

Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/  
Form 10-Q  
November 07, 2003

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

Quarterly report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2003.

or

Transitional report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 For the transitional period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number 0-29100  
-----

eResearchTechnology, Inc.  
-----

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
-----

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

22-3264604  
-----

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

30 South 17th Street  
Philadelphia, PA  
-----

(Address of principal executive offices)

19103  
-----

(Zip Code)

215-972-0420  
-----

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

-----  
(Former name, former address and formal fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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

Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

requirements for the past 90 days.

X Yes No  
-----

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act).

X Yes No  
-----

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

The number of shares of Common Stock, \$.01 par value, outstanding as of October 31, 2003, was 22,426,463.

eResearchTechnology, Inc. and Subsidiaries

INDEX  
-----

Part I. Financial Information

Item 1. Consolidated Financial Statements

Consolidated Balance Sheets--December 31, 2002 and September 30, 2003 (unaudited)

Consolidated Statements of Operations (unaudited)--Three and Nine months Ended September 30, 2002 and 2003

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (unaudited)--Nine months Ended September 30, 2002 and 2003

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited)

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

Item 3. Qualitative and Quantitative Disclosures about Market Risk

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Part II. Other Information

Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K

a.) Exhibits

b.) Reports on Form 8-K

Signatures

Exhibit Index

Part 1. Financial Information  
Item 1. Consolidated Financial Statements

eResearchTechnology, Inc. and Subsidiaries  
Consolidated Balance Sheets  
(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

	December 31, 2002 -----	September ----- (unaud
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$17,443	\$28,
Short-term investments	9,307	12,
Accounts receivable, net	6,954	12,
Prepaid expenses and other	2,542	2,
Deferred income taxes	485	
	-----	-----
Total current assets	36,731	56,
Property and equipment, net	12,587	13,
Goodwill	1,212	1,
Investments in non-marketable securities	509	
Other assets	21	
Deferred income taxes	2,332	3,
	-----	-----
	\$53,392	\$75,
	=====	=====
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,
Accrued expenses	3,705	3,
Income taxes payable	960	1,
Current portion of capital lease obligations	599	
Deferred revenues	4,774	9,
	-----	-----
Total current liabilities	12,038	16,
	-----	-----
Capital lease obligations, excluding current portion	774	
	-----	-----
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock - \$10.00 par value, 500,000 shares authorized, none issued and outstanding	-	
Common stock - \$.01 par value, 50,000,000 shares authorized, 22,924,382 and 24,135,736 shares issued, respectively	229	
Additional paid-in capital	40,807	49,
Accumulated other comprehensive income	410	
Retained earnings	2,363	11,

Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

Treasury stock, 1,791,000 and 1,805,564 shares at cost	(3,229)	(3,
	-----	-----
Total stockholders' equity	40,580	58,
	-----	-----
	\$53,392	\$75,
	=====	=====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

eResearchTechnology, Inc. and Subsidiaries  
Consolidated Statements of Operations  
(in thousands, except per share amounts)  
(unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net revenues:				
Licenses	\$ 473	\$ 2,513	\$ 1,723	\$ 4,851
Services	10,451	14,951	27,666	40,966
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total net revenues	10,924	17,464	29,389	45,823
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Costs of revenues:				
Cost of licenses	279	185	565	511
Cost of services	4,773	6,306	12,180	17,121
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total costs of revenues	5,052	6,491	12,745	17,642
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Gross margin	5,872	10,973	16,644	28,181
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Operating expenses:				
Selling and marketing	1,571	1,870	4,968	5,611
General and administrative	1,441	1,818	4,181	4,891
Research and development	915	1,196	3,166	3,401
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total operating expenses	3,927	4,884	12,315	13,911
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Operating income	1,945	6,089	4,329	14,270
Other income, net	58	83	437	221
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Income before income taxes	2,003	6,172	4,766	14,491
Income tax provision	641	2,299	1,525	5,401
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net income	\$ 1,362	\$ 3,873	\$ 3,241	\$ 9,090
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Basic net income per share	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.40
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

Diluted net income per share	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.3
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Shares used to calculate basic net income per share	21,032	22,143	20,908	21,82
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Shares used to calculate diluted net income per share	22,846	24,342	22,492	23,84
	=====	=====	=====	=====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

4

eResearchTechnology, Inc. and Subsidiaries  
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows  
(in thousands)  
(unaudited)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2002	2003
	-----	-----
Operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 3,241	\$ 9,097
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Gain on sale of marketable securities	(75)	-
Depreciation and amortization	2,058	3,595
Issuance of stock options to non-employees	7	-
Stock option income tax benefits	-	5,320
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(1,694)	(4,989)
Prepaid expenses and other	(958)	(13)
Accounts payable	446	(51)
Accrued expenses	(88)	(398)
Income taxes	1,032	(838)
Deferred revenues	1,743	4,681
	-----	-----
Net cash provided by operating activities	5,712	16,404
	-----	-----
Investing activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment	(4,583)	(4,646)
Purchases of short-term investments	(2,354)	(8,084)
Proceeds from sales of short-term investments	1,816	4,443
Proceeds from sales of marketable securities	720	-
	-----	-----
Net cash used in investing activities	(4,401)	(8,287)
	-----	-----
Financing activities:		

## Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

Repayments of capital lease obligations	(314)	(444)
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	1,184	3,164
	-----	-----
Net cash provided by financing activities	870	2,720
	-----	-----
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	260	247
	-----	-----
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	2,441	11,084
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	11,364	17,443
	-----	-----
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$13,805	\$28,527
	=====	=====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

5

### eResearchTechnology, Inc. and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited)

#### Note 1. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements, which include the accounts of eResearchTechnology, Inc. (the "Company") and its wholly owned subsidiaries, have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all the information and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring adjustments) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. Operating results for the three or nine month period ended September 30, 2003 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2003. Further information on potential factors that could affect the Company's financial results can be found in the Company's Reports on Forms 10-K and 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and in this Form 10-Q.

#### Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

**Principles of Consolidation.** The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

**Reclassifications.** The consolidated financial statements for prior periods have been reclassified to conform to the current period's presentation.

**Management's Use of Estimates.** The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to

## Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Property and Equipment. Pursuant to Statement of Position 98-1, "Accounting for the Costs of Computer Software Developed or Obtained for Internal Use," the Company capitalizes costs associated with internally developed and/or purchased software systems for new products and enhancements to existing products that have reached the application development stage and meet recoverability tests. These costs are included in property and equipment. Capitalized costs include external direct costs of materials and services utilized in developing or obtaining internal-use software, and payroll and payroll-related expenses for employees who are directly associated with and devote time to the internal-use software project.

Amortization of capitalized software development costs is charged to cost of revenues. Amortization of capitalized software development costs was \$168,000 and \$318,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2002 and 2003, respectively, and \$168,000 and \$888,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2002 and 2003, respectively. For the nine months ended September 30, 2002 and 2003, the Company capitalized \$1,876,000 and \$842,000, respectively, of software development costs. All research and development costs have been expensed as incurred.

In accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets," and SFAS No. 144, "Accounting for the Impairment and Disposal of Long-Lived Assets," when events or circumstances so indicate, the Company assesses the potential impairment of its intangible assets and other long-lived assets based on anticipated undiscounted cash flows from the assets. Such events and circumstances include a sale of all or a significant part of the operations associated with the long-lived asset, or a significant decline in the operating performance of the asset. If an impairment is indicated, the amount of the impairment charge would be calculated by comparing the anticipated discounted future cash flows to the carrying value of the long-lived asset. At September 30, 2003, no impairment was indicated.

6

Stock-Based Compensation. In December 2002, SFAS No. 148, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation - Transition and Disclosure," was issued. SFAS No. 148 amended SFAS No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation," to provide alternative methods of transition for a voluntary change to the fair value based method of accounting for stock-based employee compensation. In addition, SFAS No. 148 amends the disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 123 related to the disclosures about the method of accounting for stock-based employee compensation and the effect of the method used on reported results. The disclosure provisions of SFAS No. 148 are applicable to interim or annual periods that end after December 15, 2002, and as such have been incorporated below.

SFAS No. 123, as amended by SFAS No. 148, permits companies to (i) recognize as expense the fair value of stock-based awards, or (ii) continue to apply the provisions of Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees" and related interpretations, and provide pro forma net income and earnings per share disclosures for employee stock option grants as if the fair value based method defined in SFAS No. 123 had been applied. The Company continues to apply the provisions of APB Opinion No. 25 and provide the pro forma disclosures in accordance with the provisions of SFAS Nos. 123 and

## Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

148. Under APB Opinion No. 25, the Company has not recorded any stock-based employee compensation cost associated with the Company's stock option plans, as all options granted under the plans had an exercise price equal to the market value of the underlying common stock on the date of grant.

The following table illustrates the effect on net income and earnings per share if the Company had applied the fair value recognition provisions of SFAS No. 123 to its stock option plans (in thousands, except per share amounts):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months En
	2002	2003	2002
	----	----	----
Net income, as reported	\$1,362	\$ 3,873	\$3,241
Deduct: Net stock-based employee compensation expense determined under fair value based method, net of related tax effects	(250)	(480)	(748)
	-----	-----	-----
Pro forma net income	\$1,112	\$ 3,393	\$2,493
	=====	=====	=====
Earnings per share:			
Basic - as reported	\$0.06	\$ 0.17	\$0.16
Basic - pro forma	\$0.05	\$ 0.15	\$0.12
Diluted - as reported	\$0.06	\$ 0.16	\$0.14
Diluted - pro forma	\$0.05	\$ 0.14	\$0.11

Pro forma net income reflects only options granted through September 30, 2003 and, therefore, may not be representative of the effect for future periods.

Stock Splits. On July 16, 2002, the Company effected a 3-for-2 split of its common stock. On May 29, 2003 the Company effected a 2-for-1 split of its common stock. The stock splits have been retroactively reflected in the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

### Note 3. Investment Impairment Charge - Non-Marketable Securities

At September 30, 2003, investments in non-marketable securities consist of an investment in AmericasDoctor.com, Inc., which is accounted for under the cost method in accordance with APB Opinion No. 18, "The Equity Method of Accounting for Investments in Common Stock." During 2001, in accordance with APB Opinion No. 18, management determined that a decrease in value of the investment occurred which was deemed to be other than temporary, and as a result wrote down the cost basis of the investment from \$2,300,000 to \$509,000. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2002 and 2003, no investment impairment charge was recorded.

The Company will continue to assess the fair value of this investment and whether or not any decline in fair value below the current cost basis is deemed to be other than temporary. If a decline in the fair value of this investment is judged to be other than temporary, the cost basis of this investment would be written down to fair value, and the amount of the write-down would be included in the Company's results. Given the current performance and general market conditions for technology related companies, additional write-downs of this



Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

investment may occur in the future.

Note 4. Net Income per Common Share

The Company follows SFAS No. 128, "Earnings per Share." This statement requires the presentation of basic and diluted earnings per share. Basic net income per share is computed by dividing net income by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period. Diluted net income per share is computed by dividing net income by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period, adjusted for the dilutive effect of common stock equivalents, which consist of stock options, using the treasury stock method.

The tables below set forth the reconciliation of the numerators and denominators of the basic and diluted net income per share computations (in thousands, except per share amounts):

Three Months Ended September 30,

	Net	Shares	Per
	Income		Share
			Amount
2002			
-----	-----	-----	-----
Basic net income.....	\$ 1,362	21,032	\$ 0.06
Effect of dilutive shares.....	-	1,814	\$ -
	-----	-----	-----
Diluted net income.....	\$ 1,362	22,846	\$ 0.06
	=====	=====	=====
2003			
-----			
Basic net income.....	\$ 3,873	22,143	\$ 0.17
Effect of dilutive shares.....	-	2,199	\$ (0.01)
	-----	-----	-----
Diluted net income.....	\$ 3,873	24,342	\$ 0.16
	=====	=====	=====

Options to purchase 3,545,958 shares of common stock were outstanding at September 30, 2002 and were included in the computation of diluted net income per share for the three months ended September 30, 2002.

Options to purchase 3,052,675 shares of common stock were outstanding at September 30, 2003 and were included in the computation of diluted net income per share for the three months ended September 30, 2003.

Nine Months Ended September 30,

	Net	Shares	Per
	Income		Share
			Amount
2002			
-----	-----	-----	-----
Basic net income.....	\$3,241	20,908	\$ 0.16
Effect of dilutive shares.....	-	1,584	\$ (0.02)
	-----	-----	-----
Diluted net income.....	\$3,241	22,492	\$ 0.14
	=====	=====	=====
2003			
-----			
Basic net income.....	\$9,097	21,826	\$ 0.42
Effect of dilutive shares.....	-	2,016	\$ (0.04)

## Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

	-----	-----	-----
Diluted net income.....	\$9,097	23,842	\$ 0.38
	=====	=====	=====

Options to purchase 3,274,758 shares of common stock were outstanding at September 30, 2002 and were included in the computation of diluted net income per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. Options to purchase 271,200 shares of common stock were outstanding at September 30, 2002, but were not included in the computation of diluted net income per share because the option exercise prices were greater than the average market price of the Company's common stock during the period.

Options to purchase 3,052,675 shares of common stock were outstanding at September 30, 2003 and were included in the computation of diluted net income per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2003.

### Note 5. Comprehensive Income

The Company follows SFAS No. 130, "Reporting Comprehensive Income." The Company's comprehensive income includes net income and unrealized gains and losses from foreign currency translation and marketable securities. For the nine months ended September 30, 2002, the Company recorded accumulated foreign currency translation income of \$260,000. For the nine months ended September 30, 2003, the Company recorded a foreign currency translation adjustment of \$297,000 which increased the accumulated balance to \$707,000. For the nine months ended September 30, 2002, the Company recorded an unrealized loss of \$359,000 for the mark to market of its investment in marketable securities.

### Note 6. Recent Pronouncements

In July 2002, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued SFAS No. 146, "Accounting for Costs Associated with Exit or Disposal Activities," which addresses the financial accounting and reporting of expenses related to restructurings initiated after 2002, and applies to costs associated with an exit activity (including a restructuring) or with the disposal of long-lived assets. Those activities can include eliminating or reducing product lines, terminating employees and contracts, and relocating plant facilities or personnel. Under SFAS No. 146, a company will record a liability for a cost associated with an exit or disposal activity when the liability is incurred and can be measured at fair value. The provisions of SFAS No. 146 are effective prospectively for exit or disposal activities initiated after December 31, 2002. The adoption of SFAS No. 146 did not have any impact on the Company's financial statements.

In November 2002, the FASB issued Interpretation No. 45, "Guarantor's Accounting and Disclosure Requirements for Guarantees, Including Indirect Guarantees of Indebtedness of Others," which elaborates on the disclosures to be made by a guarantor in its interim and annual financial statements about its obligations under guarantees issued. The Interpretation also clarifies that a guarantor is required to recognize, at inception of a guarantee, a liability for the fair value of the obligation undertaken. The initial recognition and measurement provisions of the Interpretation are applicable to guarantees issued or modified after December 31, 2002. The disclosure requirements are effective for financial statements of interim or annual periods ending after December 15, 2002. The adoption of FASB Interpretation No. 45 did not have any impact on the Company's financial statements.

## Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

In January 2003, the FASB issued Interpretation No. 46, "Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities," which addresses the consolidation by business enterprises of variable interest entities as defined in the Interpretation. The Interpretation applies immediately to variable interests in variable interest entities created after January 31, 2003, and to variable interests in variable interest entities obtained after January 31, 2003. The application of this Interpretation did not have any impact on the Company's financial statements.

The Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) recently reached a consensus on EITF Issue No. 00-21, "Revenue Arrangements with Multiple Deliverables," which provides accounting guidance for customer solutions where delivery or performance of products, services and/or performance may occur at different points in time or over different periods of time. Companies are required to adopt this consensus for fiscal periods beginning after June 15, 2003. The adoption of EITF Issue No. 00-21 did not have any impact on the Company's financial statements.

### Note 7. Operating Segments / Geographic Information

Commencing in 2003, the Company considers its operations to consist of one segment. The development of the one segment approach corresponds to the implementation of the Company's refinement in strategic focus in late 2002, and represents management's view of the Company's operations. Prior to 2003, the Company's reportable segments were Cardiac Safety and Clinical Research Technology and Services. All prior periods have been restated to conform to the current-year presentation.

The Company operates on a worldwide basis with two locations in the United States and one location in the United Kingdom, which is categorized below as North America and Europe, respectively.

Geographic information is as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2002		
	North America	Europe	Total
License revenues	\$ 441	\$ 32	\$ 473
Service revenues	7,576	2,875	10,451
	-----	-----	-----
Net revenues from external customers	\$ 8,017	\$ 2,907	\$10,924
	=====	=====	=====
Operating income	\$ 851	\$ 1,094	\$ 1,945
Identifiable assets	\$ 42,058	\$ 5,387	\$47,445
	Three Months Ended September 30, 2003		
	North America	Europe	Total
License revenues	\$ 2,259	\$ 254	\$ 2,513
Service revenues	11,274	3,677	14,951
	-----	-----	-----
Net revenues from external customers	\$ 13,533	\$ 3,931	\$ 17,464
	=====	=====	=====
Operating income	\$ 4,474	\$ 1,615	\$ 6,089
Identifiable assets	\$ 65,295	\$ 10,022	\$ 75,317

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2003		
	North America	Europe	Total
License revenues	\$ 1,660	\$ 63	\$ 1,723
Service revenues	20,218	7,448	27,666
Net revenues from external customers	\$ 21,878	\$ 7,511	\$ 29,389
Operating income	\$ 1,842	\$ 2,487	\$ 4,329
Identifiable assets	\$ 42,058	\$ 5,387	\$ 47,445

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2003		
	North America	Europe	Total
License revenues	\$ 4,210	\$ 646	\$ 4,856
Service revenues	31,688	9,279	40,967
Net revenues from external customers	\$ 35,898	\$ 9,925	\$45,823
Operating income	\$ 10,354	\$ 3,916	\$14,270
Identifiable assets	\$ 65,295	\$10,022	\$75,317

#### Note 8. Subsequent Event

On October 22, 2003, the Company announced that its Board of Directors approved a 3-for-2 split of its common stock. The shares will be distributed on November 26, 2003 to stockholders of record on November 5, 2003.

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

### Cautionary Statement for Forward-Looking Information

The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with our financial statements and the related notes to the financial statements appearing elsewhere in this report. The following includes a number of forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe-harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that reflect our current views with respect to future events and financial performance. We use words such as anticipate, believe, expect, intend, and similar expressions to identify forward-looking statements. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which apply only as of the date of this report. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties such as

## Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

competitive factors, technology development, market demand and our ability to obtain new contracts and accurately estimate net revenues due to variability in size, scope and duration of projects, and internal issues of the sponsoring client. These and other risk factors have been further discussed in our Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002. Such risks and uncertainties could cause actual results to differ materially from historical results or future predictions. Further information on potential factors that could affect our financial results can be found in our Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2003 and June 30, 2003 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and throughout this Form 10-Q.

### Overview

We are a provider of technology and services that enable the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries to collect, interpret and distribute cardiac safety and clinical data more efficiently. We are a market leader in providing centralized electrocardiographic (ECG) services (Cardiac Safety services) and a leading provider of technology and services that streamline the clinical trials process by enabling our customers to evolve from traditional, paper-based methods to electronic processing that leverages the power of the Internet.

We were founded in 1977 to provide a number of clinical research related services, including Cardiac Safety services, used to evaluate the safety of new drugs. In February 1997, we completed an initial public offering of our common stock. In October 1997, we acquired the assets and business of a provider of clinical research technology and consulting services to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industry. Starting in 2000, we concentrated our products and services offerings on providing premier Cardiac Safety services and clinical research technology and consulting services.

Our solutions improve the collection, analysis and distribution of cardiac safety and clinical data in order to safely accelerate new drug and device development processes. We offer the following products and services on a global basis:

Cardiac Safety. Cardiac Safety / EXPeRT(TM) ECG services provide intelligent, workflow-enabled data handling and distribution of digital and paper-based ECG data and images as well as analysis and physician electrocardiographer interpretation of ECGs performed on research subjects in connection with our customers' clinical trials.

eResNet(TM). The eResearch Network(TM) (eResNet) technology provides an integrated end-to-end clinical research solution that includes trials, data and safety management modules.

eDE(TM). eData Entry(TM) (eDE) technology provides a comprehensive electronic data capture (EDC) capability comprised of technology formulated to deliver rapid time to market benefit for electronic trial initiatives.

eResCom(TM). eResearch Community(TM) (eResCom) is a central command and control Web portal that provides real-time information related to monitoring clinical trial activities, data quality and safety.

Consulting. We provide a full spectrum of consulting services for all of our products that augment the implementation and execution efforts of customers.

## Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

Our license revenues consist of license fees for perpetual license sales and monthly and annual license sales. Our services revenues consist of Cardiac Safety services, technology consulting and training services and software maintenance services. We recognize software revenues in accordance with Statement of Position 97-2, Software Revenue Recognition, as amended by Statement of Position 98-9. Accordingly, we recognize up-front license fee revenues under the residual method when a formal agreement exists, delivery of the software and related documentation has occurred, collectability is probable and the license fee is fixed or determinable. We recognize monthly and annual license fee revenues over the term of the arrangement. Hosting service fees are recognized evenly over the term of service. Cardiac Safety service revenues consist of revenues from services that we provide on a fee-for-service basis and we recognize such revenues as the services are performed. We recognize revenues from software maintenance contracts on a straight-line basis over the term of the maintenance contract, which is typically twelve months. We provide consulting and training services on a time and materials basis and recognize revenues as we perform the services.

Cost of licenses consists primarily of application service provider (ASP) fees for those customers that choose hosting, the cost of producing compact disks and related documentation and royalties paid to third parties in connection with their contributions to our product development. Cost of services includes the cost of Cardiac Safety services and the cost of technology consulting, training and maintenance services. Cost of Cardiac Safety services consists primarily of direct costs related to our centralized Cardiac Safety services and includes wages, fees paid to outside consultants, depreciation, shipping expenses and other direct operating costs. Cost of technology consulting, training and maintenance services consists primarily of wages, fees paid to outside consultants and other direct operating costs related to our consulting and customer support functions. Selling and marketing expenses consist primarily of wages and commissions paid to sales personnel, travel expenses and advertising and promotional expenditures. General and administrative expenses consist primarily of wages and direct costs for our finance, administrative, corporate information technology and executive management functions, in addition to professional service fees and corporate insurance. Research and development expenses consist primarily of wages paid to our product development staff, costs paid to outside consultants and direct costs associated with the development of our technology products.

We conduct our operations through offices in the United States and the United Kingdom (UK). Our international net revenues represented 26.6% and 22.5% of total net revenue for the three months ended September 30, 2002 and 2003, respectively, and 25.5% and 21.7% of total net revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2002 and 2003, respectively.

13

### Results of Operations

The following table presents certain financial data as a percentage of total net revenues:

Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
-----	-----	-----	-----
2002	2003	2002	2003

Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

	----	----	----	----
Net revenues:				
Licenses	4.3%	14.4%	5.9%	10.6%
Services	95.7%	85.6%	94.1%	89.4%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total net revenues	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Costs of revenues:				
Cost of licenses	2.6%	1.1%	1.9%	1.1%
Cost of services	43.6%	36.1%	41.5%	37.4%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total costs of revenues	46.2%	37.2%	43.4%	38.5%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Gross margin	53.8%	62.8%	56.6%	61.5%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Operating expenses:				
Selling and marketing	14.4%	10.7%	16.9%	12.3%
General and administrative	13.2%	10.4%	14.2%	10.7%
Research and development	8.4%	6.8%	10.8%	7.4%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total operating expenses	36.0%	27.9%	41.9%	30.4%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Operating income	17.8%	34.9%	14.7%	31.1%
Other income, net	0.5%	0.5%	1.5%	0.5%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Income before income taxes	18.3%	35.4%	16.2%	31.6%
Income tax provision	5.8%	13.2%	5.2%	11.7%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net income	12.5%	22.2%	11.0%	19.9%
	=====	=====	=====	=====

14

Three Months Ended September 30, 2003 Compared to Three Months Ended September 30, 2002.

The following table presents statements of operations with product line detail (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,			
	2002	2003	Increase (Decrease)	
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Licenses:				
Net revenues	\$ 473	\$ 2,513	\$ 2,040	431.3%
Costs of revenues	279	185	(94)	(33.7%)
	-----	-----	-----	
Gross margin	194	2,328	2,134	1100.0%
Services:				

Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

Cardiac Safety				
Net revenues	8,824	12,992	4,168	47.2%
Costs of revenues	4,090	5,263	1,173	28.7%
	-----	-----	-----	
Gross margin	4,734	7,729	2,995	63.3%
Technology consulting and training				
Net revenues	656	997	341	52.0%
Costs of revenues	394	769	375	95.2%
	-----	-----	-----	
Gross margin	262	228	(34)	(13.0%)
Software maintenance				
Net revenues	971	962	(9)	(0.9%)
Costs of revenues	289	274	(15)	(5.2%)
	-----	-----	-----	
Gross margin	682	688	6	0.9%
Total services				
Net revenues	10,451	14,951	4,500	43.1%
Costs of revenues	4,773	6,306	1,533	32.1%
	-----	-----	-----	
Gross margin	5,678	8,645	2,967	52.3%
Total				
Net revenues	10,924	17,464	6,540	59.9%
Costs of revenues	5,052	6,491	1,439	28.5%
	-----	-----	-----	
Gross margin	5,872	10,973	5,101	86.9%
Operating expenses:				
Selling and marketing	1,571	1,870	299	19.0%
General and administrative	1,441	1,818	377	26.2%
Research and development	915	1,196	281	30.7%
	-----	-----	-----	
Total operating expenses	3,927	4,884	957	24.4%
Operating income	1,945	6,089	4,144	213.1%
Other income, net	58	83	25	43.1%
	-----	-----	-----	
Income before income taxes	2,003	6,172	4,169	208.1%
Income tax provision	641	2,299	1,658	258.7%
	-----	-----	-----	
Net income	\$1,362	\$ 3,873	\$ 2,511	184.4%
	=====	=====	=====	

15

The following table presents costs of revenues as a percentage of related net revenues and operating expenses as a percentage of total net revenues:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		
	2002	2003	Increase (Decrease)
	-----	-----	-----
Cost of licenses	59.0%	7.4%	(51.6%)
Cost of services:			
Cardiac Safety	46.4%	40.5%	(5.9%)
Technology consulting and training	60.1%	77.1%	17.0%
Software maintenance	29.8%	28.5%	(1.3%)



## Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

Total cost of services	45.7%	42.2%	(3.5%)
Total costs of revenues	46.2%	37.2%	(9.0%)
Operating expenses:			
Selling and marketing	14.4%	10.7%	(3.7%)
General and administrative	13.2%	10.4%	(2.8%)
Research and development	8.4%	6.8%	(1.6%)

Total net revenues increased 59.9% to \$17.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 compared to \$10.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2002.

License revenues increased 431.3% to \$2.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from \$473,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in license revenues was primarily due to the sale of five perpetual licenses in the three months ended September 30, 2003 versus two perpetual licenses in the three months ended September 30, 2002 as well as an increase in software licensed on a monthly and annual basis with new clients.

Total service revenues increased 43.1% to \$15.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from \$10.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2002.

Cardiac Safety service revenues increased 47.2% to \$13.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 compared to \$8.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in Cardiac Safety service revenues was primarily due to increased sales volume with both new and existing clients, including an increase in revenue from the rental of cardiac safety equipment, which our clients use to perform cardiac safety procedures. Additionally, the average revenue per transaction has increased with a shift to digital ECG processing and the implementation of project assurance fees.

Technology consulting and training service revenues increased 52.0% to \$997,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2003 compared to \$656,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in technology consulting and training service revenues was primarily due to increased consulting activity for new clients as well as increases in implementation fees from new licenses.

Software maintenance service revenues decreased 0.9% to \$962,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2003 compared to \$971,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2002. Software maintenance service revenues decreased due to a reduction in users at one client that occurred earlier in 2003. The full quarterly impact on software maintenance service revenues of perpetual license sales that occurred in the third quarter of 2003 will not be recognized until the fourth quarter of 2003. Annual licenses do not contain a separate maintenance component.

Total cost of revenues increased 28.5% to \$6.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 compared to \$5.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2002. As a percentage of total net revenues, total cost of revenues decreased to 37.2% for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from 46.2% for the three months ended September 30, 2002.

## Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

The cost of licenses decreased 33.7% to \$185,000, or 7.4% of license revenues, for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from \$279,000, or 59.0% of license revenues, for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The decrease in the cost of licenses, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of license revenues, was primarily due to a decrease in ASP hosting fees associated with a change in ASP hosting providers at the beginning of 2003. Additionally, the cost of licenses as a percentage of license revenues decreased due to the increase in revenue from perpetual licenses that have very little incremental cost of sales.

The cost of services increased 32.1% to \$6.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from \$4.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2002. As a percentage of service revenues, the cost of services decreased to 42.2% for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from 45.7% for the three months ended September 30, 2002.

The cost of Cardiac Safety services increased 28.7% to \$5.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 compared to \$4.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in the cost of Cardiac Safety services was primarily due to an increase in rental and depreciation costs associated with cardiac safety rental equipment, and increased labor, facilities and other costs associated with expanding capabilities to meet the growth in Cardiac Safety service revenues. We also began amortization of our internal use software costs during the third quarter of 2002. Additional internal use software costs were capitalized throughout the remainder of 2002 and through the first quarter of 2003. We began amortizing the additional capitalized costs in the second quarter of 2003. Amortization expense related to internal use software costs was \$318,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2003 compared with \$168,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2002.

As a percentage of Cardiac Safety service revenues, the cost of Cardiac Safety services decreased to 40.5% for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from 46.4% for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The decrease in the cost of Cardiac Safety services as a percentage of Cardiac Safety service revenues was primarily due to the fact that some of the costs are fixed in nature.

The cost of technology consulting and training services increased 95.2% to \$769,000, or 77.1% of technology consulting and training service revenues, for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from \$394,000, or 60.1% of technology consulting and training service revenues, for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in the cost of technology consulting and training services, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of consulting and training service revenues, was due primarily to increased third party consulting and labor costs associated with the increase in technology consulting and training service revenues as well as increased bonuses due to improved performance in the three months ended September 30, 2003 versus the three months ended September 30, 2002.

The cost of software maintenance services decreased 5.2% to \$274,000, or 28.5% of software maintenance service revenues, for the three months ended September 30, 2003, from \$289,000, or 29.8% of software maintenance service revenues, for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The decrease in the cost of software maintenance services, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of software maintenance service revenues, was due primarily to employee placement fees that were incurred in the third quarter of 2002 that did not occur in the third quarter of 2003.

Selling and marketing expenses increased 19.0% to \$1.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from \$1.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in selling and marketing expenses was primarily due to increases in commissions that resulted from the increase in

## Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

commissionable revenue, bonuses and labor that were partially offset by planned reductions in advertising expenses.

As a percentage of total net revenues, selling and marketing expenses decreased to 10.7% for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from 14.4% for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The decrease in selling and marketing expenses as a percentage of total net revenues was primarily due to the increase in total net revenues partially offset by the increase in selling and marketing expenses. Many selling and marketing expenses are discretionary in nature and can be increased or decreased as deemed necessary by management and do not necessarily increase or decrease with changes in revenue.

17

General and administrative expenses increased 26.2% to \$1.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from \$1.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in general and administrative expenses was due primarily to an increase in insurance expense, bonuses, payroll taxes related to stock option exercises and legal fees during the three months ended September 30, 2003.

As a percentage of total net revenues, general and administrative expenses decreased to 10.4% for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from 13.2% for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The decrease in general and administrative expenses as a percentage of total net revenues was primarily due to the fact that many of the general and administrative expenses are fixed in nature.

Research and development expenses increased by 30.7% to \$1.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from \$915,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in research and development expenses was due primarily to an increase in third-party consulting, labor costs and bonuses offset by lower employee placement fees during the three months ended September 30, 2003.

As a percentage of total net revenues, research and development expenses decreased to 6.8% for the three months ended September 30, 2003 from 8.4% for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The decrease in research and development expenses as a percentage of total net revenues was primarily due to the fact that many of the research and development expenses are fixed in nature.

Other income, net, consisted primarily of interest income realized from our cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments, net of interest expense related to capital lease obligations. Other income, net, increased 43.1% to \$83,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2003 compared to \$58,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2002. The primary reason for the increase was higher balances of cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments offset by lower interest rates during the third quarter of 2003.

Our effective tax rate was 32.0% and 37.3% for the three months ended September 30, 2002 and 2003, respectively. The 2003 tax rate increased primarily due to new tax legislation that increased our 2003 income tax liability to New Jersey as well as our decision to provide deferred taxes for the repatriation of foreign earnings, which was made in the fourth quarter of 2002.

18

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2003 Compared to Nine Months Ended September 30,

Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

2002.

The following table presents statements of operations with product line detail (in thousands):

	Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2002	2003	Increase (Decrease)	
<b>Licenses:</b>				
Net revenues	\$ 1,723	\$ 4,856	\$ 3,133	181.8%
Costs of revenues	565	517	(48)	(8.5%)
	-----	-----	-----	
Gross margin	1,158	4,339	3,181	274.7%
<b>Services:</b>				
Cardiac Safety				
Net revenues	23,161	35,264	12,103	52.3%
Costs of revenues	10,027	14,243	4,216	42.0%
	-----	-----	-----	
Gross margin	13,134	21,021	7,887	60.1%
Technology consulting and training				
Net revenues	1,595	2,759	1,164	73.0%
Costs of revenues	1,212	2,081	869	71.7%
	-----	-----	-----	
Gross margin	383	678	295	77.0%
Software maintenance				
Net revenues	2,910	2,944	34	1.2%
Costs of revenues	941	799	(142)	(15.1%)
	-----	-----	-----	
Gross margin	1,969	2,145	176	8.9%
Total services				
Net revenues	27,666	40,967	13,301	48.1%
Costs of revenues	12,180	17,123	4,943	40.6%
	-----	-----	-----	
Gross margin	15,486	23,844	8,358	54.0%
<b>Total</b>				
Net revenues	29,389	45,823	16,434	55.9%
Costs of revenues	12,745	17,640	4,895	38.4%
	-----	-----	-----	
Gross margin	16,644	28,183	11,539	69.3%
<b>Operating expenses:</b>				
Selling and marketing	4,968	5,617	649	13.1%
General and administrative	4,181	4,896	715	17.1%
Research and development	3,166	3,400	234	7.4%
	-----	-----	-----	
Total operating expenses	12,315	13,913	1,598	13.0%
	-----	-----	-----	
Operating income	4,329	14,270	9,941	229.6%
Other income, net	437	227	(210)	(48.1%)
	-----	-----	-----	
Income before income taxes	4,766	14,497	9,731	204.2%
Income tax provision	1,525	5,400	3,875	254.1%
	-----	-----	-----	
Net income	\$ 3,241	\$ 9,097	\$ 5,856	180.7%
	=====	=====	=====	

The following table presents costs of revenues as a percentage of related net revenues and operating expenses as a percentage of total net revenues:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Decrease
	2002	2003	
Cost of licenses	32.8%	10.6%	(22.2%)
Cost of services:			
Cardiac Safety	43.3%	40.4%	(2.9%)
Technology consulting and training	76.0%	75.4%	(0.6%)
Software maintenance	32.3%	27.1%	(5.2%)
Total cost of services	44.0%	41.8%	(2.2%)
Total costs of revenues	43.4%	38.5%	(4.9%)
Operating expenses:			
Selling and marketing	16.9%	12.3%	(4.6%)
General and administrative	14.2%	10.7%	(3.5%)
Research and development	10.8%	7.4%	(3.4%)

Total net revenues increased 55.9% to \$45.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to \$29.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002.

License revenues increased 181.8% to \$4.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from \$1.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in license revenues was primarily due an increase in software licensed on a monthly and annual basis with new clients and the sale of eleven perpetual licenses in the nine months ended September 30, 2003 versus five perpetual licenses in the nine months ended September 30, 2002.

Total service revenues increased 48.1% to \$41.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from \$27.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002.

Cardiac Safety service revenues increased 52.3% to \$35.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to \$23.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in Cardiac Safety service revenues was primarily due to increased sales volume with both new and existing clients, including an increase in revenue from the rental of cardiac safety equipment, which our clients use to perform cardiac safety procedures. Additionally, the average revenue per transaction has increased with a shift to digital ECG processing and the implementation of project assurance fees.

Technology consulting and training service revenues increased 73.0% to \$2.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to \$1.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in technology consulting and training service revenues was primarily due to increased consulting activity for new clients as well as increases in implementation fees

## Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

from new licenses.

Software maintenance service revenues remained constant at \$2.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 and 2002. Software maintenance service revenues did not increase proportionately with license revenues due to a reduction in users at one client that occurred in 2003 offset by sales of perpetual licenses in 2003. The full impact on software maintenance service revenues of perpetual license sales that occurred in 2003 will not be recognized until the following year. Annual licenses do not contain a separate maintenance component.

Total cost of revenues increased 38.4% to \$17.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to \$12.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. As a percentage of total net revenues, total cost of revenues decreased to 38.5% for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from 43.4% for the nine months ended September 30, 2002.

The cost of licenses decreased 8.5% to \$517,000, or 10.6% of license revenues, for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from \$565,000, or 32.8% of license revenues, for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The decrease in the cost of licenses, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of license revenues, was primarily due to a decrease in ASP hosting fees associated with a change in ASP hosting providers at the beginning of 2003. Additionally, the cost of licenses as a percentage of license revenues decreased due to the increase in revenue from perpetual licenses that have very little incremental cost of sales.

20

The cost of services increased 40.6% to \$17.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from \$12.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. As a percentage of service revenues, the cost of services decreased to 41.8% for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from 44.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2002.

The cost of Cardiac Safety services increased 42.0% to \$14.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to \$10.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in the cost of Cardiac Safety services was primarily due to an increase in rental and depreciation costs associated with cardiac safety rental equipment, and increased labor, facilities and other costs associated with expanding capabilities to meet the growth in Cardiac Safety service revenues. We also began amortization of our internal use software costs during the third quarter of 2002. Additional internal use software costs were capitalized throughout the remainder of 2002 and through the first quarter of 2003. We began amortizing the additional capitalized costs in the second quarter of 2003. Amortization expense related to internal use software costs was \$888,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 and \$168,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2002.

As a percentage of Cardiac Safety service revenues, the cost of Cardiac Safety services decreased to 40.4% for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from 43.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The decrease in the cost of Cardiac Safety services as a percentage of Cardiac Safety service revenues was primarily due to the fact that some of the costs are fixed in nature.

The cost of technology consulting and training services increased 71.7% to \$2.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from \$1.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in the cost of technology consulting and training services was due primarily to increased third party consulting and labor costs associated with the increase in technology consulting and training service revenues as well as increased bonuses due to improved performance in the nine months ended September 30, 2003 versus the nine months

## Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

ended September 30, 2002.

The cost of technology consulting and training services as a percentage of technology consulting and training service revenues decreased to 75.4% for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from 76.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2002.

The cost of software maintenance services decreased 15.1% to \$799,000, or 27.1% of software maintenance service revenues, for the nine months ended September 30, 2003, from \$941,000, or 32.3% of software maintenance service revenues, for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The decrease in the cost of software maintenance services, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of software maintenance service revenues, was due primarily to a reduction in labor, office rent, depreciation and other costs during the nine months ended September 30, 2003.

Selling and marketing expenses increased 13.1% to \$5.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from \$5.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in selling and marketing expenses was primarily due to increases in commissions that resulted from the increase in commissionable revenue, bonuses and labor that were partially offset by planned reductions in advertising expenses.

As a percentage of total net revenues, selling and marketing expenses decreased to 12.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from 16.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The decrease in selling and marketing expenses as a percentage of total net revenues was primarily due to the increase in total net revenues partially offset by the increase in selling and marketing expenses. Many selling and marketing expenses are discretionary in nature and can be increased or decreased as deemed necessary by management and do not necessarily increase or decrease with changes in revenue.

21

General and administrative expenses increased 17.1% to \$4.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from \$4.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in general and administrative expenses was due primarily to an increase in insurance, public relations, bonuses and payroll taxes related to stock option exercises.

As a percentage of total net revenues, general and administrative expenses decreased to 10.7% for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from 14.2% for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The decrease in general and administrative expenses as a percentage of total net revenues was primarily due to the fact that many of the general and administrative expenses are fixed in nature.

Research and development expenses increased 7.4% to \$3.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from \$3.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in research and development expenses was due primarily to an increase in third-party consulting, labor costs and bonuses.

As a percentage of total net revenues, research and development expenses decreased to 7.4% for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from 10.8% for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The decrease in research and development expenses as a percentage of total net revenues was primarily due to the fact that many of the research and development expenses are fixed in nature.

Other income, net, consisted primarily of interest income realized from our cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments, net of interest expense

## Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

related to capital lease obligations. We also recorded a net realized gain of \$75,000 from the sale of our shares of our investment in Digital Angel Corporation (DAC) (formerly known as Medical Advisory Systems, Inc.) during the nine months ended September 30, 2002. Additionally, during the nine months ended September 30, 2002, a gain of \$35,000 was recognized on the sale of the domestic clinical research operation (CRO) to SCP Communications, Inc. and \$47,000 of interest income was recorded on the escrow accounts related to this sale. Other income, net, decreased 48.1% to \$227,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to \$437,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. In addition to the gain on the sale of the DAC shares, the gain on sale of the domestic CRO and the interest income earned on the escrow accounts, all of which were realized during the nine months ended September 30, 2002, the decrease in other income, net was also due to lower interest rates during the nine months ended September 30, 2003.

Our effective tax rate was 32.0% and 37.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2002 and 2003, respectively. The 2003 tax rate increased primarily due to new tax legislation that increased our 2003 income tax liability to New Jersey as well as our decision to provide deferred taxes for the repatriation of foreign earnings, which was made in the fourth quarter of 2002.

### Liquidity and Capital Resources

At September 30, 2003, we had \$28.5 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$12.9 million invested in short-term investments. We generally place our investments in money market funds, municipal securities, bonds of government-sponsored agencies, certificates of deposit with maturities of less than one year, and A1P1 rated commercial bonds and paper.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2003, our operations provided cash of \$16.4 million compared to \$5.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The change was primarily the result of improved operating income, increased deferred revenue, and stock option income tax benefits recognized during the nine months ended September 30, 2003. These changes were partially offset by an increase in accounts receivable during the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2002.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2003, our investing activities used cash of \$8.3 million compared to \$4.4 million used for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The primary cause of the change is the net purchases of short-term investments which totaled \$3.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 and \$538,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. Also, there were \$720,000 of proceeds from the sales of marketable securities during the nine months ended September 30, 2002 and none during the nine months ended September 30, 2003. We capitalized \$4.6 million of property and equipment in each of the nine months ended September 30, 2003 and September 30, 2002. Included in property and equipment is internal use software associated with the development of a new data and communications management services software product used in connection with our centralized core cardiac safety electrocardiographic services. We capitalize our internal use software costs in accordance with Statement of Position No. 98-1. We began amortizing \$4.0 million of internal use software costs in August of 2002, which resulted in an additional amortization charge to the cost of Cardiac Safety services of approximately \$84,000 per month. Additional internal use software costs of \$1.1 million were capitalized throughout the remainder of 2002 and through the first quarter of 2003. We began amortizing the additional capitalized costs in the second quarter of 2003, which resulted in additional amortization charges of approximately \$22,000 per month. We started a new internal use software project in the second quarter of 2003 for which we expect to capitalize costs through the fourth quarter of 2003.



We will begin capitalizing costs associated with an upgrade to the data and communications management services software product used in connection with our centralized core cardiac safety electrocardiographic services beginning in the fourth quarter of 2003 and continuing through approximately the first quarter of 2005. As this upgrade will replace many parts of the existing data and communications management services software product, we will accelerate the amortization of those parts to fully amortize the associated costs by the end of the first quarter of 2005 which will result in an increase in depreciation expense of approximately \$76,000 per month beginning in the fourth quarter of 2003.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2003, our financing activities provided cash of \$2.7 million compared to \$870,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. During the nine months ended September 30, 2003, we received \$3.2 million in cash from the exercise of stock options at exercise prices per option of between \$1.25 and \$6.76.

We have a line of credit arrangement with Wachovia Bank, National Association totaling \$3.0 million. At September 30, 2003, we had no outstanding borrowings under the line.

We expect that existing cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments, cash flows from operations and available borrowings under our line of credit will be sufficient to meet our foreseeable cash needs for at least the next year. However, there may be acquisition and other growth opportunities that require additional external financing and we may from time to time seek to obtain additional funds from the public or private issuances of equity or debt securities. There can be no assurance that any such acquisitions will occur or that such financings will be available or available on terms acceptable to us.

#### Inflation

We believe the effects of inflation and changing prices generally do not have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

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

Our primary financial market risks include fluctuations in interest rates and currency exchange rates.

#### Interest Rate Risk

We generally place our investments in money market funds, municipal securities, bonds of government sponsored agencies, certificates of deposit with fixed rates with maturities of less than one year, and A1P1 rated commercial bonds and paper. We actively manage our portfolio of cash equivalents and short-term investments, but in order to ensure liquidity, will only invest in instruments with high credit quality where a secondary market exists. We have not held and do not hold any derivatives related to our interest rate exposure. Due to the average maturity and conservative nature of our investment portfolio, a sudden change in interest rates would not have a material effect on the value of the portfolio. Management estimates that had the average yield of our investments decreased by 100 basis points, our interest income for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 would have decreased by less than \$260,000. This estimate assumes that the decrease occurred on the first day of 2003 and reduced the yield of each investment by 100 basis points. The impact on our future interest income of future changes in investment yields will depend largely on the gross amount of our cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments. See "Liquidity and Capital Resources" as part of Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

Foreign Currency Risk

We operate on a global basis from locations in the United States and the United Kingdom. All international net revenues are billed and expenses incurred in either U.S. dollars or British pound sterling. As such, we face exposure to adverse movements in the exchange rate of the British pound sterling. As the currency rate changes, translation of the income statement of our UK subsidiary from the local currency to U.S. dollars affects year-to-year comparability of operating results. We do not hedge translation risks because any cash flows from UK operations are generally reinvested in the UK. Management estimates that a 10% change in the exchange rate of the British pound sterling would have impacted the reported operating income for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 by less than \$400,000.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

We carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of our controls and procedures pursuant to Rule 13a-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based upon that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by our Company (including our consolidated subsidiaries) in our periodic filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the Commission's rules and forms. There has been no change in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Part II. Other Information

Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K

a.) Exhibits

- 10.25 Amendment to the Sublease Agreement between the Company and 17th Ludlow Property, L.L.C.
- 10.30 Promissory Note to Wachovia Bank, National Association
- 10.31 Loan Agreement with Wachovia Bank, National Association
- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer
- 32.1 Statement of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section

Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

1350 of Title 18 of the United States Code

32.2 Statement of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section  
1350 of Title 18 of the United States Code

b.) Reports on Form 8-K

On July 23, 2003, we filed a report on Form 8-K disclosing a press release we issued on July 23, 2003, reporting our results of operations for the quarter ended June 30, 2003 and providing financial guidance for the third quarter and fiscal 2003 and fiscal 2004.

25

Signatures

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

eResearchTechnology, Inc.  
(Registrant)

Date: November 7, 2003

By: Joseph A. Esposito

-----  
Joseph A. Esposito  
President and Chief Executive Officer,  
Director (Principal executive officer)

Date: November 7, 2003

By: Bruce Johnson

-----  
Bruce Johnson  
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial  
Officer (Principal financial and  
accounting officer)

26

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No. -----	Exhibit -----
10.25	Amendment to the Sublease Agreement between the Company and 17th Ludlow Property, L.L.C.
10.30	Promissory Note to Wachovia Bank, National Association
10.31	Loan Agreement with Wachovia Bank, National Association

Edgar Filing: ERESEARCHTECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ - Form 10-Q

- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer
- 32.1 Statement of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 1350 of Title 18 of the United States Code
- 32.2 Statement of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 1350 of Title 18 of the United States Code