SONIC FOUNDRY INC Form 10-K December 08, 2008 Table of Contents

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal period ended September 30, 2008

OR

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

Commission File Number 1-14007

SONIC FOUNDRY, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

MARYLAND (State or other jurisdiction of

39-1783372 (I.R.S. Employer

incorporation or organization)

Identification No.)

222 W. Washington Ave, Madison, WI 53703 (Address of principal executive offices) (608) 443-1600 (Issuer s telephone number)

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 \$0.01 per share

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

Yes " No x

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Act.

Yes " 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 x No "

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of 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.

Yes " No x

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

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

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

Yes " No x

The aggregate market value of the registrant s common stock held by non-affiliates computed by reference to the price at which the common equity was last sold, or the average bid and asked price of such common equity, as of the last business day of the Registrant s most recently completed second fiscal quarter was approximately \$19,000,000.

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant s common equity was 35,601,670 as of December 3, 2008.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Proxy Statement for the 2008 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference into Part III. A definitive Proxy Statement pursuant to Regulation 14A will be filed with the Commission no later than January 28, 2009.

| | TABLE OF CONTENTS | PAGE NO. |
|----------|--|----------|
| | PART I | |
| Item 1. | Business | 3 |
| Item 1A. | Risk Factors | 15 |
| Item 1B. | Unresolved Staff Comments | 25 |
| Item 2. | Properties | 25 |
| Item 3. | Legal Proceedings | 25 |
| Item 4. | Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders | 25 |
| | PART II | |
| Item 5. | Market for Registrant s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities | 26 |
| Item 6. | Selected Consolidated Financial Data | 29 |
| Item 7. | Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations | 30 |
| Item 7A. | Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk | 40 |
| Item 8. | Consolidated Financial Statements and Supplementary Data: | 41 |
| | Report of Grant Thornton LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm | 41 |
| | Consolidated Balance Sheets | 42 |
| | Consolidated Statements of Operations | 43 |
| | Consolidated Statements of Stockholders Equity | 44 |
| | Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows | 45 |
| | Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements | 46 |
| Item 9. | Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure | 61 |
| Item 9A. | Controls and Procedures | 61 |
| Item 9B. | Other Information | 62 |
| | PART III | |
| Item 10. | Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance | 62 |
| Item 11. | Executive Compensation | 63 |
| Item 12. | Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters | 63 |
| Item 13. | Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence | 63 |
| Item 14. | Principal Accountant Fees and Services | 63 |
| | PART IV | |
| Item 15. | Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules | 64 |

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

When used in this Report, the words anticipate, expect, plan, believe, seek, estimate and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These are statements that relate to future periods and include, but are not limited to, statements about the features, benefits and performance of our Rich Media products, our ability to introduce new product offerings and increase revenue from existing products, expected expenses including those related to selling and marketing, product development and general and administrative, our beliefs regarding the health and growth of the market for Rich Media products, anticipated increase in our customer base, expansion of our products functionalities, expected revenue levels and sources of revenue, expected impact, if any, of legal proceedings, the adequacy of liquidity and capital resources, and expected growth in business. Forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, market acceptance for our products, our ability to attract and retain customers and distribution partners for existing and new products, our ability to control our expenses, our ability to recruit and retain employees, the ability of distribution partners to successfully sell our products, legislation and government regulation, shifts in technology, global and local business conditions, our ability to effectively maintain and update our products and service portfolio, the strength of competitive offerings, the prices being charged by those competitors, and the risks discussed elsewhere herein. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date hereof. We expressly disclaim any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect any change in our expectations with regard thereto or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS Who We Are

Sonic Foundry, Inc. is a technology leader in the emerging web communications marketplace, providing enterprise solutions for more than 1,500 customers in education, business and government. Powered by our core solution Mediasite®, the patented webcasting platform which automates the recording, management, delivery and search of lectures, online training and briefings, Sonic Foundry empowers people to transform the way they communicate. Through the Mediasite platform and its Events Services group, the company helps customers connect a dynamic, evolving world of shared knowledge and envisions a future where learners and workers around the globe use webcasting to bridge time and distance, accelerate research and improve performance.

The Mediasite solution family includes:

Mediasite Recorders to capture multimedia presentations

Mediasite EX Server Platform to stream, archive and manage online presentation content

Sonic Foundry Services to provide hosting, event webcasting, training, installation and custom development

Mediasite Customer Assurance to provide annual hardware and software maintenance and technical support Currently, we have nearly 3,000 Mediasite Recorders installed in presentation venues around the world. These Recorders are capturing hundreds of thousands of rich media presentation hours for our customers.

Sonic Foundry, Inc., the parent company of Sonic Foundry Media Systems, Inc., our web communications business, was founded in 1991, incorporated in Wisconsin in March 1994 and merged into a Maryland corporation of the same name in October 1996. Our executive offices are located at 222 West Washington Ave., Madison, Wisconsin, 53703 and our telephone number is (608) 443-1600. Our corporate website is www.sonicfoundry.com. We make available, free of charge, at the Investor Information section of our website, our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to reports required to be filed pursuant to Sections 13(a) and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as soon as reasonably practicable after the filing of such reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

3

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

Market Need

Every organization faces a fundamental need to communicate information efficiently to individuals who need it. Universities and colleges need to connect lecturers with students for advanced learning. Corporations strive for successful communication and collaboration between colleagues to provide value to customers. Government agencies must keep partners, stakeholders and constituents informed to operate effectively.

And yet, significant communication challenges remain, including:

Ensuring student retention and academic success

Enabling students to review complicated material repeatedly at their convenience

Capturing complex graphics where visual clarity is essential for learning

Providing distance learners with the same quality education as on-campus students

Helping adult students balance career, family and education

Increasing enrollment without new classrooms and facilities Connecting with a geographically-dispersed audience

Simultaneously addressing people in multiple locations

Holding meetings where it is not feasible for everyone to attend

Transmitting timely information that is crucial for all employees to receive

Requiring employees, regardless of time zone or schedule, to attend company training sessions Improving productivity and corporate logistics

Reducing travel expenses and carbon footprints

| | Eliminating the need to repeat the same presentation to different audiences |
|-------|--|
| | Allowing participants to avoid leaving their desks to go to a meeting space |
| | Maintaining employee productivity while in training |
| | Increasing retention by avoiding distractions, interruptions or absence |
| Coor | Reducing repeated costs for printing, mailing and meeting expenses dinating multiple project teams |
| | Keeping everyone on the same page at the same time |
| | Reducing time off task to get new hires trained |
| | Documenting past meeting content for later review |
| Avoi | Preserving organizational initiatives by preventing false starts and forgotten directives ding cumbersome and restrictive technologies |
| | Maintaining the way presenters present without requiring them to have technical expertise in presentation systems |
| | Capturing and sharing knowledge in real-time without pre-authoring or pre-uploading of content or needing substantial post-production time |
| The l | Removing the need for significant time and specialized expertise to manage existing presentation systems Mediasite Solution |
| Sonic | Foundry s technology is changing the way organizations share and use information. The Mediasite solution family includes: |
| | Mediasite Recorders to capture multimedia presentations |
| | Mediasite EX Server Platform to stream, archive and manage online presentation content |
| | Sonic Foundry Services to provide managed services, event webcasting, training, installation, and custom development |

Mediasite Customer Assurance to provide annual hardware and software maintenance and technical support

4

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

Mediasite Recorders streamline the recording and creation of multimedia presentations for people who need to share their information or message with others. Mediasite Recorders capture all the elements of a multimedia presentation video, audio and high-resolution presentation graphics and combine these into an interactive media-rich presentation that can be immediately viewed via the web. The simple workflow of the Mediasite Recorder is unobtrusive and instantaneous allowing presenters to share their knowledge online without changing how they normally present and without requiring time-consuming content production. We offer Mediasite Recorders for the following environments:

A room-based Mediasite Recorder (RL Series) for presentation facilities like conference and training rooms, lecture halls, auditoriums and classrooms

A mobile Mediasite Recorder (ML Series) for portability to off-site events, conferences, trade shows, or multiple venues throughout an organization

Accompanying all Mediasite Recorders is the Mediasite Editor, a desktop software tool allowing users to edit their presentations, if desired, before publishing them to the web.

Mediasite EX Server Platform is the unified platform for webcasting live and on-demand rich media presentations captured by Mediasite Recorders. It greatly simplifies content management by providing a single system to schedule, organize, index, customize, secure and track recorded presentations. As online multimedia libraries grow, effective management and security of this institutional knowledge becomes critical. Mediasite EX Server allows organizations to:

Save time and staffing by scheduling recurring presentations to be automatically recorded without an operator

Automatically create customizable and searchable online content catalogs without web development or integration skills

Secure presentations and Mediasite system access for authorized users

Customize and brand their presentation content and incorporate audience interactivity through polls and Q&A

Centrally monitor and report on viewing activity and systems use to see who is watching what presentations, when and for how long

Enable closed captioning for users with hearing disabilities

Manage and remotely control Mediasite Recorders

Integrate Mediasite content into other learning or course management systems, content management systems or custom portals

Leverage existing network technologies for content distribution efficiency and performance

Reliably scale to meet the webcasting needs of departmental and enterprise-wide implementations alike

Choose the deployment model that best suits their environment, whether on-premise or hosted in the Sonic Foundry datacenter **Sonic Foundry Services** enable organizations to quickly and easily take advantage of the Mediasite platform, without having to wade through the IT or network complexities associated with their own infrastructure. Sonic Foundry Services include:

Hosting: The Company s pay-as-you-go service offerings provide hosting, delivery and management of online multimedia content using Sonic Foundry s hosting data center and infrastructure. Managed services allow organizations of all sizes to jump start their web communications initiatives quickly and simply. They provide a low-risk way to implement online multimedia communications before bringing hosting requirements in-house and can offer a hassle-free long-term solution.

Event Webcasting: A team of trained technicians work on-site or as project managers with event AV service providers to webcast rich media events, conferences and meetings. Sonic Foundry hosts each customer s customized online catalogs, which provide their audiences ongoing access to the recorded content.

<u>Training:</u> To maximize customers return on investments, skilled trainers provide the necessary knowledge transfer so organizations feel confident in using, managing and leveraging Mediasite s capabilities. On-site training is customized to specific requirements and skill levels, while online training provides convenient anytime access to a web-based catalog of training modules.

Installation: Sonic Foundry provides onsite services to integrate Mediasite within organizations existing AV and IT infrastructures.

5

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

<u>Custom Development:</u> Sonic Foundry streamlines how Mediasite interfaces with internal policies, workflow and content delivery systems. **Mediasite Customer Assurance** provides Mediasite customers annually renewable maintenance and support plans on their Mediasite solution giving them access to Sonic Foundry technical expertise and Mediasite software updates. With a Mediasite Customer Assurance contract, customers are entitled to:

Software upgrades and updates for Mediasite Recorders and Servers

Unlimited technical support assistance

Extension of their Recorder hardware warranty

Advance Recorder hardware replacement

Authorized access to the Mediasite Customer Assurance Portal where they can access software downloads, documentation, knowledge base articles, tutorials, online training and technical resources at any time.

The majority of our customers purchase Mediasite Customer Assurance contracts when they purchase Mediasite.

What Sets Mediasite Apart?

Easy to use We believe that presenters should not need to know anything about the technology that is facilitating their online communication. One-button or even fully automated, schedule-based recording simplifies what has previously been a technical and complex workflow. As a result, presenters can present as they normally do, which enables non-technical, line of business and subject matter experts to feel comfortable communicating via Mediasite. Similarly, viewers need nothing more than a web browser to watch Mediasite presentations.

Comprehensive content management We understand the need to bring order to a growing presentation library so content can be found, used, re-used and re-purposed to derive maximum value. Organizations must find ways to manage that content, and Sonic Foundry believes a complete solution focuses not only on the recording of knowledge, but also the retention and management of that knowledge in a system specifically designed for rich media. Mediasite automatically creates searchable online content catalogs that index and organize presentations with customizable playback experiences. With integration support leading enterprise directories, all content can be secured to allow/deny access to specific groups or individuals based on roles and permissions. Mediasite also allows organizations to monitor and generate reports for every presentation and/or user of the system, letting them see exactly who is watching what, when and how long.

Reliable Whether starting at the department level with a couple rooms or at the enterprise level with a campus- or company-wide implementation, Mediasite was developed to be the single platform to confidently and reliably scale to organizations webcasting needs.

More than 1,500 customers around the world depend on Mediasite and its proven design to webcast critical information, enrich daily communications and retain their organizational knowledge.

Interactive, rich media experience The Mediasite experience takes into account different individual learning styles auditory, visual and kinesthetic providing an interactive format that engages the viewer via different modalities to increase content comprehension and retention. We understand that learning materials and supporting visuals come in many different forms, and Mediasite Recorders have flexible capture options supporting input from any laptop application, tablet PC, electronic whiteboard, document camera, medical instrumentation, and more. (Many other rich media communication solutions focus on PowerPoint as the predominant source of e-learning or training content.) In addition, Mediasite includes the ability to incorporate polls, Q&A and links to other related reference materials supporting the learning process. For hearing-impaired viewers, Mediasite supports the video closed captioning. In November 2006, the United States Patent and Trademark Office granted Sonic Foundry a patent on Mediasite's unique method to capture and automatically index and synchronize what the presenter says (audio and video) with visual aids (RGB-based presentation content) and instantly stream them both over the Internet.

Software as a Service (SaaS) deployment option To minimize IT challenges, network infrastructure issues and expertise required to install, configure and maintain Mediasite within the enterprise, Sonic Foundry s hosted service option provides organizations a low-risk method of using the complete Mediasite platform within a state-of-the-art datacenter.

6

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

Customers and Applications

The Mediasite platform is rapidly emerging as the standard for capturing, archiving and delivering one-to-many multimedia presentations online. Popular applications in our primary vertical markets include:

Higher education

Online lectures: students review content outside of in-class instruction

Distance learning: off-campus students learn remotely online

Continuing education: professionals learn online or supplement classroom experiences

Research and collaboration: present findings, facility training

Recruitment and orientation: campus tours, financial aid instructions

University business: leadership meetings, alumnae relations Corporate

Executive communications: state of the enterprise speeches, all-hands meetings

Workforce development: training, HR briefings, policy documentation

Program management: technical training, research collaboration

Sales and marketing: sales demonstrations, webinars, channel relations

Customer support: product tutorials, self-guided troubleshooting

| Investor relations: earnings calls, analyst briefings, annual reports Government |
|--|
| Program management: relief work, military coordination, emergency preparedness |
| Community outreach: committee meetings, public safety announcements |
| Training, workshops and events: just-in-time, on-demand and remote learning |
| Executive and legislative communications: constituent relations, public speeches, debates Benefits and Value of Mediasite |
| In many cases, our customers deploy Mediasite to easily and cost-effectively build large-scale knowledge libraries of presentations. Throug interviews, many customers report the following benefits of Mediasite: |
| Cuts costs and boosts productivity |
| Reduces the need for travel and meeting accommodations |
| Eliminates the need to choose between meetings by allowing executives to time-shift |
| Decreases work interruption and downtime while increasing the reach, retention and availability of important information |
| Recaptures time that would have been spent repeating the same information to multiple audiences |
| Keeps sales people informed while in the field interacting with customers |
| Enables quick and efficient briefing of time-sensitive information to employees, regardless of geographic location Enhances academic learning |
| Lets students watch and re-watch presentations at their convenience, leading to better retention |
| Replicates in-class experience for those unable to attend class |

Table of Contents 15

Promotes greater in-class interactivity rather than copious note-taking

Caters to different learning modalities audio, visual, kinesthetic

Enhances student learning outcomes

Helps adult and non-traditional students balance education, career and family

Makes it possible to reuse and repurpose knowledge that could not otherwise be revisited

7

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

| Extends the life of conferences and events | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Makes presentations available to those not able to attend on-site | | | |
| Creates a real-time record of what took place, while remaining unobtrusive to presenters | | | |
| Eliminates the need for costly and time-consuming post-production | | | |
| Enables multiple proceedings in different locations to be captured | | | |
| Offers sample content to entice new people to participate Enhances collaboration and morale | | | |
| Creates opportunities for executive face time and interaction between management and staff | | | |
| Fosters a level of direct communication not possible before as presenters convey the significance of their message first hand | | | |
| Enables non-technical people to create their own webcasts through highly-automated equipment | | | |
| Improves employee morale through efficient, more inclusive communication so audiences at home and abroad feel more a part of the team | | | |
| Improves the reliability and frequency of internal and external communication Market Demand | | | |

Web communication is coming of age, now regarded by education, business and government as an essential communication tool for the enterprise. We believe the recent surge in adoption is fueled by the lower cost of bandwidth and storage, as well as growing consumer awareness of internet video with the proliferation of online multimedia advertising and websites like YouTube and Google Video. We believe the market for this new medium will build at an increasing rate as more Mediasite systems are installed, more users begin webcasting and additional viewers come online. Three forms of communication audio, visual and kinesthetic each play a unique role in an individual s ability to communicate and learn. We believe another reason people embrace the webcasting medium so fully is because it incorporates these combined ways of processing information: audio, video and visual aids, plus interactive navigation.

Mediasite in education: We believe that adoption of web communications in educational enterprises is outpacing that in corporate enterprises. According to the Compass Intelligence *U.S. Education IT Market* report, IT spending in education will reach \$47.7 billion by the end of 2008 and is expected to top \$56 billion by 2012. Higher education accounts for the majority (64.8 percent) of education IT spending in 2008, and over half of the Education IT decision-makers surveyed believe their industry is experiencing growth regardless of how the overall economy is performing. Internet and electronic learning tools will account for \$9.1 billion in spending in 2008 and are expected to grow to \$12.9 billion by 2012. This growth is being fueled by expenditures in telecommunications, collaborative technologies and outsourced IT services. The report states schools are utilizing collaboration technologies and applications for distance learning, multi-campus lectures, laboratory and international research collaboration.

Given the technology pedigree of today s college students, this move to online learning makes perfect sense as most of these students have never known a world without personal computers and the web. The delivery options for a modern education are akin to the electronic delivery of music that emerged approximately five years ago. Students want to get their courses as they get their music: go online, download what is needed and consume it on the go. They demand immediate access to their coursework regardless of time or place. Tomorrow s students may never actually miss a class because they will be able to watch it later on-demand with the added bonus of replaying the highlights if they need a refresher.

In September 2008, Sonic Foundry sponsored a research project with the University of Wisconsin E-Business Institute which resulted in the study, Insights Regarding Undergraduate Preference for Lecture Capture. A survey was sent to 29,078 undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in April 2008. Average response rate exceeded 25 percent. Of the survey participants, a significant number of undergraduates (47 percent) have taken a class in which lectures were recorded and made available online. 82 percent of the undergraduates in the sample strongly preferred a course that records and streams lecture content online vs. courses that only feature in-room instruction. Students reported better retention, improved ability to review for exams and greater engagement during classes with lecture capture. Over half of the undergraduates indicated that, even after course completion, having course material available online would be important and that there was interest in accessing online material in their

8

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

professional lives. Over 60 percent of the sample were willing to pay for lecture capture services. Of those willing to pay, the majority of undergraduates (69 percent) expressed a preference to pay on a course-by-course basis rather than having lecture capture fees bundled with existing technology fees.

Several universities have also conducted studies to assess the impact of Mediasite on student performance. Penn State Hershey Medical Center and College of Medicine, a Mediasite campus since January 2004, deployed a pilot program at the onset of the 2007-2008 academic year to record lectures to first year medical students. During this academic year, lectures to the first year students were viewed a total of 22,451 times, averaging 59.1 views per lecture by a class of 154 students. Student Mediasite use increased throughout the academic year, with 97 percent of students using Mediasite to review lectures by the semester s end. Almost half of the students surveyed (41 percent) cited reviewing complicated material as the number one motivator for using Mediasite. The majority (88 percent) agreed that Mediasite helps them achieve their educational goals. Much fewer (25 percent) said podcasting had the same effect. Faculty members reported that recording their lectures did not decrease class attendance. The survey also revealed a correlation between the grading method and the use of Mediasite. Students watch lectures more often via Mediasite for classes where grades are awarded as honors, high pass, pass and fail, vs. pass/fail.

The Paul Merage School of Business at the University of California, Irvine, surveyed students in its 2007-2008 MBA program for Executives and MBA for Health Care Executives. Ninety one percent used Mediasite to view lectures, 71 percent found they were more engaged in lectures when they didn t have to focus on taking copious notes and 83 percent said they learned more in courses when lectures were available on demand. The survey also determined that 93 percent of the students would choose an MBA program that mediasites course content over a school with traditional in-class instruction alone, and 82 percent would pay higher tuition for a program that streams and archives instruction, with almost half willing to pay between \$2,000 and \$5,000 more for their two-year degree.

To remain relevant, colleges and universities are striving to differentiate themselves through technical leadership as a means to attract these tech-savvy students, while balancing their campus technology improvements with systems that faculty will embrace and adopt. As a result, the education market is beginning to restructure and increase investments around online learning. We believe the visible integration of rich media learning content into core university applications and the success of bundled online learning technology solutions are two healthy indicators for the widespread adoption of online campus lectures.

To date, Sonic Foundry has installed Mediasite in the larger lecture halls and classrooms of campuses nationwide. We now see more and broader expansions and integrations of Mediasite at the campus-wide level. Course and learning management systems like Blackboard®, Desire2Learn®, Angel, Moodle and Sakai are ubiquitous in the education enterprise. As the foundation for e-learning, these systems are rapidly moving beyond simply aggregating related course documents (handouts, assignments, course syllabi) to becoming the students—single-source portal for all course-related materials including recorded multimedia content like online lectures. Mediasite—s packaged integration with Blackboard, the leading course management system used in higher education, addresses the need to make learning content accessible to students when and where they need it.

Mediasite in the enterprise: Less than a decade ago, the only people in the enterprise talking openly about online multimedia were AV specialists in IT or media services units, and even these people were skeptical about what benefits streaming would hold for the enterprise. Now, knowledge workers and line of business managers, people in executive communications, training, sales, human resources, and research and development, are pushing for online multimedia communications because they have a business need to be seen and heard by their colleagues.

Claire Schooley, senior analyst with Forrester Research, Inc., wrote in the January 2007 report, *Webcasting Grabs Corporate Attention*, The need for better, faster communications and learning opportunities will increase because of worker globalization and the desire to reach a broader customer base. Use webcasts to help your organization get its message out to a broad internal or external audience, increase revenue from new audiences, and control the costs of presentations, trainings, support, and travel. To be prepared, carry out the following: Develop the right content. Develop content that adapts well to the web and creates a compelling presentation. Don t forget content is still king; the technology is merely the delivery mechanism. Prepare for a mix of on-premise and services. Use a service vendor for the few large live external events your organization may conduct throughout the year, and look for on-premise technology support for employee webcasts and on-demand webcasts made available on your web sites. A new culture

9

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

will embrace webcasts as an expected online resource. But a cultural change is happening quickly in the way information and knowledge is communicated. Within three years, webcasts will be an essential part of business productivity tools.

The 2008 Corporate Learning Factbook: Benchmarks, Facts and Analysis in U.S. Corporate Learning & Development, published by Bersin and Associates in January 2008, determined the corporate learning market grew slightly from 2006 to 2007, increasing from \$55.8 billion to \$58.5 billion, with \$16.3 billion budgeted for external products and services in 2007. E-learning has grown dramatically, with the use of self-study e-learning now accounting for 20 percent of student hours, up from 15 percent last year. This growth is driven largely by an increase in online training among small organizations (100-199 employees), which are acquiring the skills and technology to make online training a reality. The younger generation of learners is also driving changes in learning strategies, evidenced by a sharp increase in new web-based and collaborate learning resources. According to the publication, over half of all companies report using virtual classroom technologies, and between 20 and 30 percent are using application simulation and rapid e-learning tools.

While many enterprises begin their web communications with live events, the majority move to live and on-demand, or on-demand only, as their webcasting experience grows. With that move, they report a spike in comprehension, productivity, strategic alignment around business goals, and even morale. We believe the feeling that the presenter is talking directly to the listener helps people feel more a part of the team and fosters more intimate communication between management and employees.

In August 2007, Forrester® Consulting (Forrester) conducted a commissioned study on behalf of Sonic Foundry titled The Total Economic Impact of Mediasite to examine the financial impact and potential return on investment (ROI) enterprises may realize by deploying Mediasite. Sonic Foundry selected Forrester for this project because of its industry expertise in elearning and its Total Economic Impact (TEI) methodology. Forrester s TEI helps companies demonstrate, justify and realize the tangible value of IT initiatives to both senior management and other key business stakeholders. It not only measures costs and cost reduction (areas that are typically accounted for within IT) but also weighs the enabling value of a technology in increasing the effectiveness of overall business processes.

The study illustrates the financial impact of adopting Mediasite for a North American research and development organization with a focus on science-based technologies that support national security. The organization employs more than 10,000 employees and contractors on multiple campuses and has been using Mediasite since 2004 to create an enterprise-wide knowledge management system that integrates within its existing online environment. Based on in-depth interviews with the customer, Forrester constructed a TEI framework for a composite organization and found that the Mediasite webcasting platform yielded a 155 percent risk-adjusted ROI and paid for itself within 16 months of use.

According to the study, key factors driving an organization s Mediasite adoption include:

The ability to manage multimedia assets. End users can access content live or on-demand and have the flexibility to watch at their convenience and review as many times as they wish.

Improved content capturing. This allows the training team to communicate in real-time and to reduce the time to market for new materials and enhancements.

The ability to reduce the operational cost of training by reducing teleconferencing costs while improving the quality and relevance of training.

10

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

Future Product and Service Directions

Because webcasting is becoming an everyday part of the way people work and learn, we are driven to shorten the time it takes people not only to share their information but also to find the information they need. While today leading-edge universities use Mediasite for lecture capture and corporations webcast training modules, we envision a future where people around the globe use webcasting to accelerate research and improve performance. As a company, we are helping create the libraries of tomorrow with technology that does not compound the world s information overload. We are working to put a human face on all knowledge online, and we believe the world will be more knowledgeable, more connected as a result.

Supporting this vision, our ongoing engineering efforts center on:

Developing deployment options to meet the webcasting needs for organizations of all sizes. This includes:

Significant investment, innovation and evolution of our current Mediasite Hosting platform in a Software as a Service (SaaS) model. This alternative to traditional on-premise deployments provides an ideal way to minimize IT challenges and potential webcasting risks while affordably extending high performance, fault tolerant webcasting to small and large customers alike.

Content capture innovations that economically scale across entire organizations, allowing anyone to record and share their knowledge or expertise.

Integrating with and embedding Mediasite content into other enterprise applications like enterprise portals, blogs, learning and course management systems and other content management repositories.

Supporting content playback experiences on additional platforms and popular mobile computing devices.

Evolving Mediasite s content management capabilities to accommodate organizations existing digital video libraries.

Further enabling Mediasite content to be accessible and meaningful to viewers with visual or hearing disabilities.

Continual development and prototyping of key-word search within archived multimedia presentations, powered by our in-house technologies for understanding and analyzing images, language and speech.

The Importance of Search

We believe search will lie at the heart of efficient, web-based communication. Faced with tens of thousands of hours of online streamed information, users could easily be overwhelmed with the need to find that one minute of content they require. Furthermore, organizations are not just going to need powerful tools to help workers internally find what they need, when they need it; leading businesses and education institutions

will also want to be found by external audiences to help build their brands, customer base and reputation online. Growing presentation repositories are expected to drive future interest in deploying advanced search technology.

Our work on search technology began back in the early 1990s through the initial efforts of Carnegie Mellon University and its Informedia project. In December 2005, Sonic Foundry launched Mediasite.com to aggregate and showcase the vast number of publicly available Mediasite presentations created by customers worldwide. Mediasite.com also served as a beta testing environment for some of our multi-modal search innovations involving phonetic speech recognition, optical character recognition, language processing and contextual analysis to identify key words found within the graphics, audio and video of online multimedia presentations. Our ongoing development for advanced search technologies continues in a closed lab setting where we explore and test innovations that will allow us to economically bring this resource-intensive search processing capability to customers.

Segment Information

We have determined that in accordance with SFAS No. 131, *Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information* (SFAS 131), we operate in only one segment as we do not disaggregate profit and loss information on a segment basis for internal management reporting purposes to our chief operating decision maker. Therefore, such information is not presented.

Total billings for Mediasite product and support outside the United States totaled 19 percent, 14 percent and 17 percent in 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

11

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

Our largest individual customers are typically value added resellers (VARs) and distributors since the majority of our end users require additional products and services which we do not provide. Accordingly, in fiscal 2008 and 2007 a master distributor, Synnex Corporation (Synnex), contributed 44 percent and 46 percent, respectively, of total world-wide billings. As a master distributor, Synnex fulfills transactions to VARs, end users and other distributors. No individual customer was over 10 percent in 2006. No other customer represented over 10 percent in 2006, 2007, or 2008.

Sales

We sell and market our offerings through a sales force that manages a reseller channel of value-added resellers, system integrators, consultants and distributors. These third party representatives specialize in understanding both audio/video systems and IT networking. In fiscal 2008, we utilized one master distributor in the U.S. and over 100 resellers, and sold our products to nearly 900 total end users. Our focus has been primarily in the United States and primarily to customers we have identified as having the greatest potential for high use; that is, organizations with presenters, trainers, lecturers, marketers and leaders who have a routine need to communicate to many people in the higher education, government, health industry and certain corporate markets. Despite our primary attention on the North American market, reseller and customer interest outside of North America has grown and accordingly, we allocated three sales professionals to address international demand. To date, we have sold our products to customers in 35 countries outside the United States. Total billings for Mediasite product and support outside the United States totaled 19 percent, 14 percent and 17 percent in fiscal 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Vertical market expansion: Currently, just over half our revenue is realized from the education and distance learning markets. Recent trends such as high gas prices and the slowing economy are driving more students, particularly adult learners, to seek online education options. Similarly, demand for lecture capture within undergraduate, community college and blended learning programs is beginning to demonstrate growth. This development represents an emerging trend beyond the traditional academic customer base for the company, which has primarily consisted of graduate, distance learning and technical degree programs.

For both our higher education and corporate, government and association clients, we anticipate weakening economic conditions will expand market demand for more outsourced services versus licensed sales. Over the last two years, the company has made extensive capital and technology investments to advance its services model with comprehensive hosting, webcasting-as-a-service, content processing and e-commerce capabilities that position the Company well to deliver more diversified business services.

With the launch of our Event Services group in 2007, we continue to see growing demand for conference and event webcasting. These event-based communication, education and training applications, combined with outsourced webcasting services, are expected to drive the company s corporate sales activities going forward.

Repeat orders: Many customers initially purchase Mediasite based on a small number of Mediasite Recorders, to test or pilot in a department, school or business unit. A successful pilot project and the associated increase in webcasting demand from other departments or schools leads to follow up, multiple-Recorder orders as well as increased Mediasite Server capacity. In fiscal 2008, 59 percent of billings were to preexisting customers compared to 55 percent and 50 percent, respectively, in fiscal 2007 and 2006.

Renewals: As is typical in the industry, we offer annual support and maintenance service contract extensions for a fee to our customer base.

Marketing

Marketing efforts span the spectrum of product demonstrations, tradeshows, websites, webinars, brochures, direct mail, e-mail campaigns, newsletters, print and online advertising, sponsorships, white papers and analyst relations. We often request and receive press release quotes and written or multimedia testimonials from satisfied, high-profile reference customers, particularly those that demonstrate innovative and valuable uses of the Mediasite platform and Event Services. We solicit respected industry magazines and

12

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

trade organizations to review our product and use advisors as introductions to new channels or customers. We have a large, growing database of potential customers in the education, government and corporate marketplaces and have established a process of targeting specific verticals that have a direct and demonstrated need for our offerings.

Operations

We contract with a third party to build the hardware of our Mediasite Recorders and purchase quantities sufficient to fill specific customer orders, including purchases of inventory by resellers. Quantities are maintained in inventory by our third party provider and shipped directly to the end customer or reseller. The hardware manufacturer provides a limited one-year warranty on the hardware, which we pass on to our customers who purchase a Mediasite Customer Assurance support and maintenance plan. We have an alternate source of manufacturing for some of the products we produce and believe there are numerous additional sources and alternatives to the existing production process. To date, we have not experienced any material difficulties or delays in the manufacture and assembly of our products or material returns due to product defects.

OTHER INFORMATION

Competition

In the market for online multimedia web communication solutions, we face competition from other companies that provide related, but different, applications.

Web conferencing includes solutions from Adobe, Cisco (WebEx), Microsoft and Citrix. Although part of the overall online multimedia communications landscape, these solutions are designed primarily for collaborative communications versus one-to-many communications like Mediasite. Many organizations acknowledge that they need both technologies one-to-many webcasting and collaborative web conferencing to appropriately address their different communication requirements.

Video conferencing includes solutions from Polycom, Tandberg, Cisco and Sony. These solutions are designed primarily for one-to-one or group communications with high levels of interactivity and collaboration. Like web conferencing, many organizations use both video conferencing and webcasting. Mediasite integrates with videoconferencing endpoints from Polycom and Tandberg to record and manage interactive meetings, discussions and distance learning courses alongside other Mediasite content.

Authoring tools include solutions like Accordent PresenterPLUS, Camtasia Studio and Microsoft Producer. Unlike webcasting, web conferencing or video conferencing, which are forms of online multimedia communication that capture and distribute/stream content, these solutions are production-oriented tools designed to create and edit multimedia content only. Some organizations will use these desktop tools to create training content by manually integrating existing audio, video, images, branding and other visual elements into a multimedia presentation which can then be published to a web or streaming server for distribution. This process can require a significant amount of production effort and user expertise in presentation authoring.

Other vendors do provide presentation authoring and capture capabilities, such as Echo360, Tegrity, Accordent Technologies and Panopto, but we believe these companies currently lack the breadth or depth of content management capabilities required for online multimedia presentations in a campus- or enterprise-wide deployment. Some current and potential customers have developed their own home-grown webcasting or lecture capture solutions which may compete with Mediasite. However, we often find many of these organizations are now looking for a solution that requires less internal maintenance and effort, offers comprehensive management capabilities and a less cumbersome workflow.

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

The more successful we are in the growing market for online multimedia, the more competitors are likely to emerge. We believe that the principal competitive factors in our market include:

| Ease of use and application transparency to the user |
|---|
| Content management and scalability to address enterprise requirements |
| Reliability and performance |
| Security of content, applications and services |
| Ability to integrate with third-party solutions and services |
| Flexible deployment and acquisition options to suit various budgets |
| Customer service and support |
| A significant reference-able customer base |
| Ability to introduce new products and services to the market in a timely manner |

Intellectual Property

The status of United States patent protection in the Internet industry is not well defined and will evolve as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office grants additional patents. We currently have two U.S patents that have been issued to us and five U.S. patent applications that are pending. We may seek additional patents in the future. We do not know if our pending patent applications or any future patent application will result in any patents being issued with the scope of the claims we seek, if such patents are issued at all. We do not know whether the patents which were recently approved or any patents we may receive in the future will be challenged, invalidated or be of any value. It is difficult to monitor unauthorized use of technology, particularly in foreign countries where the laws may not protect our proprietary rights as fully as in the United States, and our competitors may independently develop technology similar to ours. We will continue to seek patent and other intellectual property protections, when appropriate, for those aspects of our technology that we believe constitute innovations providing significant competitive advantages. Our pending, and any future, patent applications may not result in the issuance of valid patents.

Our success depends in part upon our rights to proprietary technology. We rely on a combination of copyright, trade secret, trademark and contractual protection to establish and protect our proprietary rights. We have registered seven U.S. and four foreign country trademarks. We require our employees to enter into confidentiality and nondisclosure agreements upon commencement of employment. Before we will disclose

any confidential aspects of our services, technology or business plans to customers, potential business distribution partners and other non-employees, we routinely require such persons to enter into confidentiality and nondisclosure agreements. In addition, we require all employees, and those consultants involved in the deployment of our services, to agree to assign to us any proprietary information, inventions or other intellectual property they generate, or come to possess, while employed by us. Despite our efforts to protect our proprietary rights, unauthorized parties may attempt to copy or otherwise obtain and use our services or technology. These precautions may not prevent misappropriation or infringement of our intellectual property.

Third parties may infringe or misappropriate our copyrights, trademarks and similar proprietary rights. In addition, we may be subject to claims of alleged infringement of patents and other intellectual property rights of third parties. We may be unaware of filed patent applications which have not yet been made public and which relate to our services.

Intellectual property claims may be asserted against us in the future. Intellectual property litigation is expensive and time-consuming and could divert management s attention away from running our business. Intellectual property litigation could also require us to develop non-infringing technology or enter into royalty or license agreements. These royalty or license agreements, if required, may not be available on acceptable terms, if at all. Our failure or inability to develop non-infringing technology or license the proprietary rights on a timely basis would harm our business.

14

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

Research and Development

We believe that our future success will depend in part on our ability to continue to develop new business, and to enhance our existing business. Accordingly, we invest a significant amount of our resources in research and development activities. During the fiscal years ended September 30, 2008, 2007 and 2006, we spent \$3.5 million, \$3.1 million and \$2.2 million on internal research and development activities in our business. These amounts represent 23%, 19% and 18% of total revenue in each of those years.

Employees

As of September 30, 2008, 2007 and 2006, we had 91, 108 and 72 full-time employees, respectively. Our employees are not represented by a labor union, nor are they subject to a collective bargaining agreement. We have never experienced a work stoppage and believe that our employee relations are satisfactory.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

YOU SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE RISKS DESCRIBED BELOW BEFORE MAKING AN INVESTMENT DECISION. THE RISKS DESCRIBED BELOW ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES WE FACE. ADDITIONAL RISKS THAT WE ARE NOT PRESENTLY AWARE OF OR THAT WE CURRENTLY BELIEVE ARE IMMATERIAL MAY ALSO IMPAIR OUR BUSINESS OPERATIONS. OUR BUSINESS COULD BE HARMED BY ANY OR ALL OF THESE RISKS. THE TRADING PRICE OF OUR COMMON STOCK COULD DECLINE SIGNIFICANTLY DUE TO ANY OF THESE RISKS, AND YOU MAY LOSE ALL OR PART OF YOUR INVESTMENT. IN ASSESSING THESE RISKS, YOU SHOULD ALSO REFER TO THE OTHER INFORMATION CONTAINED OR INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K, INCLUDING OUR CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND RELATED NOTES.

Economic conditions could materially adversely affect the Company.

The Company s operations and performance depend significantly on worldwide economic conditions. Uncertainty about current global economic conditions poses a risk as businesses, educational institutions and the government may postpone spending in response to tighter credit, negative financial news and/or declines in income or asset values, which could have a material negative effect on the demand for the Company s products and services and on the Company s financial condition and operating results.

The current financial turmoil affecting the banking system and financial markets and the possibility that financial institutions may consolidate or go out of business have resulted in a tightening in the credit markets, a low level of liquidity in many financial markets, and extreme volatility in fixed income, credit, currency and equity markets. There could be a number of follow-on effects from the credit crisis on the Company s business, including insolvency of key suppliers resulting in products delays, inability of customers, including channel partners, to obtain credit to finance purchases of the Company s products and/or customer, including channel partner, insolvencies; and inability of our channel partners and other customers to pay accounts receivable owed to us, or delays in the payment of such receivables. Additionally, if these economic conditions persist, our intangible assets may be impaired.

Economic conditions may have a disproportionate affect on the sale of our products.

Many of our customers will look at the total A/V equipment and labor cost to outfit a typical conference room or lecture hall as one amount for budgetary purposes. Consequently, although our products represent only a portion of the total cost, the entire project of outfitting a room or conference hall may be considered excessive and may not survive budgetary constraints. Alternatively, our resellers may modify their quotes to end customers by eliminating our products or substituting less expensive competitive products in order to win opportunities within budget constraints. Event service partners may similarly suggest that customers eliminate recording and webcasting as a means of reducing event cost. Consequently, declines in spending by government, educational or corporate institutions due to budgetary constraints may have a

disproportionate impact on the Company and result in a material adverse impact on our financial condition.

15

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

We may need to raise additional capital if we do not quickly become profitable.

At September 30, 2008 we had cash of \$3.6 million and availability under our line of credit facility with Silicon Valley Bank of \$2.3 million. The Company has historically financed its operations primarily through cash from sales of equity securities, cash from operations, and to a limited extent, through bank credit facilities. The Company has incurred losses from operations in each of the last three fiscal years. In response to the recurring operating losses, the Company initiated cost reduction efforts in January 2008. These efforts achieved a 24% reduction in quarterly operating expenses. The Company anticipates operating expenses to remain at or near these reduced levels in fiscal 2009. Although the Company anticipates growth in billings in fiscal 2009, it believes its cash position is adequate to accomplish its business plan through at least the next twelve months even if billings remain unchanged and therefore has no plans to seek additional debt or equity financing or to issue additional shares previously registered in its available shelf registration.

We may evaluate further operating or capital lease opportunities to finance equipment purchases in the future and may utilize the Company s revolving line of credit to support working capital needs, if the Company deems it advisable to do so. While the Company anticipates limited use of the line of credit and that it will be in compliance with all provisions of the agreement, there can be no assurance that the existing Loan Agreement will remain available to the Company nor that additional financing will be available or on terms acceptable to the Company.

The business environment is not currently conducive to raising additional debt or equity financing and may not improve in the near term. If we borrow money, we may incur significant interest charges, which could harm our profitability. Holders of debt would also have rights, preferences or privileges senior to those of existing holders of our common stock. If we raise additional equity, the terms of such financing may dilute the ownership interests of current investors and cause our stock price to fall significantly. We may not be able to secure financing upon acceptable terms, if at all. If we cannot raise funds on acceptable terms, we may not be able to develop or enhance our products, take advantage of future opportunities or respond to competitive pressures or unanticipated requirements, which could seriously harm our business, operating results, and financial condition

We have a history of losses.

For the year ended September 30, 2008, we had a gross margin of \$11.4 million on revenue of \$15.6 million with which to cover selling, marketing, product development and general administrative costs. Our selling, marketing, product development and general administration costs have historically been a significant percentage of our revenue, due partly to the expense of developing leads and the relatively long period required to convert leads into sales associated with selling products that are not yet considered mainstream technology investments. For the year ended September 30, 2008, our operating expenses exceeded our gross margin by 69%. Although we expect our operating losses as a percentage of revenue to decline during fiscal 2009, we may never achieve or sustain profitability on a quarterly or annual basis.

We could lose revenues if there are changes in the spending policies or budget priorities for government funding of colleges, universities, schools and other education providers.

Most of our customers and potential customers are public colleges, universities, schools and other education providers who depend substantially on government funding. Accordingly, any general decrease, delay or change in federal, state or local funding for colleges, universities, schools and other education providers could cause our current and potential customers to reduce their purchases of our products and services, or to decide not to renew service contracts, either of which could cause us to lose revenues. In addition, a specific reduction in governmental funding support for products such as ours would also cause us to lose revenues. Also, public and some private colleges and higher education institutions have been significantly and adversely affected by the financial market downturn, which may adversely impact sales of our products.

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

If we are unable to comply with Nasdaq s continued listing requirements, our common stock could be delisted from the Nasdaq Capital Market.

Since March 2008, our common stock has failed to maintain a minimum bid price of \$1.00 for at least 10 consecutive days, which caused our stock price to fail to meet one of the minimum standards required by the Nasdaq Stock Market for continued listing as a Nasdaq Global Market security. On March 10, 2008 we received a letter from Nasdaq indicating that we need to regain compliance with the minimum bid price requirement by September 8, 2008 in order to remain on the Nasdaq Global Market. On September 9, 2008 we were notified by Nasdaq that we had failed to regain compliance with the minimum bid price during the 180 days provided and our securities were therefore subject to delisting from the Nasdaq Global Market. In response, we applied for and were notified on September 12, 2008 by Nasdaq that Nasdaq approved our request to transfer the listing of our shares to the Nasdaq Capital Market. Transfer to the Nasdaq Capital Market and compliance with its initial listing standards affords an additional 180 day period for our stock to attain the minimum \$1.00 bid price for at least 10 consecutive business days until March 9, 2009. In response to weak market conditions, Nasdaq suspended enforcement of the minimum bid price requirement on October 16, 2008 through January 16, 2009. Nasdaq notified us on October 22, 2008 that the suspension extends the period for us to regain compliance with the minimum bid price rule until June 9, 2009. We may not regain compliance with the minimum \$1.00 bid price requirement during the additional period and our stock may be delisted, which may have a material adverse effect on the price of our common stock and the levels of liquidity currently available to our stockholders. Delisting would also make it more difficult for us to raise capital in the future or impact customer confidence. If our common stock is removed from the Nasdaq Capital Market, an investor could find it more difficult to dispose of, or to obtain accurate quotations as to the market value of, our common shares. Additionally, our stock may then be subject to penny stock regulations.

If a sufficient number of customers do not accept our products, our business may not succeed.

We cannot predict how the market for our products will develop, and part of our strategic challenge will be to convince enterprise customers of the productivity, improved communications, cost savings, suitability and other benefits of our products. Our future revenue and revenue growth rates will depend in large part on our success in delivering these products effectively, creating market acceptance for these products, and meeting customer s needs for new or enhanced products. If we fail to do so, our products will not achieve widespread market acceptance, and we may not generate significant revenue to offset our product development and selling and marketing costs, which will hurt our business.

We may not be able to innovate to meet the needs of our target market.

Our future success will continue to depend upon our ability to develop new products or product enhancements that address future needs of our target markets and to respond to these changing standards and practices. Our revenue could be reduced if we do not capitalize on our current market leadership by timely developing innovative new products or product enhancements that will increase the likelihood that our products will be accepted in preference to the products of our current and future competitors.

Multiple unit sales may fail to materialize.

We need to sell multiple units to educational, corporate and government institutions in order to sell most efficiently and become profitable. In fiscal 2008, 59% of recorder revenue were to existing customers compared to 55% in fiscal 2007. At September 30, 2008, 543 customers had purchased multiple units compared to 286 customers at September 30, 2007. In particular, selling multiple units to corporate customers has lagged results achieved in the higher education market; consequently, we have allocated more resources to the higher education market. While we have addressed a strategy to leverage existing customers and close multiple unit transactions, a customer may choose not to make expected purchases of our products. The failure of our customers to make expected purchases will harm our business.

If our marketing and lead generation efforts are not successful, our business will be harmed.

We believe that continued marketing efforts will be critical to achieve widespread acceptance of our products. Our marketing campaign may not be successful given the expense required. For example, failure to adequately generate and develop sales leads

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

could cause our future revenue growth to decrease. In addition, our inability to generate and cultivate sales leads into large organizations, where there is the potential for significant use of our products, could have a material effect on our business. We may not be able to identify and secure the number of strategic sales leads necessary to help generate marketplace acceptance of our products. If our marketing or lead-generation efforts are not successful, our business and operating results will be harmed.

The length of our sales and deployment cycle is uncertain, which may cause our revenue and operating results to vary significantly from quarter to quarter and year to year.

During our sales cycle, we spend considerable time and expense providing information to prospective customers about the use and benefits of our products without generating corresponding revenue. Our expense levels are relatively fixed in the short-term and based in part on our expectations of future revenue. Therefore, any delay in our sales cycle could cause significant variations in our operating results, particularly because a relatively small number of customer orders represent a large portion of our revenue.

We anticipate that some of our largest sources of revenue will be educational institutions, large corporations and government entities that often require long testing and approval processes before making a decision to purchase our products, particularly when evaluating our products for inclusion in new buildings under construction or high dollar transactions. In general, the process of selling our products to a potential customer may involve lengthy negotiations, collaborations with consultants, designers and architects, time consuming installation processes and changes in network infrastructure in excess of what we or our VARs are able to provide. As a result, we anticipate that our sales cycle will be unpredictable. Our sales cycle will also be subject to delays as a result of customer-specific factors over which we have little or no control, including budgetary constraints and internal approval procedures.

Our products are aimed toward a broadened user base within our key markets. These products are relatively early in their product life cycles and we are relatively inexperienced with their sales cycle. We cannot predict how the market for our products will develop and part of our strategic challenge will be to convince targeted users of the productivity, improved communications, cost savings and other benefits. Accordingly, it is likely that delays in our sales cycles with these products will occur and this could cause significant variations in our operating results.

Sales of some of our products have experienced seasonal fluctuations which have affected sequential growth rates for these products, particularly in our first fiscal quarter. For example, there is generally a slowdown for sales of our products in the higher education and corporate markets in the first fiscal quarter of each year. Seasonal fluctuations could negatively affect our business, which could cause our operating results to fall short of anticipated results for such quarters.

Our operating results are hard to predict as a significant amount of our sales typically occur at the end of a quarter and the mix of product and service orders may vary significantly.

Revenue for any particular quarter is extremely difficult to predict with any degree of certainty. We typically ship products within a short time after we receive an order and therefore, we typically do not have an order backlog with which to estimate future revenue. In addition, orders from our channel partners are based on the level of demand from end-user customers. Any decline or uncertainty in end-user demand could negatively impact end-user orders, which could in turn significantly negatively affect orders from our channel partners in any given quarter. Accordingly, our expectations for both short and long-term future revenue is based almost exclusively on our own estimate of future demand based on the pipeline of sales opportunities we manage, rather than on firm channel partner orders. Our expense levels are based largely on these estimates. In addition, the majority of our orders are received in the last month of a quarter, typically the last few weeks of that quarter; thus, the unpredictability of the receipt of these orders could negatively impact our future results. We historically have received a majority of our channel partner orders in the last month of a quarter and often in the last few days of the quarter. Accordingly, any significant shortfall in demand for our products in relation to our expectations would have an adverse impact on our operating results.

Table of Contents 36

18

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

We have experienced growing demand for our hosting and event services as well as a growing preference from our corporate customers in purchasing our solution as a service (SaaS). As a result, we expect that service billings as a percentage of total billings will continue to grow which we believe will ultimately lead to higher gross margins and more recurring revenue. The percentage of billings represented by service is also likely to fluctuate from quarter to quarter due to seasonality of event services and other factors. Since services are typically billed in advance of providing the service, revenue is initially deferred, leading to reduced current period revenue with a corresponding negative impact to profits or losses in periods of significant growth in billings for deferred services. An increase, or significant fluctuation, in service billings as a percentage of total billings may therefore lead to a temporary decline in our reported revenue.

We are subject to risks associated with our channel partners product inventories and product sell-through.

We sell a significant amount of our products to Synnex and other channel partners who maintain their own inventory of our products for sale to dealers and end-users. If these channel partners are unable to sell an adequate amount of their inventory of our products in a given quarter to dealers and end-users or if channel partners decide to decrease their inventories for any reason, such as a recurrence of global economic uncertainty and downturn in technology spending, the volume of our sales to these channel partners and our revenue would be negatively affected. In addition, if channel partners decide to purchase more inventory, due to product availability or other reasons, than is required to satisfy end-user demand or if end-user demand does not keep pace with the additional inventory purchases, channel inventory could grow in any particular quarter, which could adversely affect product revenue in the subsequent quarter. In addition, we also face the risk that some of our channel partners have inventory levels in excess of future anticipated sales. If such sales do not occur in the time frame anticipated by these channel partners for any reason, these channel partners may substantially decrease the amount of product they order from us in subsequent periods, which would harm our business.

If stock balancing returns or price adjustments exceed our reserves, our operating results could be adversely affected.

We provide some of our distributors with stock balancing return rights, which generally permit our distributors to return products, subject to ordering an equal dollar amount of alternate products. We also provide price protection rights to most of our distributors. Price protection rights require that we grant retroactive price adjustments for inventories of our products held by distributors if we lower our prices for those products within a specified time period. To cover our exposure to these product returns and price adjustments, we establish reserves based on our evaluation of historical product trends and current marketing plans. However, we cannot be assured that our reserves will be sufficient to cover our future product returns and price adjustments. If we inadequately forecast reserves, our operating results could be adversely affected.

Manufacturing disruption or capacity constraints would harm our business.

We subcontract the manufacture of our products to a third-party contract manufacturer in Alabama. Although we believe there are multiple sources of supply from other contract manufacturers as well as multiple suppliers of component parts to the contract manufacturer, a short term disruption of supply of component parts or completed products near the end of a quarter would have a negative impact on our revenues. Moreover, any incapacitation of the manufacturing site due to destruction, natural disaster or similar events could result in a loss of product inventory. As a result of any of the foregoing, we may not be able to meet demand for our products, which could negatively affect revenues in the quarter of the disruption or longer depending upon the magnitude of the event, and could harm our reputation.

Our cash flow could fluctuate due to the potential difficulty of collecting our receivables.

A significant portion of our sales are fulfilled by VARs, regional distributors or master distributors. As an example, 44% of our billings in 2008 were to Synnex, a master distributor who fulfills demand from other distributors, VARs or end users. While our distributors and VARs typically maintain payment terms consistent with other end users, a delay in payment may occur as a result of a number of factors including changes in demand, general economic factors, financial performance, inventory levels or disputes over payments. Any delay from Synnex, or other large distributors or VARs could have a material impact on the collections of our receivables during a particular quarter.

19

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

Over the past year we have begun to expand the level of sales representation in Europe and Asia as well as other international regions. We offer credit terms to some of our international customers; however, payments tend to go beyond terms in certain countries. Therefore, as Europe, Asia and other international regions grow as a percentage of our revenue, accounts receivable balances will likely increase as compared to previous years.

Accounting regulations and related interpretations and policies, particularly those related to revenue recognition, cause us to defer revenue recognition into future periods for portions of our products and services.

Revenue recognition for our products and services is complex and subject to multiple sources of authoritative guidance as well as varied interpretations and implementation practices for such rules. These rules require us to defer revenue recognition in certain situations. Factors that are considered in revenue recognition include those such as vendor specific objective evidence (VSOE), the inclusion of other services and contingencies to payment terms. We expect that we will continue to defer portions of our product and service billings because of these factors. The amounts deferred may be significant and will vary each quarter depending on the mix of products sold in each market and geography, as well as the actual contract terms.

Additional changes in authoritative guidance or changes in practice in applying such rules could also cause us to defer the recognition of revenue to future periods or recognize lower revenue

Because most of our service contracts are renewable on an annual basis, a reduction in our service renewal rate could significantly reduce our revenues.

Our clients have no obligation to renew their content hosting agreements, customer support contracts or other annual service contracts after the expiration of the initial period, which is typically one year, and some clients have elected not to do so. A decline in renewal rates could cause our revenues to decline. We have limited historical data with respect to rates of renewals, so we cannot accurately predict future renewal rates. Our renewal rates may decline or fluctuate as a result of a number of factors, including client dissatisfaction with our products and services, our failure to update our products to maintain their attractiveness in the market or budgetary constraints or changes in budget priorities faced by our clients.

Because we generally recognize revenues ratably over the term of our service contracts, downturns or upturns in service transactions will not be fully reflected in our operating results until future periods.

We recognize most of our revenues from service contracts monthly over the terms of their agreements, which are typically 12 months, although terms can range from less than one month to over 36 months. As a result, much of the service revenue we report in each quarter is attributable to agreements entered into during previous quarters. Consequently, a decline in sales, client renewals, or market acceptance of our products in any one quarter will not necessarily be fully reflected in the revenues in that quarter, and will negatively affect our revenues and profitability in future quarters. This ratable revenue recognition also makes it difficult for us to rapidly increase our revenues through additional sales in any period, as revenues from new clients must be recognized over the applicable agreement term.

There is a great deal of competition in the market for our products, which could lower the demand for our products.

The market for one-to-many multimedia web communication is relatively new, and we face competition from other companies that provide related digital media applications, such as Apple. Companies like Cisco (WebEx), Microsoft and Citrix offer web conferencing applications. Although part of the overall web communications landscape, these solutions are designed primarily for smaller group collaborative communications versus one-to-many communications. Accordent Technologies, Tegrity, Echo360, Panopto and other vendors provide presentation authoring and capture capabilities, but currently we believe they lack the breadth or depth of content management capabilities required for online multimedia presentations in an enterprise-wide deployment. Current and potential customers may choose to develop their own home-grown web communications software and services which may compete

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

with Mediasite. We may also compete indirectly with larger system integrators who embed or integrate competing technologies into their custom-built product offerings. If one of these alternative approaches is received more favorably in the marketplace, a new approach or technology is developed or an existing or new competitor markets more effectively than we do or we otherwise do not compete effectively, our business will be harmed. In addition, the more successful we are in the emerging markets our products address, the more competitors are likely to emerge, including turnkey media application, streaming media platform developers, digital music infrastructure providers, and digital media applications service providers (including for digital musical subscription). Many of our competitors have far greater financial resources than we do, and could easily overtake the marketplace and severely harm our business. We may also face competition from foreign suppliers and competition from Course Management Systems (CMS) or education information technology (IT) companies.

The presence of these competitors could reduce the demand for our systems, and we may not have the financial resources to compete successfully.

Our customers may use our products to share confidential and sensitive information, and if our system security is breached, our reputation could be harmed and we may lose customers.

Our customers may use our products to share confidential and sensitive information, the security of which is critical to their business. Third parties may attempt to breach our security or that of our customers. Customers may take inadequate security precautions with their sensitive information and we may inadvertently make that information public on our www.mediasite.com website. We may be liable to our customers for any breach in security, and any breach could harm our reputation and cause us to lose customers. In addition, customers are vulnerable to computer viruses, physical or electronic break-ins and similar disruptions, which could lead to interruptions, delays or loss of data. We may be required to expend significant capital and other resources to further protect against security breaches or to resolve problems caused by any breach, including litigation-related expenses if we are sued.

Operational failures in our network infrastructure could disrupt our remote hosting services, could cause us to lose clients and sales to potential clients and could result in increased expenses and reduced revenues.

Unanticipated problems affecting our network systems could cause interruptions or delays in the delivery of the hosting services we provide to some of our clients. We provide remote hosting through computer hardware, some of which is within our facility and some of which is currently located in a third-party co-location facility. We do not control the operation of this co-location facility. Lengthy interruptions in our hosting service could be caused by the occurrence of a natural disaster, power loss, vandalism or other telecommunications problems at the co-location facility or if this co-location facility were to close without adequate notice. We currently do not have adequate computer hardware and systems to provide alternative service for most of our hosted clients in the event of an extended loss of service at the co-location facility. We are not equipped to provide full disaster recovery to all of our hosted clients. If there are operational failures in our network infrastructure that cause interruptions, slower response times, loss of data or extended loss of service for our remotely hosted clients, we may be required to issue credits or pay penalties, current clients may terminate their contracts or elect not to renew them, and we may lose sales to potential clients. If we determine that we need additional hardware and systems, we may be required to make further investments in our network infrastructure.

The technology underlying our products and services is complex and may contain unknown defects that could harm our reputation, result in product liability or decrease market acceptance of our products.

The technology underlying our products is complex and includes software that is internally developed, software licensed from third parties and hardware purchased from third parties. These products may contain errors or defects, particularly when first introduced or when new versions or enhancements are released. We may not discover defects that affect our current or new applications or enhancements until after they are sold and our insurance coverage may not be sufficient to cover our complete liability exposure. Any defects in our products and services could:

Damage our reputation;

21

property.

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

| (| Cause our customers to initiate product liability suits against us; |
|-------------------------------|--|
| I | Increase our product development resources; |
| (| Cause us to lose sales; and |
| | Delay market acceptance of our products. wewed only as a commodity supplier, our margins and valuations will shrink. |
| relationships and technolo | provide value-added services in order to avoid being viewed as a commodity supplier. This entails building long-term customer is and developing features that will distinguish our products. Our technology is complex and is often confused with other products or in the market place, including video conferencing, streaming and collaboration. If we fail to build long-term customer is and develop features that distinguish our products in the market place, our margins will shrink, and our stock may become less exestors. |
| Our success | s depends upon the proprietary aspects of our technology. |
| patents that l | and ability to compete depend to a significant degree upon the protection of our proprietary technology. We currently have two U.S. have been issued to us and five U.S. patent applications that are pending. We may seek additional patents in the future. Our current cations cover different aspects of the technology used in our products which is important to our ability to compete. However, it is t: |
| C | our pending patent applications may not result in the issuance of patents; |
| a | any patents acquired by or issued to us may not be broad enough to protect us; |
| | any issued patent could be successfully challenged by one or more third parties, which could result in our loss of the right to prevent others from exploiting the inventions claimed in those patents; |
| | current and future competitors may independently develop similar technology, duplicate our services or design around any of our patents; and |
| | effective patent protection, including effective legal-enforcement mechanisms against those who violate our patent-related assets, may not be available in every country in which we do or plan to do business. |

Table of Contents 43

We also rely upon trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets to protect our technology, which may not be sufficient to protect our intellectual

We also rely on a combination of laws, such as copyright, trademark and trade secret laws, and contractual restrictions, such as confidentiality agreements and licenses, to establish and protect our technology. We have registered seven U.S. and four foreign country trademarks. These forms of intellectual property protection are critically important to our ability to establish and maintain our competitive position. However,

third parties may infringe or misappropriate our copyrights, trademarks and similar proprietary rights;

laws and contractual restrictions may not be sufficient to prevent misappropriation of our technology or to deter others from developing similar technologies;

effective trademark, copyright and trade secret protection, including effective legal-enforcement mechanisms against those who violate our trademark, copyright or trade secret assets, may be unavailable or limited in foreign countries;

other companies may claim common law trademark rights based upon state or foreign laws that precede the federal registration of our marks; and

policing unauthorized use of our services and trademarks is difficult, expensive and time-consuming, and we may be unable to determine the extent of any unauthorized use.

Reverse engineering, unauthorized copying or other misappropriation of our proprietary technology could enable third parties to benefit from our technology without paying us for it, which would significantly harm our business.

22

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

If other parties bring infringement or other claims against us, we may incur significant costs or lose customers.

Other companies may obtain patents or other proprietary rights that would limit our ability to conduct our business and could assert that our technologies infringe their proprietary rights. We could incur substantial costs to defend any legal proceedings, even if without merit, and intellectual property litigation could force us to cease using key technology, obtain a license, or redesign our products. In the course of our business, we may sell certain systems to our customers, and in connection with such sale, we may agree to indemnify these customers from claims made against them by third parties for patent infringement related to these systems. In particular, claims are currently being made by holders of patents against educational institutions using streaming in their curriculum. We could be subject to similar claims, which could harm our business.

If we lose key personnel or fail to integrate replacement personnel successfully, our ability to manage our business could be impaired.

Our future success depends upon the continued service of our key management, technical, sales, and other critical personnel. Certain of our officers and certain of our other key personnel are employees-at-will, and we cannot assure that we will be able to retain them. Key personnel have left our company in the past, sometimes to accept employment with companies that sell similar products or services to existing or potential customers of ours. There will likely be additional departures of key personnel from time to time in the future and such departures could result in additional competition, loss of customers or confusion in the marketplace. The loss of any key employee could result in significant disruptions to our operations, including adversely affecting the timeliness of product releases, the successful implementation and completion of company initiatives, and the results of our operations. In particular, the loss of the services of our Chief Executive Officer, Rimas Buinevicius, or our co-founder and Chief Technology Officer, Monty Schmidt, would harm our business. Although we do have employment agreements with Messrs. Buinevicius and Schmidt, we do not have life insurance policies on any of our key employees. In addition, the integration of replacement personnel could be time consuming, may cause disruptions to our operations, and may be unsuccessful.

Because our business is susceptible to risks associated with international operations, we may not be able to maintain or increase international sales of our products.

International product and service revenue ranged from 14% to 19% of our total billings in each of the past three years. Our international operations are expected to continue to account for a significant portion of our business in the future. However, in the future we may be unable to maintain or increase international sales of our products and services. International sales are subject to a variety of risks, including:

difficulties in establishing and managing international distribution channels;

difficulties in selling, servicing and supporting overseas products and in translating products into foreign languages;

the uncertainty of laws and enforcement in certain countries relating to the protection of intellectual property;

multiple and possibly overlapping tax structures;

currency and exchange rate fluctuations; and

economic or political changes in international markets.

We face risks associated with government regulation of the internet, and related legal uncertainties.

Currently, few existing laws or regulations specifically apply to the Internet, other than laws generally applicable to businesses. Many Internet-related laws and regulations, however, are pending and may be adopted in the United States, in individual states and local jurisdictions and in other countries. These laws may relate to many areas that impact our business, including encryption, network and information security, and the convergence of traditional communication services, such as telephone services, with Internet communications, taxes and wireless networks. These types of regulations could differ between countries and other political and geographic divisions both inside and outside the United States. Non-U.S. countries and political organizations may impose, or favor, more and different regulation than that which has been proposed in the United States, thus furthering the complexity of regulation. In

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

addition, state and local governments within the United States may impose regulations in addition to, inconsistent with, or stricter than federal regulations. The adoption of such laws or regulations, and uncertainties associated with their validity, interpretation, applicability and enforcement, may affect the available distribution channels for, and the costs associated with, our products and services. The adoption of such laws and regulations may harm our business.

Exercise of outstanding options and warrants will result in further dilution.

The issuance of shares of common stock upon the exercise of our outstanding options and warrants will result in dilution to the interests of our stockholders, and may reduce the trading price of our common stock.

At September 30, 2008, we had 566 thousand of outstanding warrants and 6.2 million of outstanding stock options granted under our 1995 Employee Stock Option Plan, our 1999 Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan and our Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plans, 4.8 million of which are immediately exercisable.

To the extent that these stock options or warrants are exercised, dilution to the interests of our stockholders will likely occur. Additional options and warrants may be issued in the future at prices not less than 85% of the fair market value of the underlying security on the date of grant. Exercises of these options or warrants, or even the potential of their exercise may have an adverse effect on the trading price of our common stock. The holders of our options or our warrants are likely to exercise them at times when the market price of the common stock exceeds the exercise price of the securities. Accordingly, the issuance of shares of common stock upon exercise of the options and warrants will likely result in dilution of the equity represented by the then outstanding shares of common stock held by other stockholders. Holders of our options and warrants can be expected to exercise or convert them at a time when we would, in all likelihood, be able to obtain any needed capital on terms, which are more favorable to us than the exercise terms provided, by these options and warrants.

We may need to make acquisitions or form strategic alliances or partnerships in order to remain competitive in our market, and potential future acquisitions, strategic alliances or partnerships could be difficult to integrate, disrupt our business and dilute stockholder value.

We may acquire or form strategic alliances or partnerships with other businesses in the future in order to remain competitive or to acquire new technologies. As a result of these acquisitions, strategic alliances or partnerships, we may need to integrate products, technologies, widely dispersed operations and distinct corporate cultures. The products, services or technologies of the acquired companies may need to be altered or redesigned in order to be made compatible with our software products and services, or the software architecture of our customers. These integration efforts may not succeed or may distract our management from operating our existing business. Our failure to successfully manage future acquisitions, strategic alliances or partnerships could seriously harm our operating results. In addition, our stockholders would be diluted if we finance the acquisition, strategic alliances or partnerships by incurring convertible debt or issuing equity securities.

Our corporate compliance program cannot guarantee that we are in compliance with all potentially applicable regulations.

As a publicly traded company we are subject to significant regulations, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. While we have developed and instituted a corporate compliance program based on what we believe are the current best practices and continue to update the program in response to newly implemented regulatory requirements and guidance, we cannot assure that we are or will be in compliance with all potentially applicable regulations. Although our non-affiliate market capitalization was less than \$75 million at March 31, 2008 and we are no longer required to be fully compliant with both the management assessment and auditor attestations, current SEC rules would require us to be fully compliant at September 30, 2010. We cannot assure that in the future our management will not find a material weakness in connection with its annual review of our internal control over financial reporting pursuant to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. We also cannot assure that we could correct any such weakness to allow our management to

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

assess the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of the end of our fiscal year in time to enable our independent registered public accounting firm to attest that such assessment will have been fairly stated in our Annual Report on Form 10-K to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission or attest that we have maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of the end of our fiscal year. If we fail to comply with any of these regulations, we could be subject to a range of regulatory actions, fines, or other sanctions or litigation. In addition, if we must disclose any material weakness in our internal control over financial reporting, this may cause our stock price to decline.

Provisions of our charter documents and Maryland law could also discourage an acquisition of our company that would benefit our stockholders.

Provisions of our articles of incorporation and by-laws may make it more difficult for a third party to acquire control of our company, even if a change in control would benefit our stockholders. Our articles of incorporation authorize our board of directors, without stockholder approval, to issue one or more series of preferred stock, which could have voting and conversion rights that adversely affect or dilute the voting power of the holders of common stock. Furthermore, our articles of incorporation provide for a classified board of directors, which means that our stockholders may vote upon the retention of only one or two of our seven directors each year. Moreover, Maryland corporate law restricts certain business combination transactions with interested stockholders and limits voting rights upon certain acquisitions of control shares.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

Our principal office is located in Madison, Wisconsin in a leased facility of approximately 19,000 square feet. The building serves as our corporate headquarters, accommodating our general and administrative, product development and selling and marketing departments. We believe this facility is adequate and suitable for our needs. The current lease term for this office expires on October 1, 2011. In addition, we lease 2,500 square feet in a building in downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania which we no longer utilize and plan to terminate on January 31, 2009.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

None

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

There were no matters submitted to a vote of security holders during the fourth quarter ended September 30, 2008.

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS, AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Our common stock was initially traded on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol SFO, beginning with our initial public offering in April of 1998. On April 24, 2000, our common stock began trading on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol SOFO. Effective September 16, 2008, we transferred the listing of our common stock to the Nasdaq Capital Market. The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low sale prices per share of our common stock as reported on the Nasdaq Global or Capital Markets.

| | High | Low |
|--|---------|---------|
| Year Ended September 30, 2009: | | |
| First Quarter (through December 3, 2008) | \$ 0.65 | \$ 0.32 |
| Year Ended September 30, 2008: | | |
| First Quarter | 2.85 | 1.18 |
| Second Quarter | 1.49 | 0.61 |
| Third Quarter | 0.95 | 0.60 |
| Fourth Quarter | 0.90 | 0.50 |
| Year Ended September 30, 2007: | | |
| First Quarter | 5.15 | 2.24 |
| Second Quarter | 4.77 | 3.46 |
| Third Quarter | 4.08 | 2.02 |
| Fourth Quarter | 2.85 | 1.61 |

Since March 2008, our common stock has failed to maintain a minimum bid price of \$1.00 for at least 10 consecutive days, which caused our stock price to fail to meet one of the minimum standards required by the Nasdaq Stock Market for continued listing as a Nasdaq Global Market security. On March 10, 2008 we received a letter from Nasdaq indicating that we need to regain compliance with the minimum bid price requirement by September 8, 2008 in order to remain on the Nasdaq Global Market. On September 9, 2008 we were notified by Nasdaq that we had failed to regain compliance with the minimum bid price during the 180 days provided and our securities were therefore subject to delisting from the Nasdaq Global Market. In response, we applied for and were notified on September 12, 2008 by Nasdaq that Nasdaq approved our request to transfer the listing of our shares to the Nasdaq Capital Market. Transfer to the Nasdaq Capital Market and compliance with its initial listing standards affords an additional 180 day period for our stock to attain the minimum \$1.00 bid price for at least 10 consecutive business days until March 9, 2009. In response to weak market conditions, Nasdaq suspended enforcement of the minimum bid price requirement on October 16, 2008 through January 16, 2009. Nasdag notified us on October 22, 2008 that the suspension extends the period for us to regain compliance with the minimum bid price rule until June 9, 2009. We may not regain compliance with the minimum \$1.00 bid price requirement during the additional period and our stock may be delisted, which may have a material adverse effect on the price of our common stock and the levels of liquidity currently available to our stockholders. Delisting would also make it more difficult for us to raise capital in the future or impact customer confidence. If our common stock is removed from the Nasdaq Capital Market, an investor could find it more difficult to dispose of, or to obtain accurate quotations as to the market value of, our common shares. Additionally, our stock may then be subject to penny stock regulations.

The Company has not paid any cash dividends and does not intend to pay any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. The Company is prohibited from paying any cash dividends pursuant to the terms of the loan and security agreements with Silicon Valley Bank.

At December 3, 2008 there were 471 common stockholders of record and approximately 9,000 total shareholders. Many shares are held by brokers and other institutions on behalf of shareholders.

26

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

Equity Compensation Plan Information

| Plan category | Number of securities Weighted average to be issued upon exercise price of exercise of outstanding outstanding options, options, warrants warrants and rights (a) (b) | | Number of securities remaining available for future issuance (c) | |
|--|--|----|---|-----------|
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders (1) | 3,978,000 | \$ | 2.48 | 1,553,327 |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders (2) | 2,262,477 | | 1.28 | 219,992 |
| Total | 6,240,477 | \$ | 2.05 | 1,773,319 |

⁽¹⁾ Consists of the Employee Stock Option Plan and the Directors Stock Option Plan. For further information regarding these plans, reference is made to Note 5 of the financial statements.

⁽²⁾ Consists of the Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan. For further information regarding this plan, reference is made to Note 5 of the financial statements.

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

The graph below compares the cumulative total stockholder return on our common stock from September 30, 2003 through and including September 30, 2008 with the cumulative total return on The Nasdaq Stock Market (US only) and the RDG Technology Composite. The graph assumes that \$100 was invested in our common stock on September 30, 2003 for each of the indexes and that all dividends were reinvested. Unless otherwise specified, all dates refer to the last day of each month presented. The comparisons in the graph below are based on historical data, with our common stock prices based on the closing price on the dates indicated, and are not intended to forecast the possible future performance of our common stock.

(A) RECENT SALES OF UNREGISTERED SECURITIES

None

(B) USE OF PROCEEDS FROM REGISTERED SECURITIES

None

(C) ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

None

28

Sonic Foundry, Inc.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008

ITEM 6. SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA

The selected financial and operating data were derived from our consolidated financial statements. The selected financial data set forth below is qualified in its entirety by, and should be read in conjunction with, Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our financial statements and notes thereto appearing elsewhere in this annual report on Form 10-K (in thousands except per share data).

| | | Years Ended September 30, | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|--|--|
| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | | |
| Statement of Operations Data: | | | | | | | |
| Revenue | \$ 15,601 | \$ 16,737 | \$ 12,564 | \$ 8,342 | \$ 4,413 | | |
| Cost of revenue | 4,205 | 4,133 | 3,215 | 2,754 | 1,759 | | |