

AETHER SYSTEMS INC  
Form 10-Q  
August 14, 2001

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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED June 30, 2001

OR

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

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER: 000-27707  
AETHER SYSTEMS, INC.  
(EXACT NAME OF REGISTRANT AS SPECIFIED IN ITS CHARTER)

DELAWARE 52-2186634  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)  
(IRS Employer Identification Number) 11460 CRONRIDGE  
DR. OWINGS MILLS, MD  
(Address of principal executive offices) 21117  
(Zip Code)

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code): (410) 654-6400

Securities registered Pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act: NONE.

Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:  
COMMON STOCK, PAR VALUE \$.01  
CONVERTIBLE SUBORDINATED NOTES DUE 2005

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes  No

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

As of August 10, 2001, 40,688,239 shares of the Registrant's common stock, \$.01 par value per share, were outstanding.

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AETHER SYSTEMS, INC.

QUARTERLY REPORT ON FORM 10-Q  
FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2001

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PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION  
 ITEM 1: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AETHER SYSTEMS, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
 (IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT SHARE DATA)

	JUNE 30, 2001	DECEMBER 31, 2000
	(unaudited)	
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$639,017	\$856,391
Restricted cash	12,359	16,356
Short-term investments	2,444	2,648
Trade accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$8,840 and \$5,695 at June 30, 2001 and December 31, 2000, respectively	28,111	30,263
Inventory, net of allowance for obsolescence of \$1,746 and \$137 at June 30, 2001 and December 31, 2000, respectively	44,109	19,130
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	18,981	17,081
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total current assets	745,021	941,869
Property and		

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equipment,  
 net72,45453,223Investments72,959182,444Intangibles,  
 net412,5071,478,485Other assets,  
 net20,90021,354

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\$1,323,841\$2,677,375

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LIABILITIES AND  
 STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY

Current  
 liabilities:Accounts  
 payable\$8,780\$9,747Accrued  
 expenses44,96166,949Accrued  
 employee compensation and  
 benefits10,99112,566Deferred  
 revenue17,72714,170Accrued interest  
 payable4,8295,072Current portion of  
 notes payable10,08513,741

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Total current  
 liabilities97,373122,245Convertible  
 subordinated notes payable and other  
 notespayable, less current  
 portion310,845321,201Deferred tax  
 liability9,82010,694Minority interest  
 in net assets of a  
 subsidiary47,39455,537Stockholders  
 equity:Preferred stock, \$0.01 par  
 value; 1,000,000shares authorized; 0  
 shares issued andoutstanding at  
 June 30, 2001 and December 31,  
 2000 Common stock, \$0.01 par  
 value;1,000,000,000 shares  
 authorized; 40,658,220  
 and40,415,722 shares issued and  
 outstanding at June 30, 2001and  
 December 31, 2000,  
 respectively407404Additional paid-in  
 capital2,567,2942,552,016Accumulated  
 deficit(1,689,254)(385,314)Foreign  
 currency translation  
 adjustment(577)(113)Unrealized gain  
 (loss) on investments available  
 forsale(19,461)705

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Total stockholders  
 equity858,4092,167,698

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Commitments and  
 contingencies\$1,323,841\$2,677,375

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## AETHER SYSTEMS, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE LOSS  
(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE DATA)  
(UNAUDITED)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30,	
	2001	2000
Subscriber revenue	\$ 11,408	\$ 6,178
Engineering services revenue2,7811,637Software and related services revenue9,8732,362Device sales8,022578		
<hr/>		
Total revenue32,08410,755Cost of of subscriber revenue6,6173,154Cost of engineering services revenue1,4871,027Cost of software and related services revenue2,574851Cost of device sales7,922595		
<hr/>		
Total cost of revenue18,6005,627		
<hr/>		
Gross profit13,4845,128		
<hr/>		
Operating expenses:Research and development (exclusive of option and warrantexpense)18,7055,014General and administrative (exclusive of option andwarrant expense)23,6808,507Selling and marketing (exclusive of option and warrantexpense)20,51116,543In-process research and development related		

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to acquisitions 60 Depreciation  
and  
amortization 29,448 67,041 Option  
and warrant  
expense: Research and  
development 2,125 1,712 General  
and  
administrative 1,830 1,455 Selling  
and  
marketing 403 438 Impairment  
of goodwill associated with  
acquisitions 2,211 Restructuring  
charge 15,859

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114,772 100,770

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Operating  
loss (101,288) (95,642) Other  
income (expense): Interest  
income (expense),  
net 3,195 14,787 Equity in  
losses of  
investments (17,007) (10,721) Investment  
losses including  
impairments (1,147) Minority  
interest 4,483 1,662

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Loss before income  
taxes, extraordinary item  
and cumulative effect of  
change in accounting  
principle (111,764) (89,914) Income  
tax benefit 440

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Loss before extraordinary  
item and cumulative effect  
of change in accounting  
principle (111,324) (89,914) Extraordinary  
item relating to early  
extinguishment of  
debt 7,684

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Loss before cumulative  
effect of change in  
accounting  
principle \$(103,640) \$(89,914) Cumulative  
effect of change in  
accounting principle  
relating to adoption of  
SFAS 133, Accounting for  
Derivatives

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Net  
loss\$(103,640)\$(89,914)

Other comprehensive  
loss:Unrealized holding  
gain (loss) on investments  
available for  
sale925(1,727)Foreign  
currency translation  
adjustment(110)

Comprehensive  
loss\$(102,825)\$(91,641)

Loss per share - basic and  
diluted - before  
extraordinary item  
andcumulative effect of  
change in accounting  
principle\$(2.74)\$(2.36)Extraordinary  
item relating to early  
extinguishment of debt\$.19\$ Cumulative effect of  
change in accounting  
principle related toadoption  
of SFAS 133, Accounting  
for Derivatives\$ \$

Net loss per share-basic and  
diluted\$(2.55)\$(2.36)

Weighted average shares  
outstanding basic  
and diluted40,57638,031

[Additional columns below]

[Continued from above table, first column(s) repeated]

	SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30,	
	2001	2000
Subscriber revenue	\$21,808	\$8,972
Engineering services revenue5,1443,040Software		

and related services  
 revenue21,6703,431Device  
 sales14,121713

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Total  
 revenue62,74316,156Cost of  
 subscriber  
 revenue12,8514,213Cost of  
 engineering services  
 revenue2,7871,641Cost of  
 software and related services  
 revenue6,6561,529Cost of  
 device sales16,1391,268

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Total cost of  
 revenue38,4338,651

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Gross profit24,3107,505

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Operating expenses:Research  
 and development (exclusive  
 of option and  
 warrantexpense)35,8767,045General  
 and administrative (exclusive  
 of option andwarrant  
 expense)49,48413,438Selling  
 and marketing (exclusive of  
 option and  
 warrantexpense)40,72722,356In-process  
 research and development  
 related  
 toacquisitions 2,160Depreciation  
 and  
 amortization121,24384,451Option  
 and warrant  
 expense: Research and  
 development4,6002,710 General  
 and  
 administrative2,8022,563 Selling  
 and  
 marketing1,536777Impairment  
 of goodwill associated with  
 acquisitions961,580 Restructuring  
 charge15,859

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1,233,707135,500

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Operating  
 loss(1,209,397)(127,995)Other  
 income (expense):Interest  
 income (expense),  
 net9,60116,976Equity in  
 losses of



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investments(31,523)(13,828)Investment  
 losses including  
 impairments(95,891) Minority  
 interest8,1471,662

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Loss before income taxes,  
 extraordinary item and  
 cumulative effect of  
 change in accounting  
 principle(1,319,063)(123,185)Income  
 tax benefit875

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Loss before extraordinary  
 item and cumulative effect of  
 change in accounting  
 principle(1,318,188)(123,185)Extraordinary  
 item relating to early  
 extinguishment of debt7,684

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Loss before cumulative effect  
 of change in accounting  
 principle\$(1,310,504)\$(123,185)Cumulative  
 effect of change in accounting  
 principle relating to adoption  
 of SFAS 133, Accounting for  
 Derivatives6,564

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Net  
 loss\$(1,303,940)\$(123,185)

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Other comprehensive  
 loss:Unrealized holding gain  
 (loss) on investments  
 available for  
 sale(20,166)58,876Foreign  
 currency translation  
 adjustment(464)

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Comprehensive  
 loss\$(1,324,570)\$( 64,309)

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Loss per share - basic and  
 diluted - before extraordinary  
 item and cumulative effect of  
 change in accounting  
 principle\$(32.54)\$(3.65)Extraordinary  
 item relating to early  
 extinguishment of debt\$.19\$ Cumulative effect of  
 change in accounting

principle related to adoption of  
SFAS 133, Accounting for  
Derivatives \$ .16

Net loss per share - basic and  
diluted \$(32.19) \$(3.65)

Weighted average shares  
outstanding basic  
and diluted 40,511,337,65

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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AETHER SYSTEMS, INC.  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)

SIX MONTHS ENDED  
JUNE 30  
2001 2000

Cash flows from operating activities:  
Net  
loss \$(1,303,940) \$(123,185) Adjustments  
to reconcile net loss to net  
cash used by operating  
activities: Depreciation and  
amortization 121,632 84,451 Provision  
for doubtful  
accounts 7,106 Provision for  
inventory  
obsolescence 1,884 Equity in  
losses of  
investments 31,523 13,828 Option  
and warrant  
expense 8,938 6,050 Minority  
interest (8,147) (1,662) Income  
tax benefit (875) In process  
research and development  
related  
to acquisitions 2,160 Restructuring  
charge 15,859 Extraordinary  
item (7,684) Cumulative  
effect of change in  
accounting  
principle (6,564) Impairment  
charges related to goodwill

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from  
acquisitions 961,580 Realized  
loss on long-term  
investments,  
including impairments 95,891 Changes  
in assets and liabilities, net  
of acquired assets and  
liabilities: Increase in trade  
accounts  
receivable (4,954) (3,490) Increase  
in  
inventory (27,553) (1,250) Increase  
in prepaid expenses and  
other  
assets (2,329) (3,933) Increase  
(decrease) in accounts  
payable (967) (944) Increase  
(decrease) in accrued  
expenses, accrued employee  
compensation and benefits,  
and interest  
payable (8,383) 21,369 Increase  
in deferred revenue and  
other long term  
liabilities 8,571 919

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Net cash used by operating  
activities (118,411) (5,687)

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Cash flows from investing  
activities: Sales and  
maturities of short-term  
investments 3,286 5,337 Purchases  
of short-term  
investments (3,411) (3,274) Purchases  
of property and  
equipment (29,618) (10,196) Cost  
of  
investments (25,629) (63,217) Costs  
of acquisitions, net of cash  
acquired (35,662) (174,901) Increase  
in restricted  
cash (13,600) Increase in  
other intangible  
assets (723) Increase in other  
assets (1,060)

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Net cash used in investing  
activities (92,817) (259,851)

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Cash flows from financing  
activities: Proceeds from  
issuance of common  
stock 1,058,220 Proceeds  
from issuance of convertible  
debt 300,564 Repayment of

notes payable including  
 buyback of convertible  
 debt(12,398) Borrowings  
 under notes  
 payable5,160 Increase in  
 restricted cash397 Exercise  
 of options and  
 warrants695844Contributions  
 from a minority shareholder  
 of a subsidiary 20,818

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Net cash provided by (used  
 in) financing  
 activities(6,146)1,380,446

---

Net increase (decrease) in  
 cash and cash  
 equivalents(217,374)1,114,908Cash  
 and cash equivalents, at  
 beginning of  
 period856,39178,542

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Cash and cash equivalents, at  
 end of  
 period\$639,017\$1,193,450

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Supplemental disclosure of  
 cash flow information:Cash  
 paid during the year for  
 interest\$9,315\$

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Supplemental disclosure of non-cash investing and financing activities:

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For the six months ended June 30, 2001 and 2000, the Company incurred an unrealized net holding gain (loss) associated with its investments available for sale totaling (\$20.2) million and \$58.9 million, respectively. These amounts have been reported as changes in stockholders' equity.

For the six months ended June 30, 2001 and 2000, the Company recorded additions to stockholders' equity of \$6.1 million and \$31.2 million, respectively, from the issuance of stock by Omnisky Inc. to third parties at per share amounts in excess of the book value per share of the Company's investment in Omnisky Inc.

In January 2000, approximately \$600,000 of trade receivables owed to the Company by OmniSky, Inc. were offset by the Company's additional investment made in OmniSky, Inc.

In March 2000, the Company acquired Riverbed Technologies, Inc. for 4,537,281 shares of the Company's common stock and converted existing options held by Riverbed employees into options to acquire 862,480 shares of the Company's common stock. The value of the common stock and replacement options of \$1.136 billion has been allocated to the fair value of the assets purchased and liabilities assumed with a corresponding increase in stockholders equity.

In connection with the acquisition of IFX and the formation of Sila, the Company established a deferred tax liability of \$11.2 million. Such amount was offset by an equal increase in goodwill.

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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AETHER SYSTEMS, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(1) ORGANIZATION, DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION

ORGANIZATION AND DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS

Aether Systems, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the Company) provide technologies that enable businesses to extend their data and commercial transactions to wireless and mobile handheld devices. From its inception until March 1997, the Company primarily provided wireless engineering services, including the development of wireless software applications for customers. In March 1997, the Company began offering services that provide the users of wireless handheld devices access to real-time financial information. During 1997, the Company made a strategic decision to focus a significant portion of its engineering resources on the development of these and other wireless data services and systems, including the Aether Intelligent Messaging (AIM) package of wireless messaging software and software development tools.

In 1998 and 1999, the Company continued to develop financial information services as well as financial transaction services internally and through the acquisition of Mobeo, Inc. (Mobeo). In 1999, the Company also completed its initial public offering and began to expand its service offerings to areas other than financial information and transactions.

In 2000, the Company continued its expansion into other vertical markets, including: the transportation and logistics vertical market through the acquisitions of LocusOne Communications, Inc. (LocusOne) and Motient Corporation's (Motient) retail transportation business unit, the mobile government vertical market through the acquisitions of Cerulean Technology, Inc. (Cerulean) and SunPro, Inc. (SunPro); and the healthcare vertical market through investments and the Company's own service offerings. The Company broadened its software offerings through the purchase of Riverbed Technologies, Inc. (Riverbed) and RTS Wireless, Inc. (RTS). Also in 2000, the Company moved into the European marketplace with the acquisition of IFX Group Plc (IFX) and the related formation of Sila Communications Limited (Sila). The Company entered the general wireless and Internet messaging services market through strategic relationships with Research in Motion Limited (RIM) and others and through the Company's own service offerings.

BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Aether Systems, Inc. and its subsidiaries. The condensed consolidated balance sheet as of June 30, 2001, the condensed consolidated statements of operations

and other comprehensive loss for the three and six months ended June 30, 2001 and 2000, and the condensed consolidated statements of cash flows for the six months ended June 30, 2001 and 2000 have been prepared by the Company, without audit. In the opinion of management, all adjustments have been made, which include normal recurring adjustments necessary to present fairly the condensed consolidated financial statements. Operating results for the three and six months ended June 30, 2001 are not necessarily indicative of the operating results for the full year. Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America have been condensed or omitted. The Company believes that the disclosures provided are adequate to make the information presented not misleading. These condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and related notes included in the Company's Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2000 on Form 10-K.

## (2) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### (a) Revenue Recognition

The Company derives subscriber revenue from the provision of real-time access to business information integrated into existing wireless communication platforms. Subscriber revenue consists of fixed charges for usage recognized as the service is provided, and one-time non-refundable activation fees recognized ratably over the expected life of the customer relationship. For certain of the Company's products, the subscribers' monthly fee includes the use of a wireless handheld device. Revenue for such devices is recognized as the related service is provided. Direct activation costs are expensed as incurred. Certain of the Company's customers are billed in advance with revenue deferred and recognized on a monthly basis over the term of the agreement. Also included in subscriber revenue are market exchange fees for access to financial information from the securities exchanges and markets, which are recognized as the service is provided. The Company also recognizes fees for managing data through its network operations center. Such fees are recognized ratably over the contract period.

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Engineering services revenue is derived from the provision of wireless integration consulting under time-and-materials and fixed-fee contracts. Revenue on time-and-materials contracts is recognized as services are performed. Revenue on fixed-fee contracts is recognized on the percentage-of-completion method based on costs incurred in relation to total estimated costs. Anticipated contract losses are recognized as soon as they become known and estimable.

Software and related services revenues are generated from licensing software and providing services, including maintenance and technical support, training and consulting. Software revenue consists of fees for licenses of the Company's software products. The Company recognizes the revenue when the license agreement is signed, the license fee is fixed and determinable, delivery of the software has occurred, and collectibility of the fees is considered probable. Revenue from software licensing and related wireless engineering consulting services for which the software requires significant customization and modification is recognized using the percentage of completion method in accordance with Statement of Position (SOP) 97-2, Software Revenue Recognition, based on the hours incurred in relation to the total estimated hours. Service revenues consists of maintenance and technical support, which consists of unspecified when-and-if available product updates and customer telephone support services and are recognized ratably over the term of the service period. Other service revenues are recognized as the related services are provided. In situations where the Company hosts the software and the customer has the option to take possession of the software at any time during the hosting period without significant penalty and it is feasible for the customer to either run the software on its own hardware or contract with another party unrelated to the Company to host the software, the software element is accounted for in accordance with SOP 97-2 as discussed above.

Device sales are derived from the sales of wireless handheld devices at or near our cost. Revenues on these device sales are either recognized upon shipment of the devices or recognized over the expected life of the customer relationship.

(b) Cost of Revenues

Cost of subscriber revenue consists primarily of airtime costs, financial data costs, wireless handheld device costs, and securities and market exchange fees. The cost of wireless handheld devices is recognized on delivery when sold or amortized over the expected life of the customer relationship. When the subscribers' monthly fee includes the use of a wireless handheld device, the Company depreciates the cost of the device over its expected useful life. Cost of subscriber revenue excludes depreciation related to the Company's network operations centers and certain customer fulfillment costs. Cost of engineering services revenue consists of cash compensation and related costs for engineering personnel and materials. The cost of software license revenue consists primarily of third party royalties. The cost of maintenance, consulting and support revenue consists primarily of personnel-related costs. Cost of device sales consists of the cost of the hardware from the manufacturer or wholesaler.

(c) Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts of the Company's financial instruments, which include cash equivalents, short-term investments, accounts receivable, accounts payable, accrued expenses and notes payable (excluding the convertible subordinated notes), approximate their fair values due to the relatively short duration of the instruments.

The fair value of the convertible subordinated notes at June 30, 2001 was \$172.5 million based on their quoted market price.

(d) Credit Risk

Financial instruments which potentially subject the Company to credit risk consist primarily of cash, cash equivalents and trade receivables.

The Company invests cash not immediately needed for operations in money market securities of various financial institutions, commercial paper and certificates of deposit. The money market securities represent underlying investments in commercial paper issued by financial institutions and other companies with high credit ratings and securities issued by or backed by the U.S. Government. The amounts invested in some cases exceed the F.D.I.C. limits. The Company has not experienced any losses in its cash and cash equivalents and believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk on these amounts.

Trade accounts receivable subject the Company to the potential for credit risk. The Company extends credit to customers on an unsecured basis in the normal course of business. Some of these customers have a limited operating history and have reported significant losses since inception. They are subject to many of the same risks and uncertainties as the Company, including rapid changes in technology, no established markets for their products, and intense competition, among others. In addition, some of these

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companies will require significant infusions of capital to continue operations. The availability of such capital has been curtailed and some of these companies may not be able to raise sufficient funds to continue to operate, which could limit the Company's ability to generate further revenues from these companies as well as to collect the outstanding receivables.

The Company's policy is to perform an analysis of the recoverability of its trade accounts receivable at the end of each reporting period and to establish allowances for those accounts considered uncollectible. If market conditions for these companies continue to deteriorate, the Company may be required to record additional allowances for doubtful accounts in the future.

(e) Inventory

Inventory, net of allowance for obsolete and slow-moving inventory, consists of finished goods such as handheld and laptop computers, pagers, wireless modems, and accessories and is stated at the lower of cost or market. Cost is determined using a standard costing method, which approximates the first-in, first-out method. The Company's inventory is subject to rapid technological changes that could have an adverse impact on its realization in future periods. In addition, there are a limited number of suppliers of the Company inventory. During the six month period ended June 30, 2001, the Company recorded an inventory reserve of approximately \$1.9 million, due to obsolescence.

(f) Investments

The Company accounts for those investments in which the Company exercises significant influence or has an ownership interest greater than twenty percent under the equity method. For equity method investments, the Company records its proportionate share of the investee's net income or loss. Generally, the Company accounts for its investments in which the Company has an ownership interest less than twenty percent under the cost method for its private investments.

Investments in marketable equity securities, if not considered equity method investments, are considered available-for-sale securities. Investments carried at cost are written down if circumstances indicate the carrying amount of the investment may not be recoverable, and such losses are considered other than temporary. Investments available for sale are carried at fair value based on quoted market prices. Net unrealized holding gains and losses are excluded from income and are reported as a separate component of stockholders' equity, unless such losses are considered other than temporary. Realized gains and losses are included in income.

(g) Intangibles and Recovery of Long-Lived Assets

Cost in excess of the fair value of tangible and identifiable intangible net assets acquired is amortized on a straight-line basis over three to seven years. Identifiable intangible net assets consist of completed technology, assembled workforce, trademarks, and acquired subscribers. Identifiable intangible net assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over two to seven years.

The Company's policy is to review its long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. The Company may recognize an impairment when the sum of the expected future undiscounted cash flows is less than the carrying amount of the asset. The measurement of the impairment losses to be recognized is based upon the difference between the fair value and the carrying amount of the assets.

(h) Restructuring Charges

The Company records charges for costs associated with a restructuring plan only when all of the following conditions have been met in accordance with Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) 94-3 and SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin (SAB) 100.

The exit plan is committed to by the Company.



The costs associated with the plan are incremental to other costs incurred by the Company in the conduct of its activities prior to the commitment date and will be incurred as a direct result of the exit plan.

The costs associated with the plan represent amounts to be incurred by the enterprise under a contractual obligation that existed prior to the commitment date and will either continue after the exit plan is completed with no economic benefit to the Company or be a penalty incurred by the Company to cancel the contractual obligation.

The cost of the component of the plan being accrued for can be reasonably estimated.

(i) Use of Estimates

The preparation of condensed consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and

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liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the dates of the condensed consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Estimates are used in accounting for, among other things, long-term contracts, allowances for uncollectible receivables, inventory obsolescence, recoverability of long-lived assets and investments, depreciation and amortization, employee benefits, taxes and contingencies. Estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and the effects of revisions are reflected in the condensed consolidated financial statements in the period they are determined to be necessary.

(j) Recent Accounting Pronouncements

On January 1, 2001, the Company adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS), Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities. SFAS 133, as amended by SFAS 137 and further amended by SFAS 138, established accounting and reporting standards for derivative financial instruments and associated hedging activities as well as hedging activities in general. The adoption of SFAS 133, as amended, created a benefit of \$6.6 million on the adoption date of January 1, 2001, as reflected in the condensed consolidated statement of operations. The benefit was derived from the valuation, as of January 1, 2001, of certain warrants to purchase stock of two of our investee companies. The warrants include net settlement provisions and are, therefore, considered derivatives. These warrants are revalued at the end of each quarter, which caused reductions of approximately \$43,000 and \$6.0 million in the investment balance which is included in realized loss on investment in the condensed consolidated statement of operations for the three and six months ended June 30, 2001, respectively.

In July 2001, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued SFAS 141, Business Combinations, and SFAS 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets. SFAS 141 requires that the purchase method of accounting be used for all business combinations initiated after June 30, 2001 as well as all purchase method business combinations completed after June 30, 2001. SFAS 141 also specifies criteria intangible assets acquired in a purchase method business combination must meet to be recognized and reported apart from goodwill, noting that any purchase price allocable to an assembled workforce may not be accounted for separately. SFAS 142 requires that goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite useful lives no longer be amortized, but instead tested for impairment at least annually in accordance with the provisions of SFAS 142. SFAS 142 also requires that intangible assets with definite useful lives be amortized over their respective estimated useful lives to their estimated residual values, and reviewed for impairment in accordance with SFAS 121, Accounting for the Impairment of Long-Lived Assets and for Long-Lived Assets to Be Disposed Of.

The Company is required to adopt the provisions of SFAS 141 immediately, except with regard to business combinations initiated prior to July 1, 2001, which it expects to account for using the purchase method, and SFAS 142 effective January 1, 2002. Furthermore, any goodwill and any intangible asset determined to have an indefinite useful life that are acquired in a purchase business combination completed after June 30, 2001 will not be amortized, but will continue to be evaluated for impairment in accordance with the appropriate pre-SFAS 142 accounting literature. Goodwill and intangible assets acquired in business combinations completed before July 1, 2001 will continue to be amortized prior to the adoption of SFAS 142.

SFAS 141 requires upon adoption of SFAS 142, that the Company evaluate its existing intangible assets and goodwill that were acquired in a prior purchase business combination, and to make any necessary reclassifications in order to conform with the new criteria in SFAS 141 for recognition apart from goodwill. Upon adoption of SFAS 142, the Company will be required to reassess the useful lives and residual values of all intangible assets acquired in purchase business combinations, and make any necessary amortization period adjustments by the end of the first interim period after adoption. In addition, to the extent an intangible asset is identified as having an indefinite useful life, the Company will be required to test the intangible asset for impairment in accordance with the provisions of SFAS 142 within the first interim period. Any impairment loss will be measured as of the date of adoption and recognized as the cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle in the first interim period.

In connection with the transitional goodwill impairment evaluation, SFAS 142 will require the Company to perform an assessment of whether there is an indication that goodwill is impaired as of the date of adoption. To accomplish this the Company must identify its reporting units and determine the carrying value of each reporting unit by assigning the assets and liabilities, including the existing goodwill and intangible assets, to those reporting units as of the date of adoption. The Company will then have up to six months from the date of adoption to determine the fair value of each reporting unit and compare it to the reporting unit's carrying amount. To the extent a reporting unit's carrying amount exceeds its fair value, an indication exists that the reporting unit's goodwill may be impaired and the Company must perform the second step of the transitional impairment test. In the second step, the Company must compare the implied fair value of the reporting unit's goodwill, determined by allocating the reporting unit's fair value to all of its assets (recognized and unrecognized) and liabilities in a manner similar to a purchase price allocation in accordance with SFAS 141, to its carrying amount, both of which would be measured as of the date of adoption. This second step is required to be completed as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the year of adoption. Any transitional impairment loss will be recognized as the cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle in the Company's statement of operations.

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As of the date of adoption, the Company expects to have unamortized identifiable intangible assets in the amount of approximately \$363 million which will be subject to the transition provisions of SFAS 141 and 142. Because of the extensive effort needed to comply with adopting SFAS 141 and 142, it is not practicable to reasonably estimate the impact of adopting these Statements on the Company's financial statements at the date of this report, including whether any transitional impairment losses will be required to be recognized as the cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle.

### (3) ACQUISITIONS

The Company has made the following acquisitions:

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PURCHASE PRICE

CASH

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NAME	ACQUISITION DATE	INCLUDING RELATED EXPENSES	EQUITY ISSUED
Mobeo, Inc.	August 19, 1999	\$11.5 million	\$374,000 consisting of 46,105 options
LocusOne Communications, Inc. February 3, 2000		\$40.2 million	
Riverbed Technologies, Inc. March 6, 2000		\$16.9 million	\$1.136 billion, consisting of 4,537,281 shares of common stock and 862,480 options
IFX Group Plc April 6, 2000		\$85.0 million	
NetSearch, LLC April 20, 2000		\$35.4 million	
Cerulean Technology, Inc. September 14, 2000		\$79.8 million	\$69.9 million consisting of 462,412 shares of common stock and 94,952 options
SunPro, Inc. September 18, 2000		\$10.8 million	
Sinope, Inc. September 25, 2000		\$2.8 million	Portion of
Motient Corp. November 30, 2000		\$49.2 million	RTS
Wireless, Inc. December 20, 2000		\$34.2 million	\$78.0 million consisting of 1,259,752 shares of common stock and 90,248 options
<hr/>			
Total \$365.8 million \$1.284 billion consisting of 6,259,445 shares of common stock and 1,093,785 options.			
<hr/>			
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The following summary, prepared on a pro forma basis, presents the results of the Company's operations (unaudited) as if all of the acquisitions occurring after January 1, 2000 had been completed as of January 1, 2000:

(UNAUDITED)  


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SIX MONTHS ENDED  
JUNE 30, 2000  


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(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE DATA)

Revenue \$49,865 Net loss \$226,375 Net loss per share basic and diluted \$5.96

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The unaudited pro forma results of operations are not necessarily indicative of what actually would have occurred if the acquisitions had taken place as of January 1, 2000, nor are they a projection of the Company's results of operations for any future period. Additionally, the unaudited proforma results of operations exclude the impairment charges related to goodwill and investments which were incurred in 2001.

During 2000 and 1999, the Company recorded approximately \$1.7 billion in goodwill and other intangibles related to its acquisitions.

A number of factors indicated that impairments may have arisen in the three months ended March 31, 2001. Consideration for some of the Company's acquisitions was partially or fully funded through the issuance of shares of the Company's common stock at a time when its stock price was at historically high prices. The Company's stock price ranged from \$40.81 to \$266.00 at the time of these acquisitions. At March 31, 2001, the Company's stock price was \$13.00. Most of the companies that the Company acquired or invested in were start-up or newly formed entities. Most of these companies were privately-held and their fair values are highly subjective and not readily determinable. At the time of these acquisitions and investments, market valuations and the availability of capital for such companies were at historically high levels. From the end of 2000 through March 31, 2001, stock prices and market valuations in the Company's industry and similar industries fell substantially in response to a variety of factors, including a general downturn in the economy, a curtailment in the availability of capital and a general reduction in technology expenditures.

Based on the factors described above, the Company determined that the goodwill in its acquisitions and investments may have become impaired as of March 31, 2001. In accordance with SFAS No. 121, the Company performed an undiscounted cash flow analysis of its acquisitions to determine whether an impairment existed. When the undiscounted cash flows for an acquired company was less than the carrying value of the net assets, management determined a range of fair values using a combination of valuation methodologies. The methodologies included:

- Discounted cash flow analysis, which is based upon converting expected future cash flows to present value.
- Changes in market value since the date of acquisition relative to the following:
  - the Company's stock price;
  - comparable companies;-
  - the NASDAQ composite index; and-
  - a composite of companies that operate

with in the  
Company s  
industry.

- Market price multiples of comparable companies.

-  
Contribution  
to the  
Company s  
market  
valuation.

The methodologies used were consistent with the specific valuation methods used when the original purchase price was determined. The Company s best estimate of the fair value was determined from the range of possible values after considering the relative performance, future prospects and risk profile of the acquired company.

In connection with the valuation of the Riverbed Technologies, Inc. acquisition, the Company engaged an independent third party to determine the fair value of the acquired business because of the magnitude of the acquisition and the associated potential impairment.

As a result of its review, management determined that the carrying value of goodwill and certain other intangible assets related to its acquisitions were not fully recoverable. Accordingly, at March 31, 2001, the Company recorded an impairment charge of approximately \$959 million, which represents the difference between the carrying value and fair value of its goodwill and other intangible assets. The impairment of goodwill and other intangible assets from the acquisition of Riverbed Technologies, Inc. amounted to approximately \$775 million, or 81% of the total impairment charge recorded. The Company also recorded impairment charges to goodwill and other intangibles related to the acquisitions of LocusOne Communications, Inc., NetSearch, LLC, Cerulean Technology, Inc., Sunpro and RTS Wireless, Inc. of approximately \$184 million.

At June 30, 2001, the Company performed a review of each of its acquisitions similar to the review performed at March 31, 2001. The results of its review indicated that of the aggregate carrying value of goodwill and certain other intangible assets related to our acquisitions, only the value of the work force-in-place resulting from certain acquisitions had become further impaired in the quarter ended June 30, 2001. Accordingly, the Company reduced the carrying value of this asset by \$2.2 million. As a result, as of June 30, 2001, the adjusted book value of goodwill and other intangibles was approximately \$413 million.

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Because the conditions underlying the factors the Company uses to evaluate its acquisitions change from time to time, the Company could determine that it is necessary to take additional material impairment charges in future periods.

#### (4) INVESTMENTS

##### (a) Investments Under the Equity Method of Accounting

The Company has four investments that are recorded using the equity method of accounting: Omnisky (22.7% interest as of June 30, 2001), Inciscent (27.5% interest as of June 30, 2001), VeriStar (25.3% interest as of June 30, 2001) and MindSurf (45.1% interest as of June 30, 2001). The Company recorded approximately \$17.0 million and

\$31.5 million in expenses for the three and six months ended June 30, 2001, respectively, to reflect its proportionate share of the losses in these companies based upon preliminary unaudited financial information. The Company recorded approximately \$10.7 million and \$13.8 million in expenses for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2000, respectively, to reflect its proportionate share of the losses in these companies based on unaudited financial information. At June 30, 2001, the carrying value of these investments was \$29.2 million, net of proportionate share of losses and impairment charges. For the three and six months ended June 30, 2001, the Company generated \$1.5 million and \$4.9 million in revenue, respectively, from products or services provided to these companies. For the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2000, the Company generated \$1.2 million and \$2.3 million in revenue, respectively, from products or services provided to these companies. In addition, the Company had \$0.9 million and approximately \$2.7 million in accounts receivable at June 30, 2001 and December 31, 2000, respectively, due from these companies. On June 5, 2001 the Company entered into a forward purchase contract with Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB) which provides for the Company to deliver no more than 2,439,100 shares of Omnisky stock to CSFB on June 5, 2002. In return CSFB has paid the Company \$5.2 million in the second quarter of 2001.

(b) Other Investments

In 2000, the Company invested \$59.0 million in five publicly-traded companies including \$17 million in Metrocall, Inc. ( Metrocall ), \$10 million in Data Critical Corp. ( Data Critical ), and \$20 million in Novatel Wireless, Inc. ( Novatel ).

The Company has also invested \$83.8 million in twelve private companies, including \$25.0 million in Strategy.com, Inc. ( Strategy.com ), \$11.0 million in ePhones, \$14.9 million in Parkstone, \$10.0 million in Juniper Financial Corp. ( Juniper ) and \$0.5 million in Corechange Inc. The Company accounts for these investments at cost unless circumstances indicate the carrying amount of the investment may not be recoverable. For the three and six months ended June 30, 2001, the Company generated approximately \$1.0 million and \$1.2 million, respectively in revenue from products or services provided to these investees. In addition, the Company has approximately \$982,000 in accounts receivable, net of reserves, at June 30, 2001 due from these investees.

(c) Impairment Charges

The Company adjusts the carrying value of its available-for-sale investments in public companies to market and records the change in market value to other comprehensive income. In accordance with SAB 59, Accounting for Noncurrent Marketable Equity Securities, the Company assessed the decline in market value in certain of its public company investments as other than temporary after reviewing the following factors: length of time and extent to which the market value of the investment has been below cost, the financial position and the near-term prospects of the issuer, and the intent and ability of the Company to retain its investment in the investee for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in market value. As of March 31, 2001, in accordance with SAB 59, the Company recorded a realized loss of \$27.0 million related to these other than temporary declines.

At June 30, 2001, the Company performed a review of each of its available-for-sale investments in public companies. Based on this review, the company determined that no additional adjustments were required to its available-for-sale investments as a result of other than temporary declines.

With respect to investments in non-public companies, the Company's management performs on-going reviews based on quantitative and qualitative measures. In evaluating its non-public company investments, management determined a range of market values based on a combination of the following valuation methods where applicable:

- Recent funding rounds.

- Changes in market value since the date of investment relative to the following:

- the Company's stock price;
- comparable companies;- the NASDAQ composite index

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- a composite of companies that operate with in the Company's industry; and- market price multiples of comparable companies.

The fair value was determined from the range of possible values, after considering the strength of the investee's financial position, future prospects and risk profile of the invested company. During the first quarter of fiscal 2001, the Company recorded an impairment charge of approximately \$61.8 million related to these non-public company investments.

At June 30, 2001, the Company performed a review of our investments in non-public companies similar to the review performed at March 31, 2001. As a result of the review, we reduced the carrying value of one of our investments by \$1.1 million.

Because the conditions underlying the factors the Company uses to evaluate its investments change from time to time, the Company could determine that it is necessary to take additional material impairment charges in future periods.

#### (5) RESTRUCTURING CHARGES

During the second quarter, Aether implemented an expense reduction plan as part of its integration strategy focused on improving operational efficiencies and the implementation of other measures in order to reduce planned expenses. These efforts have resulted in the consolidation of excess facilities and elimination of redundant positions from acquired companies. As a result of this restructuring plan, the Company recorded a charge to earnings in the second quarter of \$15.9 million. The charge related mainly to a workforce reduction of over 250 positions and the closing of six facilities. Employee separation benefits of \$4.9 million under the restructuring plan include severance, medical, and other benefits. Facility closure costs of \$11.0 million include expected losses on subleases, brokerage commissions, asset impairment charges, and other costs. As of June 30, 2001, the accrued liability related to the restructuring was \$12.0 million.

## (6) STOCK OPTIONS AND WARRANTS

### (a) Options

In January 2001, the Company's employees were given the right to exchange existing options for shares of restricted stock. 567 employees agreed to have their options canceled in exchange for approximately 756,000 shares of restricted stock. The Company expects to record \$26.6 million of expense over the next four years associated with the issuance of the restricted stock. The Company recorded approximately \$1.7 million and \$3.2 million of expense associated with the issuance of the restricted stock for the three and six months ended June 30, 2001, respectively.

### (b) 3COM Warrants

In connection with the sale of an equity interest in the Company to 3Com, the Company granted a conditional warrant to 3Com to purchase 893,665 shares at an exercise price of \$0.01 per share. 3Com vests in the warrants upon performance of certain services and achievement of specific criteria. As of June 30, 2001, warrants to purchase 750,000 shares had not been earned by 3Com. As of June 30, 2001, the Company believes that it is not yet probable that 3Com will attain the specified milestones relating to the remaining 750,000 shares and, accordingly, no expense relating to these warrants has been recorded. If and when it becomes probable that 3Com will attain the specified milestones necessary for the warrants to vest, the Company will begin to record an expense reflecting the fair value of the warrants. The Company would initially estimate the amount of the expense at the time of the determination that achievement is probable, based in part on the market price of the common stock at that time. At the time of the actual vesting, the fair value of the warrant would be remeasured and, if different from the value used in initially estimating the expense, the difference would be reflected as an additional charge or credit at that time.

## (7) COMMITMENTS, CONTINGENCIES AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

### Legal Proceedings

Aether and certain of its officers and directors are among the defendants named in seven purported class action lawsuits identified below. These actions were filed on behalf of persons and entities who acquired Aether's common stock after its initial public offering in October 21, 1999. The suits seek damages on account of alleged violations of securities laws. Among other things, the complaints claim that prospectuses, dated October 21, 1999 and September 27, 2000 and issued by Aether in connection with the public offerings of its common stock, allegedly contained untrue statements of material fact or omissions of material fact in violation of securities laws

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because the prospectuses allegedly failed to disclose that the offerings' underwriters had solicited and received additional and excessive fees, commissions and benefits beyond those listed in the arrangements with certain of their customers which were designed to maintain, distort and/or inflate the market price of Aether's common stock in the



aftermarket. The actions seek unspecified monetary damages and rescission. The Company believes the claims are without merit and plans to vigorously contest these actions.

(i) Class Action Complaint for Violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Jury Trial Demanded, Civil Action No. 01 CV-6029, filed July 3, 2001. In the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, *Larry Ackerman, On Behalf of Himself and All Others Similarly Situated, plaintiff, v. Aether Systems, Inc., David S. Oros, David C. Reymann, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, BancBoston Robertson Stephens Inc., Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Securities Corporation, U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc., Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., and Friedman, Billing Ramsey & Co., Inc., defendants.*

(ii) Class Action Complaint for Violations of the Federal Securities Laws, Civil Action No. 01 CV 6116, filed July 5, 2001. In the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, *Henry Cole and Daniel Kucera, on Behalf of Themselves and All Others Similarly Situated, plaintiff v. Aether Systems, Inc., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, BancBoston Robertson Stephens, Inc., Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, David S. Oros and David C. Reymann, defendants.*

(iii) Class Action Complaint for Violations of Federal Securities Laws, Jury Trial Demanded, Civil Action No. 01 CV-6136, filed July 5, 2001. In the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, *Bernd Toennesmann, On Behalf of Himself and All Others Similarly Situated, plaintiffs, v. Aether Systems, Inc., David S. Oros, David C. Reymann, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc., FleetBoston Robertson Stephens Inc., Credit Suisse First Boston Corp., U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc., Bank of America Securities LLC, and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., defendants.*

(iv) Class Action Complaint for Violations of Federal Securities Laws, Jury Trial Demanded, Civil Action No. 01 CV-6269, filed July 11, 2001. In the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, *Isak Karasik, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, plaintiffs vs. Aether Systems, Inc., David S. Oros, David C. Reymann, Mark D. Ein, Rajendra Singh, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Incorporated, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, Inc. and FleetBoston Robertson Stephens, Inc., defendants.*

(v) Class Action Complaint for Violations of the Federal Securities Laws, Jury Trial Demanded Civil Action No. 01 CV-5570, filed June 19, 2001. In the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, *Adele Brody on Behalf of Herself and All Others Similarly Situated, plaintiff v. Aether Systems, Inc., David S. Oros, David C. Reymann, Merrill Lynch, and Jenrette Securities Corporation, U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc., Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., and Friedman, Billings, Ramsey & Co., Inc., defendants.*

(vi) Class Action Complaint for Violations of the Federal Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Jury Trial Demanded, Civil Action No. 01 CV-5666, filed June 21, 2001. In the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, *Pond Equities, On Behalf of Itself and All Others Similarly Situated, plaintiff, v. Aether Systems, Inc., David Oros, David C. Reymann, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, BancBoston Robertson Stephens Inc., Donaldson Securities Inc. and Friedman Billing Ramsey & Co., Inc., defendants.*

(vii) Class Action Complaint for Violations of the Federal Securities Laws, Jury Trial Demanded, Civil Action No. 01 CV-5917, filed June 27, 2001. In the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, *Edward Cassidy, on Behalf of Himself and All Others Similarly Situated, plaintiffs v. Aether Systems, Inc., David S. Oros, David C. Reymann, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, BancBoston Robertson Stephens Inc., Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Securities Corporation, U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc., Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. and Friedman, Billing, Ramsey & Co., Inc., defendants.*

The Company is also a party to other legal proceedings in the normal course of business. Based on evaluation of these matters and discussions with counsel, management believes that liabilities arising from these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the consolidated results of operations or financial position of the Company.

Purchase Commitments

- a) On April 11, 2000, the Company entered into a marketing agreement with Research in Motion Limited (RIM). This agreement includes joint commitments between Aether and RIM concerning sales and marketing and development efforts and allows Aether to license the Blackberry wireless messaging software for use in the Aether network operating center. The agreement includes a commitment to purchase up to 140,000 RIM handheld devices over the following three years. The total commitment is

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dependent upon certain conditions being met over the period of the agreement. As of June 30, 2001, the Company has met its obligation for purchases over the next four quarters. b) The Company is committed to take delivery of 10,420 Novatel wireless modems. Most of these modems have already been paid for. c) In connection with the acquisition of Motient's retail transportation segment, the Company signed airtime purchase commitments

with Motient  
in the amount  
of \$15 million  
over three  
years.

#### Acquisitions and Investments

The Company is committed to make the following payments during the remainder of 2001 relating to its acquisitions and investments:

- (a) **Motient** In connection with the acquisition of Motient's retail transportation business, the Company is committed to pay up to an additional \$22.5 million if certain revenue and other incentive targets are met in 2001. As of June 30, 2001, these targets have not been met, and as such the Company has not made any payments pursuant to this commitment.
- (b) **Sila Communications** The Company has committed to provide additional funding of up to \$3.6 million in 2001 to its majority-owned subsidiary, Sila Communications, Limited.
- (c) **MindSurf** The Company is committed to provide additional funding of \$6.5 million to MindSurf. At any time the Company can agree with Sylvan to cease funding of MindSurf.
- (d) Subsequent to June 30, 2001, the Company entered into a joint venture, which would commit the Company to \$20 million in funding, assuming the joint venture meets certain operational milestones. In July 2001, the Company funded approximately \$5 million of these commitments. For the three and six months ended June 30, 2001, the Company recorded revenue of \$1 million and \$1.3 million, respectively, from the sale of products and services to the joint venture partner and held a receivable of \$1.5 million as of June 30, 2001. As of the date of this filing, none of the operational milestones had been met.
- (e) The Company agreed to invest in a South American wireless services company, which would commit the Company to \$1.2 million in funding. For the three and six months ended June 30, 2001, the Company recorded revenue of \$137,000 and \$1.3 million, respectively, from the sale of products and services to this company and held a receivable of \$1.2 million as of June 30, 2001.

#### (8) SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Company's operating segments include Vertical Markets, Software Products, Wireless Services and European Operations. Each of these segments has distinct management teams. The Vertical Markets segment provides wireless data services software and engineering services to develop applications for the financial services, health care, mobile government, transportation and logistics, and enterprise services industries. The Software Products segment develops, licenses and supports software products to extend the accessibility of applications and information from corporate networks and databases to handheld devices. The Wireless Services segment develops and provides wireless data services through our Enterprise ISP and BlackBerry by Aether offerings. Our European Operations segment consists of Sila, the Company's European joint venture with Reuters, which has the majority of its customers in the European financial services industry. Corporate and Other consists mainly of corporate assets and SG&A expenses.

During 2000, the Company's reportable segments changed and the Company expects them to continue to change as its operating structure, business and the markets in which it operates evolve.

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Segment detail is summarized as follows:

	<u>VERTICAL MARKETS</u>	<u>SOFTWARE PRODUCTS</u>	<u>WIRELESS SERVICES</u>
Three months ended June 30, 2001			
Revenue	\$20,384	\$3,077	\$5,385
Gross profit	\$9,667	\$2,162	\$570
Total assets	\$182,993	\$155,819	\$
Three months ended June 30, 2000			
Revenue	\$5,037	\$1,318	\$1,062
Gross profit	\$2,063	\$827	\$637
Total assets	\$49,431	\$1,069,131	\$
Six months ended June 30, 2001			
Revenue	\$38,400	\$8,054	\$9,070
Gross profit	\$17,246	\$5,651	\$(1,087)
Six months ended June 30, 2000			
Revenue	\$8,759	\$2,000	\$2,059
Gross profit	\$3,607	\$1,036	\$1,259

[Additional columns below]

[Continued from above table, first column(s) repeated]

	<u>EUROPEAN OPERATIONS</u>	<u>CORPORATE AND OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Three months ended June 30, 2001			
Revenue	\$3,238	\$32,084	\$35,322
Gross profit	\$1,085	\$13,484	\$14,569
Total assets	\$161,340	\$823,689	\$1,323,841
Three months ended June 30, 2000			
Revenue	\$3,338	\$10,755	\$14,093
Gross profit	\$1,601	\$5,128	\$6,729
Total assets	\$180,647	\$1,404,033	\$2,703,242
Six months ended June 30, 2001			
Revenue	\$7,219	\$62,743	\$69,962
Gross profit	\$2,500	\$24,310	\$26,810
Six months ended June 30, 2000			
Revenue	\$3,338	\$16,156	\$19,494
Gross profit	\$1,603	\$7,505	\$9,108

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The Company derives revenue primarily from the U.S. and Europe. Information regarding our revenues and long lived assets in different geographic regions is as follows (in thousands):

THREE	SIX
MONTHS	MONTHS
ENDED	ENDED

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JUNE 30, JUNE 30

2001 2000 2001 2000

Revenue:

U.S.\$27,497\$7,341\$52,456\$12,742Aggregate Foreign4,5873,41410,2873,414

\$32,084\$10,755\$62,743\$16,156

Long-Lived AssetsU.S.\$341,671\$1,310,508Aggregate Foreign143,290130,319

\$484,961\$1,440,827

ITEM 2

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

You should read the following description of our financial condition and results of operations in conjunction with our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto and other financial data appearing elsewhere in this Form 10-Q.

This report includes forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. When used herein, the words anticipate, believe, estimate, intend, may, will, and expect and similar expressions as they relate to Aether Inc. (Aether or Company) or its management are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. The Company's actual results, performance or achievements could differ materially from the results expressed in, or implied by, these forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include those discussed in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Business in the section entitled Factors Affecting Operating Results in Item 7 of our annual report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on April 2, 2001. Aether undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

OVERVIEW

Aether Systems, Inc. was originally formed as Aeros, L.L.C. in January 1996. We changed our name to Aether Technologies International, L.L.C. effective August 1996 and to Aether Systems L.L.C. effective September 1999. Immediately prior to the completion of our initial public offering of common stock on October 26, 1999, the limited liability company was converted into a Delaware corporation and our name was changed to Aether Systems, Inc.

From our inception until March 1997, we primarily provided wireless engineering services, including the development of wireless software applications for customers. In March 1997, we began offering services that provide

the users of wireless handheld devices access to real-time financial information. During 1997, we made a strategic decision to focus a significant portion of our engineering resources on the development of these and other wireless data services and systems, including our Aether Intelligent Messaging (AIM) package of wireless messaging software and software development tools.

In 1998 and 1999, we continued to develop financial information services as well as financial transaction services internally and through our acquisition of Mobeo, Inc. In 1999, we also completed our initial public offering and began to expand our service offerings to areas other than financial information and transactions.

In 2000, we continued our expansion into other vertical markets, including: the transportation and logistics vertical market through our acquisitions of LocusOne and Motient's retail transportation business unit, the mobile government vertical market through the acquisitions of Cerulean and SunPro; and the healthcare vertical market through investments and our own service offerings. We broadened our software offerings through our purchase of Riverbed and RTS Wireless. Also in 2000, we moved into the European

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marketplace with our acquisition of IFX, and the related formation of Sila. We entered the general wireless and Internet messaging services market through strategic relationships with RIM and others and through our own service offerings.

On April 17, 2001 we introduced Aether Fusion, a comprehensive wireless technology foundation designed to provide customers and partners with a single-source solution for accessing essential data and applications wirelessly.

Our current segments are vertical markets, software products, wireless services and European operations. During 2000, our reportable segments changed and we expect them to continue to change as our operating structure, business and the market in which we operate evolve. Each of our segments has distinct management teams.

#### FACTORS AFFECTING COMPARABILITY

Our results of operations in 2001 and 2000 have been affected by acquisitions, investments, impairment charges and the formation of Sila. In addition, a combination of factors has resulted in operating losses that we expect will continue for some time. The factors identified below have had a significant impact on our operations and should be considered in comparing our results of operations in 2001 to those in 2000.

##### Acquisitions

We have acquired companies to expand our product offerings and geographic markets and to acquire additional engineering resources to develop products. From September 1999 through December 31, 2000, we acquired 10 businesses (or parts of businesses) for an aggregate consideration (not including contingent payments that had not yet been earned) of \$365.8 million and equity valued at the time of acquisition of \$1.284 billion, consisting of 6,259,445 shares of our common stock and 1,093,785 replacement options. These acquisitions included the following:

During 1999, we acquired Mobeo for a purchase price and related expenses of \$11.5 million in cash and 46,105 options valued at \$374,000.

In early 2000, we acquired LocusOne, NetSearch, and IFX for purchase prices aggregating approximately \$160.6 million.

On March 6, 2000, we acquired Riverbed for 4,537,281 shares of our common stock and 862,480 options with an aggregate value of \$1.136 billion. In connection with our acquisition of Riverbed, we incurred costs totaling approximately \$16.9 million.

In September 2000, we acquired Cerulean, SunPro and Sinope for purchase prices and related expenses aggregating approximately \$93.4 million and 462,412 shares of our common stock and 94,952 options with an aggregate value of \$69.9 million.

On November 30, 2000, we acquired Motient's retail transportation business unit for \$49.2 million in cash and related expenses plus an additional sum of up to \$22.5 million depending on whether certain revenue and other incentive targets are met in 2001.

On December 22, 2000, we acquired RTS for a purchase price of \$34.2 million in cash and related expenses plus 1,259,752 shares of our common stock and 90,248 options with an aggregate value of \$78.0 million.

Our acquisitions increase our operating revenues and expenses from the date of acquisition. In the discussion of results below, we quantify the effects of acquisitions on our revenues and expenses. Acquisitions also increase depreciation and amortization significantly as we amortize the value of acquisition intangibles. Amortization related to acquisition intangibles was \$24.3 million and \$111.2 million for the three and six months ended June 30, 2001, respectively, and \$66.0 million and \$83.0 million for the three and six months ended June 30, 2000, respectively. The decrease in the second quarter 2001 compared to second quarter of 2000 was primarily due to the write-down of Riverbed goodwill at March 31, 2001. Finally, acquisitions affect non-cash compensation when we issue options to employees at the time of an acquisition.

#### Formation of Sila

On May 4, 2000, we formed Sila with Reuters to extend our operations to the European market. We contributed our IFX subsidiary (which we purchased for \$85.0 million shortly before forming Sila), plus \$13.5 million in cash to acquire a 60.0% interest in Sila. Reuters contributed cash of approximately \$20.8 million and Futures Pager Limited, a European paging company, for the remaining 40.0% interest. The results of Sila are consolidated in our financial statements.

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#### Investments

We have made investments through Aether Capital, L.L.C., our wholly-owned subsidiary, to promote the development of new technologies that are compatible with the services we offer or that we may wish to integrate into our services. Since August 1999, through June 30, 2001, we have invested approximately \$181 million in 21 companies. These investments include:

In August 1999, we formed a new company called OpenSky, which was renamed OmniSky in October 1999. We have invested a total of \$9.2 million in OmniSky. We formed OmniSky with 3Com to pursue opportunities in the emerging consumer and business mass markets for wireless e-mail, Internet access and other electronic transactions applications. As of June 30, 2001, we owned approximately 22.7% of OmniSky after completion of OmniSky's initial public offering. We account for our investment in OmniSky under the equity method of accounting.

In March 2000, we acquired a 27.5% interest in Inciscent in the form of preferred stock for a purchase price of \$9.9 million. We formed Inciscent with Metrocall, PSINet, and Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst and other investors to develop wireless e-mail, Internet access and other applications for the small office and home office

markets. We account for our investment in Inciscent under the equity method of accounting.

In July 2000, we entered into an agreement with Sylvan to establish Mindsurf, a new company focused on educational services. We have committed to acquire a 47% interest in Mindsurf for \$32.9 million in cash. Sylvan has also committed to acquire a 47% interest for \$32.9 million in cash while the remaining 6% will be owned by other minority investors. As of June 30, 2001, we have funded \$12.3 million of our commitment to Mindsurf. We can agree with Sylvan at any time to cease funding for Mindsurf. We account for our investment in Mindsurf under the equity method of accounting.

In July 2000, we acquired a 25.3% interest in Veristar for \$5.6 million in cash. Veristar enables access to accounts and content through Internet and wireless technology. We account for our investment in Veristar under the equity method of accounting.

We also invested \$59.0 million in five publicly-traded companies including Metrocall, DataCritical Corporation, and Novatel. We account for these five investments at fair value based on quoted market prices. Net unrealized holding gains and losses on these available-for-sale securities are excluded from income and recorded as a separate component of stockholders' equity unless the decline is deemed to be other than temporary. Subsequent to our investment, the market values of these investments have decreased significantly. In some cases we have determined the decline in market value of our investments in publicly-traded companies to be other than temporary, and as such have recorded realized losses on these investments, which are included in net income.

Finally, we also invested \$83.8 million in twelve private companies including \$25.0 million in Strategy.com, \$11.0 million in ePhones, \$14.9 million in Parkstone and \$10.0 million in Juniper. We account for these investments at cost unless circumstances indicate the carrying amount of the investment may not be recoverable.

#### IMPAIRMENT CHARGES

From 1999 through June 30, 2001, the Company recorded approximately \$1.7 billion in goodwill and other intangibles related to its acquisitions. In addition, the Company has made investments in other businesses totaling approximately \$181 million during this period. The Company's management performs an on-going analysis of the recoverability of its goodwill and other intangibles and the value of its investments in accordance with SFAS No. 121, Accounting for the Impairment of Long-Lived Assets and For Long-Lived Assets to be Disposed Of. Based on quantitative and qualitative measures, the Company assesses the need to record impairment losses on long-lived assets used in operations when impairment indicators are present. The impairment conditions evaluated by management may change from period to period, given that the Company operates in a volatile business environment.

A number of factors indicated that impairments may have arisen in the period ended March 31, 2001. Consideration for some of the Company's acquisitions was partially or fully funded through the issuance of shares of the Company's common stock at a time when its stock price was at historically high prices. The Company's stock price ranged from \$40.81 to \$266.00 at the time of these acquisitions. At March 31, 2001, the Company's stock price was \$13.00. Most of the companies the Company acquired or invested in are start-up or newly formed entities. Most of these companies were privately-held and their fair values are highly subjective and not readily determinable. At the time of these acquisitions and investments, market valuations and the availability of capital for such companies was at historically high levels. Between the end of 2000 and March 31, 2001, stock prices and market valuations in the Company's industry and similar industries had fallen substantially in response to a variety of factors, including a general downturn in the economy, a curtailment in the availability of capital and a general reduction in technology expenditures.



Based on the factors described above, the Company determined at March 31, 2001 that the goodwill in its acquisitions and investments may have become impaired. In accordance with SFAS No. 121, the Company performed an undiscounted cash flow analysis of its acquisitions to determine whether an impairment existed. When the undiscounted cash flows for an acquired company was less than the carrying value of the net assets, management determined a range of fair values using a combination of valuation methodologies. The methodologies included:

Discounted cash flow analysis, which is based upon converting expected future cash flows to present value.

Changes in market value since the date of acquisition relative to the following:

the Company's stock price;

comparable companies;

the NASDAQ composite index; and

a composite of companies that operate with in the Company's industry.

Market price multiples of comparable companies.

Contribution to the Company's market valuation.

The methodologies used were consistent with the specific valuation methods used when the original purchase price was determined. The Company's best estimate of the fair value was determined from the range of possible values after considering the relative performance, future prospects and risk profile of the acquired company.

In connection with the valuation of the Riverbed Technologies, Inc. acquisition, the Company engaged an independent third party to determine the fair value of the acquired business, because of the magnitude of the acquisition and the associated potential impairment.

As a result of its review, management determined that the carrying value of goodwill and certain other intangible assets related to its acquisitions were not fully recoverable. Accordingly, at March 31, 2001, we recorded an impairment charge of approximately \$959 million, which represents the difference between the carrying value and fair value of its goodwill and other intangible assets. The impairment of goodwill and other intangible assets from the acquisition of Riverbed Technologies, Inc. amounted to approximately \$775 million, or 81% of the total impairment charge. We also recorded impairment charges to goodwill and other intangibles related to the acquisitions of LocusOne Communications, Inc., NetSearch, LLC, Cerulean Technology, Inc., Sunpro and RTS Wireless, Inc. of approximately \$184 million.

At June 30, 2001, we performed a review of each of our acquisitions similar to the review performed at March 31, 2001. The results of our review indicated that of the aggregate carrying value of goodwill and certain other intangible assets related to our acquisitions, only the value of the work-force-in-place resulting from our acquisition of RTS Wireless, Inc. had become further impaired in the quarter ended June 30, 2001. We reduced the \$2.2 million carrying value of this asset to zero. As a result, on June 30, 2001, the adjusted book value of goodwill and other intangibles was reduced to approximately \$413 million.

The Company adjusts the carrying value of its available-for-sale investments in public companies to market and records the change in market value to other comprehensive income. In accordance with SAB 59, Accounting for Noncurrent Marketable Equity Securities, the Company assessed the decline in market value in certain of its public company investments as other than temporary after reviewing the following factors: length of time and extent to which the market value of the investment has been below cost, the financial position and the near-term prospects of the issuer, and the intent and ability of the Company to retain its investment in the investee for a period of time

sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in market value. As of March 31, 2001, in accordance with SAB 59, the Company recorded a realized loss of \$27.0 million related to these other than temporary declines.

At June 30, 2001, the Company performed a review of each of its available-for-sale investments in public companies. Based on this review, the Company determined that no additional adjustments were required to its available-for-sale investments as a result of other than temporary declines.

With respect to investments in non-public companies, the Company's management performs on-going reviews based on quantitative and qualitative measures. In evaluating its non-public company investments, management determined a range of market values based on a combination of the following valuation methods where applicable:

Recent funding rounds.

Changes in market value since the date of investment relative to the following:

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the Company's stock price;

comparable companies;

the NASDAQ composite index

a composite of companies that operate with in the Company's industry.

Market price multiples of comparable companies.

The fair value was determined from the range of possible values, after considering the strength of the investee's financial position, future prospects and risk profile of the invested company. During the first quarter of fiscal 2001, the Company recorded an impairment charge of approximately \$61.8 million related to these non-public company investments.

At June 30, 2001, we performed a review of our investments in non-public companies similar to the review performed at March 31, 2001. As a result of our review, we reduced the carrying value of one of our investments by \$1.1 million.

Because the conditions underlying the factors the Company uses to evaluate its acquisitions and investments changes from time to time, the Company could determine that it is necessary to take additional material impairment charges in future periods.

## OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES

We describe below the components of our operating revenues and expenses.

### Subscriber revenue and expenses

We derive recurring revenue from subscribers in the vertical markets, wireless services, software products and European operations segments.

Subscriber revenue may consist of:

a one-time non-refundable activation fee, which we recognize ratably over the expected life of the customer relationship;

monthly per-subscriber service fees, which we recognize as services are provided;

monthly per-subscriber exchange fees for access to financial information from the securities exchanges and markets, which we recognize as services are provided; and

monthly fees for providing access to our network operations center, which we recognize as services are provided, ratably over the contract period.

For certain of our products, our subscribers' monthly fee includes the use of a wireless handheld device. Revenue for such devices is recognized as the related service is provided. Contracts with our wireless data subscribers are generally for a one-year period and include a termination penalty if cancelled by the subscriber before the one-year period expires. These contracts are generally renewable at the option of the subscriber for additional one-year periods or otherwise continue on a monthly basis until cancelled by the subscriber.

Cost of subscriber revenue consists primarily of airtime costs, financial data costs, and securities exchange and market fees. Our airtime costs are determined by agreements we have with several wireless carriers. Typically, we have one-year contracts to buy data network capacity either for an agreed amount of kilobytes at a flat fee or on a cents-per-kilobyte basis. Cost of subscriber revenue excludes depreciation on our network operations center and certain costs of customer fulfillment, which is included in sales and marketing expense.

The subscription products we offer fall into three distinct categories:

Enterprise ASP/ISP services. These services wirelessly connect critical functions of a business to end users within the business or to third parties such as customers. Through our Enterprise ASP/ISP services, we provide a full wireless solution to the end user, including product development, fulfillment, network hosting, customer service and carrier connections between the business and wireless carriers. For this type of product, we typically receive revenue from a monthly recurring fee for the full range of services between \$40 and \$70 per month per subscriber.

Premium information and commerce services. These services provide the end user with information critical to their business, such as market information or sales inquiries. Premium information products are packaged with fulfillment, customer service and carrier connections between the business and wireless carriers. For this type of product, we typically receive revenues

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such as activation fees and a monthly recurring fee for the full range of services between \$70 and \$200 per month per subscriber.

Network hosting services. These services connect businesses and wireless carriers. Hosting services may be charged per subscriber or on a usage basis. Average revenue per subscriber typically ranges between \$5 and \$25 per month per subscriber.

The nature of revenue and costs for these product categories is similar, regardless of the segment in which we offer them. Accordingly, we believe it is valuable to analyze our subscribers on the basis of these product categories.

The following table sets forth the number of subscribers for each of our product types as of June 30, 2000 and 2001.

AS OF JUNE 30,

	2001	2000
Enterprise ASP/ISP services	39,683	1,336
Premium information & commerce services		
18,133,17,002		
Network hosting services		1,135
<hr/>		
<hr/>		
Total subscribers		
57,816,19,473		
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A substantial portion of the growth in Enterprise ASP/ISP and Premium information and commerce services subscribers over this period is attributable to service offerings obtained through recent acquisitions and the remainder is due to the attraction of new subscribers to our services and the introduction of new services. During the period, Network hosting services subscribers decreased substantially as a result of the evolution of services of two significant customers to products within our Enterprise ASP/ISP services. The remainder of the decrease is associated with the discontinuance of service of one customer due to its consolidation following its acquisition during the latter half of 2000.

#### Engineering services revenue and expenses

Revenue from wireless engineering services consists of amounts billed to our customers for engineering time on an hourly basis or fixed fees on a per project basis. This revenue is recognized as the work is performed. Cost of engineering services revenue consists of cash compensation and related costs for engineers and other project-related costs.

#### Software and related services revenue and expenses

We derive revenue from the licensing of software products, including the AIM platform, the ScoutWare software suite, the e-Mobile software suite, the PacketCluster software suite, the FireRMS software suite and the Advantage software suite. In future quarters we expect to generate revenue from the licensing of our new software foundation Aether Fusion . Cost of software and related services revenue consists of costs of licensing, including royalty payments and personnel costs.

#### Device sales and expenses

We generate revenue by providing our subscribers the option to purchase wireless handheld devices from us at or near cost, which we recognize as revenue upon shipment of the devices, or over the expected term of the customer relationship. Cost of device sales consists of the cost of the hardware from the hardware manufacturer or wholesaler.

#### Research and development expenses

Research and development expenses consist primarily of cash compensation and related costs for engineers engaged in research and development activities and, to a lesser extent, costs of materials relating to these activities. We expense research and development costs as we incur them.

#### General and administrative and selling and marketing expenses

General and administrative expenses consist primarily of cash compensation and related costs for general corporate and business development personnel, along with rent and other costs. Selling and marketing expenses consist primarily of advertising and promotions, sales and marketing personnel, travel and entertainment, certain customer fulfillment and other costs.

#### Depreciation and amortization expenses

Depreciation and amortization expenses consist primarily of the amortization of intangible assets obtained in connection with our acquisitions. Depreciation and amortization expenses also include depreciation expenses arising from equipment purchased for our network operations centers and other property and equipment purchases.

#### Option and warrant expenses

Option and warrant expense consists of expenses recorded to account for the difference, on the date of grant, between the fair market value and the exercise price of stock options issued to employees, restricted stock granted to employees and the fair value of equity-based awards to non-employees. We commonly issue options and/or warrants at prices below market value in connection with our acquisitions. Given our numerous acquisitions since our inception and our restricted stock plan, we expect to continue to have substantial option and warrant expense.

#### Impairment of goodwill associated with acquisitions

Impairment of goodwill associated with acquisitions expense consists of the amount of goodwill and other intangibles, written down in accordance with SFAS 121, Accounting for the Impairment of Long-Lived Assets and for Assets to Be Disposed Of. The impaired goodwill related to our acquisitions of Riverbed Technologies, Inc., LocusOne Communications, Inc., NetSearch, Inc. Cerulean Technology, Inc. SunPro, Inc., and RTS Wireless, Inc.

#### Restructuring Charge

The restructuring charge consists primarily of the costs that we estimate we will incur associated with the plan we have begun to implement to consolidate excess facilities and eliminate redundant positions from acquired companies.

#### Interest income (expense), net

Interest income (expense), net consists primarily of interest income from cash equivalents and short-term investments, interest expense and realized gains (losses) on sale of our investments.

#### Equity in losses of investments

Equity in losses of investments consists of our proportionate share of the net losses of OmniSky, Inciscent, MindSurf and VeriStar Corporation, which are recorded under the equity method of accounting.

#### Minority interest

Minority interest consists wholly of Reuters ownership interest in Sila.

#### Investment losses, including impairments

Investment losses, including impairments, consists of the loss taken on investments where the decline in market value was deemed to be other than temporary. Investment losses also include amounts related to the decline in the fair value of derivative instruments.

#### Income tax benefit

Income tax benefit consists of a foreign deferred tax benefit associated with the losses generated by Sila.

#### Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle

Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle consists entirely of the cumulative benefit of the implementation of SFAS 133, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities.

#### Extraordinary Item

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The extraordinary item consists entirely of the gain realized from the early extinguishment of \$20 million in convertible subordinated notes payable.

#### COMPARISON OF RESULTS FOR THREE AND SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2001 AND 2000

Subscriber revenue. Subscriber revenue increased to \$11.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2001 from \$6.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 2000. The increase between periods was primarily due to \$2.9 million in sales of our Mobile Max product line and a \$1.0 million increase in sales of our Financial services products. The remaining increase was due to the revenue resulting from the increased number of subscribers that signed on to our existing and new product and service offerings such as wireless web, and offerings to large enterprise customers. Our subscriber product and service offerings fell primarily into our Enterprise ASP/ISP services and premium information and commerce services subscriber categories. Subscriber revenue increased to \$21.8 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 from \$9.0 for the six months ended June 30, 2000. The increase between periods was due to \$5.4 million in sales of our Mobile Max product line and a \$ 1.3 million increase in sales of our financial services products. The remaining increase was due primarily to the revenue resulting from the increased number of subscribers that signed on to our other existing and new product and service offerings such as wireless web and offerings to large enterprise customers. The Mobile Max product line was obtained in connection with an acquisition made after June 30 of last year.

Cost of subscriber revenue. Cost of subscriber revenue increased to \$6.6 million for the three months ended June 30, 2001 from \$3.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 2000. We generally expect the cost of subscriber revenue to increase proportionately with any increase in subscriber revenue. The increase between periods was due to costs of sales of our Mobile Max product line of \$1.1 million and a increase of approximately \$793,000 in cost of sales of our financial services products. The remaining increase was due to the cost of revenue resulting from the increased number of subscribers that signed on to our other existing and new product and service offerings such as wireless web and offerings to large enterprise customers. Cost of subscriber revenue increased to \$12.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 from \$4.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2000. The increase between periods was due to costs of sales of our Mobile Max product line of \$2.9 million and an increase of approximately \$565,000 in cost of sales of our financial services products. The remaining increase was due to the cost of revenue resulting from the increased number of subscribers that signed on to our existing and new product and service offerings such as wireless web and offerings to large enterprise customers. The cost of subscriber revenue was also negatively impacted by several factors. These factors included the increased cost of airtime in Germany related to Sila. We have been incurring incremental costs associated with providing services to non-paying customers obtained in

connection with our acquisition of Motient's retail transportation business unit. In the second quarter we have continued to be successful in converting some of these non-paying customers into paying subscribers by repairing their non-working equipment and intend to continue seeking to do so with others. We expect these conditions that have negatively affected margins in the three and six months ended June 30, 2001 to be temporary.

Engineering services revenue. Engineering services revenue increased to \$2.8 million for three months ended June 30, 2001 from \$1.6 million for the three months ended June 30, 2000. Engineering services revenue increased to \$5.1 million for six months ended June 30, 2001 from \$3.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2000. Approximately \$1.0 million of the increase between periods was due to our engineering services contracts with Sun Microsystems. We recognized no revenue under this contract prior to the second quarter of 2001. The remainder of the increase between periods was primarily due to other new customers.

Cost of engineering services revenue. Cost of engineering services revenue increased to \$1.5 million for three months ended June 30, 2001 from \$1.0 million for the three months ended June 30, 2000. Cost of engineering services revenue increased to \$2.8 million for six months ended June 30, 2001 from \$1.6 million for the six months ended June 30, 2000. The increase between periods was primarily due to our engineering services contracts with Sun Microsystems. We recognized costs of approximately \$525,000 under this contract for the three months ended June 30, 2001. The remainder of the increase between periods was primarily due to other new customers.

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Software and related services revenue. Software and related services revenue was \$9.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2001 and \$2.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2000. Software and related services revenue was \$21.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 and \$3.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2000. The increase between years was primarily due to sales of licenses and services of the ScoutWare software platform, e-Mobile Delivery platform, PacketCluster software suite, FireRMS software suite and the Advantage software suite, all of which were obtained in conjunction with acquisitions occurring in 2000.

Cost of software and related services revenue. Cost of software and related services revenue was \$2.6 million for the three months ended June 30, 2001 and approximately \$851,000 for the three months ended June 30, 2000. Cost of software and related services revenue was \$6.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 and \$1.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2000. The increase between periods was due to the increase in software sales and services as discussed above.

Device Sales. Revenue from device sales was \$8.0 million for the three months ended June 30, 2001 and approximately \$578,000 for the three months ended June 30, 2000. Revenue from device sales was \$14.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 and approximately \$713,000 for the six months ended June 30, 2000. The increase in device sales between periods relates primarily to the increase of subscribers between periods and the sales of devices to resellers.

Cost of device sales. Cost of device sales was \$7.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2001 and approximately \$595,000 for the three months ended June 30, 2001. Cost of device sales was \$16.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 and \$1.3 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001. The increase in the cost of device sales between periods relates primarily to the increase in device sales between periods. Included in our results are sales of hardware at or below cost made primarily to obtain other revenue streams. Additionally, the cost of device sales increase for the six months ended June 30, 2001 due to an inventory write-down of \$1.9 million taken in the first quarter of 2001.

Research and development expenses. Research and development expenses, including in-process research and development related to acquisitions, increased to \$18.7 million for the three months ended June 30, 2001 from \$5.0

million for the three months ended June 30, 2000. The increase between periods was due to increased expenses of \$6.9 million associated with acquisitions made after June 30 of last year. The remaining increase was due to the hiring of additional engineers and consultants for increased research and development activities associated with the development of our software products, mobile computing platforms, including Aether Fusion , and wireless data services. Research and development expenses, including in-process research and development related to acquisitions, increased to \$35.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 from \$9.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2000. The increase between periods was due to increased expenses of \$14.1 million associated with acquisitions made after June 30 of last year. The remaining increase was due to the hiring of additional engineers and consultants for increased research and development activities associated with the development of our software products, mobile computing platforms, including Aether Fusion , and wireless data services. We expect research and development expenses to continue to increase as we expand our product offerings.

**General and administrative expenses.** General and administrative expenses increased to \$23.7 million for the three months ended June 30, 2001 from \$8.5 million for the three months ended June 30, 2000. General and administrative expenses increased to \$49.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 from \$13.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2000. The increase between periods was primarily due to additional personnel and consultants performing general corporate activities, additional facilities and our acquisitions since the prior year. The increased scope of our business has required additional personnel and other expenses, such as consulting and facilities, in all areas including: customer service, network operations, project management, legal and accounting. We anticipate general and administrative expenses to level off in the near term as our restructuring efforts come to bear.

**Selling and marketing expenses.** Selling and marketing expenses increased to \$20.5 million for the three months ended June 30, 2001 from \$16.5 million for the three months ended June 30, 2000. The increase between periods was due primarily to expenses for the quarter of \$7.0 million associated with acquisitions made after June 30 of last year, partially offset by reduced spending for our branding and advertising campaign. Selling and marketing expenses increased to \$40.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 from \$22.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2000. The increase in 2001 was primarily due to expenses for the six months of \$14.0 million associated with acquisitions made after June 30 of last year. The remaining increase between periods was due to the increased first quarter expenses for the Aether Fusion <sup>TM</sup> branding campaign. We expect overall selling and marketing expenses to level off in the near term as we continue to scale back our branding and advertising campaign.

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**Depreciation and amortization.** Depreciation and amortization decreased to \$29.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2001 from \$67.0 million for the three months ended June 30, 2000. This decrease was primarily a result of the impairment charge recorded in the first quarter of 2001 which significantly reduced the carrying value of the goodwill and other intangibles. Depreciation and amortization increased to \$121.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 from \$84.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2000. This increase was primarily due to amortization on acquisitions made in the second half of 2000, partially offset as a result of the above mentioned impairment charge recorded in the first quarter of 2001.

**Option and warrant expense.** Option and warrant expense increased to \$4.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2001 from \$3.6 million for the three months ended June 30, 2000. Option and warrant expense increased to \$8.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 from \$6.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2000. The increase between the periods was due primarily to amortized option and warrant expense related to options with strike prices below market value on the date of grant, granted in conjunction with acquisitions made in the second half of 2000 and the amortization of expense related to restricted stock granted in January 2001.

**Restructuring charge.** During the second quarter, Aether announced an expense reduction plan as part of its integration strategy focused on improving operational efficiencies and the implementation of other measures in order



to reduced planned expenses. These efforts have resulted in the consolidation of excess facilities and elimination of redundant positions from acquired companies. As a result of this restructuring plan, we recorded a charge to earnings in the second quarter of \$15.9 million. The charge related mainly to a workforce reduction of over 250 positions and the closing of six facilities. Employee separation benefits of \$4.9 million under the restructuring plan include severance, medical, and other benefits. Facility closure costs of \$11.0 million include losses on subleases, brokerage commissions, asset impairment charges, and other costs. As of June 30, 2001 the accrued liability related to the restructuring was \$12.0 million.

Interest income, net. Net interest income decreased to \$3.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 2001 from \$14.8 million for the three months ended June 30, 2000. Net interest income decreased to \$9.6 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 from \$17.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2000. The decrease between 2001 and 2000 was primarily due to a decrease in interest earned on cash and cash equivalents as our cash on hand decreased between periods related to investing and operating activities. The remaining decrease was due to the lowering of interest rates in 2001.

Equity in losses of investments. Equity in losses of investments was \$17.0 million for the three months ended June 30, 2001 and \$10.7 million for the three months ended June 30, 2000. Equity in losses of investments was \$31.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 and \$13.8 million for the six months ended June 30, 2000. The increase related to our proportionate share of losses from OmniSky, Inciscent, MindSurf, and VeriStar, which are all accounted for under the equity method of accounting. We expect to continue to record equity losses in investments as these companies continue to develop their operations.

Investment losses, including impairments. Investment loss, including impairments was \$1.1 million for the three months ended June 30, 2001. There was no such loss for the three months ended June 30, 2000. Investment loss, including impairments was \$95.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001. There was no such loss for the six months ended June 30, 2000. The increase for the three and six months ended June 30, 2001 was due primarily to the loss taken on investments where the decline in market value was deemed to be other than temporary. The Company also recorded a loss of approximately \$43,000 and \$6.0 million for the three and six months ended June 30, 2001, respectively, relating to the decline in the fair value of derivative instruments.

Minority interest. Minority interest was \$4.5 million for the three months ended June 30, 2001 and \$1.7 million for the three months ended June 30, 2000. Minority interest was \$8.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 and \$1.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2000. Minority interest relates to Reuters' proportional share of losses in Sila, which was formed in May 2000 and is consolidated into our financial statements. We expect that Sila will continue to incur losses as it develops its operations. The increase between years is primarily due to a full quarter of losses in 2001 versus approximately one month of losses in the quarter ended June 30, 2000.

Income tax benefit. Income tax benefit was approximately \$440,000 for the three months ended June 30, 2001 and approximately \$875,000 for the six months ended June 30, 2001. This increase was due to a foreign deferred tax benefit associated with the losses generated by Sila, which was formed in May 2000.

Extraordinary Item. For the three months ended June 30, 2001 we recorded an extraordinary gain of \$7.7 million on the early extinguishment of \$20.0 million of convertible subordinated notes payable, which were repurchased at 59% of face value. There was no extraordinary gain during the periods ended June 30, 2000.

Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle. Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle was \$0 for the three months ended June 30, 2001 and \$6.6 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 and was due entirely to the adoption of SFAS 133, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities. SFAS 133 provides that derivatives should be carried as an asset on the balance sheet at fair value, and that changes in fair value between periods should be included in net income. Our derivatives include warrants obtained in connections with several of our investments. Such warrants are considered derivatives as they include provisions which allow for net

settlement.

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## SEGMENT RESULTS

	VERTICAL MARKETS	SOFTWARE PRODUCTS	WIRELESS SERVICES
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Three months ended June 30, 2001			
Revenue	\$20,384	\$3,077	\$5,385
Gross profit	\$9,667	\$2,162	\$570
Total assets	\$182,993	\$155,819	\$
Three months ended June 30, 2000			
Revenue	\$5,037	\$1,318	\$1,062
Gross profit	\$2,063	\$827	\$637
Total assets	\$49,431	\$1,069,131	\$
Six months ended June 30, 2001			
Revenue	\$38,400	\$8,054	\$9,070
Gross profit	\$17,246	\$5,651	\$(1,087)
Six months ended June 30, 2000			
Revenue	\$8,759	\$2,000	\$2,059
Gross profit	\$3,607	\$1,036	\$1,259

[Additional columns below]

[Continued from above table, first column(s) repeated]

	EUROPEAN OPERATIONS	CORPORATE AND OTHER	TOTAL
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Three months ended June 30, 2001			
Revenue	\$3,238	\$32,084	\$35,322
Gross profit	\$1,085	\$13,484	\$14,569
Total assets	\$161,340	\$823,689	\$1,323,841
Three months ended June 30, 2000			
Revenue	\$3,338	\$10,755	\$14,093
Gross profit	\$1,601	\$5,128	\$6,729
Total assets	\$180,647	\$1,404,033	\$2,703,242
Six months ended June 30, 2001			
Revenue	\$7,219	\$62,743	\$69,962
Gross profit	\$2,500	\$24,310	\$26,810
Six months ended June 30, 2000			
Revenue	\$3,338	\$16,156	\$19,494
Gross profit	\$1,603	\$7,505	\$9,108

The type of revenue we earn in each of our segments varies from segment to segment.

Vertical markets segment. We operate in a wide variety of vertical markets. Our vertical markets segment can have subscriber revenue, engineering services revenue, device sales and software and related services revenue

depending on the needs of the customer. Revenue in the vertical markets segment increased to \$20.4 million in the three months ended June 30, 2001 from \$5.0 million in the three months ended June 30, 2000 and gross profit in that segment increased to \$9.7 million in the three months ended June 30, 2001 from \$2.1 million in the three months ended June 30, 2000. Revenue in the vertical markets segment increased to \$38.4 million in the six months ended June 30, 2001 from \$8.8 million in the six months ended June 30, 2000 and gross profit in that segment increased to \$17.2 million in the six months ended June 30, 2001 from \$3.6 million in the six months ended June 30, 2000. The increase in this segment was primarily the result of sales of product and service offerings obtained in connection with acquisitions made in 2000 and their subsequent growth, which contributed \$27.7 million and \$12.9 million to revenue and gross profits, respectively. The remaining growth related to increases in subscribers to existing services, which contributed in the amount of \$10.7 million and \$4.3 million to revenue and gross profit, respectively.

Software products segment. The software products segment typically has software products maintenance and related services revenue. Revenue in the software products segment increased to \$3.1 million in the three months ended June 30, 2001 from \$1.3 million in the three months ended June 30, 2000 and gross profit in that segment increased to \$2.2 million in the three months ended June 30, 2001 from \$827,000 in the three months ended June 30, 2000. The sales of software application and product offerings obtained in connection with the acquisitions executed in the second half of 2000 contributed approximately \$267,000 of the revenues and \$105,000 of the gross profits to the software products segment in the three months ended June 30, 2001. The increase of \$1.8 million and \$1.3 million in revenue and gross margin, respectively, from the three months ended June 30, 2000 is primarily related to the growth in sales from the Scoutware and AIM product lines. Revenue in the software products segment increased to \$8.1 million in the six months ended June 30, 2001 from \$2.0 million in the six months ended June 30, 2000 and gross profit in that segment increased to \$5.6 million in the six months ended June 30, 2001 from \$1.0 million in the six months ended June 30, 2000. The sales of software application and product offerings obtained in connection with the acquisitions executed in the second half of 2000 contributed approximately \$1.4 million of the revenues and \$0.5 million of the gross profits to the software products segment in the six months ended June 30, 2001. The increase of \$6.1 million and \$4.6 million in revenue and gross margin, respectively, from the six months ended June 30, 2000 is primarily related to the growth in sales from the Scoutware and AIM product lines.

Wireless services segment. Our wireless services segment derives revenue from subscribers and from engineering services related to setting up and servicing these subscribers. All of the increase in revenue and gross profit in the wireless services segment was a result of new product and service offerings, including our Blackberry by Aether and wireless Enterprise ISP services.

European operations segment. Our European operations segment consists of Sila and generates revenue from subscribers, engineering services and from the sale of software and related services. Sila was formed in May 2000. As Sila's revenues are currently derived primarily from the financial services sector, it saw a modest reduction in revenues from 2000 to 2001 due to the overall pullback in the market for global equities.

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## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Since our inception, we have financed our operations primarily through private and public placements of our equity securities and debt. Through June 30, 2001, we have raised aggregate net proceeds of approximately \$1.5 billion including the issuance of \$310.5 million of 6% convertible subordinated notes of which \$290.5 million were outstanding at June 30, 2001. As of June 30, 2001, we had approximately \$653.8 million in cash and short-term investments (including restricted cash of \$12.4 million) and working capital of approximately \$647.6 million.

Net cash used in operating activities was \$118.4 million and \$5.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 and 2000, respectively. The principal use of cash in each of these periods was to fund our losses from operations.

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Net cash used in investing activities was \$92.8 million and \$259.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2001 and 2000, respectively. For the six months ended June 30, 2001, we used \$29.6 million for the purchase of property and equipment, \$25.6 million for investments in companies and \$35.6 million for payments on 2000 acquisitions. Cash used by investing activities for the six months ended June 30, 2000 was primarily for investments in companies of \$63.2 million and acquisitions of \$174.9 million.

Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities was approximately \$(6.1) million and \$1,380.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2001 and 2000 respectively. For the three months ended March 31, 2000, cash provided by financing activities was primarily attributable to proceeds received from our secondary offering of common stock and convertible subordinated notes.

While not a measure under generally accepted accounting principles, EBITDA is a standard measure of financial performance in our industry. EBITDA means earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, option and warrant expense, impairment charges, realized losses and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle. EBITDA should not be considered in isolation or as an alternative to net income (loss), income (loss) from operations, cash flows from operating activities, or any other measure of performance under generally accepted accounting principles. Cash expenditures for various long-term assets, interest expense and income taxes have been, and will be, incurred which are not reflected in the EBITDA presentations. EBITDA losses increased to \$49.4 million in the three months ended June 30, 2001 from \$24.9 million in the three months ended June 30, 2000. The increase between periods was due to increases in operating expenses as a result of acquisitions and our continued growth.

We expect to continue to use cash to fund operations as we continue to develop our products and markets. The time at which our operating revenues will exceed operating expenses, if ever, depends on a wide variety of factors including general business trends, development of our markets, the progress of and changes in our research and development activities and the effect of potential future acquisitions. Given our current cash resources and our ability to control some of the factors that will affect when operating revenues may exceed operating expenses, we believe we have substantial flexibility to continue operations and still have funds available for our operating and capital requirements for at least the next twelve months.

For the remainder of fiscal year 2001, we expect to have the following expenditures:

\$8.7 million for debt service on our convertible subordinated notes.

We may be required to pay \$22.5 million for purchase earn-outs related to certain acquisition related activities.

In accordance with our agreement with MindSurf, we have committed to invest an additional \$6.5 million in MindSurf in 2001.

We are committed to provide additional funding of up to \$3.6 million to Sila in 2001.

We are committed to \$6.2 million in other investments in 2001.

ITEM 3.

### QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE REGARDING MARKET RISK

We have limited exposure to financial market risks, including changes in interest rates. At June 30, 2001, we had cash and cash equivalents of \$651.4 million (including restricted cash of \$12.4 million) and short-term investments of approximately \$2.4 million. Cash and cash equivalents consisted of demand deposits, money market accounts and investment-grade commercial paper. Short-term investments consisted of highly liquid investments in debt obligations of the U.S. Government and other highly rated entities with maturities of up to 30 years. These investments are

classified as available-for-sale and are considered short-term, because we expect to sell them within 12 months. These

investments are subject to interest rate risk and will fall in value if market interest rates increase. At June 30, 2001, the value of our short-term investments was approximately \$7,800 less than our cost. If market interest rates rise, the value of our short-term investments will decrease. We expect to sell these investments prior to maturity, and therefore we may not realize the full value of these investments.

Since the acquisition of Sinope, IFX, the formation of Sila and the commencement of US sales to foreign countries, we have been exposed to foreign currency exchange risk. All US sales to foreign countries have been denominated in USD. The offices of Sila located in various European countries require minimal funding from Sila. Therefore, due to the insignificant amount of currency being exchanged, the Company has not hedged, or otherwise attempted to mitigate its foreign currency exchange risk.

## PART II- OTHER INFORMATION

### ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Aether and certain of its officers and directors are among the defendants named in seven purported class action lawsuits identified below. These actions were filed on behalf of persons and entities who acquired Aether's common stock after its initial public offering in October 21, 1999. The suits seek damages on account of alleged violations of securities laws. Among other things, the complaints claim that prospectuses, dated October 21, 1999 and September 27, 2000 and issued by Aether in connection with the public offerings of its common stock allegedly contained untrue statements of material fact or omissions of material fact in violation of securities laws because the prospectuses allegedly failed to disclose that the offerings' underwriters had solicited and received additional and excessive fees, commissions and benefits beyond those listed in the arrangements with certain of their customers which were designed to maintain, distort and/or inflate the market price of Aether's common stock in the aftermarket. The actions seek unspecified monetary damages and rescission. Aether believes these claims are without merit and plans to vigorously contest these actions.

(i) Class Action Complaint for Violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Jury Trial Demanded, Civil Action No. 01 CV-6029, filed July 3, 2001. In the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, *Larry Ackerman, On Behalf of Himself and All Others Similarly Situated, plaintiffs, v. Aether Systems, Inc., David S. Oros, David C. Reymann, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, BancBoston Robertson Stephens Inc., Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Securities Corporation, U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc., Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., and Friedman, Billing Ramsey & Co., Inc., defendants.*

(ii) Class Action Complaint for Violations of the Federal Securities Laws, Civil Action No. 01 CV 6116, filed July 5, 2001. In the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, *Henry Cole and Daniel Kucera, on Behalf of Themselves and All Others Similarly Situated, plaintiffs v. Aether Systems, Inc., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, BancBoston Robertson Stephens, Inc., Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, David S. Oros and David C. Reymann, defendants.*

(iii) Class Action Complaint for Violations of Federal Securities Laws, Jury Trial Demanded, Civil Action No. 01 CV-6136, filed July 5, 2001. In the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, *Bernd Toennesmann, On Behalf of Himself and All Others Similarly Situated, plaintiffs, v. Aether Systems, Inc., David S. Oros, David C. Reymann, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc., FleetBoston Robertson Stephens Inc., Credit Suisse First Boston Corp., U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc., Bank of America Securities LLC, and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., defendants.*

(iv) Class Action Complaint for Violations of Federal Securities Laws, Jury Trial Demanded, Civil Action No. 01 CV-6269, filed July 11, 2001. In the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, *Isak Karasik, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated vs. Aether Systems, Inc., David S. Oros, David C. Reymann, Mark D. Ein, Rajendra Singh, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Incorporated, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, Inc. and FleetBoston Robertson Stephens, Inc., defendants.*

(v) Class Action Complaint for Violations of the Federal Securities Laws, Jury Trial Demanded Civil Action No. 01 CV-5570, filed June 19, 2001. In the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, *Adele Brody on Behalf of Herself and All Others Similarly Situated, plaintiff v. Aether Systems, Inc., David S. Oros, David C. Reymann, Merrill Lynch, and Jenrette Securities Corporation, U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc., Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., and Friedman, Billings, Ramsey & Co., Inc., defendants.*

(vi) Class Action Complaint for Violations of the Federal Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Jury Trial Demanded, Civil Action No. 01 CV-5666, filed June 21, 2001. In the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, *Pond Equities, On Behalf of Itself and All Others Similarly Situated, plaintiff, v. Aether Systems, Inc., David Oros, David C. Reymann,*

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*Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, BancBoston Robertson Stephens Inc., Donaldson Securities Inc. and Friedman Billing Ramsey & Co., Inc., defendants.*

(vii) Class Action Complaint for Violations of the Federal Securities Laws, Jury Trial Demanded, Civil Action No. 01 CV-5917, filed June 27, 2001. In the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, *Edward Cassady, on Behalf of Himself and All Others Similarly Situated, plaintiff v. Aether Systems, Inc., David S. Oros, David C. Reymann, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, BancBoston Robertson Stephens Inc., Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Securities Corporation, U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc., Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. and Friedman, Billing, Ramsey & Co., Inc., defendants.*

The Company is also a party to other legal proceedings in the normal course of business. Based on evaluation of these matters and discussions with counsel, management believes that liabilities arising from these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the consolidated results of operations or financial position of the Company.

## ITEM 2. CHANGES IN SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

Not Applicable.

## ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

## ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS.

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders was held June 22, 2001, in Baltimore, Maryland, at which the following matters were submitted to a vote of the shareholders.

- a. Votes cast for or withheld regarding the election of directors.

Total Vote For

Total Vote Withheld

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	Each Director	From Each Director
J. Carter Beese, Jr.	30,961,157	215,975
Frank A. Bonsal, Jr30,088,7531,088,379		
George M. Davis30,832,076345,056		
David S. Oros30,637,801539,331		
George P. Stamas31,091,38785,745		
Devin N. Wenig30,097,4981,079,634		
Thomas E. Wheeler31,092,18284,950		

b. Votes cast for, against or withheld regarding ratification of the Company's appointment of KPMG LLP as independent auditors.

FOR	Against	Abstain
30,899,878	259,807	17,447

c. Votes cast for, against or withheld to approve amendment of the Company's Equity Incentive Plan to provide for the issuance of shares of common stock and increasing the number of shares that can be granted upon exercise of incentive stock options from 3,000,000 to 8,000,000 shares.

FOR	Against	Abstain	Non-Votes
16,614,374	4,140,615	33,793	10,388,360

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None

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ITEM 6. EXHIBITS AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K.

a. Exhibits

10.1 Employment Agreement with David C. Reymann dated June 8, 2001.

b. Reports on Form 8-K

Current Report on Form 8-K dated February 3, 2001 was filed on April 16, 2001 pursuant to Item 7 (Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits.)

Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 8, 2001 was filed May 11, 2001 pursuant to Item 5 (Other Events)

Current Report on Form 8-K dated June 19, 2001 was filed June 29, 2001 pursuant to Item 5 (Other Events)

Current Report on Form 8-K dated August 1, 2001 was filed August 3, 2001 pursuant to Item 5 (Other Events)

**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.

Dated: August 14, 2001

Aether  
Systems,  
Inc. By: /s/  
David C.  
Reymann

\_\_\_\_\_  
David C.  
Reymann  
Chief  
Financial  
Officer  
(Principal  
Financial  
and  
Accounting  
Officer)

STATEMENT RE: COMPUTATION OF PER SHARE EARNINGS

AETHER SYSTEMS, INC.  
COMPUTATION OF EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE  
EXHIBIT 11.1

Computation of Earnings per Common Share					
(in thousands, except per share data)					
Three Months Ended June 30, 2001			Three months Ended June 30, 2000		
Net Loss	Shares	Per Share	Net Loss	Shares	Per Share

BASIC EPS

Net loss available to common  
shareholders(103,640)40,576(2.55)(89,914)38,031(2.36)EFFECT  
OF DILUTIVE SHARESStock options      Restricted Stock


DILUTIVE EPSNet loss available to common  
shareholders(103,640)40,576(2.55)(89,914)38,031(2.36)



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Six Months Ended June 30, 2001			Six months Ended June 30, 2000		
Net Loss	Shares	Per Share	Net Loss	Shares	Per Share

BASIC EPS

Net loss available to common  
 shareholders(1,303,940)40,511(32.19)(123,185)33,765(3.65)EFFECT  
 OF DILUTIVE SHARESStock options            Restricted Stock

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DILUTIVE EPSNet loss available to common  
 shareholders(1,103,940)40,511(32.19)(123,185)33,765(3.65)

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Options and warrants to purchase approximately 4.4 million and 5.0 million shares of common stock were outstanding at June 30, 2001 and 2000 respectively and were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share because the effect would have been antidilutive. Also, approximately 757,000 shares of restricted stock included under the restricted stock plan were unexercised at June 30, 2001.

Additionally, effective March 22, 2000, the Company issued \$310.5 million of 6% convertible subordinated notes due 2005, which are convertible at a price of \$243.95 (or 4.0992 shares per \$1,000 principal amount of notes, subject to adjustment. These notes were not considered in the calculation of the diluted earnings per share because the effect would have been antidilutive.