

LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES
Form 10-Q
October 10, 2001

[QuickLinks](#) -- Click here to rapidly navigate through this document

**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 AUGUST 31, 2001

OR

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**
FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM _____ TO _____

Commission File Number 000-26565

LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation)

94-3245315
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

2 Circle Star Way, San Carlos, California
(Address of principal executive office)

94070-6200
(Zip Code)

(650) 701-4000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

105,670,399 shares of the Registrant's common stock were outstanding as of September 30, 2001.

LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES

FORM 10-Q
FOR THE QUARTER ENDED AUGUST 31, 2001

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
Item 1. Financial Statements	
Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of May 31, 2001 and August 31, 2001	1
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Loss for the Three Months Ended August 31, 2000 and 2001	2
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Three Months Ended August 31, 2000 and 2001	3
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements	4
Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	7
Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk	26
PART II. OTHER INFORMATION	
Item 1. Legal Proceedings	27
Item 2. Changes in Securities and Use of Proceeds	27
Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities	27
Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders	27
Item 5. Other Information	27
Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K	28
Signature	29

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(In thousands)
Unaudited

	<u>May 31,</u> <u>2001</u>	<u>August 31,</u> <u>2001</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 126,989	\$ 173,742
Short-term investments	149,161	90,016

Edgar Filing: LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES - Form 10-Q

	May 31, 2001	August 31, 2001
Accounts receivable, net	11,055	11,565
Receivable from affiliate, net	174	174
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	8,955	7,151
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total current assets	296,334	282,648
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net	19,085	17,638
OTHER ASSETS:		
Restricted cash	8,788	8,788
Long-term investments	184,757	183,307
Purchased intangibles, net	432,223	377,012
Warrants	83,243	77,522
Notes receivable from officers	1,534	1,556
Other	511	582
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total assets	\$ 1,026,475	\$ 949,053
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,699	\$ 1,780
Accrued payroll and related expenses	5,083	5,543
Accrued liabilities	13,389	14,101
Current portion of capital leases	672	691
Deferred revenues	54,216	47,615
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total current liabilities	75,059	69,730
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:		
Capital lease obligations, net of current portion	389	200
Other long-term liabilities	1,345	5,535
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total liabilities	76,793	75,465
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Note 5)		
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
Common stock	1,047	1,053
Contributed and paid-in capital	1,428,110	1,429,668
Warrants	59,897	59,897
Deferred stock compensation	(3,087)	(2,543)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	636	431
Accumulated deficit	(536,921)	(614,918)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total stockholders' equity	949,682	873,588
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 1,026,475	\$ 949,053
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
AND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS

(In thousands, except per share data)

Unaudited

	Three months ended August 31,	
	2000	2001
REVENUES:		
License and royalty	\$ 4,576	\$ 9,839
Service	4,828	8,251
Total revenues	9,404	18,090
COST OF REVENUES:		
License and royalty	611	477
Service	5,333	9,269
Total cost of revenues	5,944	9,746
Gross margin	3,460	8,344
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Research and development	12,094	12,521
Sales and marketing	5,024	6,603
General and administrative	2,582	3,391
Amortization of purchased intangibles	50,261	55,210
Excess facilities charge		6,976
Amortization of warrants	6,046	5,721
Amortization of deferred stock compensation	499	435
Acquired in-process research and development	22,425	
Total operating expenses	98,931	90,857
Loss from operations	(95,471)	(82,513)
INTEREST INCOME	7,656	5,350
OTHER EXPENSE, net	(200)	(615)
Loss before income tax provision	(88,015)	(77,778)
INCOME TAX PROVISION	204	219
Net loss	(88,219)	(77,997)
FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION ADJUSTMENT	178	(205)
Comprehensive loss	\$ (88,041)	\$ (78,202)

	<u>Three months ended August 31,</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
BASIC NET LOSS PER SHARE	(0.90)	(0.74)
SHARES USED IN COMPUTING BASIC NET LOSS PER SHARE	98,464	105,004

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

2

LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(In thousands)
Unaudited

	<u>Three months ended August 31,</u>	
	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net loss	\$ (88,219)	\$ (77,997)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Amortization of purchased intangibles	50,261	55,211
Excess facilities charge		6,976
Amortization of warrants	6,046	5,721
Depreciation and amortization	1,154	1,803
Asset impairment charge		503
Non-cash compensation expense	499	435
Loss on disposal of property and equipment		300
Provision for doubtful accounts	(7)	63
Write-off of acquired in-process research and development	22,425	
Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions:		
Increase in accounts receivable	(1,617)	(573)
Increase in receivable from affiliate, net	(33)	
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses and other current assets	(3,740)	1,804
Increase in notes receivable from officers		(22)
(Increase) decrease in other assets	152	(71)
Increase in accounts payable	481	81
Decrease in accrued liabilities	(2,268)	(2,208)
Increase (decrease) in accrued payroll and related expenses	(669)	460
Decrease in deferred revenues	(4,913)	(6,601)
Increase in other long-term liabilities	177	134
Net cash used in operating activities	(20,271)	(13,981)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from maturities of investments	36,059	156,457
Purchase of investments	(70,328)	(95,112)
Purchases of property and equipment	(1,564)	(1,159)
Purchase of equity investments	(3,000)	(750)

Edgar Filing: LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES - Form 10-Q

	<u>Three months ended August 31,</u>	
Cash acquired in MoreCom acquisition	1,500	
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(37,333)	59,436
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from issuance of common stock, net	1,391	1,673
Principal payments on capital lease obligations	(175)	(170)
Proceeds from private placement, net	100,000	
Net cash provided by financing activities	101,216	1,503
EFFECT OF EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES ON CASH	178	(205)
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	43,790	46,753
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD	132,962	126,989
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF PERIOD	\$ 176,752	\$ 173,742

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

3

LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 Unaudited

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Liberate Technologies ("Liberate" or "the Company") and its wholly owned subsidiaries. All intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. These interim financial statements are unaudited and reflect all adjustments, that are, in the opinion of management, necessary to provide a fair statement of financial position and the results of operations for the interim periods in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. However, these statements omit certain information and footnote disclosures necessary to conform to generally accepted accounting principles. These statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes to consolidated financial statements included in Liberate's Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 24, 2001. The results of operations for such periods do not necessarily indicate the results expected for the full fiscal year or for any future period.

Computation of Net Loss Per Share

Basic net loss per share is computed using the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding. Potential common shares from the conversion of preferred stock, stock options, and warrants are excluded from the calculation of basic net loss per share because including them would be anti-dilutive. As of August 31, 2000 and 2001, approximately 18,534,001 and 17,553,130 potential shares were not included in the calculation on this basis.

Effect of New Accounting Pronouncement

Effective June 1, 2001, the Company adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 133, "Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities," which establishes accounting and reporting standards for derivative financial instruments and hedging activities related to those instruments, as well as other hedging activities. The adoption of SFAS No. 133 did not materially impact the

Edgar Filing: LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES - Form 10-Q

Company's financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

2. SEGMENT INFORMATION

Liberate operates solely in one segment providing standards-based software platforms for delivering enhanced content and services to television viewers and consumers. As of August 31, 2000 and 2001, the Company's long-term assets were located primarily in the United States. The Company's revenues by region were as follows (in thousands):

	Three months ended August 31,	
	2000	2001
Europe	\$ 3,655	\$ 8,784
North America	4,412	7,596
Asia	1,337	1,710
Consolidated	\$ 9,404	\$ 18,090

4

International revenues consist of sales to customers outside of the United States. International revenues are assigned to specific countries based on the origin of the sales contract. For the three months ended August 31, 2000 and 2001, North American revenues included United-States-based revenues of \$4.0 million and \$6.9 million, respectively. In addition, for the three months ended August 31, 2000 and 2001, European revenues included United-Kingdom-based revenues of \$3.3 million and \$8.1 million, respectively. For the three months ended August 31, 2000 and 2001, international revenues were 58% and 62% of total revenues, respectively.

For the three months ended August 31, 2000 and 2001, three customers and two customers, respectively, each accounted for 10% or more of the Company's total revenues. The percentage of sales to significant customers was as follows:

	Three months ended August 31,	
	2000	2001
Customer A	21%	24%
Customer B	13%	*
Customer C	12%	21%

* Less than 10%

3. PURCHASED INTANGIBLES

Liberate's purchased intangibles, comprised of goodwill and other purchased intangibles (patents, trademarks, existing technology, customer relationships, and assembled workforce) are being amortized on a straight-line basis over three years. The Company's net purchased intangibles are as follows (in thousands):

	May 31, 2001	August 31, 2001
Goodwill, net	\$ 426,481	\$ 372,050
Other purchased intangibles, net	5,742	4,962
Purchased intangibles, net	\$ 432,223	\$ 377,012

The Company believes the carrying value of its purchased intangibles as of August 31, 2001 is realizable. Management will continue to evaluate purchased intangibles, goodwill, and other long-lived assets for recoverability and impairment in accordance with SFAS No. 121. However, upon adoption of SFAS No. 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangibles," the Company will cease to amortize goodwill. Total amortization

Edgar Filing: LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES - Form 10-Q

expense for goodwill and purchased intangibles for the three months ended August 31, 2000 and 2001 was \$50.3 million and \$55.2 million, respectively, of which \$49.6 million and \$54.4 million related to goodwill.

4. EXCESS FACILITIES CHARGE AND ASSET IMPAIRMENT

During the three months ended August 31, 2001, Liberate recorded a charge of \$7.0 million related to a change in estimated future income from previously sublet excess facilities. The charge of \$7.0 million represents the remaining lease commitment on the excess facilities, net of expected sublease income. Additionally, the Company recorded an impairment charge of \$503,000 related to certain long-lived assets that, during the quarter, the Company estimated would not generate future cash flows sufficient to cover their carrying amounts.

5

5. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Commitments

In August 2001, the Company amended its prior agreements with Motorola. The amendment reduced the total payments due to Motorola by approximately \$1.1 million from \$10.0 million to \$8.9 million and waived any payments that might have been payable by Motorola to the Company for any shortfall of terminal (set-top box) sales below committed volume levels at the end of the three-year period. The Company expensed \$902,000 and \$777,000 for the three months ended August 31, 2000 and 2001, respectively, related to this agreement.

In June 2001, as part of the Liberate Corporate Venture Fund, the Company committed to invest \$2.0 million in China Broadband (H.K.), for reinvestment in China New Broadband Video & Communication ("GNI"), a Chinese joint venture that makes interactive television software. Liberate made the first investment of \$750,000 in June 2001 and will make the remaining investment in four additional phases over the current fiscal year, based upon achievement of specific technical and commercial milestones.

As of August 31, 2001, the Company had commitments, under a binding Letter of Understanding, for up to \$5.0 million related to potential future marketing activities. These amounts will be expensed when and if incurred.

Legal Matters

Beginning May 16, 2001, seven class-action lawsuits seeking monetary damages were filed in the Southern District of New York against several of the firms that underwrote Liberate's initial public offering, naming Liberate, its CEO Mitchell Kertzman, and its CFO Nancy Hilker as co-defendants (the "Liberate Defendants"). The plaintiffs allege that the underwriters received excessive and improper commissions that were not disclosed in Liberate's prospectus. These cases have now been consolidated with several hundred other cases against underwriters and other issuers. The Company will be seeking to have the claims against the Liberate Defendants dismissed, and, while litigation is by its nature uncertain, the Company does not believe that the cases create any material exposure for Liberate.

6. OFFERINGS OF COMMON STOCK

Common Stock

During the quarter ended August 31, 2001, Liberate issued 564,194 shares of common stock to employees, external consultants, and other service providers upon the exercise of stock options.

Warrants

In fiscal 1999, Liberate entered into letter agreements with several network operators whereby it agreed to issue warrants to purchase up to 4,599,992 shares of its common stock that can be earned and exercised if those network operators satisfy certain milestones within specific time frames. The fair market value of those warrants is estimated using the Black-Scholes pricing model as of the earlier of the grant date or the date that it becomes probable that they will be earned. Pursuant to the requirements of Emerging Issues Task Force No. 96-18, those warrants will continue to be revalued in situations where they are granted prior to the completion of a performance commitment.

As of August 31, 2001, several network operators had earned warrants to purchase up to a total of 2,336,660 shares of the Company's common stock. Of those warrants earned, warrants to purchase 552,774 shares had been exercised, and warrants to purchase 163,890 shares had been retired to cover

the purchase price of those exercises. Warrants to purchase 2,163,332 shares of the Company's common stock are available to be earned in the future, and 100,000 warrants have expired.

The fair market value of those warrants at the time they were earned, based on the Black-Scholes valuation model, was \$117.2 million. As of August 31, 2001, accumulated amortization for those warrants was \$39.7 million. If the remaining warrants are earned, Liberate may be required to record additional significant non-cash accounting expenses.

ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The discussion in this Form 10-Q contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Any statements in this document that are not statements of historical fact, including statements of our expectations, beliefs, intentions, or strategies regarding the future, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the securities laws of the United States, and are subject to the safe harbor created by those laws. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by words such as "may," "will," "should," "expect," "plan," "anticipate," "intend," "believe," "estimate," "predict," "potential," or "continue." These statements are only predictions based on information currently available to us. The statements involve uncertainty and we cannot guarantee future results. We assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in forward-looking statements due to factors that include, but are not limited to, our new and emerging market, limited availability of technology and services necessary for interactive television systems and consumer device networks, dependence on a limited number of network operators and consumer device manufacturers, poor macroeconomic conditions, limited operating history and history of losses, fluctuations in quarterly operating results, reliance on international revenues, competition, potential problems with our software, litigation, and other risks detailed from time to time in our reports and registration statements filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You should consider our forward-looking statements in conjunction with our financial statements, related notes, and the other financial information appearing elsewhere in this Form 10-Q and our Annual Report on Form 10-K.

OVERVIEW

We are the premier provider of standards-based software platforms for delivering enhanced content and services to television viewers and consumers around the world. We began our operations in late 1995 as a division of Oracle, developing client and server software for the consumer, enterprise, and educational markets. In April 1996, Oracle spun-off our division as Network Computer, Inc. ("NCI"). NCI's initial focus was on selling software to original equipment manufacturers of network computer products for enterprise customers. In August 1997, NCI merged with a Netscape Communications subsidiary, Navio, which was developing Internet application and server software for the consumer market. NCI was the surviving entity in the merger. After the merger, we changed our strategic direction and restructured our operations to focus our development and marketing efforts on products targeted primarily at the consumer device market, targeting sales to a limited number of large network operators and consumer device manufacturers. On May 11, 1999, we changed our name from NCI to Liberate Technologies.

Since our incorporation, we have raised a significant amount of capital by selling small equity positions to a number of investors, including some major network operators. This has provided us with the financial resources we needed to continue our growth, given us resources to pursue investments and acquisitions as appropriate, and also reinforced our relationships with participating network operators. In order to continue to fund our growth, we decided to offer our stock to the public and become a publicly traded company. Our stock began trading on July 28, 1999. We raised additional capital in

February 2000 through a secondary public offering and again in July 2000 when Cisco Systems invested \$100.0 million through a private placement.

In March 2000, we acquired the VirtualModem assets of SourceSuite in exchange for 1,772,000 shares of our common stock. The acquisition was accounted for as a purchase. The fair market value of the equity securities issued in the acquisition was \$190.5 million.

In June 2000, we acquired MoreCom. In connection with the acquisition, we issued 7,310,830 shares of common stock in exchange for all of the outstanding stock of MoreCom and assumed all of MoreCom's stock options. The acquisition was accounted for as a purchase. The fair market value of the equity securities issued in the acquisition was \$459.0 million.

Edgar Filing: LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES - Form 10-Q

Since our incorporation, we have incurred net losses of \$614.9 million. These losses include \$304.1 million in amortization of purchased intangibles, \$161.4 million in research and development expenditures, \$82.5 million in write-offs of acquired in-process research and development related to our acquisitions, and \$39.7 million in amortization of warrants. We anticipate incurring significant operating losses in the future as we: (1) continue to invest in research and development and consulting and non-recurring engineering services to support our standards-based software platform and large-scale deployments by our network operator customers, and (2) record non-cash expenses related to the amortization of purchased intangibles, and the amortization of warrant expense.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Revenues

We generate revenues by licensing our client and server products, applications, and tools, largely to network operators, primarily providers of television services, and consumer device manufacturers, primarily set-top box manufacturers. In addition, we generate revenues from consulting, maintenance, and other services provided in connection with those licenses. Total revenues increased 92% from \$9.4 million for the three months ended August 31, 2000 to \$18.1 million for the three months ended August 31, 2001.

International revenues accounted for 58% and 62% of our total revenues for the three months ended August 31, 2000 and 2001, respectively. We anticipate international revenues will continue to represent a significant portion of total revenues for the foreseeable future.

Deferred revenues consist primarily of payments received from customers for prepaid license and royalty fees for undelivered products and for prepaid services. Deferred revenues decreased from \$54.2 million as of May 31, 2001 to \$47.6 million as of August 31, 2001. The majority of this decrease represents recognition of revenues related to both customer deployments and performance of services. We expect this downward trend to continue in future quarters as our customers continue to deploy. Deferred revenues may fluctuate in future quarters as a result of several factors, including the timing of deployments, performance of services, and prepayments.

License and Royalty. License and royalty revenues consist principally of fees earned from the licensing of our software, as well as royalty fees earned upon the shipment or activation of products that incorporate our software. We typically recognize revenues from software license fees when the licensed product is delivered, collection is probable, the fee for each element of the transaction is fixed and determinable, persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, and vendor-specific objective evidence exists to allocate the total fee to all delivered and undelivered elements of the arrangement. In addition to license fees, network operators typically pay server royalty fees on a per subscriber basis. We typically recognize revenue on these server royalty fees when a network operator reports to us that a user of a consumer device has activated the operator's service. We also license our client software to either network operators or consumer device manufacturers, who typically pay us royalties on a per

8

unit basis. We typically recognize revenue when our customers report to us that a consumer device owner has activated the operator's service, or a consumer device manufacturer has shipped a device.

License and royalty revenues increased 115% from \$4.6 million for the three months ended August 31, 2000 to \$9.8 million for the three months ended August 31, 2001. These amounts represented 49% and 54% of total revenues for the respective periods. These increases were primarily due to increased deployments to our customers' subscribers. In the near-term, we expect license and royalty revenues to increase in absolute dollars, but remain relatively constant as a percentage of total revenues as additional network operators begin to deploy our products.

Service. Service revenues consist of consulting, maintenance, and other services. We generally recognize consulting and other service revenues, including non-recurring engineering and training revenues, as services are performed. Where consulting services are performed under a fixed-price arrangement, revenues are generally recognized on a percentage-of-completion basis. Maintenance services include both updates and technical support. Maintenance revenues are recognized ratably over the term of the maintenance agreement, and generally range between 15% and 25% of the cumulative license fees and activation royalties incurred under the contract, depending upon the level of support being provided. Where software license agreements include a combination of consulting, maintenance, or other services, these separate elements are unbundled from the arrangement based on each element's relative fair value.

Service revenues increased 71% from \$4.8 million for the three months ended August 31, 2000 to \$8.3 million for the three months ended August 31, 2001. These amounts represented 51% and 46% of total revenues for the respective periods. The increase in absolute dollar amounts was due to continued growth in our customer base, which resulted in an increase in integration, implementation, and support services provided to those customers. We expect service revenues to continue to account for a significant portion of total revenues until customers begin deploying consumer devices incorporating our software on a larger scale. We also expect service revenues to increase to the extent existing and new customers continue to install and initiate deployment of our products.

Cost of Revenues

Total cost of revenues increased 64% from \$5.9 million for the three months ended August 31, 2000 to \$9.7 million for the three months ended August 31, 2001. We anticipate that total cost of revenues will increase in absolute dollars in future periods as a result of increased deployments, the introduction of new third-party technologies, as well as increased levels of service and support for our new and existing customers' installations and implementations.

License and Royalty. Cost of license and royalty revenues consists primarily of costs incurred for licenses and support of third-party technologies that are incorporated in our products. Cost of license and royalty revenues decreased 22% from \$611,000 for the three months ended August 31, 2000 to \$477,000 for the three months ended August 31, 2001. These amounts represented 13% and 5% of license and royalty revenues for the respective periods. These decreases in cost of license and royalty revenues were due to the renegotiation of a certain third-party software license in the second half of fiscal 2001. We expect the cost of license and royalty revenues to increase in absolute dollars in future periods as our customers deploy in greater volume and as we introduce new third-party technologies.

Service. Cost of service revenues consists primarily of salary and other related costs for personnel and external contractors. Cost of service revenues increased 74% from \$5.3 million for the three months ended August 31, 2000 to \$9.3 million for the three months ended August 31, 2001. These amounts represented 110% and 112% of service revenues for the respective periods. These increased costs reflected the increased number of both permanent employees and external contractors required to meet our customers' service needs. We expect cost of service revenues to increase in dollar amounts

9

but decrease slightly as a percentage of service revenues in the near-term as we continue to work to integrate our products into our customers' networks.

Operating Expenses

Research and Development. Research and development expenses consist primarily of salary and other related costs for personnel and external contractors, as well as costs related to outsourced development projects necessary to support product development. Research and development expenses increased 4% from \$12.1 million for the three months ended August 31, 2000 to \$12.5 million for the three months ended August 31, 2001. These amounts represented 129% and 69% of total revenues for the respective periods. The increase in absolute dollar amounts was primarily due to increases in staffing and employee-related costs, and was offset by decreases in the use of external contractors. We believe that continued investment in research and development is critical to attaining our strategic objectives. Consequently, research and development expenses may increase modestly in absolute dollars in future periods. However, if revenues increase, we expect research and development expenses to decline as a percentage of total revenues in the long term.

10

Sales and Marketing. Sales and marketing expenses consist primarily of salaries and other employee-related costs for sales and marketing personnel, sales commissions, travel, public relations, marketing materials, tradeshows, and facilities for regional offices. Sales and marketing expenses increased 31% from \$5.0 million for the three months ended August 31, 2000 to \$6.6 million for the three months ended August 31, 2001. These amounts represented 53% and 37% of total revenues for the respective periods. The increase in absolute dollar amounts was due to increased staffing and employee-related costs, as well as increased spending for trade shows, public relations, and international expansion. We believe sales and marketing expenses will increase in absolute dollars in future periods as we expand our direct sales and marketing efforts both domestically and internationally. However, if revenues increase, we expect sales and marketing expenses to decrease as a percentage of total revenues in the long term.

General and Administrative. General and administrative expenses consist primarily of salaries and other employee-related costs for corporate development, finance, human resources, and legal employees, as well as outside legal and other professional fees. General and administrative expenses increased 31% from \$2.6 million for the three months ended August 31, 2000 to \$3.4 million for the three months ended August 31, 2001. These amounts represented 28% and 19% of total revenues for the respective periods. The increase in absolute dollar amounts was primarily due to increased employee-related expenses, as we continue to develop the infrastructure necessary to support our expansion. In the near-term, we believe these expenses will increase modestly in absolute dollars as we continue to add personnel and expand our infrastructure. However, if revenues increase, we expect these costs to decrease as a percentage of total revenues in the long term.

Amortization of Purchased Intangibles. Purchased intangibles represent the purchase price of companies that we have acquired in excess of identified tangible assets and are amortized over three years. Since our inception, we have recorded purchased intangibles related to three acquisitions:

Edgar Filing: LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES - Form 10-Q

In August 1997, we recorded \$18.3 million of purchased intangibles related to the Navio acquisition.

In March 2000, we recorded \$192.0 million of purchased intangibles related to the SourceSuite acquisition.

In June 2000, we recorded \$470.9 million of purchased intangibles related to the MoreCom acquisition.

We recognized \$50.3 million and \$55.2 million of amortization expense for the three months ended August 31, 2000 and 2001, respectively. We expect expenses related to the amortization of purchased intangibles to remain relatively flat in the near term, however, upon adoption of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 142, we will cease to record approximately \$217.7 million of amortization of goodwill expense annually.

Excess Facilities Charge. For the three months ended August 31, 2001, we recorded an excess facilities charge of \$7.0 million, related to a change in estimated future income from previously sublet excess facilities. There was no excess facilities charge recorded for the three months ended August 31, 2000. We do not anticipate additional charges in the near future.

Amortization of Warrants. As of August 31, 2001, several network operators had earned warrants to purchase up to a total of 2,336,660 shares of our common stock. The fair market value of those warrants at the time they were earned, based on the Black-Scholes pricing model, was \$117.2 million. We recorded warrant amortization expense of \$6.0 million and \$5.7 million for the three months ended August 31, 2000 and 2001, respectively. We expect warrant amortization expense to increase from present levels only as additional warrants are earned.

11

Amortization of Deferred Stock Compensation. Deferred stock compensation represents the difference between the estimated fair value of our common stock for accounting purposes and the option exercise price of such options at the grant date. Deferred stock compensation for stock options granted to employees and others is amortized on a straight-line basis over the 48-month vesting period of such options. Amortization of deferred stock compensation decreased from \$499,000 for the three months ended August 31, 2000 compared to \$435,000 for the three months ended August 31, 2001. This decrease was attributable to employee terminations. We expect deferred stock compensation expense to continue to decrease through the end of fiscal 2003, as employees terminate and the remaining stock option grants vest.

Acquired In-Process Research and Development. Acquired in-process research and development expense consists of the value of research projects and products that were in process on the date of certain acquisitions that, in the opinion of management, had not reached technological feasibility and had no alternative future use. Acquired in-process research and development expense related to our acquisition of MoreCom was \$22.4 million for the three months ended August 31, 2000. There was no acquired in-process research and development expense for the three months ended August 31, 2001.

Interest Income

Interest income consists of interest earned on our cash and cash equivalents and short-term and long-term investments, and is netted against interest expense related to capital leases. Interest income decreased from \$7.7 million for the three months ended August 31, 2000 to \$5.4 million for the three months ended August 31, 2001, primarily due to lower cash balances, declining market interest rates, and the maturity of some of our longer-term investments previously invested at a higher yield. We expect interest income to continue to decline as a result of anticipated decreases in our cash balances and the recent decline of current market interest rates.

Other Expense, Net

Other expense, net consists of the write-down of assets whose value had been permanently impaired, losses on disposals of fixed assets, and foreign currency exchange gains and losses and other non-operating income and expenses. Net other expense increased from \$200,000 for the three months ended August 31, 2000 to \$615,000 for the three months ended August 31, 2001. This increase in expense for the period was due to the write-down of certain assets contained within the vacant facilities whose value had been permanently impaired and the loss on disposal of fixed assets, offset by foreign currency fluctuations.

Income Tax Provision

Income tax provision consists of foreign withholding tax expense and foreign and state income taxes. Income tax provision increased slightly from \$204,000 for the three months ended August 31, 2000 to \$219,000 for the three months ended August 31, 2001. This increase was

Edgar Filing: LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES - Form 10-Q

primarily due to increased foreign revenues and operating activities, resulting in increased foreign withholding and income taxes.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

As of August 31, 2001, our principal source of liquidity was cash and cash equivalents of \$173.7 million. Additionally, as of August 31, 2001, we had short-term investments of \$90.0 million and long-term investments of \$183.3 million, which included \$10.6 million of net equity investments.

For the three months ended August 31, 2000, net cash used in operating activities was \$20.3 million. Net cash used in operating activities was comprised of a net loss of \$88.2 million, \$4.9 million of deferred revenues, and \$3.7 million of prepaid expenses and other current assets, offset

12

by \$50.3 million of amortization of purchased intangibles, \$22.4 million of write-offs of acquired in-process research and development, and \$6.0 million of amortization of warrants.

For the three months ended August 31, 2001, net cash used in operating activities was \$14.0 million. Net cash used in operating activities was comprised of a net loss of \$78.0 million and \$6.6 million of deferred revenues, offset by \$55.2 million of amortization of purchased intangibles, \$7.0 million of expense related to an excess facilities charge, and \$5.7 million of amortization of warrants.

For the three months ended August 31, 2000, net cash used in investing activities of \$37.3 million was primarily comprised of \$70.3 million of purchases of investments and \$3.0 million of purchases of equity investments, offset by \$36.1 million of proceeds from maturities of investments.

For the three months ended August 31, 2001, net cash provided by investing activities of \$59.4 million was comprised of \$156.5 million of proceeds from maturities of investments, offset by \$95.1 million purchases of investments and \$1.2 million of purchases of property and equipment.

For the three months ended August 31, 2000, net cash provided by financing activities of \$101.2 million was comprised of \$100.0 million of proceeds from our private placement in July 2000 and \$1.4 million of proceeds from issuance of common stock to employees through our stock option plan.

For the three months ended August 31, 2001, net cash provided by financing activities of \$1.5 million was comprised of the proceeds from the issuance of common stock to employees through our stock option plan.

As of August 31, 2001, our outstanding short- and long-term obligations were \$8.7 million, and consisted primarily of an excess facilities charge, deferred rent expense and capital lease commitments. We did not have any material commitments for capital expenditures. We anticipate that our capital expenditures for fiscal 2002 will be less than those for fiscal 2001.

Under a development agreement entered into with Motorola in April 1999 and amended in August 2001, we are committed to pay \$8.9 million in development fees for certain services to be performed by Motorola. These fees are being paid out over a three-year period. We made no payments during the three months ended August 31, 2000 and paid \$2.0 million to Motorola during the three months ended of August 31, 2001.

Through the Liberate Corporate Venture Fund, we have invested \$15.9 million in our portfolio of companies. As of August 31, 2001, our net equity investments were valued at \$10.6 million and included a write down of \$5.3 million of equity investments that we determined had been permanently impaired in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2001. In June 2001, we committed to invest \$2.0 million in China Broadband (H.K.) for reinvestment in China New Broadband Video and Communications, a Chinese joint venture that makes interactive television software. We made the first investment of \$750,000 during the three months ended August 31, 2001 and will make the balance of the investment in four phases during the fiscal year, based upon the achievement of specific technical and commercial milestones. We plan to continue to identify additional opportunities to make strategic investments.

In January 2001, we extended loans in exchange for promissory notes from Coleman Sisson, our President and Chief Operating Officer, and David Limp, our Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer. In April 2001, we extended a loan in exchange for a promissory note from Donald Fitzpatrick, our Executive Vice President, Sales and Service. Each loan is for \$500,000, carries an interest rate of 5.9% compounded annually, and is due and payable two years from issuance. As of August 31, 2001, we recorded interest receivable of \$22,000 related to these promissory notes. In January 2001, we also entered into employee retention agreements with Mr. Sisson, Mr. Fitzpatrick, and Mr. Limp. Each retention agreement provides approximately \$820,000 to the employee over the

next two years of continued service. As of August 31, 2001, \$73,000 had been paid to each of these executives under these agreements.

As of August 31, 2001, we had committed, under a binding Letter of Understanding, to pay up to \$5.0 million related to potential future marketing activities. These amounts will be expensed when and if incurred.

In addition to normal operating expenses, we anticipate requiring cash to finance our growth, pay outstanding commitments, and acquire products and technologies to complement our existing business. We believe that the net proceeds from our various offerings, together with cash and cash equivalents generated from operations, if any, will be sufficient to meet our working capital requirements for at least the next 12 months. However, if we should need additional financing at some point in the future, there is no guarantee that it would be available to us on favorable terms, if at all.

RISK FACTORS

Any of the following risks could seriously harm our business, financial condition, and results of operations, causing the trading price of our common stock to decline.

Demand For Information-Oriented Consumer Devices And Interactive Television May Not Develop As We Anticipate.

Because the market for interactive television and information-oriented consumer devices (such as set-top boxes) is newly emerging, the potential size of the market opportunity and the timing of its development are uncertain. As a result, our profit potential is unknown.

Sales of our technology and services depend upon the commercialization and broad acceptance by consumers and businesses of interactive television and information-oriented devices, primarily cable and satellite set-top boxes as well as networks of game consoles, smart phones, and personal digital assistants. This will depend in turn on many factors, including the development of content and applications of interest to significant numbers of consumers, and the emergence of industry standards that facilitate the distribution of such content.

If the market for interactive television consumer devices, and set-top boxes in particular, does not develop or develops more slowly or in a different direction than we anticipate, our revenues will not grow as quickly as expected, if at all. For example, a consumer device manufacturer or its customers could choose to use only applications and content developed to operate directly with a particular consumer device, thereby eliminating the need for our software platform.

Deployment And Availability Of Interactive Television And Consumer Device Networks May Be Limited By High Costs Or Limited Availability Of System Components.

Interactive television networks and other consumer-device networks are complex systems, requiring the successful interaction of many elements in order to be technologically and financially attractive to deploy. Many network operators seek to deploy a complete interactive television system, including features such as video-on-demand and guide services, rich content, and robust infrastructure support. Several vendors are typically involved in providing the content and applications that comprise a complete interactive television system.

In different regions of the world, certain elements of such systems may be controlled by a single company or a few large companies. For example, in the United States, one of the largest potential markets for interactive television, the manufacture of set-top boxes and ownership of cable networks are relatively concentrated. Development of the interactive television market may be slowed if these companies do not participate in the deployment of interactive television, charge excessive fees, or do

not adopt industry standards that permit interconnection and a uniform environment for developing applications and content.

Moreover, some companies have obtained patent protection on technology relating to important parts of a complete interactive television system. If patent licenses were required to assemble a complete interactive television system and could not be obtained on reasonable terms, the development of the interactive television industry could be slowed and revenues available to other participants in the market could be reduced.

Our Success Depends On A Limited Number Of Network Operators Introducing And Promoting Products And Services Incorporating Our Technology.

Our success depends on large network operators introducing and promoting products and services based on our technology. There are, however, only a limited number of large network operators worldwide. Mergers or other business combinations among these network operators would reduce this number, possibly disrupting our business relationships, and adversely affecting demand for our products and services. Currently, only a limited number of these network operators are deploying products and services incorporating our technology and services for consumer devices. In addition, none of our network operator customers is contractually obligated to introduce or promote products and services incorporating our technology, nor to achieve any specific introduction schedule. Accordingly, even if a network operator initiates a customer trial of products incorporating our technology, that operator is under no obligation to continue its relationship with us or to launch a full-scale deployment of these products. Further, our agreements with network operators are generally not exclusive, so network operators with whom we have agreements may enter into similar license agreements with one or more of our competitors.

Because the large-scale deployment of products and services incorporating our technology is complex, time-consuming, and expensive, network operators are cautious about proceeding with such deployment. While we believe that products and services based on our technology will have significant value to network operators (in the form of opportunities to generate additional revenues per subscriber from interactive applications, such as video-on-demand, and the loss of fewer subscribers to competing services), there is only limited data available to demonstrate to network operators that they will receive attractive returns on their investments. Moreover, the customization process for new customers requires a lengthy and significant commitment of resources by our customers and us. The commitment of resources required by our customers may slow deployment, which could, in turn, delay market acceptance of these products and services. Also, many of our customers rely on debt-based financing and subscriber revenues to fund their deployments, so economic conditions that reduce either of these sources of financing may slow or stop deployment, or make it more difficult to collect receivables. Unless network operators introduce and promote products and services incorporating our technology in a successful and timely manner, our software platform will not achieve widespread acceptance, consumer device manufacturers will not use our software in their products, and our revenues will not grow as quickly as expected, if at all.

Our Success Depends On Consumer Device Manufacturers Introducing And Promoting Products That Incorporate Or Operate With Our Technology.

We do not typically manufacture hardware components that incorporate our technology. Rather, we license software technology to consumer device manufacturers and work with them to ensure that our products operate together. Accordingly, our success will depend, in part, upon our ability to convince a number of consumer device manufacturers to manufacture products that incorporate or operate with our technology and upon the successful introduction and commercial acceptance of these products.

While we have entered into a number of agreements with consumer device manufacturers, none of these manufacturers is contractually obligated to introduce or promote consumer devices incorporating our technology, nor are any of them contractually required to achieve any specific production schedule. Moreover, our agreements with consumer device manufacturers are generally not exclusive, so consumer device manufacturers with whom we have agreements may enter into similar license agreements with one or more of our competitors. Our failure to convince consumer device manufacturers to incorporate our software platform into their products or modify their products to operate with our software, or the failure of these products to achieve broad acceptance with consumers and businesses, will result in our revenues not growing as quickly as expected, if at all.

A Continued Downturn In Macroeconomic Conditions Could Reduce Sales Of Our Products And Services.

Economic growth in the U.S. and internationally has slowed significantly in the past several months. In addition, there is considerable uncertainty relating to the prospects for near-term U.S. and international economic growth. This slowdown and uncertainty may harm our business by reducing our customers' spending and the rate at which they accept our technology and services. In the future our operations may experience substantial fluctuations from period to period as a consequence of general economic conditions affecting the timing of orders from major customers and other factors affecting capital spending. There can be no assurance that these factors will not harm our business, financial condition, or operating results.

Our Limited Operating History Makes Evaluation Of Our Business Difficult.

We were incorporated in April 1996 and began shipping our initial products to customers in the last quarter of fiscal 1997. Our limited operating history makes evaluation of our business and prospects difficult. In addition, any evaluation of our business and prospects must be made in light of the risks and unexpected expenses and difficulties frequently encountered by companies in an early stage of development in a new market. For us, these risks include:

Edgar Filing: LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES - Form 10-Q

Uncertainty of broad acceptance by consumers and businesses of network services such as interactive television and of information-oriented consumer devices, primarily cable and satellite set-top boxes, as well as game consoles, smart phones, and personal digital assistants;

The limited number of large network operators, such as providers of television services, who have deployed products and services incorporating our technology;

The limited number of consumer device manufacturers, such as set-top box manufacturers, who have incorporated our technology into their products;

Delays in deployment of high-speed networks and of interactive and enhanced services and applications by our network operator customers; and

Our unproven long-term business model, which depends on generating the majority of our revenues from license and royalty fees paid by network operators and consumer device manufacturers.

Many of these risks are described in more detail elsewhere in this "Risk Factors" section. Our business could be seriously harmed by adverse developments in any of these areas.

We Have A History Of Losses And Expect To Incur Losses In The Future.

We incurred a net loss of \$88.2 million for the three months ended August 31, 2000, and \$78.0 million for the three months ended August 31, 2001. Our net loss for the three months ended August 31, 2000 included \$50.3 million of amortization expense for purchased intangibles, \$22.4 million

16

of expense related to write-offs of acquired in-process research and development, and \$6.0 million of amortization expense for warrants. Our net loss for the three months ended August 31, 2001 included \$55.2 million of amortization expense for purchased intangibles, \$7.5 million of expense related to an excess facilities charge and the impairment of certain assets, and \$5.7 million of amortization expense for warrants.

Since our inception, we have not had a profitable quarter and may never achieve or sustain profitability. Although historically our revenues have increased every fiscal year, we may not be able to sustain our historical revenue growth rates. We also expect that our costs of revenues and operating expenses will continue to increase. If we are to achieve profitability given our planned expenditure levels, we will need to generate and sustain substantially increased license and royalty revenues from increased deployments and we may not be able to do so. See "Risk Factors Our Success Depends On A Limited Number Of Network Operators Introducing And Promoting Products And Services Incorporating Our Technology" and "Risk Factors Our Success Depends On Consumer Device Manufacturers Introducing And Promoting Products That Incorporate Or Operate With Our Technology." From the beginning of fiscal 1997 through August 31, 2001, 54% of our revenues have been derived from services provided by us and not from license and royalty fees, as our customers have primarily been in the design and implementation phases with our products. We are likely to incur significant losses and negative cash flows in the near future.

17

Our Quarterly Revenues And Operating Results Could Be Volatile And Difficult To Forecast, And If Our Quarterly Operating Results Are Below The Expectations Of Analysts, The Market Price Of Our Common Stock May Decline.

Our quarterly operating results are likely to vary from quarter to quarter. In the short term, we expect our quarterly revenues to depend significantly on a small number of relatively large orders for our products and services. As a result, our quarterly operating results may fluctuate if we are unable to complete one or more substantial sales on the schedule we anticipated. In some cases, we recognize revenues from services on a percentage-of-completion basis. Our ability to recognize these revenues may be delayed if we are unable to meet service milestones on a timely basis. In the longer term, we expect to recognize an increasing percentage of revenues based on our receipt of royalty reports. Delays in network operators' deployment schedules or our receipt of royalty reports could adversely affect our revenues for any given quarter. Because our expenses are relatively fixed in the near term, any shortfall from anticipated revenues could result in greater short-term losses.

Edgar Filing: LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES - Form 10-Q

We have found it difficult to forecast the timing and amount of specific sales because our sales process is complex and our sales cycle is long. The purchase of our products and services involves a significant commitment of capital and other resources by a customer. In many cases, our customers' decision to use our products and services requires them to change their established business practices and conduct their business in new ways. As a result, we may need to educate our potential customers on the use and benefits of our products and services. In addition, our customers generally must consider a wide range of other issues before committing to purchase and incorporate our technology into their offerings. As a result of these and other factors, including the approval at a number of levels of management within a customer's organization, our sales cycle averages from six to twelve months and may sometimes be significantly longer.

We base our quarterly revenue projections, in part, upon our expectation that specific sales will occur in a particular quarter. In the past, our sales have occurred in quarters other than those anticipated by us. If our expectations, and thus our revenue projections, are not accurate for a particular quarter, our actual operating results for that quarter could fall below the expectations of financial analysts and investors, resulting in a potential decline in our stock price.

Although we have limited historical financial data, in the past we have experienced seasonal decreases in our rate of revenue growth in our quarter ending August 31. These seasonal trends may continue to affect our quarter-to-quarter revenues.

We Have Relied And Expect To Continue To Rely On A Limited Number Of Customers For A Significant Portion Of Our Revenues.

We currently derive, and expect to continue to derive, a significant portion of our revenues from a limited number of customers. For the three months ended August 31, 2000, our four largest customers accounted for 51% of our total revenues, with NTL, America Online, and Telewest each accounting for more than 10% of total revenues. For the three months ended August 31, 2001, our three largest customers accounted for 52% of our total revenues, with NTL and Telewest each accounting for more than 10% of total revenues. We expect that we will continue to depend upon a limited number of customers for a significant portion of our revenues in future periods, although the specific customers may vary from period to period. As a result, if we fail to successfully sell our products and services to one or more customers in any particular period, or a large customer purchases fewer of our products or services, defers or cancels orders, or terminates its relationship with us, our revenues could decline significantly.

18

International Revenues Account For A Significant Portion Of Our Revenues; Accordingly, If We Are Unable To Expand Or Hedge Our International Operations In A Timely Manner, Our Financial Results Will Be Harmed.

International revenues accounted for 58% and 62% of our total revenues for the three months ended August 31, 2000 and 2001, respectively. Revenues by region are as follows (in thousands):

	Three months ended August 31,	
	2000	2001
Europe	\$ 3,655	\$ 8,784
North America	4,412	7,596
Asia	1,337	1,710
Consolidated	\$ 9,404	\$ 18,090

International revenues consist of sales to customers outside the United States and are assigned to specific countries based on the origin of the sales contract. For the three months ended August 31, 2000 and 2001, North American revenues included United-States-based revenues of \$4.0 million and \$6.9 million, respectively. In addition, for the three months ended August 31, 2000 and 2001, European revenues included United-Kingdom-based revenues of \$3.3 million and \$8.1 million, respectively.

We expect to derive a significant portion of our revenues for the foreseeable future from sources outside the United States, especially as we increase our sales and marketing activities with respect to international licenses. Accordingly, our success will depend, in part, upon international economic conditions and our ability to manage international sales and marketing operations. To successfully expand international sales, we must establish additional foreign operations, hire additional personnel, and increase our foreign direct and indirect sales forces. This expansion will require significant management attention and resources, which could divert attention from other aspects of our business. Failing to expand our international operations in a timely manner would limit the growth of our international revenues. See Note 2 of Notes to

Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Moreover, substantially all of our revenues and costs to date have been denominated in U.S. dollars. However, expanded international operations are likely to result in increased foreign currency payables. Although we may from time to time undertake foreign exchange hedging transactions to cover a portion of our foreign currency transaction exposure, we do not currently do so. Accordingly, any fluctuation in the value of foreign currency could seriously harm our international revenues.

Competition From Bigger, Better Capitalized Competitors Could Result In Price Reductions, Reduced Gross Margins, And Loss Of Market Share.

We face intense competition in licensing software for networks and consumer devices. Our principal competitors in the client software market include Microsoft, OpenTV, Canal + Technologies, and PowerTV (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Scientific Atlanta). Our primary competitor in the server market is Microsoft. We expect additional competition from other established and emerging companies in the television, computing, software, and telecommunications sectors and from stronger competitors created by the current consolidation in our industry. Increased competition could result in price reductions, fewer customer orders, reduced gross margins, longer sales cycles, reduced revenues, and loss of market share.

Several of our existing and potential competitors have one or more of the following advantages: longer operating histories, larger customer bases, greater name recognition, more patents relating to important technologies, and significantly greater financial, technical, sales and marketing, and other resources. This may place us at a disadvantage in responding to their pricing strategies, technological

advances, advertising campaigns, strategic partnerships, and other initiatives. Our competitors may be able to respond more quickly to new or emerging technologies and changes in customer requirements, or to devote greater resources to the development, marketing, promotion, and sale of their technologies than we can. In addition, many of our competitors have well-established relationships with our current and potential customers. Some of our competitors, particularly Microsoft, have made and may continue to make large strategic investments in our current and potential customers. Such investments may allow our competitors to strengthen existing relationships or quickly establish new relationships with our current or potential customers.

Our Products May Contain Errors Or Be Unable To Support And Manage A Potentially Unlimited Number Of Users.

Software development is an inherently complex and subjective process, which frequently results in products that contain errors, as well as defective or non-competitive features or functions. Moreover, our technology is integrated into the products and services of our network operator customers. Accordingly, a defect, error, or performance problem with our technology could cause our customers' cable and satellite television or other telecommunications systems to fail for a period of time. Any such failure could cause severe customer service and public relations problems for our customers and could result in delayed or lost revenue due to adverse customer reaction, negative publicity, and damage claims.

Despite frequent testing of our software's scalability in a laboratory environment and in customer deployments, the ability of our software platform to support and manage a potentially unlimited number of users is uncertain. If our software platform does not efficiently scale in this way while maintaining a high level of performance, demand for our products and services and our ability to sell additional products to our existing customers will be significantly reduced.

Our Success Depends On Our Ability To Keep Pace With The Latest Technological Changes, And Any Delays Or Failure In Developing And Introducing New Software Products Could Result In A Loss Of Market Share Or Render Our Technology Obsolete.

The market for consumer device and network operations software is characterized by evolving industry and governmental standards, rapid technological change, and frequent new product introductions and enhancements. Accordingly, our success will depend in large part upon our ability to adhere to and adapt our products to evolving communications protocols and standards. Therefore, we will need to develop and introduce new products that meet changing customer requirements and emerging industry and governmental standards on a timely and cost-effective basis. We have encountered, in the past, and may encounter in the future, delays in completing the development and introduction of new software products. Any delays or failure in developing or introducing new products that meet consumer requirements, technological requirements, or industry or governmental standards could result in a loss of customers and render our products and services obsolete or non-competitive.

As We Exhaust Sales Opportunities In Our Existing Markets, We May Be Unable To Identify And Take Advantage Of New Business Opportunities.

Our unproven, long-term business model depends on generating the majority of our revenues from license and royalty fees paid by network operators and consumer device manufacturers. If we are unable to identify and take advantage of new business opportunities, we may not be able to maintain our historical rates of revenue growth.

We hope to increase our potential revenues by expanding our sales efforts to reach customers we have not traditionally targeted. So far, we have primarily targeted sales to large network operators and manufacturers of set-top boxes. However, worldwide, there are only a limited number of large network

operators and, in the United States, only a few manufacturers of set-top boxes. In the future, we hope to expand our sales efforts to reach a wider variety of customers, including producers, vendors, and aggregators of content; service providers; and manufacturers of other types of consumer devices, such as game consoles, smart phones, and personal digital assistants. We may not succeed in customizing our software to meet the unique needs of those devices. We do not have experience making these kinds of sales and may not be successful. We may choose to expand our indirect distribution to reach these new customers, but may be unable to attract indirect channel partners able to effectively market and sell our products and services. Gaining direct sales experience and expanding our indirect distribution would require significant company resources and management attention, which could harm our business if our efforts do not generate significant revenues.

We also hope to increase our potential revenues by creating more extensions to our software platform. However, we may not be successful in developing or selling those extensions, and may incur significant development costs not offset by new revenues. See also "Risk Factors Our Success Depends On Our Ability To Keep Pace With The Latest Technological Changes, And Any Delays Or Failure In Developing And Introducing New Software Products Could Result In A Loss Of Market Share Or Render Our Technology Obsolete."

We May Have To Cease Or Delay Product Shipments If We Are Unable To Obtain Key Technology From Third Parties.

We rely on technology licensed from third parties, including applications that are integrated with internally developed software and used in our products. Most notably, we license certain technologies from BitStream, Macromedia, RealNetworks, RSA, and Sun Microsystems. These third-party technology licenses may not continue to be available to us on commercially reasonable terms, or at all, and we may not be able to obtain licenses for other existing or future technologies that we desire to integrate into our products. If we cannot maintain existing third-party technology licenses or enter into licenses for other existing or future technologies needed for our products, we may be required to cease or delay product shipments while we seek to develop or license alternative technologies.

We May Be Subject To Third-Party Intellectual Property Infringement Claims That Could Be Costly And Time-Consuming To Defend, And We Do Not Have Insurance To Protect Against These Claims.

We expect that, like other software product developers, we will increasingly be subject to infringement claims as the number of products and competitors developing consumer device software grows, software patents become more common, and the functionality of products in different industry segments overlaps. From time to time, we hire or retain employees or external consultants who have worked for independent software vendors or other companies developing products similar to ours. These prior employers may claim that our products are based on their products and that we have misappropriated their intellectual property.

Several other companies involved in the interactive television market have large patent portfolios that they have aggressively sought to enforce. While we do not believe we currently infringe such patents, and believe that we have valuable patents that we could seek to enforce in event of litigation, claims of infringement are always possible, and success in litigation or other successful resolution of claims is by no means assured.

We currently do not have liability insurance to protect against the risk that our own technology or licensed third-party technology infringes the intellectual property of others. Claims relating to our intellectual property, regardless of their merit, could seriously harm our ability to develop and market our products and manage our day-to-day operations because they could be time-consuming and costly to defend, divert management's attention and resources, cause product shipment delays, require us to redesign our products, and require us to enter into royalty or licensing agreements.

Our Limited Ability To Protect Our Intellectual Property And Proprietary Rights May Harm Our Competitiveness.

Our ability to compete and continue to provide technological innovation depends substantially upon internally developed technology. We rely primarily on a combination of patents, trademark laws, copyright laws, trade secrets, confidentiality procedures, and contractual provisions to protect our proprietary technology. While we have a number of patent applications pending, patents may not issue from these or any future applications. In addition, our existing and future patents may not survive a legal challenge to their validity or provide significant protection for us.

The steps we have taken to protect our proprietary rights may not be adequate to prevent misappropriation of our proprietary information. Further, we may not be able to detect unauthorized use of, or take appropriate steps to enforce, our intellectual property rights. Our competitors may also independently develop similar technology. In addition, the laws of many countries do not protect our proprietary rights to as great an extent as do the laws of the United States. Any failure by us to meaningfully protect our intellectual property could result in competitors offering products that incorporate our most technologically advanced features, which could seriously reduce demand for our products and services.

Oracle Holds A Substantial Portion Of Our Stock And Could Cause Our Stock Price To Decline With Large Sales Of Our Stock.

As of August 31, 2001, Oracle beneficially owned 33,399,843 shares, 32% of our outstanding common stock, based on 105,266,289 shares outstanding. These shares are held by two co-trustees for the benefit of Delphi Asset Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of Oracle, subject to the terms of a trust agreement that is intended to be irrevocable and will be effective for as long as any shares of our stock are held by Delphi Asset Management (or by the co-trustees for its benefit). The trust agreement specifies that these shares will be voted in proportion to all other voted shares of Liberate. Under a standstill agreement, Delphi Asset Management has agreed not to acquire any more of our common stock; not to sell, transfer, or encumber the shares of our common stock beneficially owned by it, except in certain limited ways; and not to seek to control or influence the management or business of Liberate. If Oracle were to sell large amounts of their holdings, our stock price could decline and we could find it difficult to raise capital through the sale of additional equity securities.

In Order To Remain Competitive In Our Market, We May Need To Make Acquisitions That Could Be Difficult To Integrate, Disrupt Our Business, And Dilute Stockholder Value.

We may acquire other businesses in the future in order to remain competitive or to acquire new technologies. As a result of future acquisitions, we may need to integrate product lines, technologies, personnel, customers, widely dispersed operations, and distinct corporate cultures. These integration efforts may not succeed or may distract our management from operating our existing business. Our failure to successfully manage future acquisitions could seriously harm our operating results. In addition, our stockholders would be diluted if we were to finance acquisitions by incurring convertible debt or issuing equity securities.

We May Not Be Successful In Making Strategic Investments.

In fiscal 2001, we established the Liberate Corporate Venture Fund to make strategic investments in other companies. In most instances, we make investments in return for equity securities of private companies, for which there is no public market. These companies may be expected to incur substantial losses and may never become profitable, publicly traded companies. If no active trading market develops for these securities, or these securities are not attractive to other investors, we may never realize any return on these investments. During fiscal 2001, we wrote down these investments by \$5.3 million, as their fair market value had been permanently impaired. If these companies are not successful, we could incur additional future charges related to write-downs or write-offs of these types of assets. Losses or charges resulting from these investments could harm our operating results.

Failure To Manage Our Growth May Seriously Harm Our Ability To Deliver Products In A Timely Manner, Fulfill Existing Customer Commitments, And Attract And Retain New Customers.

Our rapid growth has placed, and is expected to continue to place, a significant strain on our managerial, operational, and financial resources, especially as more network operators and consumer device manufacturers incorporate our software into their products and services. This potential for rapid

growth is particularly significant in light of the large customer bases of network operators and consumer device manufacturers and the frequent need to tailor our products and services to our customers' unique needs. To the extent we add several customers simultaneously or add customers whose product needs require extensive customization, we may need to significantly expand our operations. Moreover, we expect to expand our domestic and international operations significantly by, among other things, expanding the number of employees in consulting and engineering

services, research and development, and sales and marketing.

Our future success will depend, in part, upon the ability of our senior management to manage growth effectively. This will require us to implement additional management information systems; to further develop our operating, administrative, financial, and accounting systems and controls; to hire additional personnel; to develop additional levels of management; to locate additional office space in the United States and abroad; and to maintain close coordination among our research and development, sales and marketing, services and support, and administrative organizations. Failure to meet any of these requirements would seriously harm our ability to deliver products in a timely fashion, fulfill existing customer commitments, and attract and retain new customers.

The Loss Of Any Of Our Key Personnel Would Harm Our Competitiveness.

We believe that our success will depend on the continued employment of our senior management team and key technical personnel. If members of our senior management team or key technical personnel are unable or unwilling to continue in their present positions, they could be difficult to replace, which could harm our ability to manage day-to-day operations, develop and deliver new technologies, attract and retain customers, attract and retain other employees, and generate revenues.

We May Incur Net Losses Or Increased Net Losses If We Are Required To Record A Significant Accounting Expense Related To The Issuance Of Warrants.

In fiscal 1999, we entered into letter agreements with several network operators whereby we agreed to issue warrants to purchase up to 4,599,992 shares of our common stock that can be earned and exercised if those network operators satisfy certain milestones within specific time frames. The fair market value of those warrants is estimated using the Black-Scholes pricing model as of the earlier of the grant date or the date that it becomes probable that they will be earned. Pursuant to the requirements of Emerging Issues Task Force No. 96-18, those warrants will continue to be revalued in situations where they are granted prior to the completion of a performance commitment.

As of August 31, 2001, several network operators had earned warrants to purchase up to a total of 2,336,660 shares of our common stock. Of those warrants earned, warrants to purchase 552,774 shares had been exercised, and warrants to purchase 163,890 shares had been retired to cover the purchase price of those exercises. Warrants to purchase 2,163,332 shares of our common stock are available to be earned in the future, and 100,000 warrants have expired.

The fair market value of those warrants at the time they were earned, based on the Black-Scholes valuation model, was \$117.2 million. As of August 31, 2001, accumulated amortization for those warrants was \$39.7 million. If the remaining warrants are earned, we may be required to record additional significant non-cash accounting expenses. As a result, we could incur net losses or increased net losses for a given period and this could seriously harm our operating results and result in a decline of our stock price.

We May Incur Net Losses Or Increased Net Losses If We Are Required To Record Additional Significant Accounting Charges Related To Excess Facilities That We Are Unable to Sublease.

We have existing commitments to lease office space at our headquarters in San Carlos, California in excess of our needs for the foreseeable future. The commercial real estate market in the San

Francisco Bay Area has developed such a large excess inventory of office space that we now believe we will be unable to sublease a substantial portion of our excess office space in the near future. Accordingly, during the three months ended August 31, 2001, we recorded a charge of \$7.5 million, representing an excess facilities charge of \$7.0 million and \$503,000 in related charges. The excess facilities charge represents the remaining lease commitments for vacant facilities, net of expected sublease income. If current market conditions for the commercial real estate market worsen, we may be required to record additional charges.

New Or Changed Government Regulation Could Significantly Reduce Demand For Our Products And Services.

We are subject not only to regulations applicable to businesses generally, but also to laws and regulations directly applicable to the Internet, cable and satellite television networks, and other telecommunications content and services. Although there are currently few such laws and regulations, state, federal, and foreign governments may adopt laws and regulations that adversely affect us or our markets in any of the following areas: user privacy, copyrights, consumer protection, taxation of e-commerce, the online distribution of content, and the characteristics and quality of online products and services. In particular, government laws or regulations restricting or burdening the exchange of personally identifiable information could delay the implementation of interactive services or create liability for us or other manufacturers of software that facilitates information exchange. Also, if we have to re-design our products to comply with new or changed government laws or regulations, we

Edgar Filing: LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES - Form 10-Q

could face additional expense and delay in delivering our products to our customers. See "Risk Factors Our Success Depends On Our Ability To Keep Pace With The Latest Technological Changes, And Any Delays Or Failure In Developing And Introducing New Software Could Result In A Loss Of Market Share Or Render Our Technology Obsolete."

Moreover, the market for television, and particularly cable and satellite television, is extensively regulated by a large number of national, state, and local government agencies. New or altered laws or regulations regarding interactive television that change its competitive landscape, limit its market, or affect its pricing could seriously harm our business prospects.

We Expect Our Operations To Continue To Produce Negative Cash Flow In The Near Term; Consequently, If We Should Need Additional Capital And Could Not Raise It, We May Not Be Able To Fund Our Continued Operations.

Since our inception, cash used in our operations has substantially exceeded cash received from our operations and we expect this trend to continue for the near future. We believe that our existing cash balances will be sufficient to meet our working capital and capital expenditure needs for at least the next 12 months. At some point in the future, we may need to raise additional funds and we cannot be certain that we will be able to obtain additional financing on favorable terms, or at all. If we need additional capital and cannot raise it on acceptable terms, we may not be able to develop our products and services, acquire complementary technologies or businesses, open new offices, hire and retain employees, or respond to competitive pressures or new business requirements.

Provisions Of Our Corporate Documents And Delaware Law Could Deter Takeovers And Prevent Stockholders From Receiving A Premium For Their Shares.

Certain provisions of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws may discourage, delay, or prevent a change in control of our company that a stockholder may consider favorable. These include provisions that:

Authorize the issuance of "blank check" preferred stock to increase the number of outstanding shares and thwart a takeover attempt;

25

Require super-majority voting to make certain amendments to our certificate of incorporation and bylaws;

Limit who may call special meetings of stockholders;

Prohibit stockholder action by written consent, which requires all actions to be taken at a meeting of the stockholders; and

Establish advance notice requirements for nominations of candidates for election to the Board of Directors or for proposing matters that can be acted upon by stockholders at stockholder meetings.

In addition, Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law and provisions in our stock incentive plans may discourage, delay, or prevent a change in control of our company.

We Have Been Named In Securities Class-Action Litigation And May Be Named In Additional Litigation.

Beginning May 16, 2001, seven class-action lawsuits seeking monetary damages were filed in the Southern District of New York against several of the firms that underwrote our initial public offering, naming Liberate, our CEO Mitchell Kertzman, and our CFO Nancy Hilker as co-defendants (the "Liberate Defendants"). The plaintiffs allege that the underwriters received excessive and improper commissions that were not disclosed in our prospectus. These cases have now been consolidated with several hundred other cases against underwriters and other issuers. We will be seeking to have the claims against the Liberate Defendants dismissed, and, while litigation is by its nature uncertain, we do not believe that the cases create any material exposure for Liberate.

More generally, securities class-action litigation has often been brought against a company following periods of volatility in the market price of its securities. This risk is especially acute for us because technology companies have experienced greater-than-average stock price volatility in recent years and, as a result, have been subject to, on average, a greater number of securities class action claims than companies in other

industries. Due to the volatility of our stock price, we may in the future be the target of this kind of litigation. Securities litigation could result in substantial costs and divert management's attention and resources.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ABOUT MARKET RISK

INTEREST RATE RISK

As of August 31, 2001, our investment portfolio includes \$345.4 million of U.S. government obligations, commercial paper, and other corporate securities, that may increase or decrease in value if interest rates change prior to maturity. We do not use derivative financial instruments in our investment portfolio. We place our investments only with quality issuers who have earned high credit ratings, and by policy, limit the amount of credit exposure to any one issuer. We are averse to principal loss and seek to preserve our invested funds by limiting the fault risk, market risk, and reinvestment risk. We currently maintain sufficient cash and cash equivalent balances to typically hold our investments to maturity. An immediate 10% change in interest rates would be immaterial to our financial condition or results of operations.

FOREIGN CURRENCY/EXCHANGE RATE RISK

We transact business in various foreign currencies and, accordingly, are subject to adverse movements in foreign currency exchange rates. To date, the effect of changes in foreign currency exchange rates on revenues and operating expenses has not been material, as the majority of our revenues are earned in U.S. dollars. Operating expenses incurred by our foreign subsidiaries are denominated primarily in European currencies. We do not currently use financial instruments to hedge these operating expenses, but we continue to assess the need to use financial instruments to hedge currency exposures.

26

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Beginning May 16, 2001, seven class-action lawsuits seeking monetary damages were filed in the Southern District of New York against several of the firms that underwrote our initial public offering ("IPO"), naming Liberate, our CEO Mitchell Kertzman, and our CFO Nancy Hilker as co-defendants (the "Liberate Defendants"). The plaintiffs allege that the underwriters received excessive and improper commissions that were not disclosed in our prospectus. These cases have now been consolidated with several hundred other cases against underwriters and other issuers. We will be seeking to have the claims against the Liberate Defendants dismissed, and, while litigation is by its nature uncertain, we do not believe that the cases create any material exposure for Liberate.

ITEM 2. CHANGES IN SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

(d) Use of Proceeds

On July 27, 1999, the Securities and Exchange Commission declared effective our Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-78781) for our IPO. In the IPO, we sold an aggregate of 13,402,100 shares of our common stock (including 902,100 shares in connection with the exercise of the underwriters' overallotment), at \$8.00 per share (all share numbers and the share price are split-adjusted). The IPO generated gross proceeds of \$107.2 million for us. Our net proceeds were \$97.8 million, after deducting \$9.4 million in underwriters' discounts and other related costs of the IPO.

On February 17, 2000 (following our stock split), we commenced a secondary stock offering, or Secondary Offering, pursuant to a Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-95139). In the Secondary Offering, we sold 2,890,000 shares of our common stock at \$108.00 per share, for gross proceeds of \$312.1 million. Net proceeds from this transaction, after underwriters' discounts and other related costs of \$14.9 million, were \$297.2 million.

For the IPO, both Credit Suisse First Boston and Hambrecht & Quist served as managing underwriters. For the Secondary Offering, Credit Suisse First Boston served as the managing underwriter. For both offerings, we directly paid the underwriters (none of whom was affiliated with us, our directors, or our officers) for their underwriting expenses.

Edgar Filing: LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES - Form 10-Q

Our IPO concluded on August 2, 1999 and our Secondary Offering concluded on February 24, 2000. In each case, all securities registered were sold.

We intend to continue to use the net proceeds of our IPO and Secondary Offering for general corporate purposes, such as funding our operating losses, working capital needs, expenditures for research and development, and sales and marketing efforts. In addition, we may use a portion of the net proceeds to fund acquisitions or investments in complementary businesses, technologies, or products. Pending any of these uses, we will continue to hold the net proceeds in cash, cash equivalents, or short-term investments.

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

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

None.

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

27

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K

(a) Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Exhibit
4.2	Standstill Agreement between Liberate, Delphi Asset Management Corporation, US Trust Company of Delaware, and United State Trust Company of New York, entered into as of January 23, 2001.

(b) Reports on Form 8-K

None.

28

Signature

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 undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Liberate Technologies

Date: October 10, 2001 by:

/s/ Nancy J. Hilker

Nancy J. Hilker,
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
(duly authorized officer and principal financial officer)

QuickLinks

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (In thousands) Unaudited

LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS (In thousands, except per share data) Unaudited

LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (In thousands) Unaudited

LIBERATE TECHNOLOGIES NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Unaudited

ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ABOUT MARKET RISK

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

ITEM 2. CHANGES IN SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

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

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K

Signature