ATRION CORP
Form 10-K
March 11, 2011

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

Form 10-K

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

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2010
Commission File Number 0-10763

Atrion Corporation
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	63-0821819
(State of incorporation or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
One Allentown Parkway, Allen, Texas	75002
(Address of principal executive offices)	(ZIP code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (972) 390-9800

SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OF THE EXCHANGE ACT:

Title of Class	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Common Stock, $.10 Par Value	NASDAQ

SECURITIES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 12(g) OF THE EXCHANGE ACT: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.
Yes o No x

Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.
Yes o No x

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 o No x

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

Indicate by check whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer” and “smaller reporting company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (check one):

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

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

The aggregate market value of the voting Common Stock held by nonaffiliates of the Registrant as of the last business day of the Registrant’s most recently completed second fiscal quarter, June 30, 2010, was $206,789,575 based on the last reported sales price of the common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on such date. Shares of voting stock held by executive officers, directors and holders of more than 10% of the outstanding voting shares have been excluded from this calculation because such persons may be deemed to be affiliates. Exclusion of such shares should not be construed to indicate that any of such persons possesses the power, direct or indirect, to control the Registrant, or that such person is controlled by or under common control of the Registrant

Number of shares of Common Stock outstanding at February 14, 2011: 2,015,929

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K incorporates by reference information from the Company's definitive proxy statement relating to the 2011 annual meeting of stockholders, to be filed with the Commission not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this report.

ATRION CORPORATION

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT TO
THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010

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ANNUAL REPORT TO
THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
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PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

General

Atrion Corporation (”we,” “our,” “us,” “Atrion,” or the “Company”) develops and manufactures products, primarily for medi applications. Our medical products range from fluid delivery devices to ophthalmic and cardiovascular products.

Our fluid delivery products accounted for 36 percent, 35 percent and 34 percent of net revenues for 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively. These products include valves that promote infection control and the prevention of accidental needlesticks. We have developed a wide variety of luer syringe check valves and one-way valves designed to fill, hold and release controlled amounts of fluids or gasses on demand for use in various intubation, catheter and other applications. We also make tubing clamps in a variety of materials and colors that are compatible with various grades of tubing and sterilization processes, and produce specialized intravenous sets for use in numerous applications including anesthesia and oncology.

Our cardiovascular products accounted for 29 percent, 29 percent and 30 percent of our net revenues for 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively. At the heart of our cardiovascular products is the MPS2® Myocardial Protection System, or MPS2, a proprietary technology that delivers essential fluids and medications to the heart during open-heart surgery. The MPS2 integrates key functions relating to the delivery of solutions to the heart, such as varying the rate and ratio of oxygenated blood, crystalloid, potassium and other additives, and controlling temperature, pressure and other variables to allow simpler, more flexible management of this process, indicating improved patient outcomes. The MPS2 is the only device used in open-heart surgery that allows for the mixing of drugs into the bloodstream without diluting the blood. The MPS2 employs advanced pump, temperature control and microprocessor technologies and includes a line of disposable products. We also develop and manufacture other cardiovascular products that consist principally of the following: cardiac surgery vacuum relief valves; Retract-O-Tape® silicone vessel loops for retracting and occluding vessels in minimally invasive surgical procedures; inflation devices for balloon catheter dilation, stent deployment and fluid dispensing; and Clean-Cut® rotating aortic punch and PerfectCut® Aortotomy System, both of which are used in heart bypass surgery to make a precision opening in the heart for attachment of the bypass vessels.

Our ophthalmic products accounted for 18 percent, 19 percent and 16 percent of our net revenues for 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively. We are a leading manufacturer of soft contact lens storage and disinfection cases. We produce a complete line of products which is compatible with all solutions for use with soft or rigid gas permeable lenses. We also work with customers to provide customized distribution of products. As a registered pharmaceutical reseller, we provide custom packaging, including component purchasing as well as labeling. Warehousing and inventory management are included in our complete kitting services. We also manufacture and sell the LacriCATH® product line, a line of balloon catheters that is used in the treatment of nasolacrimal duct obstruction in children and adults. Nasolacrimal duct obstruction can cause a condition called epiphora, or chronic tearing. People affected by this condition experience excessive and uncontrollable tearing and often encounter infection as a result of nasolacrimal

blockage. LacriCATH balloon catheters are the only balloon catheters with United States Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, approval for use in the treatment of nasolacrimal duct obstruction.

Our other medical and non-medical products accounted for 17 percent, 17 percent and 20 percent of our net revenues for 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively. We are the leading manufacturer of inflation systems and valves used in marine and aviation safety products. We manufacture inflation systems and valves for products such as life vests, life rafts, inflatable boats, survival equipment, and other inflatable structures. We are a global leader in this field. We also produce one-way and two-way pressure relief valves for use on electronics cases, munitions cases, pressure vessels, transportation container cases, escape slides, and many other medical and non-medical applications. Our ACTester product line consists of instrumentation and associated disposables used to measure the activated clotting time of blood. We manufacture and sell a line of products designed for safe needle and scalpel blade containment. In addition, we own and maintain a 22-mile high-pressure steel pipeline in north Alabama that is leased to an industrial gas producer which transports gaseous oxygen to one of its customers. This pipeline is incidental to our overall operations.

Marketing and Major Customers

We market components to other equipment manufacturers for incorporation in their products and sell finished devices to physicians, hospitals, clinics and other treatment centers. We sell our products through a sales force of approximately 67 people as of December 31, 2010. This sales force, which works with our sales managers, consists of direct sales personnel, independent sales representatives and distributors. Our sales managers also work closely with major customers in designing and developing products to meet customer requirements.

Our revenues from sales to customers outside the United States totaled approximately 40 percent, 39 percent and 35 percent of our net revenues in 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively. Our international sales are made to various manufacturers and through distributors in over 60 countries. Revenues from sales to customers in Canada totaled approximately 16 percent, 15 percent and 13 percent of our net revenues in 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

We offer customer service, training and education, and technical support such as field service, spare parts, maintenance and repair for certain of our products. We periodically advertise our products in trade journals, routinely attend and participate in industry trade shows throughout the United States and internationally, and sponsor scientific symposia as a means of disseminating product information. We also provide supportive literature on the benefits of our products.

During 2010, Novartis International AG was our only customer accounting for more than 10 percent of our revenues, with various products sold to several divisions of Novartis accounting for approximately 14 percent of our net revenues.

Manufacturing

Our medical products and other components are produced at facilities in Florida, Alabama and Texas. The facilities in Alabama and Florida both utilize plastic injection molding and specialized assembly as their primary manufacturing processes. Our other manufacturing processes consist of the assembly of standard and custom component parts and the testing of completed products.

We are subject to the FDA’s Quality System Regulation which requires manufacturers of medical devices to adhere to certain design testing, quality control, documentation and other quality assurance procedures during the manufacturing process. We devote significant attention to quality assurance. Our quality assurance measures begin with the suppliers which participate in our supplier quality assurance program. These measures continue at the manufacturing level where many components are assembled in a clean room environment designed and maintained to reduce product exposure to particulate matter. Products are tested throughout the manufacturing process for adherence to specifications. Most finished products are then shipped to outside processors for sterilization by radiation or ethylene oxide gas. After sterilization, the products are quarantined and tested before they are shipped to customers.

Skilled workers are required for the manufacturing of our products and we believe that additional workers with these skills are readily available in the areas where our plants are located.

Our medical device operations are ISO13485:2003 certified and are subject to FDA jurisdiction. Our non-medical device operations are ISO9001-2008 certified.

Research and Development

A well-targeted research and development program is an essential part of our activities, and we are currently engaged in a number of research and development projects. The objective of this program is to develop new products in our current product lines, improve current products and develop new product lines. The Company expects to continue additional research and development in 2011 in all these areas.

Our consolidated research and development expenditures for 2010, 2009 and 2008 were $2,669,000, $3,054,000, and $2,969,000, respectively.

Sources and Availability of Raw Materials

The principal raw materials that we use in our products are resins. Our ability to operate profitably is dependent, in large part, on the availability and pricing of these resins. The resins we use are derived from petroleum and natural gas, and the prices fluctuate substantially as a result of changes in petroleum and natural gas prices, demand and the capacity of the companies that produce these resins to meet market needs. Instability in the world markets for petroleum and natural gas could adversely affect the availability and pricing of these resins.

We contract with various suppliers to provide the component parts necessary to assemble our products. Almost all of these components are available from a number of different suppliers, although certain components are purchased from single sources that manufacture these components using our tooling. We believe that there are satisfactory alternative sources for single-sourced components, although a sudden disruption in supply from one or more of these suppliers could adversely affect our ability to deliver finished products on time. We own the molds used for production of a majority of our components. Consequently, in the event of supply disruption, we would be able to fabricate our own components or contract with another supplier, albeit after a possible delay in the production process.

Patents and License Agreements

Our commercial success is dependent, in part, on our ability to continue to develop patentable products, to preserve our trade secrets and to operate without infringing or violating the proprietary rights of third parties. We currently have 392 active patents and patent applications pending on products that are either being sold or are in development. We pay royalties to outside parties for four patents. All of these patents and patents pending relate to products currently being sold by us or to products in evaluation stages. Our patents expire at various times over the next 16 years.

We have developed technical knowledge which, although non-patentable, we consider to be significant in enabling us to compete. However, the proprietary nature of such knowledge may be difficult to protect. We have entered into agreements with key employees prohibiting them from disclosing any of our confidential information or trade secrets. In addition, these agreements also provide that any inventions or discoveries relating to our business by these individuals will be assigned to us and become our sole property.

The medical device industry is characterized by extensive intellectual property litigation, and companies in that industry sometimes use intellectual property litigation to gain a competitive advantage. Intellectual property litigation,

regardless of outcome, is often complex and expensive, and the outcome of this litigation is generally difficult to predict.

Competition

Depending on the product and the nature of the project, we compete on the basis of our ability to provide engineering and design expertise, quality, service, product and price. As such, successful competitors must have technical strength, responsiveness and scale. We believe that our expertise and reputation for quality medical products have allowed us to compete favorably with respect to each such factor and to maintain long-term relationships with our customers.

In many of our markets, we compete with numerous other companies in the sale of healthcare products. These markets are dominated by established manufacturers that have broader product lines, greater distribution capabilities, substantially greater capital resources and larger marketing, research and development staffs and facilities than ours. Many of these competitors offer broader product lines within the specific product market and in the general field of medical devices and supplies. Broad product lines give many of our cardiovascular and fluid delivery competitors the ability to negotiate exclusive, long-term medical device supply contracts and, consequently, the ability to offer comprehensive pricing of their competing products. By offering a broader product line in the general field of medical devices and supplies, competitors may also have a significant advantage in marketing competing products to group purchasing organizations, HMOs and other managed care organizations that are increasingly seeking to reduce costs through centralization of purchasing functions. Furthermore, innovations in surgical techniques or medical practices could have the effect of reducing or eliminating market demand for one or more of our products. In addition, our competitors may use price reductions to preserve market share in their product markets.

We frequently design products for a customer or potential customer prior to entering into long-term development and manufacturing agreements with that customer. Because these products are somewhat limited in number and normally are only a component of the ultimate product sold by our customers, we are dependent on our ability to meet the quality requirements of those major healthcare companies and must continually be attentive to the need to manufacture such products at competitive prices and in compliance with strict manufacturing standards. Additionally, we are dependent on our customer’s success in the marketing of the ultimate product sold. We also compete in the market for inflation devices used in marine and aviation equipment.

Government Regulation

Products

The manufacture and sale of medical products are subject to regulation by numerous United States governmental authorities, principally the FDA, and corresponding foreign agencies. The research and development, manufacturing, promotion, marketing and distribution of medical products in the United States are governed by the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, or FDCA, and the regulations promulgated thereunder. All manufacturers of medical devices must register with the FDA and list all medical devices manufactured by them. The list must be updated annually. Our medical products subsidiaries and certain of our customers are subject to inspection by the FDA for compliance with such regulations and procedures and our medical products manufacturing facilities are subject to regulation by the FDA.

The FDA has traditionally pursued a rigorous enforcement program to ensure that regulated entities comply with the FDCA. The FDA has recently been increasing its scrutiny of the medical device industry, and the government is expected to continue to scrutinize the industry closely. A company not in compliance may face a variety of regulatory actions, including warning letters, product detentions, device alerts, mandatory recalls or field corrections, product seizures, total or partial suspension of production, injunctive actions or civil penalties and criminal prosecutions of the company or responsible employees, officers and directors. We and certain of our customers are subject to these inspections.

The FDA sets forth rules, which are available to the public, for the approval of medical devices. The process of obtaining FDA approval for new devices can take several months to several years depending on the type of application required for a particular device. Furthermore, the process of obtaining FDA approval can be expensive and uncertain. Even if granted, FDA approval may include significant limitations on the indicated uses for which a product may be marketed. FDA enforcement policy strictly regulates the promotion of approved medical devices. Product approvals can be withdrawn for failure to comply with regulatory requirements or the occurrence of unforeseen problems following initial marketing. We are also subject to regulation in certain foreign countries where we sell our products. Some of the regulations in these countries that are applicable to our products are similar to those of the FDA.

Certain aviation and marine safety products are also subject to regulation by the United States Coast Guard and the Federal Aviation Administration and similar organizations in foreign countries which regulate the safety of marine and aviation equipment.

Third-Party Reimbursement and Cost Containment

In the United States, healthcare providers, including hospitals and physicians, that purchase medical products for treatment of their patients generally rely on third-party payors, principally Medicare, Medicaid and private health insurance plans, to reimburse all or a part of the costs and fees associated with the procedures performed using these products.

Reimbursement systems in international markets vary significantly by country and by region within some countries, and reimbursement approvals must be obtained on a country-by-country basis. Many international markets have government-managed healthcare systems that control reimbursement for new products and procedures. In most markets, there are private insurance systems as well as government-managed systems. Market acceptance of our products in international markets depends, in part, on the availability and level of reimbursement.

Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for hospitals is generally based on a fixed amount for a patient based upon that patient’s specific diagnosis. Because of this fixed reimbursement method, hospitals may seek to reduce the costs they incur in treating Medicare and Medicaid patients. Frequently, reimbursement is reduced to reflect the availability of a new procedure or technique, and as a result hospitals are generally willing to implement new cost saving technologies before these downward adjustments take effect. Likewise, because the rate of reimbursement for physicians who perform certain procedures has been and may in the future be reduced, physicians may seek greater cost efficiency in treatment to minimize any negative impact of reduced reimbursement. Third-party payors may challenge the prices charged for medical products and services and may deny reimbursement if they determine that a device was not used in accordance with cost-effective treatment methods as determined by the payor, was experimental or was used for an unapproved application.

In March 2010, comprehensive health care reform legislation in the form of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act (collectively known as the “Affordable Care Act”) was enacted. Among other provisions, this legislation imposes a 2.3 percent excise tax on U.S. sales of medical devices after December 31, 2012. The Affordable Care Act also includes numerous provisions to limit Medicare spending through reductions in various fee schedule payments and by instituting more sweeping payment reforms, such as bundled payments for episodes of care and the establishment of “accountable care organizations” under which hospitals and physicians will be able to share savings that result from cost control efforts. Many of these provisions will be implemented through the regulatory process, and policy details have not yet been finalized. Various healthcare reform proposals have also emerged at the state level.

We anticipate that Congress, state legislatures and the private sector will continue to review and assess healthcare reform, including alternative healthcare delivery and payment systems. We cannot predict what impact the adoption or modification of any federal or state healthcare reform measures, including the Affordable Care Act, and state healthcare reform, future private sector reform or market forces may have on our business.

Product Liability and Insurance

The design, manufacture and marketing of products of the types we produce entail an inherent risk of product liability claims. A problem with one of our products could result in product liability claims or a recall of, or safety alert or advisory notice relating to, the product. We have product liability insurance in amounts that we believe are adequate.

Advisory Board

Several physicians and other healthcare professionals serve as our clinical advisors. These clinical advisors have assisted in the identification of the market need for some of our products. Members of our management and scientific and technical staff from time to time consult with these clinical advisors to better understand the technical and clinical requirements of current and future products. We anticipate that these clinical advisors will continue to play a role in our development activities.

Certain of the clinical advisors are employed by academic institutions and may have commitments to, or consulting or advisory agreements with, other entities that may limit their availability to advise us. The clinical advisors may also serve as consultants to other medical device companies. Our clinical advisors are not expected to devote more than a small portion of their time in providing services to us.

People

At January 31, 2011, we had 437 full-time employees. We are proud that many of our employees have tenures with us ranging from ten to thirty years.

Available Information

Our website address is www.atrioncorp.com. We make available free of charge through our website our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to these reports, as soon as reasonably practicable after they are filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. These filings are also available at www.sec.gov.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information contained in this Form 10-K, the following risk factors should be considered carefully in evaluating our business. Our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks. Additional risks and uncertainties that we do not currently know about or that we currently believe are immaterial, or that we have not predicted, may also harm our business operations or adversely affect us.

- The loss of a key supplier of raw materials could lead to increased costs and lower profit margins.

The loss of a key supplier would force us to purchase raw materials in the open market, which may be at higher prices, until we could secure another source and such higher prices may not allow us to remain competitive. If we are unable to obtain raw materials in sufficient quantities, we may not be able to manufacture our products. Even if we were able to replace one of our raw material suppliers through another supply arrangement, there is no assurance that the terms that we enter into with such alternate supplier will be as favorable as the supply arrangements that we currently have.

- Our sales could decline materially if we lost business from one or more of our larger customers or a significant number of our smaller customers.

Our sales are generally made under open short-term purchase orders or purchase contracts. Customers with purchase orders could reduce their volumes, or cease purchasing our products, with minimal notice. Customers having purchase contracts may elect not to renew those contracts at expiration or the contracts may be renewed on terms less favorable to us. The loss of, or material reduction in orders by, one or more of our larger customers or a significant number of our smaller customers could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

- Product liability claims could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

We may be subject to product liability claims involving claims of personal injury or property damage. Our product liability insurance coverage may not be adequate to cover the cost of defense and the potential award in the event of a claim. Also, a well-publicized actual or perceived problem with one or more of our products could adversely affect our reputation and reduce the demand for our products.

- Our business is dependent on the price and availability of resins and our ability to pass on resin price increases to our customers.

The principal raw materials that we use in our products are polyethylene, polypropylene and polyvinyl chloride resins. Our ability to operate profitably is dependent, in large part, on the availability and pricing of these resins. The resins we use are derived from petroleum and natural gas; therefore, prices fluctuate substantially as a result of changes in petroleum and natural gas prices, demand and the capacity of the companies that produce these products to meet market needs. Instability in the world markets for petroleum and natural gas could adversely affect the prices of these raw materials and their availability.

Our ability to maintain profitability is heavily dependent upon our ability to pass through to our customers the full amount of any increase in raw material costs. If resin prices increase and we are not able to fully pass on the increases to our customers, our results of operations and our financial condition will be adversely affected.

- Any losses we incur as a result of our exposure to the credit risk of our customers could harm our results of operations.

We monitor individual customer payment capability in granting credit arrangements, seek to limit credit to amounts we believe the customers can pay, and maintain reserves we believe are adequate to cover exposure for doubtful accounts. As we have grown our revenue and customer base, our exposure to credit risk has increased. Any material losses as a result of customer defaults could harm and have an adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition.

- Our success is measured in part by our ability to develop patentable products, to preserve our trade secrets and operate without infringing or violating the proprietary rights of third parties.

Others may challenge the validity of any patents issued to us, and we could encounter legal and financial difficulties in enforcing our patent rights against infringers. In addition, there can be no assurance that other technologies cannot or will not be developed or that patents will not be obtained by others which would render our patents less valuable or obsolete. Once patents expire, some customers may not continue to purchase from us, opting for competitive copies instead.

We have developed technical knowledge which, although non-patentable, we consider to be significant in enabling us to compete. However, the proprietary nature of such knowledge may be difficult to protect.

The medical device industry is characterized by extensive intellectual property litigation, and companies in the medical products industry sometimes use intellectual property litigation to gain a competitive advantage. Intellectual property litigation, regardless of outcome, is often complex and expensive, and the outcome of this litigation is generally difficult to predict. An adverse determination in any such proceeding could subject us to significant liabilities to third parties or require us to seek licenses from third parties or pay royalties that may be substantial. Furthermore, there can be no assurance that necessary licenses would be available to us on satisfactory terms or at all. Accordingly, an adverse determination in a judicial or administrative proceeding or failure to obtain necessary licenses could prevent us from manufacturing or selling certain of our products, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

- International patent protection is uncertain.

Patent law outside the United States is uncertain and is currently undergoing review and revision in many countries. Further, the laws of some foreign countries may not protect our intellectual property rights to the same extent as United States laws. We may participate in opposition proceedings to determine the validity of our or our competitors' foreign patents, which could result in substantial costs and diversion of our efforts.

- New lines of business or new products and services may subject us to additional risks.

From time to time, we may implement new lines of business or offer new products and services within existing lines of business. There are substantial risks and uncertainties associated with these efforts, particularly in instances where the markets are not fully developed. In developing and marketing new lines of business or new products and services, we may invest significant time and resources. Initial timetables for the introduction and development of new lines of business and new products or services may not be achieved and price and profitability targets may not prove feasible. External factors, such as compliance with regulations, competitive alternatives, and shifting market preferences, may also impact the successful implementation of a new line of business or a new product or service. Furthermore, any new line of business or new product or service could have a significant impact on the effectiveness of our system of internal control. Failure to successfully manage these risks in the development and implementation of new lines of business or new products or services could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

- Some of our competitors have significantly greater resources than we do, and it may be difficult for us to compete against them.

In many of our markets, we compete with numerous other companies that have substantially greater financial resources and engage in substantially more research and development activities than we do. Furthermore, innovations in surgical techniques or medical practices could have the effect of reducing or eliminating market demand for one or more of our products.

Some of the markets in which we compete are dominated by established manufacturers that have broader product lines, greater distribution capabilities, substantially larger marketing, research and development staffs and facilities than we do. Many of these competitors offer broader product lines within the specific product market and in the general field of medical devices and supplies. Broad product lines give many of our cardiovascular and fluid delivery competitors the ability to negotiate exclusive, long-term medical device supply contracts and, consequently, the ability to offer comprehensive pricing of their competing products. By offering a broader product line in the general field of medical devices and supplies, competitors may also have a significant advantage in marketing competing products to group purchasing organizations. In addition, our competitors may use price reductions to preserve market share in their product markets.

We are subject to substantial governmental regulation and our failure to comply with applicable governmental regulations could subject us to numerous penalties, any of which could adversely affect our business.

We are subject to numerous governmental regulations relating to, among other things, our ability to sell our products, third-party reimbursement and Medicare and Medicaid fraud and abuse. If we do not comply with applicable governmental regulations, governmental authorities could do one or more of the following:

impose fines and penalties on us;
prevent us from manufacturing our products;
bring civil or criminal charges against us;
delay the introduction of our new products into the market;
recall or seize our products;
disrupt the manufacture or distribution of our products; or
withdraw or deny approvals for our products.

Any one of these actions could materially adversely affect our revenues and profitability and harm our reputation.

- We will be unable to sell our products if we fail to comply with manufacturing regulations.

To manufacture our products commercially, we must comply with governmental manufacturing regulations that govern design controls, quality systems and documentation policies and procedures. The FDA and equivalent foreign governmental authorities periodically inspect our manufacturing facilities and the manufacturing facilities of our OEM medical device customers. If we or our OEM medical device customers fail to comply with these manufacturing regulations or fail any FDA inspections, marketing or distribution of our products may be prevented or delayed, which would negatively impact our business.

Our products are subject to product recalls even after receiving regulatory clearance or approval, and any such recalls would negatively affect our financial performance and could harm our reputation.

Any of our products may be found to have significant deficiencies or defects in design or manufacture. The FDA and similar governmental authorities in other countries have the authority to require the recall of any such defective product. A government-mandated or voluntary recall could occur as a result of component failures, manufacturing errors or design defects. We do not maintain insurance to cover losses incurred as a result of product recalls. Any product recall would divert managerial and financial resources and negatively affect our financial performance, and

could harm our reputation with customers and end-users.

We may not receive regulatory approvals for new product candidates or for modifications of existing products or approvals may be delayed.

Regulation by governmental authorities in the United States and foreign countries is a significant factor in the development, manufacture and marketing of our proposed products and in our ongoing research and product development activities. Any failure to receive the regulatory approvals necessary to commercialize our product candidates, or the subsequent withdrawal of any such approvals, would harm our business. Additionally, modification of our existing products may require regulatory approval. The process of obtaining these approvals and the subsequent compliance with federal and state statutes and regulations require spending substantial time and financial resources. If we fail to obtain or maintain, or encounter delays in obtaining or maintaining, regulatory approvals, it could adversely affect the marketing of any products we develop or modify, our ability to receive product revenues, and our liquidity and capital resources.

- We rely on technology to operate our business and any failure of these systems could harm our business.

We rely heavily on communications and information systems to conduct our business, enhance customer service and increase employee productivity. Any failure, interruption or breach in security of these systems could result in failures or disruptions in our customer relationship management, general ledger, inventory, manufacturing and other systems. There is no assurance that any such failures, interruptions or security breaches will not occur or, if they do occur, that they will be adequately addressed by our policies and procedures that are intended to safeguard our systems. The occurrence of any failures, interruptions or security breaches of our information systems could damage our reputation, result in a loss of customer business, subject us to additional regulatory scrutiny, and expose us to civil litigation and possible financial liability, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

- We sell many of our products to healthcare providers that rely on Medicare, Medicaid and private health insurance plans to reimburse the costs associated with the procedures performed using our products and these third party payors may deny reimbursement for use of our products.

We are dependent, in part, upon the ability of healthcare providers to obtain satisfactory reimbursement from third-party payors for medical procedures in which our products are used. Third-party payors may deny reimbursement if they determine that a prescribed product has not received appropriate regulatory clearances or approvals, is not used in accordance with cost-effective treatment methods as determined by the payor, or is experimental, unnecessary or inappropriate. Failure by hospitals and other users of our products to obtain reimbursement from third-party payors, or adverse changes in government and private third-party payors' policies toward reimbursement for procedures utilizing our products, could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations. Major third-party payors for medical services in the United States and other countries continue to work to contain healthcare costs. The introduction of cost containment incentives, combined with closer scrutiny of healthcare expenditures by both private health insurers and employers, has resulted in increased discounts and contractual adjustments to charges for services performed. Further implementation of legislative or administrative reforms to the United States or international reimbursement systems in a manner that significantly reduces reimbursement for procedures using our products or denies coverage for such procedures may result in hospitals or physicians substituting lower cost products or other therapies for our products which, in turn, would have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Additionally, uncertainty about whether and how changes may be implemented could also have a negative impact on the demand for our products.

- Healthcare policy changes, including recently enacted legislation reforming the United States healthcare system, may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The Affordable Care Act makes changes that may significantly impact the medical device industry. One of the principal aims of the Affordable Care Act as currently enacted is to expand health insurance coverage to approximately 32 million Americans who are currently uninsured. The consequences of a significant coverage expansion on the sales of our products are unknown and speculative at this point.

We expect that the Affordable Care Act, as well as other federal or state health care reform measures that may be adopted in the future, could have a material adverse effect on our industry generally and our ability to develop or market our products successfully. The taxes imposed by the new federal legislation and the expansion of the government's role in the United States healthcare industry may result in decreased profits to us, lower reimbursement by payors for our products, and reduced medical procedure volumes, all of which may adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

- We may not be able to attract and retain skilled people.

Our success depends, in large part, on our ability to attract and retain key people. Competition for the best people in most activities we engage in can be intense and we may not be able to hire qualified people or to retain them. The unexpected loss of services of one or more of our key personnel could have a material adverse impact on our business because of their skills, knowledge of our market, years of industry experience and the difficulty of promptly finding qualified replacement personnel.

- Severe weather, natural disasters, acts of war or terrorism or other external events could significantly impact our business.

We currently conduct all our development, manufacturing and management at three locations. Severe weather, natural disasters, acts of war or terrorism and other adverse external events at any one or more of these locations could have a significant impact on our ability to conduct business. We have the ability to transfer certain products from a facility affected by such events, but doing so would be expensive. Our disaster recovery policies and procedures may not be effective and the occurrence of any such event could have a material adverse effect on our business, which, in turn, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. The insurance we maintain may not be adequate to cover our losses.

- Our stock price can be volatile.

Stock price volatility may make it more difficult for our stockholders to sell their common stock when they want and at prices they find attractive. Our stock price can fluctuate significantly in response to a variety of factors including, among other things:

actual or anticipated variations in quarterly results of operations;
recommendations by securities analysts;
operating and stock price performance of other companies that investors deem comparable to the Company;
perceptions in the marketplace regarding the Company and our competitors;
new technology used, or services offered, by competitors;
trading by funds with high-turnover practices or strategies;
significant acquisitions or business combinations, strategic partnerships, joint ventures or capital commitments by or involving the Company or our competitors;
failure to integrate acquisitions or realize anticipated benefits from acquisitions;
changes in government regulations; and
geopolitical conditions such as acts or threats of terrorism or military conflicts.

Additionally, our public float is small which can result in large fluctuations in stock price during periods with increased selling or buying activity. General market fluctuations, industry factors and general economic and political conditions and events, such as economic slowdowns or recessions, interest rate changes or credit loss trends, could also cause our stock price to decrease regardless of operating results.

- Our sales and operations are subject to the risks of doing business internationally.

We are increasing our presence in international markets, which subjects us to many risks, such as:

economic problems that disrupt foreign healthcare payment systems;
the imposition of governmental controls;
less favorable intellectual property or other applicable laws;
protectionist laws and business practices that favor local competitors;
the inability to obtain any necessary foreign regulatory or pricing approvals of products in a timely manner;
changes in tax laws and tariffs; and
longer payment cycles.

Our operations and marketing practices are also subject to regulation and scrutiny by the governments of the other countries in which we operate. In addition, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, or FCPA, prohibits United States companies and their representatives from offering, promising, authorizing or making payments to foreign officials for the purpose of obtaining or retaining business abroad. In certain countries, the healthcare professionals we regularly interact with may meet the definition of a foreign official for purposes of the FCPA. Additionally, we are subject to other United States laws in our international operations. Failure to comply with domestic or foreign laws could result in various adverse consequences, including possible delay in approval or refusal to approve a product, recalls, seizures, withdrawal of an approved product from the market, and/or the imposition of civil or criminal sanctions.

- A significant portion of our sales is to customers in foreign countries. We may lose revenues, market share and profits due to exchange rate fluctuations and other factors related to our international business.

Our international business is subject to economic, political and regulatory uncertainties and risks that are unique to each area of the world. Fluctuations in exchange rates may also affect the prices that our international customers are willing to pay and may put us at a price disadvantage compared to other competitors. Potentially volatile shifts in exchange rates may negatively affect our financial condition and operations.

- We may experience fluctuations in our quarterly operating results.

We have historically experienced, and may continue to experience, fluctuations in our quarterly operating results. These fluctuations are due to a number of factors, many of which are outside our control, and may result in volatility of our stock price. Future operating results will depend on many factors, including:

demand for our products;
pricing decisions, and those of our competitors, including decisions to increase or decrease prices;
regulatory approvals for our products;
timing and levels of spending for research and development; sales and marketing;
timing and market acceptance of new product introductions by us or our competitors;
development or expansion of business infrastructure in new clinical and geographic markets;

tax rates in the jurisdictions in which we operate;
shipping delays or interruptions;
customer credit holds;
timing and recognition of certain research and development milestones and license fees; and
ability to control our costs;

- If we make acquisitions, we could encounter difficulties that harm our business.

We may acquire companies, products or technologies that we believe to be complementary to our business. If we do so, we may have difficulty integrating the acquired personnel, operations, products or technologies and we may not realize the expected benefits of any such acquisition. In addition, acquisitions may dilute our earnings per share, disrupt our ongoing business, distract our management and employees and increase our expenses, any of which could harm our business.

- Political and economic conditions could materially and adversely affect our revenue and results of operations.

Our business may be affected by a number of factors that are beyond our control such as general geopolitical economic and business conditions, conditions in the financial markets, and changes in the overall demand for our products. A severe or prolonged economic downturn could adversely affect our customers' financial condition and the levels of business activity of our customers. Uncertainty about current global political or economic conditions could cause businesses to postpone spending in response to tighter credit, negative financial news or declines in income or asset values, which could have a material negative effect on the demand for our products.

The recent economic recession and the uncertainty in global economic conditions resulted in a tightening in the credit markets, a low level of liquidity in many financial markets, and extreme volatility in credit, equity, currency and fixed income markets. Although conditions have eased somewhat, uncertainty about current global economic conditions continues to pose a risk as customers may postpone spending in response to restraints on credit or uncertainties regarding demand for their products or services. There could be additional effects on our business from these economic developments including the insolvency of key suppliers or their inability to obtain credit, the inability of our customers to pay for or obtain credit to finance purchases of our products and increased pressure to reduce the prices of our products.

Continued turbulence in the United States and international markets and economies could have a material adverse impact on our business, operating results and financial condition. In addition, if we are unable to successfully anticipate changing economic and political conditions, we may be unable to effectively plan for and respond to those changes, which could materially adversely affect our business and results of operations.

- If we fail to manage our exposure to financial and securities market risk successfully, our operating results could be adversely impacted.

We are exposed to financial market risks, including changes in interest rates, credit markets and prices of marketable equity and fixed-income securities. We do not use derivative financial instruments for speculative or trading purposes.

The primary objective of our investment activities is to preserve principal and maintain adequate liquidity while at the same time maximizing yields without significantly increasing risk. To achieve this objective, our marketable investments are primarily investment grade, liquid, fixed-income securities and money market instruments denominated in United States dollars. The Company's cash-equivalents and investments may be subject to adverse changes in market value.

- Provisions in our governing documents and Delaware law may discourage or prevent a change of control, which could cause our stock price to decline and prevent attempts by our stockholders to replace or remove our current management.

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions that may discourage, delay or prevent a change in the ownership of the Company or a change in our management. In addition, our Board of Directors has adopted a rights plan which is intended to provide our Board of Directors with flexibility in addressing any takeover attempt and give it an opportunity to negotiate a transaction that maximizes stockholder value. However, the rights plan could delay or prevent a change in control of us even if the change in control would generally be beneficial to our stockholders. We are also subject to the provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which may prohibit certain business combinations with stockholders owning 15% or more of our outstanding common stock. Although a delay or prevention of a change of control transaction or of changes in our Board of Directors could be effective in improving stockholder value, they also carry a risk of causing the market price of our common stock to decline.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

We own, in the aggregate, 97 acres of property located in Allen, Texas, Arab, Alabama and St. Petersburg, Florida. Our facilities at those locations comprise approximately 398,000 square feet, with each facility housing administrative, engineering, manufacturing and warehouse operations. Our corporate headquarters are located at our Allen, Texas facility.

We also own and maintain a 22-mile high-pressure steel pipeline that transports gaseous oxygen between Decatur and Courtland, Alabama.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We have no pending legal proceedings of the type described in Item 103 of Regulation S-K.

ITEM 4. RESERVED

Executive Officers of the Company

Name	Age	Title
Emile A. Battat	72	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company and Chairman or President of all subsidiaries
David A. Battat	41	President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company and President of Halkey-Roberts Corporation, one of our subsidiaries
Jeffery Strickland	52	Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Treasurer of the Company and Vice President or Secretary-Treasurer of all subsidiaries

Messrs. Emile Battat and Strickland currently serve as officers of the Company and all subsidiaries. Mr. David Battat currently serves as an officer of the Company and Halkey-Roberts Corporation ("Halkey-Roberts"). The officers of the Company and our subsidiaries are elected annually by the respective Boards of Directors of the Company and our subsidiaries at the first meeting of such Boards of Directors held after the annual meetings of stockholders of such entities. The next meetings of the stockholders of the Company and our subsidiaries are expected to be held in May 2011 and the Boards of Directors of the Company and our subsidiaries are expected to meet promptly thereafter. Accordingly, the terms of office of the current officers of the Company and our subsidiaries are anticipated to expire in May 2011.

There are no arrangements or understandings between any officer and any other person pursuant to which the officer was elected. The only family relationships between any of our executive officers or directors are that Mr. David Battat is the son of Mr. Emile Battat.

There have been no events under any bankruptcy act, no criminal proceedings and no judgments or injunctions material to the evaluation of the ability and integrity of any executive officers during the past ten years.

Brief Account of Business Experience During the Past Five Years

Mr. Emile Battat has been a director of the Company since 1987 and has served as Chairman of the Board of the Company since January 1998. He has served as Chief Executive Officer of the Company and as Chairman or President of all subsidiaries since October 1998 and as President of the Company from October 1998 until May 2007.

Mr. David Battat has been President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company since May 2007. He has served as President of Halkey-Roberts since January 2006 and served from February 2005 through December 2005 as Halkey-Roberts' Vice President - Business Development and General Counsel.

Mr. Strickland has served as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Treasurer of the Company since February 1, 1997 and has served as Vice President or Secretary-Treasurer for all the Company's subsidiaries since January 1997. Mr. Strickland was employed by the Company or our subsidiaries in various other positions from

September 1983 through January 1997.

PART II

ITEMMARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND 5. ISSUER REPURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market (Symbol ATRI). As of February 12, 2011, we had approximately 2,800 stockholders, including beneficial owners holding shares in nominee or "street name." The high and low sales prices as reported by NASDAQ for each quarter of 2009 and 2010 are shown below.

Year Ended December 31, 2009:	High	Low
First Quarter	$ 99.74	$ 63.55
Second Quarter	$ 136.77	$ 81.74
Third Quarter	$ 147.75	$ 114.70
Fourth Quarter	$ 158.18	$ 118.00

Year Ended December 31, 2010:	High	Low
First Quarter	$ 164.56	$ 129.51
Second Quarter	$ 153.90	$ 127.01
Third Quarter	$ 157.51	$ 130.50
Fourth Quarter	$ 184.99	$ 154.63

We pay regular quarterly cash dividends on our common stock. We have increased our quarterly cash dividend payments in September of each of the past four years. The quarterly dividend was increased to $.24 per share in September of 2007, to $.30 per share in September of 2008, to $.36 per share in September of 2009 and to $.42 in September of 2010. On January 29, 2010 and December 23, 2010 we made special cash dividend payments to stockholders of $6.00 and $3.00 per share, respectively. We paid quarterly dividends totaling $3.2 million and special cash dividends totaling $18.1 million to our stockholders in 2010.

We have a Rights Plan which is intended to protect the interests of stockholders in the event of a hostile attempt to take over the Company. The rights, which are not presently exercisable and do not have any voting powers, represent the right of our stockholders to purchase at a substantial discount, upon the occurrence of certain events, shares of our common stock or of an acquiring company involved in a business combination with us. This plan, which was adopted in August 2006, expires in August 2016.

During the year ended December 31, 2010, we did not sell any equity securities that were not registered under the Securities Act of 1933, and during the fourth quarter of 2010 we did not repurchase any of our equity securities.

The stock performance graph set forth in our 2010 Annual Report to Stockholders is incorporated by reference herein and is included in Exhibit 13.1 to this Annual Report on Form 10-K. However, the stock performance graph is not to be deemed to be "soliciting material" or to be "filed" with the SEC or subject to the liabilities of Section 18 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. In addition, it shall not be deemed incorporated by reference by any statement that incorporates this Annual Report on Form 10-K by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent that we specifically incorporate this information by reference.

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

Selected Financial Data
(In thousands, except per share amounts)

	2010	2009		2008	2007		2006
Operating Results for the Year ended December 31,							
Revenues	$ 108,569	$ 100,643		$ 95,895	$ 88,540		$ 81,020
Operating income	30,977	25,004	(a)	22,973	20,195	(b)	14,338
Income from continuing operations	20,952	16,843	(a)	15,667	14,006	(b)	10,600
Net income	20,952	16,843	(a)	15,667	14,006	(b)	10,765
Depreciation and amortization	7,041	7,163		6,353	5,534		5,005