quarter depend upon a combination of shipments from backlog and orders received in that quarter for shipment in that quarter, which we refer to as turns orders. We measure turns orders at the beginning of a quarter based on the orders needed to meet the shipment targets that we set entering the quarter. Historically, we have relied on our ability to respond quickly to customer orders as part of our competitive strategy, resulting in customers placing orders with relatively short delivery schedules. Shorter lead times generally mean that turns orders as a percentage of our business are relatively high in any particular quarter and reduce our backlog visibility on future product shipments. Turns orders correlate to overall semiconductor industry conditions and product lead times. Because turns orders are difficult to predict, varying levels

of turns orders make our net sales more difficult to forecast. If we do not achieve a sufficient level of turns orders in a particular quarter relative to our revenue targets, our revenue and operating results may suffer.

***Intense competition in the markets we serve may lead to pricing pressures, reduced sales of our products or reduced market share.***

The semiconductor industry is intensely competitive and has been characterized by price erosion and rapid technological change. We compete with major domestic and international semiconductor companies, many of which have greater market recognition and substantially greater financial, technical, marketing, distribution and other resources than we do. We may be unable to compete successfully in the future, which could harm our business. Our ability to compete successfully depends on a number of factors both within and outside our control, including, but not limited to:

- the quality, performance, reliability, features, ease of use, pricing and diversity of our products;
- our success in designing and manufacturing new products including those implementing new technologies;
- the rate at which customers incorporate our products into their own applications;
- product introductions by our competitors;
- the number, nature and success of our competitors in a given market;
- our ability to obtain adequate supplies of raw materials and other supplies at acceptable prices;
- our ability to protect our products and processes by effective utilization of intellectual property rights;
- our ability to remain price competitive against companies that have copied our proprietary product lines, especially in countries where intellectual property rights protection is difficult to achieve and maintain;
- our ability to address the needs of our customers; and
- general market and economic conditions.

Historically, average selling prices in the semiconductor industry decrease over the life of any particular product. The overall average selling prices of our microcontroller and proprietary analog and interface products have remained relatively constant, while average selling prices of our Serial EEPROM and non-proprietary analog and interface products have declined over time.

We have experienced, and expect to continue to experience, modest pricing declines in certain of our more mature proprietary product lines, primarily due to competitive conditions. We have been able to moderate average selling price declines in many of our proprietary product lines by continuing to introduce new products with more features and higher prices. However, there can be no assurance that we will be able to do so in the future. We have experienced in the past, and expect to continue to experience in the future, varying degrees of competitive pricing pressures in our Serial EEPROM and non-proprietary analog products. We may be unable to maintain average selling prices for our products as a result of increased pricing pressure in the future, which could adversely impact our operating results.

***Our business is dependent on selling through distributors.***

Sales through distributors accounted for approximately 58% of our net sales in fiscal 2011 and approximately 59% of our net sales in the first nine months of fiscal 2012. Our largest distributor accounted for approximately 10% of our net sales in each of fiscal 2011 and in the first nine months of fiscal 2012. We do not have long-term agreements with our distributors and we and our distributors may each terminate our relationship with little or no advance notice.

Any future adverse conditions in the U.S. and global economies or in the U.S. and global credit markets could materially impact the operations of our distributors. Any deterioration in the financial condition of our distributors or any disruption in the operations of our distributors could adversely impact the flow of our products to our end customers and adversely impact our results of operation. In addition, during an industry or economic downturn, it is possible there will be an oversupply of products and a decrease in sell-through of our products by our distributors which could reduce our net sales in a given period and result in an increase in inventory returns.

***Our success depends on our ability to introduce new products on a timely basis.***

Our future operating results will depend on our ability to develop and introduce new products on a timely basis that can compete effectively on the basis of price and performance and which address customer requirements. The success of our new product introductions depends on various factors, including, but not limited to:

- proper new product selection;

## [Table of Contents](#)

- timely completion and introduction of new product designs;
- timely filing of intellectual property rights for new product designs;
- availability of development and support tools and collateral literature that make complex new products easy for engineers to understand and use; and
- market acceptance of our customers' end products.

Because our products are complex, we have experienced delays from time to time in completing development of new products. In addition, our new products may not receive or maintain substantial market acceptance. We may be unable to design, develop and introduce competitive products on a timely basis, which could adversely impact our future operating results.

Our success also depends upon our ability to develop and implement new design and process technologies. Semiconductor design and process technologies are subject to rapid technological change and require significant R&D expenditures. We and other companies in the industry have, from time to time, experienced difficulties in effecting transitions to advanced process technologies and, consequently, have suffered reduced manufacturing yields or delays in product deliveries. Our future operating results could be adversely affected if any transition to future process technologies is substantially delayed or inefficiently implemented.

### ***Our technology licensing business exposes us to various risks.***

In connection with our acquisition of SST in April 2010, we acquired SST's intellectual property licensing business which is based on its SuperFlash technology. The success of our licensing business will depend on the continued market acceptance of this technology and on our ability to further develop and enhance such technology and to introduce new technologies in the future. To be successful, any such technology must be able to be repeatably implemented by licensees, provide satisfactory yield rates, address licensee and customer requirements, and perform competitively. The success of our technology licensing business depends on various other factors, including, but not limited to:

- proper identification of licensee requirements;
- timely development and introduction of new or enhanced technology;
- our ability to protect our intellectual property rights for our licensed technology;
- availability of sufficient development and support services to assist licensees in their design and manufacture of products integrating our technology;
- availability of foundry licensees with sufficient capacity to support OEM production; and
- market acceptance of our customers' end products.

Because our SuperFlash technology is complex, there may be delays from time to time in developing and enhancing such technology. There can be no assurance that our existing or any enhanced or new technology will achieve or maintain substantial market acceptance. Our licensees may experience disruptions in production or lower than expected production levels which would adversely affect the revenue that we receive from them. Our technology license agreements generally include an indemnification clause that indemnifies the licensee against liability and damages (including legal defense costs) arising from intellectual property matters. We could be exposed to substantial liability for claims or damages related to intellectual property matters or indemnification claims. Any claim, with or without merit, could result in significant legal fees and require significant attention from our management. Any of the foregoing issues may adversely impact the success of our licensing business and adversely affect our future operating results.

### ***We must attract and retain qualified personnel to be successful, and competition for qualified personnel can be intense.***

Our success depends upon the efforts and abilities of our senior management, engineering and other personnel. The competition for qualified engineering and management personnel can be intense. We may be unsuccessful in retaining our existing key personnel or in attracting and retaining additional key personnel that we require. The loss of the services of one or more of our key personnel or the inability to add key personnel could harm our business. We have no employment agreements with any member of our senior management team.

### ***We are dependent on several contractors to perform key manufacturing functions for us, and our licensees of our SuperFlash technology also rely on foundries and other contractors.***

We use several contractors located in Asia for a portion of the assembly and testing of our products. We also rely on outside wafer foundries for a portion of our wafer fabrication. Although we own the majority of our manufacturing resources,

the disruption or termination of any of our contractors could harm our business and operating results.

Our use of third parties involves some reduction in our level of control over the portions of our business that we subcontract. Our future operating results could suffer if any contractor were to experience financial, operational or production difficulties or situations when demand exceeds capacity, or if they were unable to maintain manufacturing yields, assembly and test yields and costs at approximately their current levels, or if due to their locations in foreign countries they were to experience political upheaval or infrastructure disruption. Further, procurement of required products and services from third parties is done by purchase order and contracts. If these third parties are unable or unwilling to timely deliver products or services conforming to our quality standards, we may not be able to qualify additional manufacturing sources for our products in a timely manner or at all, and such arrangements, if any, may not be on favorable terms to us. In such event, we could experience an interruption in production, an increase in manufacturing and production costs or a decline in product reliability, and our business and operating results could be adversely affected.

Certain of our SuperFlash technology licensees also rely on outside wafer foundries for wafer fabrication services. If the licensees were to experience any disruption in supply from the wafer foundries, this would reduce the revenue we receive in our technology licensing business and would harm our operating results.

***We may lose sales if our suppliers of raw materials and equipment fail to meet our needs.***

Our semiconductor manufacturing operations require raw materials and equipment that must meet exacting standards. We generally have more than one source for these supplies, but there are only a limited number of suppliers capable of delivering various raw materials and equipment that meet our standards. The raw materials and equipment necessary for our business could become more difficult to obtain as worldwide use of semiconductors in product applications increases. We have experienced supply shortages from time to time in the past, and on occasion our suppliers have told us they need more time than expected to fill our orders or that they will no longer support certain equipment with updates or spare and replacement parts. An interruption of any raw materials or equipment sources, or the lack of supplier support for a particular piece of equipment, could harm our business.

***Our operating results may be impacted by both seasonality and the wide fluctuations of supply and demand in the semiconductor industry.***

The semiconductor industry is characterized by seasonality and wide fluctuations of supply and demand. Since a significant portion of our revenue is from consumer markets and international sales, our business may be subject to seasonally lower revenues in the third and fourth quarters of our fiscal year. However, broad fluctuations in our overall business in recent periods, semiconductor industry conditions and global economic conditions have had a more significant impact on our results than seasonality, and have made it difficult to assess the impact of seasonal factors on our business. The industry has also experienced significant economic downturns, characterized by diminished product demand and production over-capacity. We have sought to reduce our exposure to this industry cyclically by selling proprietary products that cannot be easily or quickly replaced to a geographically diverse base of customers across a broad range of market segments. However, we have experienced substantial period-to-period fluctuations in operating results and expect, in the future, to experience period-to-period fluctuations in operating results due to general industry or economic conditions.

***We are exposed to various risks related to legal proceedings or claims.***

We are currently, and in the future may be, involved in legal proceedings or claims regarding patent infringement, intellectual property rights, contracts and other matters. As is typical in the semiconductor industry, we receive notifications from customers or licensees from time to time who believe that we owe them indemnification or other obligations related to infringement claims made against us or the customers or licensees by third parties. These legal proceedings and claims, whether with or without merit, could result in substantial cost to us and divert our resources. If we are not able to resolve a claim, settle a matter, obtain necessary licenses on commercially reasonable terms, reengineer our products or processes to avoid infringement, and/or successfully prosecute or defend our position, we could incur uninsured liability in any of them, be required to take an appropriate charge to operations, be enjoined from selling a material portion of our products or using certain processes, suffer a reduction or elimination in the value of our inventories, and our business, financial condition or results of operations could be harmed.

It is also possible that from time to time we may be subject to claims related to the manufacture, performance or use of our products. These claims may be due to injuries or environmental exposures related to manufacturing, a product's nonconformance to our specifications, or specifications agreed upon with the customer, changes in our manufacturing processes, or unexpected end customer system issues due to the interaction with our products or insufficient design or testing

by our customers. We could incur significant expenses related to such matters, including, but not limited to:

- costs related to writing off the value of our inventory of nonconforming products;
- recalling nonconforming products;
- providing support services, product replacements, or modifications to products and the defense of such claims;
- diversion of resources from other projects;
- lost revenue or a delay in the recognition of revenue due to cancellation of orders and unpaid receivables;
- customer imposed fines or penalties for failure to meet contractual requirements; and
- a requirement to pay damages.

Because the systems into which our products are integrated have a higher cost of goods than the products we sell, our expenses and damages may be significantly higher than the sales and profits we received from the products involved. While we specifically exclude consequential damages in our standard terms and conditions, our ability to avoid such liabilities may be limited by applicable law. We do have liability insurance which covers damages arising out of product defects, but we do not expect that insurance will cover all claims or be of a sufficient amount to fully protect against such claims. Costs or payments we may make in connection with these customer claims may adversely affect the results of our operations.

Further, we sell to customers in industries such as automotive, aerospace, and medical, where failure of the systems in which our products are integrated could cause damage to property or persons. We may be subject to claims if our products, or interactions with our products, cause the system failures. We will face increased exposure to claims if there are substantial increases in either the volume of our sales into these applications or the frequency of system failures integrating our products.

***Failure to adequately protect our intellectual property could result in lost revenue or market opportunities.***

Our ability to obtain patents, licenses and other intellectual property rights covering our products and manufacturing processes is important for our success. To that end, we have acquired certain patents and patent licenses and intend to continue to seek patents on our technology and manufacturing processes. The process of seeking patent protection can be long and expensive, and patents may not be issued from currently pending or future applications. In addition, our existing and new patents, trademarks and copyrights that issue may not be of sufficient scope or strength to provide meaningful protection or any commercial advantage to us. We may be subject to or may ourselves initiate interference proceedings in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, patent offices of a foreign country or U.S. or foreign courts, which can require significant financial and management resources. In addition, the laws of certain foreign countries do not protect our intellectual property rights to the same extent as the laws of the U.S. Infringement of our intellectual property rights by a third party could result in uncompensated lost market and revenue opportunities for us. Although we continue to vigorously and aggressively defend and protect our intellectual property on a worldwide basis, there can be no assurance that we will be successful in our endeavors.

***Our operating results may be adversely impacted if economic conditions impact the financial viability of our licensees, customers, distributors, or suppliers.***

We regularly review the financial performance of our licensees, customers, distributors and suppliers. However, any downturn in global economic conditions may adversely impact the financial viability of our licensees, customers, distributors or suppliers. The financial failure of a large licensee, customer or distributor, an important supplier, or a group thereof, could have an adverse impact on our operating results and could result in our not being able to collect our accounts receivable balances, higher reserves for doubtful accounts, write-offs for accounts receivable, and higher operating costs as a percentage of revenues.

***We do not typically have long-term contracts with our customers.***

We do not typically enter into long-term contracts with our customers and we cannot be certain about future order levels from our customers. When we do enter into customer contracts, the contract is generally cancelable at the convenience of the customer. Even though we had approximately 74,000 customers and our ten largest direct customers made up approximately 8% of our total revenue for the nine months ended December 31, 2011, cancellation of customer contracts could have an adverse financial impact on our revenue and profits.

Further, as the practice has become more commonplace in the industry, we have entered into contracts with certain customers that differ from our standard terms of sale. For example, under these contracts we may commit to supply specific quantities of products on scheduled delivery dates, or agree to extend our obligations for certain liabilities such as warranties or indemnification for claims of intellectual property infringement. If we agree to special supply terms and we become unable to supply the customer as required under the contract, the customer may incur additional production costs, lost revenues due to



subsequent delays in their own manufacturing schedule, or quality-related issues. If we agree to special warranty or indemnification provisions, we may be liable for the customer's costs, expenses and damages associated with their claims and we may be obligated to defend the customer against claims of intellectual property infringement and pay the associated legal fees. While we try to limit the number of contracts that we sign which contain such special provisions, manage the risks underlying such liabilities and set caps on our liability exposure, such provisions do expose us to significant additional risks and could result in a material adverse impact on our results of operation and financial condition.

***Business interruptions to our operations or the operations of our key vendors, subcontractors, licensees or customers, whether due to natural disasters or other events, could harm our business.***

Operations at any of our facilities, at the facilities of any of our wafer fabrication or assembly and test subcontractors, or at any of our significant vendors may be disrupted for reasons beyond our control. These reasons may include work stoppages, power loss, incidents of terrorism or security risk, political instability, public health issues, telecommunications, transportation or other infrastructure failure, radioactive contamination, fire, earthquake, floods, volcanic eruptions or other natural disasters. We have taken steps to mitigate the impact of some of these events should they occur; however, we cannot be certain that our actions will be effective to avoid a significant impact on our business in the event of a disaster or other business interruption.

In particular, Thailand has recently experienced a period of severe flooding; however, our facilities in Thailand have continued to operate normally. There can be no assurance that the current or any future flooding would not have a material adverse impact on our operations. If operations at any of our facilities, or our subcontractors' facilities are interrupted, we may not be able to shift production to other facilities on a timely basis, and we may need to spend significant amounts to repair or replace our facilities and equipment. If we experienced business interruptions, we would likely experience delays in shipments of products to our customers and alternate sources for production may be unavailable on acceptable terms. This could result in reduced revenues and profits and the cancellation of orders or loss of customers. Although we maintain business interruption insurance, such insurance will likely not be enough to compensate us for any losses that may occur and any losses or damages incurred by us as a result of business interruptions could significantly harm our business.

Additionally, as described above, operations at our customers and licensees may be disrupted for a number of reasons. In the event of customer disruptions, sales of our products may decline and our revenue, profitability and financial condition could suffer. Likewise, if our licensees are unable to manufacture and ship products incorporating our technology, or if there is a decrease in product demand due to a business disruption, our royalty revenue may decline as our licenses are based on per unit royalties.

***We are highly dependent on foreign sales and operations, which exposes us to foreign political and economic risks.***

Sales to foreign customers account for a substantial portion of our net sales. During fiscal 2011, approximately 80% of our net sales were made to foreign customers. During the first nine months of fiscal 2012, approximately 82% of our net sales were made to foreign customers. We purchase a substantial portion of our raw materials and equipment from foreign suppliers. In addition, we own product assembly and testing facilities located near Bangkok, Thailand, which has experienced periods of political instability in the past, and experienced some instability in Bangkok in May 2010, though the situation in 2010 did not noticeably affect the area in which our facilities are located. Thailand has recently experienced a period of severe flooding; however, our facilities have continued to operate normally. There can be no assurance that the current or any future flooding would not have a material adverse impact on our operations. We use various foreign contractors for a portion of our assembly and testing and for a portion of our wafer fabrication requirements. Substantially all of our finished goods inventory is maintained in Thailand.

Our reliance on foreign operations, foreign suppliers, maintenance of substantially all of our finished goods inventory at foreign locations and significant foreign sales exposes us to foreign political and economic risks, including, but not limited to:

- political, social and economic instability;
- public health conditions;
- trade restrictions and changes in tariffs;
- import and export license requirements and restrictions;
- difficulties in staffing and managing international operations;
- employment regulations;
- disruptions in international transport or delivery;
- difficulties in collecting receivables;
- economic uncertainty in the worldwide markets served by us; and
- potentially adverse tax consequences.

If any of these risks materialize, our sales could decrease and our operating results could suffer.

***Fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates could impact our operating results.***

We use forward currency exchange contracts in an attempt to reduce the adverse earnings impact from the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on our non-U.S. dollar net balance sheet exposures. Nevertheless, in periods when the U.S. dollar significantly fluctuates in relation to the non-U.S. currencies in which we transact business, the value of our non-U.S. dollar transactions can have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. In particular, in periods when a foreign currency significantly declines in value in relation to the U.S. dollar, such as past declines in the Euro relative to the U.S. dollar, customers transacting in that foreign currency may find it more difficult to fulfill their previously committed contractual obligations or to undertake new obligations to make payments or purchase products. In periods when the U.S. dollar is significantly declining in relation to the British pound, Euro and Thai baht, the operational costs in our European and Thailand subsidiaries are adversely affected.

***Interruptions in our information technology systems could adversely affect our business.***

We rely on the efficient and uninterrupted operation of complex information technology systems and networks to operate our business. Any significant system or network disruption, including, but not limited to, new system implementations, computer viruses, security breaches, facility issues or energy blackouts could have a material adverse impact on our operations, sales and operating results. Such network disruption could result in a loss of our intellectual property or the release of sensitive competitive information or partner, customer or employee personal data. Any loss of such information could harm our competitive position, result in a loss of customer confidence, and cause us to incur significant costs to remedy the damages caused by the disruptions or security breaches. From time to time, we have experienced verifiable attacks on our data by unauthorized parties; however, such attacks have not resulted in any material damage to us. In recent years, we have implemented improvements to our protective measures which are not limited to the following: firewalls, antivirus, patches, log monitors, routine backups with offsite retention of storage media, system audits, data partitioning and routine password modifications. There can be no assurance that such system improvements will be sufficient to prevent or limit the damage from any future cyber attack or disruptions and any such attack or disruption could have a material adverse impact on our business, operations and financial results.

Third-party service providers, such as foundries, assembly houses, distributors, credit card processors and other vendors have access to certain portions of our sensitive data. In the event that these service providers do not properly safeguard our data that they hold, security breaches and loss of our data could result. Any such loss of data by our third-party service providers could negatively impact our business, operations and financial results.

***The occurrence of events for which we are self-insured, or which exceed our insurance limits, may adversely affect our profitability and liquidity.***

We have insurance contracts with independent insurance companies related to many different types of risk; however, we self-insure for some potentially significant risks and obligations. In these circumstances, we have determined that it is more cost effective to self-insure certain risks than to pay the high premium costs. The risks and exposures that we self-insure include, but are not limited to, certain property, product defects, political risks, and intellectual property matters. Should there be a loss or adverse judgment or other decision in an area for which we are self-insured, then our financial condition, results of operations and liquidity may be adversely affected.

***We are subject to stringent environmental regulations, which may force us to incur significant expenses.***

We must comply with many different federal, state, local and foreign governmental regulations related to the use, storage, discharge and disposal of toxic, volatile or otherwise hazardous substances used in our products and manufacturing processes. Our failure to comply with applicable regulations could result in the imposition of fines, suspension of production, cessation of operations or future liabilities. Such environmental regulations have required us in the past and could require us in the future to acquire costly equipment or to incur other significant expenses to comply with such regulations. Any failure by us to control the use of or adequately restrict the discharge of hazardous substances could also restrict our ability to ship certain products to certain countries, require us to modify our operations logistics, or require us to incur other significant costs and expenses. Over the past several years, there has been an expansion in environmental laws focusing on reducing or eliminating hazardous substances in electronic products. The European Union and countries such as the U.S., China, Korea and Brazil, have enacted or may enact such laws or regulations. These and other future environmental regulations could require us to reengineer certain of our existing products and may make it more expensive for us to manufacture and sell our products. In

addition, over the last several years, the number and complexity of laws focused on the energy efficiency of electronic products and accessories, the recycling of electronic products, and the reduction in quantity and the recycling of packaging materials have expanded significantly. It may be difficult for us to timely comply with these laws and we may not have sufficient quantities of compliant products to meet customers' needs, thereby adversely impacting our sales and profitability. We may also have to write off inventory in the event that we hold inventory that is not saleable as a result of changes to regulations. We expect these risks and trends to continue. In addition, we anticipate increased customer requirements to meet voluntary criteria related to the reduction or elimination of hazardous substances in our products and energy efficiency measures.

***Customer demands and new regulations related to conflict-free minerals may force us to incur additional expenses.***

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act requires disclosure of use of "conflict" minerals mined from the Democratic Republic of Congo and adjoining countries and efforts to prevent the use of such minerals. In the semiconductor industry, these minerals are most commonly found in metals. As there may be only a limited number of suppliers offering "conflict free" metals, we cannot be sure that we will be able to obtain necessary metals in sufficient quantities or at competitive prices. Also, since our supply chain is complex and some suppliers will not share their confidential supplier information, we may face challenges with our customers and suppliers if we are unable to sufficiently verify that the metals used in our products are "conflict free." Some customers may choose to disqualify us as a supplier and we may have to write off inventory in the event that it becomes unsaleable as a result of these regulations.

***Climate change regulations and sustained adverse climate change poses both regulatory and physical risks that could harm our results of operations or affect the way we conduct our business.***

New climate change regulations could require us to limit emissions, change our manufacturing processes, obtain substitute materials that may cost more or be less available, increase our investment in control technology for greenhouse gas emissions, fund offset projects or undertake other costly activities. These regulations could significantly increase our costs and restrict our manufacturing operations by virtue of requirements for new equipment. It is possible that new permits will be required for our current or expanded operations. Failure to receive timely permits could result in the imposition of fines, suspension of production, or cessation of operations. In addition, new restrictions on carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gas emissions could result in significant costs such as higher energy costs, and utility companies passing down carbon taxes, emission cap and trade programs and renewable portfolio standards. The cost of complying, or of failing to comply, with these and other climate change and emissions regulations could have an adverse effect on our operating results.

Further, any sustained adverse change in climate could have a direct adverse economic impact on us such as water and power shortages or higher costs for water or energy to control the temperature inside of our facilities. Also, certain of our operations are located in tropical regions, such as Thailand. Some environmental experts predict that these regions may become vulnerable to storms, severe floods and droughts due to climate change. While we maintain business recovery plans that are intended to allow us to recover from natural disasters or other events that can be disruptive to our business, we cannot be certain that our plans will protect us from all such disasters or events.

***Regulatory authorities in jurisdictions into which we ship our products could levy fines or restrict our ability to export products.***

A significant portion of our sales are made outside of the U.S. through the exporting and re-exporting of products. In addition to local jurisdictions' export regulations, our U.S.-manufactured products or products based on U.S. technology are subject to U.S. laws and regulations governing international trade and exports, including, but not limited to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, Export Administration Regulations (EAR), and trade sanctions against embargoed countries and destinations administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). Licenses or proper license exceptions are required for the shipment of our products to certain countries. A determination by the U.S. or local government that we have failed to comply with these or other export regulations or anti-bribery regulations can result in penalties which may include denial of export privileges, fines, civil or criminal penalties, and seizure of products. Such penalties could have a material adverse effect on our business including our ability to meet our sales and earnings targets. Further, a change in these laws and regulations could restrict our ability to export to previously permitted countries, customers, distributors or other third parties. Any one or more of these sanctions or a change in laws or regulations could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

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

We are subject to examination of our income tax returns by the I.R.S. and other tax authorities for fiscal 2009 and

later. We are currently being audited by the I.R.S. for fiscal 2009 and fiscal 2010. We are subject to certain income tax examinations in foreign jurisdictions for fiscal 2004 and later. 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 continuing examinations will not have an adverse effect on our future operating results.

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

The market price of our common stock has fluctuated significantly in the past and is likely to fluctuate in the future. The future trading price of our common stock could be subject to wide fluctuations in response to a variety of factors, many of which are beyond our control, including, but not limited to:

- quarterly variations in our operating results and the operating results of other technology companies;
- actual or anticipated announcements of technical innovations or new products by us or our competitors;
- changes in analysts' estimates of our financial performance or buy/sell recommendations;
- changes in our financial guidance or our failure to meet such guidance;
- any acquisitions we pursue or complete;
- general conditions in the semiconductor industry; and
- global economic and financial conditions.

In addition, the stock market has from time to time experienced significant price and volume fluctuations that have affected the market prices for many companies and that often have been unrelated to the operating performance of such companies. These broad market fluctuations and other factors have harmed and may harm the market price of our common stock. Some or all of the foregoing factors could also cause the market price of our convertible debentures to decline or fluctuate substantially.

***We may not fully realize the anticipated benefits of our completed or future acquisitions or divestitures.***

We have acquired, and expect in the future to acquire, additional businesses that we believe will complement or augment our existing businesses. The integration process for our acquisitions, such as our acquisition of SST, may be complex, costly and time consuming and include unanticipated issues, expenses and liabilities. We may not be able to successfully or profitably integrate, operate, maintain and manage any newly acquired operations or employees. We may not be able to maintain uniform standards, procedures and policies and we may be unable to realize the expected synergies and cost savings from the integration. There may be increased risk due to integrating financial reporting and internal control systems. We may have difficulty in developing, manufacturing and marketing the products of a newly acquired company, or in growing the business at the rate we anticipate. Following an acquisition, we may not achieve the revenue or net income levels that justify the acquisition. We may suffer loss of key employees, customers and strategic partners of acquired companies. We may be subject to claims by terminated employees, shareholders of acquired companies and other third parties related to the transaction. Acquisitions may also result in one-time charges (such as acquisition-related expenses, write-offs, restructuring charges, or future impairment of goodwill), contingent liabilities, adverse tax consequences, additional stock-based compensation expense and other charges that adversely affect our operating results. Additionally, we may fund acquisitions of new businesses or strategic alliances by utilizing cash, raising debt, issuing shares of common stock, or other mechanisms.

While the risks above may be relevant to all of our acquisitions, our April 2010 acquisition of SST was a larger and more complex transaction than our other recent transactions and exposes us to greater risks and liabilities than we have encountered in the past.

Further, when we decide to sell assets or a business, we may encounter difficulty in finding or completing divestiture opportunities or alternative exit strategies on acceptable terms or in a timely manner. These circumstances could delay the accomplishment of our strategic objectives or cause us to incur additional expenses with respect to a business that we want to dispose of, or we may dispose of a business at a price or on terms that are less favorable than we had anticipated. Even following a divestiture, we may be contractually obligated with respect to certain continuing obligations to customers, vendors or other third parties and such obligations may have a material adverse impact on our results of operation and financial condition.

In addition to acquisitions, we have in the past and expect in the future to enter into joint development agreements or other business or strategic relationships with other companies. These transactions are subject to a number of risks similar to those we face with our acquisitions including our ability to realize the expected benefits of any such transaction, to successfully market and sell any products resulting from such transactions or to successfully integrate any technology developed through such transactions.

***We may in the future incur impairments to goodwill or long-lived assets.***

We review our long-lived assets, including goodwill and other intangible assets, for impairment annually in the fourth fiscal quarter or whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of those assets may not be recoverable. Factors that may be considered in assessing whether goodwill or intangible assets may not be recoverable include a decline in our stock price or market capitalization, reduced estimates of future cash flows and slower growth rates in our industry. Our valuation methodology for assessing impairment requires management to make judgments and assumptions based on historical experience and to rely heavily on projections of future operating performance. Because we operate in highly competitive environments, projections of future operating results and cash flows may vary significantly from our actual results. No goodwill or long-lived asset impairment charges were recorded in fiscal 2011 or the first nine months of fiscal 2012.

***Our financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected if we do not effectively manage our convertible debt.***

As a result of our sale of \$1.15 billion of principal value 2.125% junior subordinated convertible debentures in December 2007, we have a substantially greater amount of long-term debt than we have maintained in the past. Our maintenance of substantial levels of debt could adversely affect our ability to take advantage of corporate opportunities and could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. We may need or desire to refinance all or a portion of our debentures or any other future indebtedness that we incur on or before the maturity of the debentures. There can be no assurance that we will be able to refinance any of our indebtedness on commercially reasonable terms, if at all.

***Conversion of our debentures will dilute the ownership interest of existing stockholders, including holders who had previously converted their debentures.***

The conversion of some or all of our outstanding debentures will dilute the ownership interest of existing stockholders to the extent we deliver common stock upon conversion of the debentures. Upon conversion, we may satisfy our conversion obligation by delivering cash, shares of common stock or any combination, at our option. If upon conversion we elect to deliver cash for the lesser of the conversion value and principal amount of the debentures, we would pay the holder the cash value of the applicable number of shares of our common stock. Upon conversion, we intend to satisfy the lesser of the principal amount or the conversion value of the debentures in cash. If the conversion value of a debenture exceeds the principal amount of the debenture, we may also elect to deliver cash in lieu of common stock for the conversion value in excess of the one thousand dollars principal amount (i.e., the conversion spread). There would be no adjustment to the numerator in the net income per common share computation for the cash settled portion of the debentures as that portion of the debt instrument will always be settled in cash. The conversion spread will be included in the denominator for the computation of diluted net income per common share. Any sales in the public market of any common stock issuable upon such conversion could adversely affect prevailing market prices of our common stock. In addition, the existence of the debentures may encourage short selling by market participants because the conversion of the debentures could be used to satisfy short positions, or anticipated conversion of the debentures into shares of our common stock could depress the price of our common stock.

***Our reported financial results may be adversely affected by new accounting pronouncements or changes in existing accounting standards and practices.***

We prepare our financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. These accounting principles are subject to interpretation or changes by the FASB and the SEC. New accounting pronouncements and varying interpretations of accounting standards and practices have occurred in the past and may occur in the future. New accounting pronouncements or a change in the interpretation of existing accounting standards or practices may have a significant effect on our reported financial results and may even affect our reporting of transactions completed before the change is announced or effective.

***Potential U.S. tax legislation regarding our foreign earnings could materially and adversely impact our business and financial results.***

Currently, a majority of our revenue is generated from customers located outside the U.S., and a substantial portion of our assets, including employees, are located outside the U.S. Present U.S. income taxes and foreign withholding taxes have not been provided on undistributed earnings for certain of our non-U.S. subsidiaries, because such earnings are intended to be indefinitely reinvested in the operations of those subsidiaries. In fiscal 2009, President Obama's administration announced initiatives that would substantially reduce our ability to defer U.S. taxes including repealing the deferral of U.S. taxation of

foreign earnings, eliminating utilization of or substantially reducing our ability to claim foreign tax credits, and eliminating various tax deductions until foreign earnings are repatriated to the U.S. Changes in tax law such as these proposals could have a material negative impact on our financial position and results of operations.

***The value of our investments in marketable equity investments could change materially.***

Our investments in available-for-sale marketable securities at December 31, 2011 consist of shares of public company common stock, the value of which is determined by the closing price of such shares on the respective markets on which the shares are traded as of our balance sheet date. The market value of these investments was approximately \$6.2 million at December 31, 2011. The stock prices of these securities could materially decrease due to company performance or market-related activity, negatively affecting the value of these investments. If we wanted to liquidate these investments at a time in which the stock prices had decreased from current levels, our realized return would be materially and adversely affected. Depending on the number of shares we desire to sell relative to the daily trading volume in the shares, in the event we desire to sell our marketable securities, it may take several weeks or months to dispose of our position and our efforts to sell could drive down the price of the shares we are selling.

***We may not realize a return on our non-marketable equity investments.***

At December 31, 2011, we had investments of \$7.8 million in several privately held companies, including those that we acquired as a result of our SST acquisition that SST had purchased to support its strategic initiatives. These companies range from early-stage companies to more mature companies with established revenue and business models. Many factors are critical to the success of these companies, including product and technology development, market acceptance of their products and technology, and efficiency of operations. If any of these private companies are unsuccessful as a result of these or other factors, we could lose all or part of our investment in that company. Also, if we determine that an other-than-temporary impairment to fair value exists in any of our non-marketable equity investments, we will need to write down the investment to its fair value and recognize the related impairment charge.

Additionally, we may desire to dispose of one or more of these non-marketable equity investments from time to time. However, our investments in these private companies are not liquid and we may not be able to dispose of the investments to our advantage or even at all. Also, for investments accounted for under the equity method of accounting, the income or loss we are required to share from the investee's income or loss could affect our earnings. Gains or losses from equity securities could vary from our expectations depending on gains or losses realized on the sale or exchange of securities, gains or losses from equity method investments, and impairment charges.

***Credit conditions have adversely impacted our holdings of auction rate securities.***

At December 31, 2011, \$11.7 million of the fair value of our investment portfolio was invested in ARS. Historically, the carrying value of ARS approximated fair value due to the frequent resetting of the interest rates. With the continuing liquidity issues in the global credit and capital markets, our ARS have experienced multiple failed auctions. As a result, we will not be able to access such funds until a future auction on these investments is successful.

Our ARS have experienced multiple rating downgrades by the major rating agencies. The fair value of these ARS has been estimated based on market information and estimates determined by management and could change significantly based on market conditions. Based on the estimated values, we concluded these investments were other than temporarily impaired and have recognized impairment charges on these investments in prior periods. Although we did not recognize an impairment charge for the three-month period ended December 31, 2011, we recognized impairment charges of \$0.8 million for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2011. If the issuers are unable to successfully close future auctions or if their credit ratings deteriorate further, we may be required to further adjust the carrying value of the investments through an additional impairment charge to earnings.

The majority of our short and long-term investments are in highly rated government agency bonds and corporate bonds. Other than with respect to our holdings of ARS, we have not experienced any liquidity or impairment issues with such investments. However, there can be no assurance that credit market conditions will not in the future adversely affect the liquidity or value of our investments in government agency bonds or corporate bonds.

**Item 6. Exhibits**

- 10.1 Microchip Technology Incorporated 2001 Employee Stock Purchase Plan as amended through March 1, 2012
- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32 Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

**SIGNATURES**

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

**MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATED**

Date: February 6, 2012

By: /s/ J. Eric Bjornholt  
J. Eric Bjornholt  
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
(Duly Authorized Officer, and  
Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)



**Exhibit 10.1**

**MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATED**

**2001 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN**

**As Amended Through March 1, 2012**

The following constitute the provisions of the 2001 Employee Stock Purchase Plan of Microchip Technology Incorporated, as amended through March 1, 2012.

1. Purpose. The purpose of the Plan is to provide employees of the Company and one or more of its Corporate Affiliates an opportunity to purchase Common Stock of the Company through accumulated payroll deductions. It is the intention of the Company to have the Plan qualify as an "Employee Stock Purchase Plan" under Section 423 of the Code. The provisions of the Plan, accordingly, shall be construed so as to extend and limit participation in a uniform and nondiscriminatory basis consistent with the requirements of Section 423.

2. Definitions.

(a) "Administrator" shall mean the Committee designated by the Board to administer the Plan pursuant to Section 14.

(b) "Board" shall mean the Board of Directors of the Company.

(c) "Change of Control" shall mean the occurrence of any of the following events:

(i) a merger or other reorganization in which the Company will not be the surviving corporation (other than a reorganization effected primarily to change the State in which the Company is incorporated); or

(ii) the consummation of the sale or disposition by the Company of all or substantially all of the Company's assets; or

(iii) a reverse merger in which the Company is the surviving corporation but in which more than fifty percent (50%) of the Company's outstanding voting stock is transferred to a person or persons different from those who held the stock immediately prior to such merger.

(d) "Code" shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

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(e) “Committee” means a committee of the Board appointed by the Board in accordance with Section 14 hereof.

(f) “Common Stock” shall mean the common stock of the Company, par value \$0.001.

(g) “Company” shall mean Microchip Technology Incorporated, a Delaware corporation.

(h) “Compensation” shall mean the following items paid to an Eligible Employee by the Company and/ or one or more Corporate Affiliates during such individual’s period of participation in the Plan: (i) regular base salary, and (ii) any pre-tax contributions made by the Eligible Employees to any Code Section 401(k) plan, any Code Section 125 Plan, any unfunded non-qualified deferred compensation plan described in Sections 201(2), 301(a)(3) or 401(a)(1) of ERISA, and (iii) all overtime payments, bonuses, commissions, profit-sharing distributions and other incentive type payments. There shall be excluded any contributions (except 401(k) and 125 contributions) made on the Eligible Employee’s behalf by the Company or Corporate Affiliate.

(i) “Corporate Affiliate” shall mean any parent or subsidiary of the Company (as defined in Section 424 of the Code) which is incorporated in the United States, including any parent or subsidiary corporation which becomes such after the Effective Date.

(j) “Effective Date” shall mean March 1, 2002.

(k) “Eligible Employee” shall mean any individual who is a common law employee of any Participating Company and whose customary employment with the Participating Company is at least 20 hours per week and more than five (5) months in any calendar year. For purposes of the Plan, the employment relationship shall be treated as continuing intact while the individual is on sick leave or other leave of absence approved by the Company. Where the period of leave exceeds 90 days and the individual's right to reemployment is not guaranteed either by statute or in writing signed by a duly authorized officer of the Company, the employment relationship shall be deemed to have terminated on the 91st day of such leave.

(l) “Entry Date” shall mean the first Trading Day of any Offering Period. An Entry Date occurs on the first Trading Day in March or September.

(m) “ERISA” shall mean the Employee Retirement Income Security of 1974, as amended.

(n) “Exercise Date” shall mean the first Trading Day of March and September.

(o) “Fair Market Value” shall mean the closing sales price for such stock (or the closing bid, if no sales were reported) as quoted on such exchange or system on the date of determination, as reported in *The Wall Street Journal* or such other source as the Board deems reliable; provided, however, that if there is no closing sales price (or closing bid price, if applicable) for such date, then the closing sales price (or closing bid price, if applicable) for the next day for which such quotation exists.

(p) “Offering Periods” shall mean a period of time during which an option granted pursuant to the Plan may be exercised. The Plan shall be implemented by a series of Offering Periods (“Series of

Offering Periods”). Each Series of Offering Periods shall contain four (4) Offering Periods. The first Offering Period in the Series shall commence on the first Trading Day on or after March 1, 2002, and shall end on the first Trading Day on or after March 1, 2004 (the “Last Day of the Series”). The second Offering Period in the Series shall commence on the next following Entry Date, shall last approximately 18 months and shall end on the Last Day of the Series. The third Offering Period in the Series shall commence on the next following Entry Date, shall last approximately 12 months and shall end on the Last Day of the Series. The fourth Offering Period in the Series shall commence on the next following Entry Date, shall last approximately six (6) months and shall end on the Last Day of the Series. A new Series of Offering Periods shall commence on the Last Day of the Series. The duration and timing of Offering Periods may be changed pursuant to Section 19 of this Plan.

(q) “Participating Company” shall mean the Company and such Corporate Affiliates as may be designated from time to time by the Board to extend the benefits of the Plan to their Eligible Employees.

(r) “Plan” shall mean this Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

(s) “Purchase Period” shall mean the approximately six (6) month period commencing on one Exercise Date and ending with the next Exercise Date, except that the first Purchase Period of any Offering Period shall commence on the first Entry Date and end with the next Exercise Date.

(t) “Purchase Price” shall mean 85% of the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the Entry Date or on the Exercise Date, whichever is lower; provided, however, that the Purchase Price may be adjusted by the Administrator pursuant to Section 20.

(u) “Trading Day” shall mean a day on which national stock exchanges and the Nasdaq System are open for trading.

### 3. Eligibility.

(a) Generally. Any Eligible Employee on a given Entry Date shall be eligible to participate in the Plan.

(b) Limitations. Any provisions of the Plan to the contrary notwithstanding, no Eligible Employee shall be granted an option under the Plan (i) to the extent that, immediately after the grant, such Eligible Employee (or any other person whose stock would be attributed to such Eligible Employee pursuant to Section 424(d) of the Code) would own capital stock of the Company and/or hold outstanding options to purchase such stock possessing five percent (5%) or more of the total combined voting power or value of all classes of the capital stock of the Company or of any Subsidiary, or (ii) to the extent that his or her rights to purchase stock under all employee stock purchase plans of the Company and its subsidiaries accrues at a rate which exceeds \$25,000.00 worth of stock (determined at the fair market value of the shares at the time such option is granted) for each calendar year in which such option is outstanding at any time.

4. Offering Periods. The Plan shall be implemented by a series of Offering Periods (“Series of Offering Periods”). Each Series of Offering Periods shall contain four (4) Offering Periods. The first Offering Period in the Series shall commence on the first Trading Day on or after March 1, 2002, and shall end on the first Trading Day on or after March 1, 2004 (the “Last Day of the Series”). The second Offering Period in the Series shall commence on the next following Entry Date, shall last approximately 18 months and shall end on the Last Day of the Series. The third Offering Period in the Series shall commence on the next following

Entry Date, shall last approximately 12 months and shall end on the Last Day of the Series. The fourth Offering Period in the Series shall commence on the next following Entry Date, shall last approximately six (6) months and shall end on the Last Day of the Series. A new Series of Offering Periods shall commence on the Last Day of the Series. The duration and timing of Offering Periods may be changed pursuant to Section 19 of this Plan.

5. Participation. An Eligible Employee may become a participant in the Plan by enrolling via E\*Trade or completing a subscription agreement authorizing payroll deductions in the form of Exhibit A to this Plan and filing it with the Company's stock plan administrator, on a date determined by such administrator, which shall be no later than five (5) Trading Days prior to the applicable Entry Date.

6. Payroll Deductions.

(a) At the time a participant enrolls via E\*Trade or files his or her subscription agreement, he or she shall elect to have payroll deductions made on each pay day during the Offering Period in any multiple of one-percent (1%), but not exceeding ten-percent (10%) of the Compensation which he or she receives during each Purchase Period; provided, however, that should a payday occur on an Exercise Date, a participant shall have the payroll deductions made on such day applied to his or her account under the new Offering Period or Purchase Period, as the case may be. A participant's elections via E\*Trade enrollment or a subscription agreement shall remain in effect for successive Offering Periods unless terminated as provided in Section 10 hereof.

(b) Payroll deductions for a participant shall commence on the first payday following the Entry Date and shall end on the last payday in the Offering Period to which such authorization is applicable, unless sooner terminated by the participant as provided in Section 10 hereof. All payroll deductions made for a participant shall be credited to his or her account under the Plan and shall be withheld in whole percentages only. A participant may not make any additional payments into such account.

(c) A participant may discontinue his or her participation in the Plan as provided in Section 10 hereof, or may decrease (but not increase) the rate of his or her payroll deductions during the Offering Period by changing deductions via E\*Trade or completing or filing with the Company a new subscription agreement authorizing a change in payroll deduction rate. No more than one (1) such reduction shall be allowed in any Purchase Period. A participant may only increase the rate of his or her payroll deductions beginning with the next Offering Period which lasts 24 months. The change in rate shall be effective as soon as administratively practicable.

(d) Notwithstanding the foregoing, to the extent necessary to comply with Section 423(b)(8) of the Code and Section 3(b) hereof, a participant's payroll deductions may be decreased to zero percent (0%) at any time during a Purchase Period. Payroll deductions shall recommence at the rate provided in such participant's E\*Trade elections or subscription agreement at the beginning of the first Purchase Period which is scheduled to end in the following calendar year, unless terminated by the participant as provided in Section 10 hereof.

(e) At the time the option is exercised, in whole or in part, or at the time some or all of the Company's Common Stock issued under the Plan is disposed of, the participant must make adequate provision for the Company's federal, state, or other tax withholding obligations, if any, which arise upon the exercise of the option or the disposition of the Common Stock. At any time, the Company may, but shall not be obligated to, withhold from the participant's compensation the amount necessary for the Company to

meet applicable withholding obligations, including any withholding required to make available to the Company any tax deductions or benefits attributable to sale or early disposition of Common Stock by the Eligible Employee.

7. Grant of Option. On the Entry Date of each Offering Period, each Eligible Employee participating in such Offering Period shall be granted an option to purchase on each Exercise Date during such Offering Period (at the applicable Purchase Price) up to a number of shares of the Company's Common Stock determined by dividing such Eligible Employee's payroll deductions accumulated prior to such Exercise Date and retained in the Participant's account as of the Exercise Date by the applicable Purchase Price; provided that in no event shall an Eligible Employee be permitted to purchase during each Purchase Period more than 7,500<sup>1</sup> shares of the Company's Common Stock (subject to any adjustment pursuant to Section 19), and provided further that such purchase shall be subject to the limitations set forth in Sections 3(b) and 6 hereof. The Eligible Employee may accept the grant of such option by enrolling via E\*Trade or turning in a completed Subscription Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A) to the stock plan administrator, on a date determined by such administrator, which shall be no later than five (5) Trading Days prior to an applicable Entry Date. The Administrator may, for future Offering Periods, increase or decrease, in its absolute discretion, the maximum number of shares of the Company's Common Stock an Eligible Employee may purchase during each Purchase Period of such Offering Period. Exercise of the option shall occur as provided in Section 8 hereof, unless the participant has withdrawn pursuant to Section 10 hereof. The option shall expire on the last day of the Offering Period.

8. Exercise of Option.

(a) Unless a participant withdraws from the Plan as provided in Section 10 hereof, his or her option for the purchase of shares shall be exercised automatically on the Exercise Date, and the maximum number of full shares subject to option shall be purchased for such participant at the applicable Purchase Price with the accumulated payroll deductions in his or her account. No fractional shares shall be purchased; any payroll deductions accumulated in a participant's account which are not sufficient to purchase a full share shall be retained in the participant's account for the subsequent Purchase Period or Offering Period, subject to earlier withdrawal by the participant as provided in Section 10 hereof. Any other funds left over in a participant's account after the Exercise Date shall be returned to the participant. During a participant's lifetime, a participant's option to purchase shares hereunder is exercisable only by him or her.

(b) If the Administrator determines that, on a given Exercise Date, the number of shares with respect to which options are to be exercised may exceed (i) the number of shares of Common Stock that were available for sale under the Plan on the Entry Date of the applicable Offering Period, or (ii) the number of shares available for sale under the Plan on such Exercise Date, the Administrator may in its sole discretion (x) provide that the Company shall make a pro rata allocation of the shares of Common Stock available for purchase on such Entry Date or Exercise Date, as applicable, in as uniform a manner as shall be practicable and as it shall determine in its sole discretion to be equitable among all participants exercising options to purchase Common Stock on such Exercise Date, and continue all Offering Periods then in effect, or (y) provide that the Company shall make a pro rata allocation of the shares available for purchase on such Entry Date or Exercise Date, as applicable, in as uniform a manner as shall be practicable and as it shall

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<sup>1</sup> As adjusted for a May 2002 3-for-2 stock split.

determine in its sole discretion to be equitable among all participants exercising options to purchase Common Stock on such Exercise Date, and terminate any or all Offering Periods then in effect pursuant to Section 20 hereof. The Company may make pro rata allocation of the shares available on the Entry Date of any applicable Offering Period pursuant to the preceding sentence, notwithstanding any authorization of additional shares for issuance under the Plan by the Company's shareholders subsequent to such Entry Date.

9. Delivery. As soon as reasonably practicable after each Exercise Date on which a purchase of shares occurs, the Company shall arrange the delivery to each participant the shares purchased upon exercise of his or her option in a form determined by the Administrator.

10. Withdrawal.

(a) At any time prior to the last five (5) Trading Days of a Purchase Period, a participant may withdraw from the Plan by giving written notice to the Company in the form of Exhibit A to this Plan. The participant shall elect to either have (i) all of the participant's payroll deductions credited to his or her account used to purchase shares at the next Exercise Date or (ii) all payroll deductions credited to his or her account refunded. In neither event will any further payroll deductions for the purchase of shares be made for such Offering Period. If a participant withdraws from an Offering Period, the participant may not re-enroll in the Plan until the next Offering Period which lasts 24 months, and payroll deductions shall not resume at the beginning of such Offering Period unless the participant re-enrolls in the Plan via E\*Trade or delivers to the Company a new subscription agreement in a manner provided for in Section 5.

(b) A participant's withdrawal from an Offering Period shall not have any effect upon his or her eligibility to participate in any similar plan which may hereafter be adopted by the Company.

11. Termination of Employment. In the event a participant ceases to be an Eligible Employee of the Company or any Participating Company (other than as a result of death or Permanent Disability), any payroll deductions credited to such participant's account during the Offering Period but not yet used to purchase shares under the Plan shall be returned to such participant and such participant's option shall be automatically terminated. In the event a participant ceases to be an Employee of the Company or any Participating Company as a result of death or Permanent Disability, then such participant (or personal representative of the estate of the deceased participant) may elect at any time prior to the last five (5) Trading Days of a Purchase Period in which such termination occurs, to (i) have all of such participant's payroll deductions for such Purchase Period refunded to the Participant or (ii) have all such payroll deductions used to purchase the Company's common stock on the Exercise Date following such termination.

12. Interest. No interest shall accrue on the payroll deductions of a participant in the Plan.

13. Stock.

(a) Subject to adjustment upon changes in capitalization of the Company as provided in Section 19 hereof, the number of shares of the Company's Common Stock which shall be made available for sale under the Plan shall be 3,275,000 shares, plus up to 150,000 remaining unissued shares available as of the Effective Date under the Company's previous ESPP, and plus beginning January 1, 2005, and each January 1 thereafter during the term of the Plan, an automatic annual increase in shares reserved of the lesser of (i) 1,500,000 shares, (ii) one half of one percent (0.5%) of the then outstanding shares of our common stock,

or (iii) such lesser amount as is approved by our Board of Directors<sup>2</sup>; provided, however, that the shares under the Company's previous ESPP shall not be available for issuance under the Plan to the extent that such reservation would, in the opinion of the Company's independent auditors, result in a compensation expense to the Company under either EITF 97-12 or FIN 44<sup>3</sup>.

(b) Until the shares are issued (as evidenced by the appropriate entry on the books of the Company or of a duly authorized transfer agent of the Company), a participant shall only have the rights of an unsecured creditor with respect to such shares, and no right to vote or receive dividends or any other rights as a stockholder shall exist with respect to such shares.

(c) Shares to be delivered to a participant under the Plan shall be held in a brokerage account in street name.

14. Administration. The Administrator shall administer the Plan and shall have full and exclusive discretionary authority to construe, interpret and apply the terms of the Plan, to determine eligibility and to adjudicate all disputed claims filed under the Plan. Every finding, decision and determination made by the Administrator shall, to the full extent permitted by law, be final and binding upon all parties.

15. Designation of Beneficiary.

(a) A participant may file a written designation of a beneficiary who is to receive any payroll deductions, if any, from the participant's account under the Plan in the event of such participant's death subsequent to an Exercise Date on which the option is exercised but prior to delivery to such participant of such payroll deductions. In addition, a participant may file a written designation of a beneficiary who is to receive any payroll deductions from the participant's account under the Plan in the event of such participant's death prior to exercise of the option. If a participant is married and the designated beneficiary is not the spouse, spousal consent shall be required for such designation to be effective.

(b) Such designation of beneficiary may be changed by the participant at any time by written notice. In the event of the death of a participant and in the absence of a beneficiary validly designated under the Plan who is living at the time of such participant's death, the Company shall deliver such payroll deductions to the executor or administrator of the estate of the participant, or if no such executor or administrator has been appointed (to the knowledge of the Company), the Company, in its discretion, may deliver such payroll deductions to the spouse or to any one or more dependents or relatives of the participant, or if no spouse, dependent or relative is known to the Company, then to such other person as the Company may designate.

(c) All beneficiary designations shall be in such form and manner as the Administrator may designate from time to time.

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<sup>2</sup> Approved by shareholders August 15, 2003.

<sup>3</sup> All numbers in this Section 13(a) have been adjusted to reflect a May 2002 3-for-2 stock split, the additional 500,000 shares approved by the stockholders on August 16, 2002 and the additional 975,000 shares approved by the stockholders on August 15, 2003.

16. Transferability. Neither payroll deductions credited to a participant's account nor any rights with regard to the exercise of an option or to receive shares under the Plan may be assigned, transferred,

pledged or otherwise disposed of in any way (other than by will, the laws of descent and distribution or as provided in Section 15 hereof) by the participant. Any such attempt at assignment, transfer, pledge or other disposition shall be without effect, except that the Company may treat such act as an election to withdraw funds from an Offering Period in accordance with Section 10 hereof.

17. Use of Funds. All payroll deductions received or held by the Company under the Plan may be used by the Company for any corporate purpose, and the Company shall not be obligated to segregate such payroll deductions. Until shares are issued, participants shall only have the rights of an unsecured creditor.

18. Reports. Individual accounts shall be maintained for each participant in the Plan. Statements of account shall be given to participating Eligible Employees at least annually, which statements shall set forth the amounts of payroll deductions, the Purchase Price, the number of shares purchased and the remaining cash balance, if any.

19. Adjustments Upon Changes in Capitalization, Dissolution, Liquidation, Merger or Change of Control.

(a) Changes in Capitalization. Subject to any required action by the shareholders of the Company, the maximum number of shares of the Company's Common Stock which shall be made available for sale under the Plan, the maximum number of shares each participant may purchase each Purchase Period (pursuant to Section 7), as well as the price per share and the number of shares of Common Stock covered by each option under the Plan which has not yet been exercised shall be proportionately adjusted for any increase or decrease in the number of issued shares of Common Stock resulting from a stock split, reverse stock split, stock dividend, combination or reclassification of the Common Stock, or any other change in the number of shares of Common Stock effected without receipt of consideration by the Company; provided, however, that conversion of any convertible securities of the Company shall not be deemed to have been "effected without receipt of consideration." Such adjustment shall be made by the Administrator, whose determination in that respect shall be final, binding and conclusive. Except as expressly provided herein, no issuance by the Company of shares of stock of any class, or securities convertible into shares of stock of any class, shall affect, and no adjustment by reason thereof shall be made with respect to, the number or price of shares of Common Stock subject to an option.

(b) Change in Control. In the event of a Change of Control, each outstanding option shall be assumed or an equivalent option substituted by the successor corporation or a Parent or Subsidiary of the successor corporation. In the event that the successor corporation refuses to assume or substitute for the option, any Purchase Periods then in progress shall be shortened by setting a New Exercise Date and any Offering Periods then in progress shall end on the New Exercise Date. The New Exercise Date shall be before the date of the Company's proposed Change of Control. The Administrator shall notify each participant in writing, at least 10 business days prior to the New Exercise Date, that the Exercise Date for the participant's option has been changed to the New Exercise Date and that the participant's option shall be exercised automatically on the New Exercise Date, unless prior to such date the participant has withdrawn from the Offering Period as provided in Section 10 hereof.



20. Amendment or Termination.

(a) The Administrator may at any time and for any reason terminate or amend the Plan. Except as otherwise provided in the Plan, no such termination can affect options previously granted, provided that an Offering Period may be terminated by the Administrator on any Exercise Date if the Administrator determines that the termination of the Offering Period or the Plan is in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders. Except as provided in Section 19 and this Section 20 hereof, no amendment may make any change in any option theretofore granted which adversely affects the rights of any participant. To the extent necessary to comply with Section 423 of the Code (or any successor rule or provision or any other applicable law, regulation or stock exchange rule), the Company shall obtain shareholder approval in such a manner and to such a degree as required.

(b) Without shareholder consent and without regard to whether any participant rights may be considered to have been “adversely affected,” the Administrator shall be entitled to change the Offering Periods, limit the frequency and/or number of changes in the amount withheld during an Offering Period, establish the exchange ratio applicable to amounts withheld in a currency other than U.S. dollars, permit payroll withholding in excess of the amount designated by a participant in order to adjust for delays or mistakes in the Company's processing of properly completed withholding elections, establish reasonable waiting and adjustment periods and/or accounting and crediting procedures to ensure that amounts applied toward the purchase of Common Stock for each participant properly correspond with amounts withheld from the participant's Compensation, and establish such other limitations or procedures as the Administrator determines in its sole discretion advisable which are consistent with the Plan.

(c) In the event the Administrator determines that the ongoing operation of the Plan may result in unfavorable financial accounting consequences, the Board may, in its discretion and, to the extent necessary or desirable, modify or amend the Plan to reduce or eliminate such accounting consequence including, but not limited to:

(i) increasing the Purchase Price for any Offering Period including an Offering Period underway at the time of the change in Purchase Price;

(ii) shortening any Offering Period so that Offering Period ends on a new Exercise Date, including an Offering Period underway at the time of the Board action; and

(iii) allocating shares.

Such modifications or amendments shall not require stockholder approval or the consent of any Plan participants.

21. Notices. All notices or other communications by a participant to the Company under or in connection with the Plan shall be deemed to have been duly given when received in the form and manner specified by the Company at the location, or by the person, designated by the Company for the receipt thereof.

22. Conditions Upon Issuance of Shares. Shares shall not be issued with respect to an option unless the exercise of such option and the issuance and delivery of such shares pursuant thereto shall comply with all applicable provisions of law, domestic or foreign, including, without limitation, the Securities Act

of 1933, as amended, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, and the requirements of any stock exchange upon which the shares may then be listed, and shall be further subject to the approval of counsel for the Company with respect to such compliance.

As a condition to the exercise of an option, the Company may require the person exercising such option to represent and warrant at the time of any such exercise that the shares are being purchased only for investment and without any present intention to sell or distribute such shares if, in the opinion of counsel for the Company, such a representation is required by any of the aforementioned applicable provisions of law.

23. Term of Plan. The Plan shall become effective upon the earlier to occur of its adoption by the Board of Directors or its approval by the shareholders of the Company. It shall continue in effect until terminated under Section 20 hereof.

24. Automatic Transfer to Low Price Offering Period. To the extent permitted by any applicable laws, regulations, or stock exchange rules if the Fair Market Value of the Common Stock on any Exercise Date in an Offering Period is lower than the Fair Market Value of the Common Stock on the Entry Date of such Offering Period, then all participants in such Offering Period shall be automatically withdrawn from such Offering Period immediately after the exercise of their option on such Exercise Date and automatically re-enrolled in the immediately following Offering Period.



**SECTION III – BENEFICIARY (for payroll deducted, cash balance of contributions prior to a purchase)**

I understand that if I am married, my spouse shall automatically be my designated beneficiary unless I elect otherwise and my spouse consents to such election. When more than one beneficiary is designated, if the percentage is not specified, payment will be made in equal dollars to each surviving beneficiary, or all to the last surviving beneficiary.

**Primary Beneficiary**

I hereby designate the following person(s) as primary beneficiary of my payroll deduction account under the Plan payable by reason of my death.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship of Beneficiary</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**Contingent Beneficiary**

In the event that there is no living primary beneficiary at my death, I hereby designate the following person(s) as contingent beneficiary of my payroll deduction account.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship of Beneficiary</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**SECTION IV- CONSENT OF SPOUSE**

Note: If your spouse is not your Designated Primary Beneficiary, then this Designation of Beneficiary is invalid without the consent of your spouse unless your spouse waived the right to consent to any change in the beneficiary designation under a prior beneficiary designation.

I acknowledge that I am the spouse of the Participant named on the reverse side of this form. I hereby certify that I have read this Designation of Beneficiary Form and understand that I possess a beneficial interest in my spouse's payroll deduction account under the Plan if I survive him/her. I hereby acknowledge and consent to the Designation of Beneficiary on the reverse side of this form. My consent shall be irrevocable unless my spouse subsequently changes the Designation of Beneficiary.

If my spouse changes the designation, (Choose A or B):

- (A) I understand I must sign a new consent to the new designation for it to be effective.
- (B) I waive my right to consent to any future change in designation. I understand I have the right to restrict my consent only to the beneficiary designated on the reverse side of this form by checking box (A.)

I have executed this consent this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Participant's Spouse*

## CERTIFICATION

I, Steve Sanghi, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Form 10-Q of Microchip Technology Incorporated;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, 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;
  - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's Board of Directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 6, 2012

/s/ Steve Sanghi

Steve Sanghi  
President and CEO

## CERTIFICATION

I, J. Eric Bjornholt, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Form 10-Q of Microchip Technology Incorporated;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, 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;
  - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's Board of Directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 6, 2012

/s/ J. Eric Bjornholt

J. Eric Bjornholt

Vice President and CFO

**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**

I, Steve Sanghi, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that the Quarterly Report of Microchip Technology Incorporated on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended December 31, 2011 fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that information contained in such Form 10-Q fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of Microchip Technology Incorporated.

By: /s/ Steve Sanghi  
Name: Steve Sanghi  
Title: President and Chief Executive Officer  
Date: February 6, 2012

I, J. Eric Bjornholt, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that the Quarterly Report of Microchip Technology Incorporated on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended December 31, 2011 fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that information contained in such Form 10-Q fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of Microchip Technology Incorporated.

By: /s/ J. Eric Bjornholt  
Name: J. Eric Bjornholt  
Title: Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
Date: February 6, 2012