

Torre David D
 Form 4
 January 19, 2011

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 Torre David D

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 ATHEROS COMMUNICATIONS INC [ATHR]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 C/O ATHEROS COMMUNICATIONS, INC., 1700 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 01/16/2011

____ Director
 Officer (give title below) _____ 10% Owner
 _____ Other (specify below)
 VP & Chief Accounting Officer

SAN JOSE,, CA 95110
 (City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | Code | V Amount (A) or (D) Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 01/16/2011 | | A | 5,000 (1) A \$ 0 | 28,162 | D | |
| Common Stock | 01/16/2011 | | A | 5,000 (2) A \$ 0 | 33,162 | D | |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Nu |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|----------------------------|
| | | | | | | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| | | | | | | | | | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Torre David D C/O ATHEROS COMMUNICATIONS, INC. 1700 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE SAN JOSE,, CA 95110 | | | VP & Chief Accounting Officer | |

Signatures

Bruce P. Johnson, 01/19/2011
Attorney-in-fact

 Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
 - ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- On February 23, 2010, the Reporting Person was granted restricted stock units ("RSUs") that would vest subject to the Issuer's satisfaction of certain performance criteria for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010. The performance criteria for 2010 were met and
- (1) certified by the Compensation Committee of the Issuer's Board of Directors on January 16, 2011, resulting in vesting of the RSUs as follows: The RSUs will vest and be settled in shares of the Issuer's common stock over three (3) years, with the first 1/3 of the RSUs vesting on February 8, 2011 and the remaining RSUs vesting in equal quarterly installments over the following two (2) years.
 - (2) Represents Restricted Stock Units that will vest and be settled in shares of Common Stock in 16 equal quarterly installments commencing on May 8, 2011.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.