

MICROSTRATEGY INC  
Form 10-Q  
November 02, 2012  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-Q**

(Mark One)

☒ **QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the Quarterly Period Ended September 30, 2012

**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 000-24435

**MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**51-0323571**

(I.R.S. Employer

Identification Number)

**1850 Towers Crescent Plaza, Tysons Corner, VA**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**22182**

(Zip Code)

**(703) 848-8600**

(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 ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes ☒ No ☐

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

Large accelerated filer ☒

Accelerated filer ☐

Non-accelerated filer ☐ (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes ☐ No ☒

The number of shares of the registrant's class A common stock and class B common stock outstanding on October 23, 2012 was 8,997,853 and 2,227,327, respectively.

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**Table of Contents****PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements****MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****(in thousands, except per share data)**

|  | September 30,<br>2012<br>(unaudited) | December 31,<br>2011 |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>  |                                      |                      |
| Current assets:  |                                      |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents  | \$ 216,609                           | \$ 199,634           |
| Restricted cash and short-term investments   | 228                                  | 289                  |
| Accounts receivable, net   | 75,474                               | 94,723               |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets  | 16,601                               | 17,043               |
| Deferred tax assets, net   | 26,585                               | 31,516               |
| Total current assets   | 335,497                              | 343,205              |
| Property and equipment, net  | 101,675                              | 95,311               |
| Capitalized software development costs, net  | 11,713                               | 7,031                |
| Deposits and other assets  | 4,807                                | 5,306                |
| Deferred tax assets, net   | 2,248                                | 2,998                |
| <b>Total assets</b>  | <b>\$ 455,940</b>                    | <b>\$ 453,851</b>    |
| <b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>  |                                      |                      |
| Current liabilities:   |                                      |                      |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses  | \$ 40,044                            | \$ 46,401            |
| Accrued compensation and employee benefits   | 62,368                               | 68,308               |
| Deferred revenue and advance payments  | 102,383                              | 103,199              |
| Deferred tax liabilities   | 340                                  | 485                  |
| Total current liabilities  | 205,135                              | 218,393              |
| Deferred revenue and advance payments  | 9,676                                | 10,841               |
| Other long-term liabilities  | 44,400                               | 45,141               |
| Deferred tax liabilities   | 6,312                                | 10,498               |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>   | <b>265,523</b>                       | <b>284,873</b>       |
| <b>Commitments and Contingencies</b>   |                                      |                      |
| <b>Stockholders' Equity</b>  |                                      |                      |
| Preferred stock undesignated, \$0.001 par value; 5,000 shares authorized; no shares issued or outstanding  | 0                                    | 0                    |
| Class A common stock, \$0.001 par value; 330,000 shares authorized; 15,403 shares issued and 8,998 shares outstanding, and 14,810 shares issued and 8,405 shares outstanding, respectively | 15                                   | 15                   |
| Class B convertible common stock, \$0.001 par value; 165,000 shares authorized; 2,227 shares issued and outstanding, and 2,378 shares issued and outstanding, respectively                 | 2                                    | 2                    |
| Additional paid-in capital   | 466,793                              | 457,837              |

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|   |                   |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Treasury stock, at cost; 6,405 shares             | (475,184)         | (475,184)         |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss              | (1,875)           | (2,052)           |
| Retained earnings                                 | 200,666           | 188,360           |
| <b>Total Stockholders' Equity</b>                 | <b>190,417</b>    | <b>168,978</b>    |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b> | <b>\$ 455,940</b> | <b>\$ 453,851</b> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.

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**MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**

(in thousands, except per share data)

|  | <b>Three Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |             |
|--|---|-------------|
|  | <b>2012</b>                                 | <b>2011</b> |
|  | (unaudited)                                 | (unaudited) |
| <b>Revenues:</b>   |   |             |
| Product licenses   | \$ 31,736                                   | \$ 39,262   |
| Product support and other services   | 111,494                                     | 102,442     |
| <b>Total revenues</b>  | 143,230                                     | 141,704     |
| <b>Cost of revenues:</b>   |   |             |
| Product licenses   | 1,059                                       | 2,284       |
| Product support and other services   | 36,426                                      | 34,380      |
| <b>Total cost of revenues</b>  | 37,485                                      | 36,664      |
| <b>Gross profit</b>  | 105,745                                     | 105,040     |
| <b>Operating expenses:</b>   |   |             |
| Sales and marketing  | 52,069                                      | 61,451      |
| Research and development   | 23,465                                      | 20,434      |
| General and administrative   | 23,498                                      | 21,618      |
| <b>Total operating expenses</b>  | 99,032                                      | 103,503     |
| <b>Income from operations before financing and other income and income taxes</b> | 6,713                                       | 1,537       |
| <b>Financing and other (expense) income:</b>                                     |   |             |
| Interest income, net   | 41  | 18          |
| Gain on sale of investment   | 0   | 3,371       |
| Other (expense) income, net  | (113)                                       | 969         |
| <b>Total financing and other (expense) income</b>                                | (72)  | 4,358       |
| <b>Income from operations before income taxes</b>                                | 6,641                                       | 5,895       |
| Provision for income taxes   | 1,878                                       | 974         |
| <b>Net income</b>  | \$ 4,763                                    | \$ 4,921    |
| <b>Basic earnings per share (1)</b>  | \$ 0.43                                     | \$ 0.46     |
| Weighted average shares outstanding used in computing basic earnings per share   | 11,050                                      | 10,729      |

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|  |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|
| <b>Diluted earnings per share (1)</b>  | \$ 0.43 | \$ 0.44 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding used in computing diluted earnings per share | 11,197  | 11,072  |

- (1) Basic and fully diluted earnings per share for class A and class B common stock are the same.  
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.

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**MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**

(in thousands, except per share data)

|  | Nine Months Ended<br>September 30, |                     |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------|
|  | 2012<br>(unaudited)                | 2011<br>(unaudited) |
| <b>Revenues:</b>   |                                    |                     |
| Product licenses   | \$ 101,079                         | \$ 100,072          |
| Product support and other services   | 329,074                            | 301,812             |
| <b>Total revenues</b>  | 430,153                            | 401,884             |
| <b>Cost of revenues:</b>   |                                    |                     |
| Product licenses   | 4,187                              | 6,514               |
| Product support and other services   | 108,923                            | 97,854              |
| <b>Total cost of revenues</b>  | 113,110                            | 104,368             |
| <b>Gross profit</b>  | 317,043                            | 297,516             |
| <b>Operating expenses:</b>   |                                    |                     |
| Sales and marketing  | 160,615                            | 173,904             |
| Research and development   | 67,857                             | 50,306              |
| General and administrative   | 71,911                             | 67,218              |
| <b>Total operating expenses</b>  | 300,383                            | 291,428             |
| <b>Income from operations before financing and other income and income taxes</b> | 16,660                             | 6,088               |
| <b>Financing and other income:</b>   |                                    |                     |
| Interest income, net   | 91                                 | 139                 |
| Gain on sale of investment   | 0                                  | 3,371               |
| Other income, net  | 738                                | 22                  |
| <b>Total financing and other income</b>  | 829                                | 3,532               |
| <b>Income from operations before income taxes</b>                                | 17,489                             | 9,620               |
| Provision for income taxes   | 5,183                              | 680                 |
| <b>Net income</b>  | \$ 12,306                          | \$ 8,940            |
| <b>Basic earnings per share (1)</b>  | \$ 1.13                            | \$ 0.84             |
| Weighted average shares outstanding used in computing basic earnings per share   | 10,911                             | 10,703              |



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|  |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|
| <b>Diluted earnings per share (1)</b>  | \$ 1.10 | \$ 0.81 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding used in computing diluted earnings per share | 11,137  | 11,061  |

- (1) Basic and fully diluted earnings per share for class A and class B common stock are the same.  
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.

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**MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

(in thousands)

|   | <b>Three Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |                 |
|---|---|-----------------|
|   | <b>2012</b>                                 | <b>2011</b>     |
|   | (unaudited)                                 | (unaudited)     |
| <b>Net income</b>   | \$ 4,763                                    | \$ 4,921        |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of applicable taxes: |   |                 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment                     | 404   | (118)           |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on short-term investments            | 2   | (9)             |
| <b>Total other comprehensive income (loss)</b>              | <b>406</b>                                  | <b>(127)</b>    |
| <b>Comprehensive income</b>                                 | <b>\$ 5,169</b>                             | <b>\$ 4,794</b> |

  

|   | <b>Nine Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |                 |
|---|--|-----------------|
|   | <b>2012</b>                                | <b>2011</b>     |
|   | (unaudited)                                | (unaudited)     |
| <b>Net income</b>   | \$ 12,306                                  | \$ 8,940        |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of applicable taxes: |  |                 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment                     | 180  | (218)           |
| Unrealized loss on short-term investments                   | (3)  | (11)            |
| <b>Total other comprehensive income (loss)</b>              | <b>177</b>                                 | <b>(229)</b>    |
| <b>Comprehensive income</b>                                 | <b>\$ 12,483</b>                           | <b>\$ 8,711</b> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.

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**MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

(in thousands)

|   | Nine Months Ended<br>September 30, |                   |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|
|   | 2012                               | 2011              |
|   | (unaudited)                        | (unaudited)       |
| <b>Operating activities:</b>  |                                    |                   |
| Net income  | \$ 12,306                          | \$ 8,940          |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:   |                                    |                   |
| Depreciation and amortization   | 17,702                             | 12,905            |
| Bad debt expense  | 4,863                              | 941               |
| Deferred taxes  | 1,275                              | (2,734)           |
| Excess tax benefits from share-based compensation arrangements                      | 0                                  | (3,791)           |
| Gain on sale of investment  | 0                                  | (3,371)           |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities:  |                                    |                   |
| Accounts receivable   | 14,554                             | 4,389             |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets   | (2,314)                            | 4,960             |
| Deposits and other assets   | 544                                | (316)             |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses   | 1,554                              | (762)             |
| Accrued compensation and employee benefits  | (6,048)                            | (5,261)           |
| Deferred revenue and advance payments   | (1,839)                            | 11,411            |
| Other long-term liabilities   | (1,410)                            | 5,065             |
| Net cash provided by operating activities   | 41,187                             | 32,376            |
| <b>Investing activities:</b>  |                                    |                   |
| Proceeds from sale of investment  | 0                                  | 3,371             |
| Purchases of property and equipment   | (28,011)                           | (29,128)          |
| Capitalized software development costs  | (8,148)                            | (5,907)           |
| Insurance proceeds  | 3,206                              | 5,675             |
| Decrease (increase) in restricted cash and investments                              | 74                                 | (161)             |
| Net cash used in investing activities   | (32,879)                           | (26,150)          |
| <b>Financing activities:</b>  |                                    |                   |
| Proceeds from sale of class A common stock under exercise of employee stock options | 8,957                              | 2,207             |
| Excess tax benefits from share-based compensation arrangements                      | 0                                  | 3,791             |
| Payments on capital lease obligations   | (256)                              | 0                 |
| Net cash provided by financing activities   | 8,701                              | 5,998             |
| Effect of foreign exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents                | (34)                               | (21)              |
| <b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>                                    | <b>16,975</b>                      | <b>12,203</b>     |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period</b>                               | <b>199,634</b>                     | <b>174,097</b>    |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of period</b>                                     | <b>\$ 216,609</b>                  | <b>\$ 186,300</b> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.



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**MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(unaudited)

**(1) Basis of Presentation**

Except for the Consolidated Balance Sheet of MicroStrategy Incorporated ( "MicroStrategy" or the "Company" ) as of December 31, 2011, which was derived from audited financial statements, the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements are unaudited. In the opinion of management, all adjustments necessary for a fair statement of such financial position and results of operations have been included. All such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature unless otherwise disclosed. Interim results are not necessarily indicative of results for a full year. Certain amounts in the prior year's Consolidated Financial Statements have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

The Consolidated Financial Statements and notes are presented as required by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ( "SEC" ) and do not contain certain information included in the Company's annual financial statements and notes. These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company's audited financial statements and the notes thereto filed with the SEC in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011. There have been no significant changes in the Company's accounting policies since December 31, 2011.

The accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. The Company is not aware of any subsequent event which would require recognition or disclosure.

**(2) Recent Accounting Standards**

In June 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( "FASB" ) issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05, *Presentation of Comprehensive Income* ( "ASU 2011-05" ). This standard eliminated the option to report other comprehensive income and its components in the statement of changes in equity. Under this standard, an entity can elect to present items of net income and other comprehensive income in one continuous statement referred to as the statement of comprehensive income or in two separate, but consecutive, statements. In December 2011, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-12, *Deferral of the Effective Date for Amendments to the Presentation of Reclassifications of Items Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income in Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05* ( "ASU 2011-12" ). ASU 2011-12 defers the effective date of the requirement in ASU 2011-05 to disclose on the face of the financial statements the effects of reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive income on the components of net income and other comprehensive income. All other requirements of ASU 2011-05 are not affected by ASU 2011-12. The Company adopted ASU 2011-05 and ASU 2011-12 effective December 31, 2011. ASU 2011-05 and ASU 2011-12 did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

**(3) Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

The Company estimates the fair value of financial instruments, which consist of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and short-term investments, accounts receivable, prepaid expenses and other current assets, accounts payable and accrued expenses, and accrued compensation and employee benefits. The Company considers the carrying value of these instruments in the financial statements to approximate fair value due to their short maturities.

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(unaudited)

**(4) Accounts Receivable**

Accounts receivable (in thousands) consisted of the following, as of:

|                                       | <b>September 30,<br/>2012</b> | <b>December 31,<br/>2011</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Billed and billable                   | \$ 141,422                    | \$ 179,179                   |
| Less: unpaid deferred revenue         | (60,304)                      | (78,339)                     |
| Accounts receivable, gross            | 81,118                        | 100,840                      |
| Less: allowance for doubtful accounts | (5,644)                       | (6,117)                      |
| Accounts receivable, net              | \$ 75,474                     | \$ 94,723                    |

The Company offsets its accounts receivable and deferred revenue for any unpaid items included in deferred revenue and advance payments.

The Company maintains an allowance for doubtful accounts which represents its best estimate of probable losses inherent in the accounts receivable balances. The Company evaluates specific accounts when it becomes aware that a customer may not be able to meet its financial obligations due to deterioration of its liquidity or financial viability, credit ratings, or bankruptcy. In addition, the Company periodically adjusts this allowance based upon its review and assessment of the aging of receivables.

**(5) Deferred Revenue and Advance Payments**

Deferred revenue and advance payments (in thousands) from customers consisted of the following, as of:

|   | <b>September 30,<br/>2012</b> | <b>December 31,<br/>2011</b> |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Current:  |                               |                              |
| Deferred product licenses revenue                   | \$ 8,553                      | \$ 14,876                    |
| Deferred product support revenue                    | 133,165                       | 143,165                      |
| Deferred other services revenue                     | 16,937                        | 20,397                       |
| Gross current deferred revenue and advance payments | 158,655                       | 178,438                      |
| Less: unpaid deferred revenue                       | (56,272)                      | (75,239)                     |
| Net current deferred revenue and advance payments   | \$ 102,383                    | \$ 103,199                   |
| Non-current:  |                               |                              |
| Deferred product licenses revenue                   | \$ 2,852                      | \$ 3,528                     |
| Deferred product support revenue                    | 7,265                         | 9,453                        |
| Deferred other services revenue                     | 3,591                         | 960                          |

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|   |          |           |
|---|----------|-----------|
| Gross non-current deferred revenue and advance payments | 13,708   | 13,941    |
| Less: unpaid deferred revenue                           | (4,032)  | (3,100)   |
| Net non-current deferred revenue and advance payments   | \$ 9,676 | \$ 10,841 |

The Company offsets its accounts receivable and deferred revenue for any unpaid items included in deferred revenue and advance payments.

### (6) Cost Method Investment

In 2000, in exchange for licenses to MicroStrategy software, the Company acquired approximately 1.7 million shares of common stock of a provider of online software for event management, web surveys, and event marketing (the Investee). The shares represented less than 5% of the total outstanding equity interests of the Investee at the date of the transaction. The Company accounted for this investment under the cost method of accounting and previously recorded a permanent impairment for this investment. In July 2011, the Company sold all of its equity interest in the Investee for approximately \$3.4 million, which the Company recorded as a gain on sale of investment in the Company's operating results for the quarter ended September 30, 2011. Sanju K. Bansal, the Vice Chairman of the

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**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(unaudited)

Board of Directors of the Company and the Company's Executive Vice President, held approximately 10% of the total outstanding equity of the Investee and was also a member of the board of directors of the Investee as of the date of the July 2011 sale transaction.

**(7) Commitments and Contingencies**

***(a) Commitments***

From time to time, the Company enters into certain types of contracts that require it to indemnify parties against third party claims. These contracts are primarily contracts under which the Company has agreed to indemnify customers and partners for third party claims arising from intellectual property infringement. The conditions of these obligations vary and often a maximum obligation is explicitly stated. Because the conditions of these obligations vary and the maximum is not always explicitly stated, the overall maximum amount of the Company's indemnification obligations cannot be reasonably estimated. Historically, the Company has not been obligated to make significant payments for these obligations, and accordingly, has not recorded an indemnification liability on its balance sheets as of September 30, 2012 or December 31, 2011.

The Company leases office space and computer and other equipment under operating lease agreements. It also leases certain computer and other equipment under capital lease agreements. Under these agreements, in addition to base rent, the Company is generally responsible for certain taxes, utilities and maintenance costs, and other fees; and several leases include options for renewal or purchase. The Company leases approximately 190,000 square feet of office space at a location in Northern Virginia that began serving as its corporate headquarters in October 2010. The lease includes tenant incentives and allowances that the Company may use for leasehold improvements. The term of the lease expires in December 2020. At September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, deferred rent of \$23.4 million and \$24.9 million, respectively, is included in other long-term liabilities and \$2.4 million and \$1.8 million, respectively, is included in current accrued expenses.

In July 2011, the Company entered into a lease for a 37.5% fractional interest in a corporate aircraft owned and managed by a fractional interest program operator. The Company terminated the fractional interest lease in September 2012 following the return to service of the Company's owned corporate aircraft in the second quarter of 2012.

***(b) Contingencies***

In 2007, Diagnostic Systems Corp., a subsidiary of Acacia Research Corporation (Acacia Research), filed a complaint for patent infringement against the Company and a number of other unrelated defendants in the United States District Court for the Central District of California, Southern Division. The Company and Acacia Research, Acacia Patent Acquisition LLC, and Acacia Technology Services LLC reached a settlement with respect to the consolidated complaint in December 2009 (the Settlement Agreement). On June 29, 2010, the Company received correspondence from a law firm representing Database Application Solutions LLC (DAS), an affiliate of Acacia Research, alleging that the Company infringes U.S. Patent Number 5,444,842 (the 842 Patent). On August 17, 2010, the Company sued Acacia Research and DAS in the Delaware Court of Chancery alleging, among other things, breach of the Settlement Agreement and breach of representations and warranties made in the Settlement Agreement. In addition, the Company brought a fraudulent inducement claim against Acacia Research relating to the Settlement Agreement. Acacia Research and DAS filed separate motions to dismiss the Company's lawsuit. On December 30, 2010, the court dismissed the Company's breach of contract claim against Acacia Research and DAS, denied Acacia Research's and DAS's motions to dismiss the breach of representation and warranty claim against both Acacia Research and DAS, and permitted the Company to continue to pursue its fraudulent inducement claim against Acacia Research. On October 31, 2011, the Company received correspondence from the law firm representing Acacia Research and DAS containing a purported unilateral release and covenant not to sue the Company on the 842 Patent. On October 31, 2011, Acacia Research and DAS filed a motion for summary judgment alleging, among other things, that their purported unilateral release and covenant not to sue moots the Company's breach of contract and fraudulent inducement claims.



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**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(unaudited)

Acacia Research and DAS also asserted a counterclaim against the Company seeking to recover their legal fees for the Company's alleged breach of the Settlement Agreement. Both parties have filed motions for summary judgment, and arguments on the motions are scheduled for November 8, 2012. Trial is scheduled for February 4, 2013. The outcome of this matter is not presently determinable, and the Company cannot make a reasonable estimate of the possible loss or range of loss with respect to this matter at this time. Accordingly, no estimated liability for this matter has been accrued in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements.

In February 2010, the Company's owned corporate aircraft was damaged when the hangar space that the Company leases at Dulles International Airport to house the aircraft collapsed during snowfall in the Washington, DC area. As of December 31, 2011, the Company recorded an \$8.6 million impairment charge for the estimated loss of property and equipment related to the Company's owned corporate aircraft based on the cost of repairs associated with its efforts to return the aircraft to service. The repair process for the aircraft has been completed and the aircraft was returned to service in May 2012. Based on the final assessments of the damage, the Company recorded an additional impairment charge of \$1.0 million during the six months ended June 30, 2012, for a total loss of \$9.6 million related to the Company's owned corporate aircraft through such date. The Company did not record any additional impairment charge during the three months ended September 30, 2012.

The Company carries insurance that covers both accidental damage to and physical loss of the aircraft. To date, the Company has recorded a \$9.6 million receivable for the insurance recovery for the aircraft damage and \$0.7 million receivable for other costs incurred during the repair process, for a total of \$10.3 million, all of which had been received as of September 30, 2012.

In December 2011, Dataturn, Inc. ( "Dataturn" ) filed a complaint for patent infringement against the Company in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. The complaint alleged that the Company infringes U.S. Patent No. 6,101,502 (the "502 Patent" ), allegedly owned by Dataturn, by making, selling, or offering for sale several of the Company's products and services including MicroStrategy™, MicroStrategy Intelligence Server™, MicroStrategy BI Platform™, Cloud Personal™, and other MicroStrategy applications for creating or using data mining, dashboards, business analytics, data storage and warehousing, and web hosting support. The complaint accused the Company of willful infringement and seeks an unspecified amount of damages, an award of attorneys' fees, and preliminary and permanent injunctive relief. The case has been stayed pending final judgment in a separate action involving the 502 Patent filed by Dataturn in the Southern District of New York, in which MicroStrategy is not a party. The Company has also received indemnification requests from certain of its resellers who were sued by Dataturn in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts in lawsuits alleging infringement of the 502 Patent. The outcome of these matters is not presently determinable, and the Company cannot make a reasonable estimate of the possible loss or range of loss with respect to these matters at this time. Accordingly, no estimated liability for these matters has been accrued in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements.

In December 2011, Vasudevan Software, Inc. ( "Vasudevan" ) filed a complaint for patent infringement against the Company in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. The complaint alleged that the Company's sale of MicroStrategy 9 and other MicroStrategy products infringes four patents allegedly owned by Vasudevan known as U.S. Patent Nos. 6,877,006, 7,167,864, 7,720,861, and 8,082,268, all entitled "Multimedia Inspection Database System for Dynamic Runtime Evaluation." The complaint accused the Company of infringement, inducing others to infringe, and acts of contributory infringement with respect to the patents at issue and seeks a permanent injunction, an unspecified amount of damages, and other relief as may be granted by the court. The Company filed its answer to the Vasudevan complaint and pled inequitable conduct counterclaims in March 2012. Discovery in the case is ongoing. The outcome of this matter is not presently determinable, and the Company cannot make a reasonable estimate of the possible loss or range of loss with respect to this matter at this time. Accordingly, no estimated liability for this matter has been accrued in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements.

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The Company is also involved in various other legal proceedings arising in the normal course of business. Although the outcomes of these other legal proceedings are inherently difficult to predict, management does not expect the resolution of these other legal proceedings to have a material adverse effect on its financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

The Company has contingent liabilities that, in management's judgment, are not probable of assertion. If such unasserted contingent liabilities were to be asserted, or become probable of assertion, the Company may be required to record significant expenses and liabilities in the period in which these liabilities are asserted or become probable of assertion.

**(8) Treasury Stock**

The Board of Directors has authorized the Company's repurchase of up to an aggregate of \$800.0 million of its class A common stock from time to time on the open market through April 29, 2013 (the 2005 Share Repurchase Program), although the program may be suspended or discontinued by the Company at any time. The timing and amount of any shares repurchased will be determined by the Company's management based on its evaluation of market conditions and other factors. The 2005 Share Repurchase Program may be funded using the Company's working capital, as well as proceeds from any credit facilities and other borrowing arrangements which the Company may enter into in the future. During each of the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, the Company did not repurchase any shares of its class A common stock pursuant to the 2005 Share Repurchase Program. As of September 30, 2012, the Company had repurchased an aggregate of 3,826,947 shares of its class A common stock at an average price per share of \$90.23 and an aggregate cost of \$345.3 million pursuant to the 2005 Share Repurchase Program. The average price per share and aggregate cost amounts disclosed above include broker commissions.

**(9) Income Taxes**

The Company and its subsidiaries conduct business in the U.S. and various foreign countries and are subject to taxation in numerous domestic and foreign jurisdictions. As a result of its business activities, the Company files tax returns that are subject to examination by various federal, state and local, and foreign tax authorities. With few exceptions, the Company is no longer subject to U.S. federal, state and local, or foreign income tax examination by tax authorities for years before 2001; however, due to its use of federal and state net operating loss (NOL) and tax credit carryovers in the U.S., U.S. tax authorities may attempt to reduce or fully offset the amount of NOL or tax credit carryovers from tax years ended in 2001 and forward that were used in later tax years. The Company is currently under tax examination in Germany.

As of September 30, 2012, the Company had recorded uncertain income tax positions of \$17.4 million, which are recorded in other long-term liabilities. If recognized, \$16.2 million of these unrecognized tax benefits would impact the effective tax rate. The Company recognizes estimated accrued interest related to unrecognized income tax benefits in the provision for income tax accounts. Penalties relating to income taxes, if incurred, would also be recognized as a component of the Company's provision for income taxes. Over the next 12 months, the amount of the Company's liability for unrecognized tax benefits is expected to decrease by approximately \$12.9 million primarily as a result of expiring statute of limitations periods. As of September 30, 2012, the amount of cumulative accrued interest expense on unrecognized income tax benefits was approximately \$1.1 million.

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The following table summarizes the Company's deferred tax assets, net of deferred tax liabilities and valuation allowance (in thousands), as of:

|  | September 30,<br>2012 | December 31,<br>2011 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Deferred tax assets, net of deferred tax liabilities                         | \$ 22,910             | \$ 24,267            |
| Valuation allowance  | (729)                 | (736)                |
| Deferred tax assets, net of deferred tax liabilities and valuation allowance | \$ 22,181             | \$ 23,531            |

The valuation allowance as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 primarily relates to certain foreign tax credit carryforward tax assets. The Company has determined that there is insufficient positive evidence that it is more likely than not that such deferred tax assets will be realized.

The Company has estimated its annual effective tax rate for the full fiscal year 2012 and applied that rate to its income from operations before income taxes in determining its provision for income taxes for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. The Company also records discrete items in each respective period as appropriate. For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, the Company recorded a provision for income taxes from operations of \$5.2 million that resulted in an effective tax rate of 29.6%, as compared to a provision for income taxes from operations of \$0.7 million that resulted in an effective tax rate of 7.1% for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The higher effective tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was primarily due to stronger 2012 results forecasted for the Company's operations in the U.S., where the tax rate is higher, and the fact that during the nine months ended September 30, 2011, the Company recorded significant tax benefits resulting from a favorable settlement with the U.K. tax authority, while no such benefits were recorded during the nine months ended September 30, 2012. The estimated effective tax rate is subject to fluctuation based upon the level and mix of earnings and losses by tax jurisdiction, foreign tax rate differentials, and the relative impact of permanent book to tax differences (e.g., non-deductible expenses). Each quarter, a cumulative adjustment is recorded for any fluctuations in the estimated annual effective tax rate as compared to the prior quarter. As a result of these factors, and due to potential changes in the Company's period to period results, fluctuations in the Company's effective tax rate and respective tax provisions or benefits may occur.

Except as discussed below, the Company intends to indefinitely reinvest its undistributed earnings of certain foreign subsidiaries. Therefore, the annualized effective tax rate applied to the Company's pre-tax income does not include any provision for U.S. federal and state income taxes on the amount of the undistributed foreign earnings. U.S. federal tax laws, however, require the Company to include in its U.S. taxable income certain investment income earned outside of the U.S. in excess of certain limits (Subpart F deemed dividends). Because Subpart F deemed dividends are already required to be recognized in the Company's U.S. federal income tax return, the Company regularly repatriates Subpart F deemed dividends to the U.S. and no additional tax is incurred on the distribution. As of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the amount of cash and cash equivalents held by U.S. entities was \$40.3 million and \$35.7 million, respectively, and by non-U.S. entities was \$176.3 million and \$163.9 million, respectively. If the cash and cash equivalents held by non-U.S. entities were to be repatriated to the U.S., the Company would generate U.S. taxable income to the extent of the Company's undistributed foreign earnings, which amounted to \$159.9 million at December 31, 2011. Although the tax impact of repatriating these earnings is difficult to determine, the Company would not expect the maximum effective tax rate that would be applicable to such repatriation to exceed the U.S. statutory rate of 35.0%, after considering applicable foreign tax credits.

In determining the Company's provision or benefit for income taxes, net deferred tax assets, liabilities, and valuation allowances, management is required to make judgments and estimates related to projections of domestic and foreign profitability, the timing and extent of the utilization of net operating loss carryforwards, applicable tax rates, transfer pricing methods, and prudent and feasible tax planning strategies. As a multinational company, the Company is required to calculate and provide for estimated income tax liabilities for each of the tax jurisdictions in which it operates. This process involves estimating current tax obligations and exposures in each jurisdiction, as well as making judgments

regarding the future recoverability of deferred tax assets. Changes in the estimated

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level of annual pre-tax income, changes in tax laws, particularly changes related to the utilization of net operating losses in various jurisdictions, and changes resulting from tax audits can all affect the overall effective income tax rate which, in turn, impacts the overall level of income tax expense or benefit and net income.

Judgments and estimates related to the Company's projections and assumptions are inherently uncertain; therefore, actual results could differ materially from projections. The timing and manner in which the Company will use research and development tax credit carryforward tax assets, alternative minimum tax credit carryforward tax assets, and foreign tax credit carryforward tax assets in any year, or in total, may be limited by provisions of the Internal Revenue Code regarding changes in the Company's ownership. Currently, the Company expects to use the tax assets, subject to Internal Revenue Code limitations, within the carryforward periods. Valuation allowances have been established where the Company has concluded that it is more likely than not that such deferred tax assets are not realizable.

**(10) Share-Based Compensation**

The Company has share-based compensation arrangements under which directors, officers, employees, and other eligible participants have previously received stock option awards to purchase the Company's class A common stock, but no shares are currently authorized for additional awards under the plans. All stock options granted under the Company's stock plans have terms of five to ten years and are fully vested. The Company has not granted any new share-based awards to purchase the Company's class A common stock since the first quarter of 2004.

MicroStrategy's subsidiary, Angel.com Incorporated (Angel.com), has a stock incentive plan under which employees, officers, directors, consultants, and advisors of (i) Angel.com, (ii) any present or future parent or subsidiary corporation of Angel.com, (iii) any present or future subsidiary corporation of any present or future parent corporation of Angel.com, and (iv) any other business venture in which Angel.com or any present or future parent corporation of Angel.com has a controlling interest, may be granted options, restricted stock awards, and other awards with respect to, in the aggregate, up to 2.4 million shares of the class A common stock of Angel.com, representing 12.8% of the outstanding shares of common stock of Angel.com on a fully diluted basis as of September 30, 2012. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, Angel.com granted options to purchase 0.9 million and 0.1 million shares of class A common stock of Angel.com, respectively. There were 0.4 million shares of class A common stock of Angel.com authorized for additional option grants as of September 30, 2012.

The Angel.com stock options vest based on the satisfaction of both performance and continued service conditions and expire ten years after grant. Share-based compensation expense is recognized over the requisite service period of the award based on the probability of the satisfaction of the performance condition, reduced by the number of awards that are not expected to vest due to the failure to satisfy the continued service condition. For the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, no share-based compensation expense was recognized for these awards because it was not probable that the performance and service conditions would be satisfied.

**(11) Common Equity and Earnings per Share**

The Company has two classes of common stock: class A common stock and class B common stock. Holders of class A common stock generally have the same rights, including rights to dividends, as holders of class B common stock, except that holders of class A common stock have one vote per share while holders of class B common stock have ten votes per share. Each share of class B common stock is convertible at any time, at the option of the holder, into one share of class A common stock. As such, basic and fully diluted earnings per share for class A common stock and for class B common stock are the same. The Company has never declared or paid any cash dividends on either class A or class B common stock. As of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, there were no shares of preferred stock issued or outstanding.

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Potential common shares are included in the diluted earnings per share calculation when dilutive. Potential common shares consisting of common stock issuable upon exercise of outstanding stock options are computed using the treasury stock method.

**(12) Segment Information**

The Company manages its business in two operating segments – core business intelligence software and services, and other. The operating segment – other – consists of the Company’s Angel.com business, which provides cloud-based customer experience management (CEM) solutions, including interactive voice response and contact center solutions. The following table presents total revenues, gross profit, and long-lived assets, excluding long-term deferred tax assets, (in thousands) according to geographic region:

| <b>Geographic regions:</b>                   | <b>Core Business Intelligence Software and Services</b> |             |                      | <b>Other</b>    |                     |
|--|---|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
|  | <b>Domestic</b>   | <b>EMEA</b> | <b>Other Regions</b> | <b>Domestic</b> | <b>Consolidated</b> |
| <b>Three months ended September 30, 2012</b> |   |             |                      |                 |                     |
| Total revenues                               | \$ 77,321   | \$ 43,728   | \$ 15,031            | \$ 7,150        | \$ 143,230          |
| Gross profit                                 | 55,619  | 33,693      | 11,921               | 4,512           | 105,745             |
| Long-lived assets                            | 97,778  | 9,603       | 6,858                | 3,956           | 118,195             |
| <b>Three months ended September 30, 2011</b> |   |             |                      |                 |                     |
| Total revenues                               | \$ 78,469   | \$ 43,401   | \$ 13,953            | \$ 5,881        | \$ 141,704          |
| Gross profit                                 | 58,070  | 33,208      | 10,783               | 2,979           | 105,040             |
| Long-lived assets                            | 86,274  | 8,152       | 4,635                | 3,431           | 102,492             |
| <b>Nine months ended September 30, 2012</b>  |   |             |                      |                 |                     |
| Total revenues                               | \$ 237,428  | \$ 127,624  | \$ 44,686            | \$ 20,415       | \$ 430,153          |
| Gross profit                                 | 173,845   | 96,085      | 35,171               | 11,942          | 317,043             |
| Long-lived assets                            | 97,778  | 9,603       | 6,858                | 3,956           | 118,195             |
| <b>Nine months ended September 30, 2011</b>  |   |             |                      |                 |                     |
| Total revenues                               | \$ 215,777  | \$ 126,582  | \$ 40,840            | \$ 18,685       | \$ 401,884          |
| Gross profit                                 | 158,170   | 97,034      | 32,096               | 10,216          | 297,516             |
| Long-lived assets                            | 86,274  | 8,152       | 4,635                | 3,431           | 102,492             |

The domestic region consists of the United States and Canada. The EMEA region includes operations in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

The other regions include all other foreign countries, generally comprising Latin America and the Asia Pacific region. For the three months ended September 30, 2012, no individual foreign country other than Germany accounted for 10% or more of total consolidated revenues. For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, no individual foreign country accounted for 10% or more of total consolidated revenues. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, no individual foreign country accounted for 10% or more of total consolidated revenues.

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, no individual customer accounted for 10% or more of total consolidated revenues.

As of September 30, 2012 and 2011, no individual foreign country accounted for 10% or more of total consolidated assets.

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

#### **FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION**

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). For this purpose, any statements contained herein that are not statements of historical fact, including without limitation, certain statements regarding industry prospects and our results of operations or financial position, may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. Without limiting the foregoing, the words believes, anticipates, plans, expects, and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. The important factors discussed under Part II. Item 1A. Risk Factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by forward-looking statements made herein and presented elsewhere by management from time to time. Such forward-looking statements represent management's current expectations and are inherently uncertain. Investors are warned that actual results may differ from management's expectations.

#### **Overview**

MicroStrategy is a global provider of enterprise software platforms for business intelligence, mobile intelligence, and social intelligence applications (apps). Our business intelligence (BI) software platform enables leading organizations worldwide to analyze the vast amounts of data available to their enterprises to make better business decisions. Companies choose MicroStrategy BI for its ease-of-use, sophisticated analytics, performance, and superior data and user scalability. Recently, MicroStrategy has invested significantly in a number of software technologies designed to help organizations capitalize on four disruptive technology trends: Big Data, Mobile Applications, Cloud-based BI, and Social Intelligence. These forces are reshaping companies, industries, and economies around the world. The enterprise-grade MicroStrategy BI Platform™ in combination with the MicroStrategy Mobile App Platform™, MicroStrategy Cloud™, and the MicroStrategy Social Intelligence Platform™ provides an integrated tool-kit for companies to create solutions that harness these forces.

The MicroStrategy BI Platform delivers reports and dashboards to business users via a web interface and mobile devices. The MicroStrategy Mobile App Platform helps organizations build, deploy, and maintain mobile apps across a range of operating platforms. Embedding intelligence, transactions, and multimedia into mobile apps enables business users to view corporate information, analyze data, make decisions, and act on their decisions whenever and wherever they are. MicroStrategy Cloud, a cloud-based BI platform-as-a-service, enables rapid, cost-effective development of business intelligence and mobile apps using MicroStrategy's BI Platform and MicroStrategy's Mobile App Platform. MicroStrategy's Social Intelligence Platform includes a number of social applications, offered as software-as-a-service solutions, that can help enterprises harness the power of social networks for customer care, marketing, and e-commerce, as well as a suite of free consumer-friendly apps that use MicroStrategy's enterprise technologies. MicroStrategy's Social Intelligence Platform can help companies leverage the value of social networks to better understand and engage their customers. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012, we did not generate significant revenues from our new social intelligence offerings.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, we operated one non-core business, Angel.com, a provider of cloud-based customer experience management (CEM) solutions, including its Caller First™ interactive voice response and contact center solutions.

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The following table sets forth certain operating highlights (in thousands) for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011:

|   | Core BI Business<br>Three Months Ended<br>September 30, |                 | Other<br>Three Months Ended<br>September 30, |                   | Consolidated<br>Three Months Ended<br>September 30, |                 |
|---|---|-----------------|--|-------------------|---|-----------------|
|   | 2012  | 2011            | 2012   | 2011              | 2012  | 2011            |
| <b>Revenues</b>   |   |                 |  |                   |   |                 |
| Product licenses  | \$ 31,736   | \$ 39,262       | \$ 0   | \$ 0              | \$ 31,736   | \$ 39,262       |
| Product support and other services  | 104,344   | 96,561          | 0  | 0                 | 104,344   | 96,561          |
| Angel.com services  | 0   | 0               | 7,150  | 5,881             | 7,150   | 5,881           |
| <b>Total revenues</b>   | <b>136,080</b>  | <b>135,823</b>  | <b>7,150</b>                                 | <b>5,881</b>      | <b>143,230</b>                                      | <b>141,704</b>  |
| <b>Cost of revenues</b>   |   |                 |  |                   |   |                 |
| Product licenses  | 1,059   | 2,284           | 0  | 0                 | 1,059   | 2,284           |
| Product support and other services  | 33,788  | 31,478          | 0  | 0                 | 33,788  | 31,478          |
| Angel.com services  | 0   | 0               | 2,638  | 2,902             | 2,638   | 2,902           |
| <b>Total cost of revenues</b>   | <b>34,847</b>   | <b>33,762</b>   | <b>2,638</b>                                 | <b>2,902</b>      | <b>37,485</b>                                       | <b>36,664</b>   |
| <b>Gross profit</b>   | <b>101,233</b>  | <b>102,061</b>  | <b>4,512</b>                                 | <b>2,979</b>      | <b>105,745</b>                                      | <b>105,040</b>  |
| <b>Operating expenses</b>   |   |                 |  |                   |   |                 |
| Sales and marketing   | 49,551  | 58,494          | 2,518  | 2,957             | 52,069  | 61,451          |
| Research and development  | 21,920  | 19,144          | 1,545  | 1,290             | 23,465  | 20,434          |
| General and administrative  | 22,460  | 20,793          | 1,038  | 825               | 23,498  | 21,618          |
| <b>Total operating expenses</b>   | <b>93,931</b>   | <b>98,431</b>   | <b>5,101</b>                                 | <b>5,072</b>      | <b>99,032</b>                                       | <b>103,503</b>  |
| <b>Income (loss) from operations before financing and other income and income taxes</b> | <b>\$ 7,302</b>   | <b>\$ 3,630</b> | <b>\$ (589)</b>                              | <b>\$ (2,093)</b> | <b>\$ 6,713</b>                                     | <b>\$ 1,537</b> |

|                                    | Core BI Business<br>Nine Months Ended<br>September 30, |                | Other<br>Nine Months Ended<br>September 30, |               | Consolidated<br>Nine Months Ended<br>September 30, |                |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------|---|---------------|--|----------------|
|                                    | 2012   | 2011           | 2012  | 2011          | 2012   | 2011           |
| <b>Revenues</b>                    |  |                |   |               |  |                |
| Product licenses                   | \$ 101,079   | \$ 100,072     | \$ 0  | \$ 0          | \$ 101,079   | \$ 100,072     |
| Product support and other services | 308,659  | 283,127        | 0   | 0             | 308,659  | 283,127        |
| Angel.com services                 | 0  | 0              | 20,415                                      | 18,685        | 20,415   | 18,685         |
| <b>Total revenues</b>              | <b>409,738</b>   | <b>383,199</b> | <b>20,415</b>                               | <b>18,685</b> | <b>430,153</b>                                     | <b>401,884</b> |
| <b>Cost of revenues</b>            |  |                |   |               |  |                |
| Product licenses                   | 4,187  | 6,514          | 0   | 0             | 4,187  | 6,514          |
| Product support and other services | 100,450  | 89,385         | 0   | 0             | 100,450  | 89,385         |
| Angel.com services                 | 0  | 0              | 8,473                                       | 8,469         | 8,473  | 8,469          |
| <b>Total cost of revenues</b>      | <b>104,637</b>   | <b>95,899</b>  | <b>8,473</b>                                | <b>8,469</b>  | <b>113,110</b>                                     | <b>104,368</b> |



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|   |                  |                  |                   |                   |                  |                 |
|---|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Gross profit</b>   | <b>305,101</b>   | <b>287,300</b>   | <b>11,942</b>     | <b>10,216</b>     | <b>317,043</b>   | <b>297,516</b>  |
| <b>Operating expenses</b>   |                  |                  |                   |                   |                  |                 |
| Sales and marketing   | 153,385          | 164,876          | 7,230             | 9,028             | 160,615          | 173,904         |
| Research and development  | 63,111           | 46,917           | 4,746             | 3,389             | 67,857           | 50,306          |
| General and administrative  | 69,192           | 64,949           | 2,719             | 2,269             | 71,911           | 67,218          |
| <b>Total operating expenses</b>   | <b>285,688</b>   | <b>276,742</b>   | <b>14,695</b>     | <b>14,686</b>     | <b>300,383</b>   | <b>291,428</b>  |
| <b>Income (loss) from operations before financing and other income and income taxes</b> | <b>\$ 19,413</b> | <b>\$ 10,558</b> | <b>\$ (2,753)</b> | <b>\$ (4,470)</b> | <b>\$ 16,660</b> | <b>\$ 6,088</b> |

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The business intelligence market is highly competitive and our results of operations depend on our ability to market and sell offerings that provide customers with greater value than those offered by our competitors. Organizations recently have sought, and we expect may continue to seek, to standardize their various business intelligence applications around a single software platform. This trend presents both opportunities and challenges for our business. It offers us the opportunity to increase the size of transactions with new customers and to expand the size of our business intelligence installations with existing customers. On the other hand, it presents the challenge that we may not be able to penetrate accounts that a competitor has penetrated or in which a competitor is the incumbent business intelligence application provider. In addition, companies with industry leading positions in certain software markets, such as Microsoft, Oracle, IBM, and SAP, have incorporated business intelligence capabilities into their product suites. As a result, our offerings need to be sufficiently differentiated from these bundled software offerings to create customer demand for our platform, products, and services.

To address these opportunities and challenges, we have implemented a number of initiatives, including:

concentrating our research and development efforts on maintaining our position as a technology leader by continuing to innovate and lead in enterprise business intelligence, improving the capability of our products to efficiently handle the ever increasing volume of data and user scalability needs of our current and future customers, and adding analytical and end user features to support the increasing levels of sophistication in our customers' business intelligence needs and applications, such as the incorporation of visual data discovery user functionality into our interface to support better end user self-service;

offering MicroStrategy Cloud with several different configuration options;

offering mobile application platforms for creating and deploying BI applications to the expanding community of users of mobile devices;

introducing social intelligence offerings, such as MicroStrategy Wisdom™, MicroStrategy Wisdom Professional™, MicroStrategy Alert, and Usher™;

focusing our sales and marketing activities to create brand awareness and expand channel partner relationships in an effort to obtain new customers, as well as to expand and strengthen our existing customer base;

maintaining a dedicated performance engineering team, and focusing specific research and development efforts on providing our customers with the highest levels of performance for BI applications of all sizes; and

reorganizing our executive management team in October 2012 to help focus the Company's efforts across our various offerings.

As part of these initiatives, we invested significantly in our research and development, sales and marketing, and consulting capabilities during 2011. While we expect to continue to make additional investments in research and development capabilities in 2012, we expect the rate of increase of expenses related to such investments to be lower in 2012 as compared to 2011. We generated net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. However, if our revenues are not sufficient to offset increased operating expenses or we are unable to timely adjust our operating expenses in response to any shortfall in anticipated revenue, our profitability may decrease or we may cease to be profitable or incur operating losses on a quarterly or annual basis.

We believe that effective recruiting, education, and nurturing of human resources are critical to our success and we have traditionally made investments in these areas in order to differentiate ourselves from our competition, increase employee loyalty, and create a culture conducive to creativity, cooperation, and continuous improvement.

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As of September 30, 2012, we had a total of 3,220 employees, of whom 1,472 were based in the United States and 1,748 were based internationally. Of our 3,220 employees, 778 were engaged in sales and marketing, 918 in research and development, 1,108 in technical support, consulting, and education services, and 416 in finance, administration, and corporate operations.

We lease approximately 190,000 square feet of office space at a location in Northern Virginia that began serving as our corporate headquarters in October 2010. The lease includes tenant incentives and allowances that we may use for leasehold improvements. The term of the lease expires in December 2020. We recognize lease expense ratably over the term of the lease.

In July 2011, we entered into a lease for a 37.5% fractional interest in a corporate aircraft owned and managed by a fractional interest program operator. We terminated the fractional interest lease in September 2012 following the return to service of our owned corporate aircraft in the second quarter of 2012. During the three months ended September 30, 2012, we incurred approximately \$0.5 million in general and administrative expenses for the fractional interest lease.

We base our internal operating expense forecasts on expected revenue trends and strategic objectives. Many of our expenses, such as office leases and certain personnel costs, are relatively fixed. We may be unable to adjust spending quickly enough in any particular period to offset any unexpected revenue shortfall in that period. Accordingly, any shortfall in revenue may cause significant variation in our operating results. We therefore believe that quarter-to-quarter comparisons of our operating results may not be a good indication of our future performance.

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### **Critical Accounting Policies**

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based upon our Consolidated Financial Statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

The preparation of our Consolidated Financial Statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and equity and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. These estimates, particularly estimates relating to revenue recognition, allowance for doubtful accounts, valuation of property and equipment, litigation and contingencies, and valuation of net deferred tax assets, have a material impact on our financial statements and are discussed in detail throughout our analysis of the results of operations discussed below. In some cases, changes in accounting estimates are reasonably likely to occur from period to period.

In addition to evaluating estimates relating to the items discussed above, we also consider other estimates and judgments, including, but not limited to, those related to software development costs, provision for income taxes, and other contingent liabilities, including liabilities that we deem not probable of assertion. We base our estimates on historical experience and various other assumptions that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying value of assets, liabilities, and equity that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results and outcomes could differ from these estimates and assumptions.

MicroStrategy does not have any material ownership interest in any special purpose or other entities that are not wholly-owned and/or consolidated into our Consolidated Financial Statements. Except as may be the case with respect to the sale of an investment described in Note 6, Cost Method Investment, to the Consolidated Financial Statements, MicroStrategy does not have any material related party transactions.

The section **Critical Accounting Estimates** included in Item 7 and the section **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies** (Note 2) included in Item 15 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 provide a more detailed explanation of the judgments made in these areas and a discussion of our accounting estimates and policies. There have been no significant changes in such estimates and policies since December 31, 2011.

**Table of Contents****Impact of Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Fluctuations on Results of Operations**

We conduct a significant portion of our business in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, the currency in which we report our Consolidated Financial Statements. Historically, we have generated a significant portion of our revenues and incurred a significant portion of our expenses in euros and British pounds sterling. As currency rates change from quarter to quarter and year over year, our results of operations may be impacted. The table below summarizes the impact (in thousands) of fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates on certain components of our Consolidated Statements of Operations by showing the increase (decrease) in revenues or expenses, as applicable, from the same period in the prior year. The term "international" refers to operations outside of the United States and Canada.

|   | <b>Three Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |             | <b>Nine Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |             |
|---|---|-------------|--|-------------|
|   | <b>2012</b>                                 | <b>2011</b> | <b>2012</b>                                | <b>2011</b> |
| International product licenses revenues | \$ (1,610)                                  | \$ 972      | \$ (3,162)                                 | \$ 2,897    |
| International product support revenues  | (2,990)                                     | 2,193       | (6,794)                                    | 5,748       |
| International other services revenues   | (1,481)                                     | 1,113       | (3,611)                                    | 3,349       |
| Cost of product support revenues        | (85)  | 56          | (198)                                      | 179         |
| Cost of other services revenues         | (1,336)                                     | 946         | (3,681)                                    | 2,492       |
| Sales and marketing expenses            | (2,240)                                     | 2,037       | (4,740)                                    | 5,562       |
| Research and development expenses       | 15  | 241         | 192  | 503         |
| General and administrative expenses     | (401)                                       | 392         | (1,095)                                    | 1,151       |

For example, if there had been no change to foreign currency exchange rates from 2011 to 2012, international product licenses revenues would have been \$18.1 million rather than \$16.5 million and \$48.2 million rather than \$45.1 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, respectively. If there had been no change to foreign currency exchange rates from 2011 to 2012, sales and marketing expenses for our core BI business would have been \$51.8 million rather than \$49.6 million and \$158.1 million rather than \$153.4 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, respectively.

**Table of Contents****Results of Operations****Comparison of the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011****Revenues**

Except as otherwise indicated herein, the term "domestic" refers to operations in the United States and Canada, and the term "international" refers to operations outside of the United States and Canada.

**Product licenses revenues.** The following table sets forth product licenses revenues (in thousands) and related percentage changes for the periods indicated:

|                                 | Three Months Ended<br>September 30, |           | %<br>Change | Nine Months Ended<br>September 30, |            | %<br>Change |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
|                                 | 2012                                | 2011      |             | 2012                               | 2011       |             |
| Product Licenses Revenues:      |                                     |           |             |                                    |            |             |
| Domestic                        | \$ 15,220                           | \$ 25,018 | -39.2%      | \$ 55,994                          | \$ 58,487  | -4.3%       |
| International                   | 16,516                              | 14,244    | 16.0%       | 45,085                             | 41,585     | 8.4%        |
| Total product licenses revenues | \$ 31,736                           | \$ 39,262 | -19.2%      | \$ 101,079                         | \$ 100,072 | 1.0%        |

The following table sets forth a summary, grouped by size, of the number of recognized product licenses transactions for the periods indicated:

|  | Three Months Ended<br>September 30, |      | Nine Months Ended<br>September 30, |      |
|--|-------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|------|
|  | 2012                                | 2011 | 2012                               | 2011 |
| Product Licenses Transactions with Recognized Licenses Revenue in the Applicable Period: |                                     |      |                                    |      |
| More than \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized                                   | 4                                   | 4    | 14                                 | 11   |
| Between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized                   | 4                                   | 9    | 18                                 | 21   |
| Total  | 8                                   | 13   | 32                                 | 32   |
| <i>Domestic:</i>   |                                     |      |                                    |      |
| More than \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized                                   | 3                                   | 4    | 11                                 | 8    |
| Between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized                   | 1                                   | 6    | 10                                 | 15   |
| Total  | 4                                   | 10   | 21                                 | 23   |
| <i>International:</i>  |                                     |      |                                    |      |
| More than \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized                                   | 1                                   | 0    | 3                                  | 3    |
| Between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized                   | 3                                   | 3    | 8                                  | 6    |
| Total  | 4                                   | 3    | 11                                 | 9    |

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The following table sets forth the recognized revenue (in thousands) attributable to product licenses transactions, grouped by size, and related percentage changes for the periods indicated:

|  | Three Months Ended<br>September 30, |                  | %<br>Change   | Nine Months Ended<br>September 30, |                  | %<br>Change  |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
|  | 2012                                | 2011             |               | 2012                               | 2011             |              |
| <b>Product Licenses Revenue Recognized in the Applicable Period:</b>   |                                     |                  |               |                                    |                  |              |
| More than \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized                 | \$ 10,279                           | \$ 8,025         | 28.1%         | \$ 28,520                          | \$ 19,504        | 46.2%        |
| Between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized | 2,564                               | 5,474            | -53.2%        | 12,487                             | 13,250           | -5.8%        |
| Less than \$0.5 million in licenses revenue recognized                 | 18,893                              | 25,763           | -26.7%        | 60,072                             | 67,318           | -10.8%       |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>31,736</b>                       | <b>39,262</b>    | <b>-19.2%</b> | <b>101,079</b>                     | <b>100,072</b>   | <b>1.0%</b>  |
| <b>Domestic:</b>   |                                     |                  |               |                                    |                  |              |
| More than \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized                 | 4,389                               | 8,025            | -45.3%        | 17,628                             | 13,960           | 26.3%        |
| Between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized | 523                                 | 3,712            | -85.9%        | 7,222                              | 9,537            | -24.3%       |
| Less than \$0.5 million in licenses revenue recognized                 | 10,308                              | 13,281           | -22.4%        | 31,144                             | 34,990           | -11.0%       |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>15,220</b>                       | <b>25,018</b>    | <b>-39.2%</b> | <b>55,994</b>                      | <b>58,487</b>    | <b>-4.3%</b> |
| <b>International:</b>  |                                     |                  |               |                                    |                  |              |
| More than \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized                 | 5,890                               | 0                | n/a           | 10,892                             | 5,544            | 96.5%        |
| Between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized | 2,041                               | 1,762            | 15.8%         | 5,265                              | 3,713            | 41.8%        |
| Less than \$0.5 million in licenses revenue recognized                 | 8,585                               | 12,482           | -31.2%        | 28,928                             | 32,328           | -10.5%       |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ 16,516</b>                    | <b>\$ 14,244</b> | <b>16.0%</b>  | <b>\$ 45,085</b>                   | <b>\$ 41,585</b> | <b>8.4%</b>  |

Product licenses revenues decreased \$7.5 million and increased \$1.0 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, respectively, as compared to the same periods in the prior year. For the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, product licenses transactions with more than \$0.5 million in recognized revenue represented 40.5% and 34.4%, respectively, of our product licenses revenues. For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, our top three product licenses transactions totaled \$12.8 million in recognized revenue, or 12.7% of total product licenses revenues, compared to \$9.1 million, or 9.1% of total product licenses revenues, for the nine months ended September 30, 2011.

**Domestic product licenses revenues.** Domestic product licenses revenues decreased \$9.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to a decrease in the number and average deal size of both transactions with more than \$1.0 million in recognized revenue and transactions with between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million in recognized revenue, and a decrease in the average deal size of transactions with less than \$0.5 million in recognized revenue.

Domestic product licenses revenues decreased \$2.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to a decrease in the number of transactions with between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million in recognized revenue and a decrease in the average deal size of transactions with less than \$0.5 million in recognized revenue, partially offset by an increase in the number of transactions with more than \$1.0 million in recognized revenue.

**International product licenses revenues.** International product licenses revenues increased \$2.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to one transaction with \$5.9 million of recognized revenue in the three months ended September 30, 2012 and no transactions with more than \$1.0 million in recognized revenue in the same period in the prior year and an increase in the average deal size of transactions with between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million in recognized revenue, partially offset by a decrease in the average deal size of transactions with less than \$0.5 million in recognized revenue.

International product licenses revenues increased \$3.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to an increase in the average deal size of transactions with more than \$1.0 million in recognized revenue and an increase in the number and average deal size of transactions with between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million in recognized revenue, partially offset

by a decrease in the average deal size of transactions with less than \$0.5 million in recognized revenue.



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**Product support and other services revenues for our core BI business.** The following table sets forth product support and other services revenues (in thousands) for our core BI business and related percentage changes for the periods indicated:

|   | Three Months Ended<br>September 30, |           | %<br>Change | Nine Months Ended<br>September 30, |            | %<br>Change |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
|   | 2012                                | 2011      |             | 2012                               | 2011       |             |
| <b>Product Support and Other Services Revenues:</b> |                                     |           |             |                                    |            |             |
| Product Support                                     |                                     |           |             |                                    |            |             |
| Domestic  | \$ 38,188                           | \$ 34,599 | 10.4%       | \$ 111,570                         | \$ 100,600 | 10.9%       |
| International                                       | 27,583                              | 27,477    | 0.4%        | 81,659                             | 80,154     | 1.9%        |
| Total product support revenues                      | 65,771                              | 62,076    | 6.0%        | 193,229                            | 180,754    | 6.9%        |
| Consulting  | 33,653                              | 29,943    | 12.4%       | 100,411                            | 88,798     | 13.1%       |
| Education   | 4,439                               | 4,542     | -2.3%       | 13,731                             | 13,575     | 1.1%        |
| Subscription services                               | 481                                 | 0         | n/a         | 1,288                              | 0          | n/a         |
| Total product support and other services revenues   | \$ 104,344                          | \$ 96,561 | 8.1%        | \$ 308,659                         | \$ 283,127 | 9.0%        |

**Product support revenues.** Product support revenues are derived from providing technical software support and software updates and upgrades to customers. Product support revenues are recognized ratably over the term of the contract, which in most cases is one year. Product support revenues increased \$3.7 million and \$12.5 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, respectively, as compared to the same periods in the prior year, primarily due to an increase in the number of product support contracts and an overall increase in renewal pricing on existing support contracts.

**Consulting revenues.** Consulting revenues are derived from helping customers plan and execute the deployment of our software. Consulting revenues increased for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same periods in the prior year, primarily due to an increase in billable hours.

**Education revenues.** Education revenues are derived from the education and training that we provide to our customers to enhance their ability to fully utilize the features and functionality of our software. These offerings include self-tutorials, custom course development, joint training with customers' internal staff, and standard course offerings, with pricing dependent on the specific offering delivered. Education revenues decreased for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and increased for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same periods in the prior year, primarily due to fluctuations in the mix of offerings delivered.

**Subscription services revenues.** Subscription services revenues are derived from Cloud services that we provide to our customers and are recognized on a subscription basis over the estimated average life of the customer relationship. Subscription services revenues were \$0.5 million and \$1.3 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, respectively. Because we only began to offer Cloud services in the second half of 2011, we did not recognize significant subscription services revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011.

**Angel.com services revenues.** The following table sets forth Angel.com services revenues (in thousands) and related percentage changes for the periods indicated:

|                    | Three Months Ended<br>September 30, |          | %<br>Change | Nine Months Ended<br>September 30, |           | %<br>Change |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
|                    | 2012                                | 2011     |             | 2012                               | 2011      |             |
| Angel.com services | \$ 7,150                            | \$ 5,881 | 21.6%       | \$ 20,415                          | \$ 18,685 | 9.3%        |

Angel.com services revenues increased \$1.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$1.4 million increase in the usage of Angel.com's interactive voice response and contact center solutions, partially offset by a \$0.1 million decrease in professional services rendered.



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Angel.com services revenues increased \$1.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$1.9 million increase in the usage of Angel.com's interactive voice response and contact center solutions, partially offset by a \$0.2 million decrease in professional services rendered.

**Costs and Expenses**

**Cost of revenues.** The following table sets forth cost of revenues (in thousands) and related percentage changes for the periods indicated:

|                        | Three Months Ended<br>September 30, |           |             | Nine Months Ended<br>September 30, |            |             |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
|                        | 2012                                | 2011      | %<br>Change | 2012                               | 2011       | %<br>Change |
| Cost of Revenues:      |                                     |           |             |                                    |            |             |
| Product licenses       | \$ 1,059                            | \$ 2,284  | -53.6%      | \$ 4,187                           | \$ 6,514   | -35.7%      |
| Product support        | 3,989                               | 3,359     | 18.8%       | 11,192                             | 10,044     | 11.4%       |
| Consulting             | 26,447                              | 25,938    | 2.0%        | 79,309                             | 72,575     | 9.3%        |
| Education              | 1,568                               | 2,181     | -28.1%      | 5,497                              | 6,766      | -18.8%      |
| Subscription services  | 1,784                               | 0         | n/a         | 4,452                              | 0          | n/a         |
| Angel.com services     | 2,638                               | 2,902     | -9.1%       | 8,473                              | 8,469      | 0.0%        |
| Total cost of revenues | \$ 37,485                           | \$ 36,664 | 2.2%        | \$ 113,110                         | \$ 104,368 | 8.4%        |

**Cost of product licenses revenues.** Cost of product licenses revenues consists of amortization of capitalized software development costs and the costs of product manuals, media, and royalties paid to third-party software vendors. Capitalized software development costs are generally amortized over a useful life of three years.

Cost of product licenses revenues decreased for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same periods in the prior year, primarily due to a decrease in amortization of capitalized software development costs related to MicroStrategy 9, which became fully amortized in March 2012, partially offset by an increase in amortization of capitalized software development costs related to the releases of MicroStrategy 9.2 in March 2011 and MicroStrategy 9.3 in September 2012. We expect to amortize the remaining balance of our products capitalized software development costs as of September 30, 2012 ratably over the applicable remaining amortization periods as follows:

|  | Capitalized Software  |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | Balance<br>as of<br>September 30,<br>2012<br>(in thousands) | Remaining<br>Amortization<br>Period<br>(in<br>months) |
| MicroStrategy 9.2                            | \$ 1,888  | 18  |
| MicroStrategy 9.2.1                          | 1,267   | 21  |
| MicroStrategy 9.3                            | 8,012   | 36  |
| MicroStrategy Mobile                         | 546   | 9   |
| Total capitalized software development costs | \$ 11,713   |   |

During the three months ended September 30, 2012, we also recorded \$3.1 million in capitalized software development costs associated with the development of our MicroStrategy 9.3 software. With the release of our MicroStrategy 9.3 software in September 2012, these costs are being amortized over the estimated product life of 36 months.

**Cost of product support revenues.** Cost of product support revenues consists of product support personnel and related overhead costs. Cost of product support revenues increased \$0.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$0.5 million increase in compensation and related costs associated with an increase in staffing levels to support an increased

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customer base, and a \$0.1 million increase in facility and other related support costs. Product support headcount increased 20.4% to 183 at September 30, 2012 from 152 at September 30, 2011.

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Cost of product support revenues increased \$1.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$0.8 million increase in compensation and related costs associated with an increase in staffing levels to support an increased customer base, a \$0.2 million increase in facility and other related support costs, and a \$0.1 million increase in travel and entertainment expenditures.

**Cost of consulting revenues.** Cost of consulting revenues consists of personnel and related overhead costs. Cost of consulting revenues increased \$0.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$0.7 million increase in compensation and related costs due to an increase in staffing levels, partially offset by a \$0.2 million decrease in subcontractor costs. Consulting headcount increased 5.4% to 843 at September 30, 2012 from 800 at September 30, 2011.

Cost of consulting revenues increased \$6.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to a \$7.1 million increase in compensation and related costs due to an increase in staffing levels, a \$0.3 million increase in travel and entertainment expenditures, and a \$0.3 million increase in facility and other related support costs, partially offset by a \$0.9 million decrease in subcontractor costs.

**Cost of education revenues.** Cost of education revenues consists of personnel and related overhead costs. Cost of education revenues decreased \$0.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$0.3 million decrease in compensation and related costs due to a decrease in staffing levels, a \$0.2 million decrease in travel and entertainment expenditures, and a \$0.1 million decrease in facility and other related support costs. Education headcount decreased 20.8% to 42 at September 30, 2012 from 53 at September 30, 2011.

Cost of education revenues decreased \$1.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$0.6 million decrease in compensation and related costs due to a decrease in staffing levels, a \$0.3 million decrease in travel and entertainment expenditures, a \$0.2 million decrease in subcontractor costs, and a \$0.2 million decrease in facility and other related support costs.

**Cost of subscription services revenues.** Cost of subscription services revenues consists of facility and other related support costs, and personnel and related overhead costs. Cost of subscription services revenues were \$1.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012, of which \$0.8 million were due to facility and other related support costs, \$0.5 million due to subcontractor costs, \$0.4 million due to compensation and related costs, and \$0.1 million due to travel and entertainment expenditures. Subscription services headcount was 10 at September 30, 2012.

Cost of subscription services revenues were \$4.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, of which \$2.1 million were due to facility and other related support costs, \$1.6 million due to compensation and related costs, \$0.6 million due to subcontractor costs, and \$0.2 million due to travel and entertainment expenditures.

Because our subscription services revenues consist of revenues associated with our Cloud services offering, and we only began to offer Cloud services in the second half of 2011, we did not incur significant cost of subscription services revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011. For the same reason, we did not have significant headcount associated with subscription services at September 30, 2011.

**Cost of Angel.com services revenues.** Cost of Angel.com services revenues includes hardware and hosting costs, and personnel and related overhead costs. Cost of Angel.com services revenues decreased \$0.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to reduced consulting and advisory costs. Angel.com consulting and technical support headcount increased 7.1% to 30 at September 30, 2012 from 28 at September 30, 2011.

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Cost of Angel.com services revenues were \$8.5 million for each of the nine month periods ended September 30, 2012 and September 30, 2011.

**Sales and marketing and general and administrative expenses for our core BI business.** The following table sets forth sales and marketing and general and administrative expenses (in thousands) for our core BI business and related percentage changes for the periods indicated:

|                            | Three Months Ended<br>September 30, |           | %<br>Change | Nine Months Ended<br>September 30, |            | %<br>Change |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
|                            | 2012                                | 2011      |             | 2012                               | 2011       |             |
| Sales and marketing        | \$ 49,551                           | \$ 58,494 | -15.3%      | \$ 153,385                         | \$ 164,876 | -7.0%       |
| General and administrative | 22,460                              | 20,793    | 8.0%        | 69,192                             | 64,949     | 6.5%        |
| Total                      | \$ 72,011                           | \$ 79,287 | -9.2%       | \$ 222,577                         | \$ 229,825 | -3.2%       |

**Sales and marketing expenses for our core BI business.** Sales and marketing expenses for our core BI business consists of personnel and related overhead costs, commissions, office facilities, travel, advertising, public relations programs, and promotional events, such as trade shows, seminars, and technical conferences.

Sales and marketing expenses decreased \$8.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$8.2 million decrease in compensation and related costs due to a decrease in staffing levels, a \$1.1 million decrease in travel and entertainment expenditures, a \$0.2 million decrease in consulting and advisory costs, and a \$0.1 million decrease in facility and other related support costs, partially offset by a \$0.7 million increase in marketing and advertising costs due to increased sponsorships as well as an increased number of marketing events to promote our social intelligence offerings and MicroStrategy Mobile™ for the iPhone® and iPad®. Sales and marketing headcount decreased 13.2% to 735 at September 30, 2012 from 847 at September 30, 2011. We do not expect to change sales and marketing headcount significantly in the near term.

Sales and marketing expenses decreased \$11.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to a \$12.1 million decrease in compensation and related costs due to a decrease in staffing levels, a \$0.9 million decrease in travel and entertainment expenditures, a \$0.2 million decrease in consulting and advisory costs, and a \$0.2 million decrease in facility and other related support costs, partially offset by a \$1.8 million increase in marketing and advertising costs due to increased sponsorships as well as an increased number of marketing events to promote our social intelligence offerings and MicroStrategy Mobile for the iPhone and iPad.

**General and administrative expenses for our core BI business.** General and administrative expenses consists of personnel and related overhead costs, and other costs of our executive, finance, human resources, information systems, and administrative departments, as well as third-party consulting, legal, and other professional fees.

General and administrative expenses increased \$1.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$1.5 million increase in legal, consulting, and other advisory costs, primarily related to litigation matters, a \$1.5 million increase in compensation and related costs due to higher compensation levels, and a \$0.1 million increase due to other operating costs of our owned corporate aircraft and our leased fractional interest in a corporate aircraft, partially offset by a \$1.3 million decrease in recruiting costs and a \$0.1 million decrease in travel and entertainment expenditures. General and administrative headcount increased 1.0% to 409 at September 30, 2012 from 405 at September 30, 2011. We do not expect to change general and administrative headcount significantly in the near term.

General and administrative expenses increased \$4.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$5.8 million increase in legal, consulting, and other advisory costs, primarily related to litigation

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matters, a \$2.3 million increase in compensation and related costs due to higher compensation levels, a \$0.5 million increase in facility and other related support costs, and a \$0.5 million increase due to other operating costs of our owned corporate aircraft and our leased fractional interest in a corporate aircraft, partially offset by a \$4.9 million decrease in recruiting costs.

**Angel.com sales and marketing and general and administrative expenses.** The following table sets forth sales and marketing and general and administrative expenses (in thousands) for our Angel.com business and related percentage changes for the periods indicated:

|                            | Three Months Ended<br>September 30, |          | %<br>Change | Nine Months Ended<br>September 30, |           | %<br>Change |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
|                            | 2012                                | 2011     |             | 2012                               | 2011      |             |
| Sales and marketing        | \$ 2,518                            | \$ 2,957 | -14.8%      | \$ 7,230                           | \$ 9,028  | -19.9%      |
| General and administrative | 1,038                               | 825      | 25.8%       | 2,719                              | 2,269     | 19.8%       |
| Total                      | \$ 3,556                            | \$ 3,782 | -6.0%       | \$ 9,949                           | \$ 11,297 | -11.9%      |

Angel.com sales and marketing expenses decreased \$0.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to a \$0.2 million decrease in travel and entertainment expenditures, a \$0.1 million decrease in compensation and related costs associated with decreased staffing levels, a \$0.1 million decrease in consulting and advisory costs, and a \$0.1 million decrease in facility and other related support costs. Angel.com sales and marketing headcount decreased 10.4% to 43 at September 30, 2012 from 48 at September 30, 2011.

Angel.com sales and marketing expenses decreased \$1.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$0.9 million decrease in compensation and related costs associated with decreased staffing levels, a \$0.4 million decrease in travel and entertainment expenditures, a \$0.3 million decrease in facility and other related support costs, and a \$0.2 million decrease in consulting and advisory costs.

Angel.com general and administrative expenses increased \$0.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$0.2 million increase in facility and other related support costs, a \$0.1 million increase in compensation and related costs due to an increase in staffing levels, and a \$0.1 million increase in subcontractor costs, partially offset by a \$0.2 million decrease in recruiting costs. Angel.com general and administrative headcount increased 40.0% to 7 at September 30, 2012 from 5 at September 30, 2011.

Angel.com general and administrative expenses increased \$0.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$0.7 million increase in facility and other related support costs and a \$0.1 million increase in subcontractor costs, partially offset by a \$0.3 million decrease in recruiting costs.

**Research and development expenses.** Research and development expenses consists of the personnel costs for our software engineering personnel, depreciation of equipment, and other related costs.

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The following table summarizes research and development expenses and amortization of capitalized software development costs (in thousands) and related percentage changes for the periods indicated:

|  | Three Months Ended<br>September 30, |           |             | Nine Months Ended<br>September 30, |           |             |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
|  | 2012                                | 2011      | %<br>Change | 2012                               | 2011      | %<br>Change |
| Gross research and development expenses:   |                                     |           |             |                                    |           |             |
| Core research and development activities   | \$ 25,018                           | \$ 19,619 | 27.5%       | \$ 71,259                          | \$ 52,824 | 34.9%       |
| Angel.com research and development activities  | 1,545                               | 1,290     | 19.8%       | 4,746                              | 3,389     | 40.0%       |
| Total research and development expenses before capitalized software development costs                | 26,563                              | 20,909    | 27.0%       | 76,005                             | 56,213    | 35.2%       |
| Capitalized software development costs   | (3,098)                             | (475)     | 552.2%      | (8,148)                            | (5,907)   | 37.9%       |
| Total research and development expenses  | \$ 23,465                           | \$ 20,434 | 14.8%       | \$ 67,857                          | \$ 50,306 | 34.9%       |
| Amortization of capitalized software development costs included in cost of product licenses revenues | \$ 810                              | \$ 2,117  | -61.7%      | \$ 3,466                           | \$ 5,777  | -40.0%      |

Research and development expenses, before capitalization of software development costs, increased \$5.7 million, or 27.0%, for the three months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to increases in compensation and related costs due to an increase in staffing levels and increases in facility and other related support costs. During the three months ended September 30, 2012, we capitalized \$3.1 million in software development costs associated with the development of our MicroStrategy 9.3 software, as compared to \$0.5 million in software development costs associated with the development of our MicroStrategy 9.2.1 software that were capitalized in the same period in the prior year. Core BI research and development headcount increased 26.7% to 891 at September 30, 2012 from 703 at September 30, 2011. Angel.com research and development headcount decreased 3.6% to 27 at September 30, 2012 from 28 at September 30, 2011.

Research and development expenses, before capitalization of software development costs, increased \$19.8 million, or 35.2%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to increases in compensation and related costs due to an increase in staffing levels and increases in facility and other related support costs. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012, we capitalized \$8.1 million in software development costs associated with the development of our MicroStrategy 9.3 software, as compared to \$5.9 million in software development costs associated with the development of our MicroStrategy 9.2 and 9.2.1 software that were capitalized in the same period in the prior year.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, our research and development personnel were focused on the following: 62.4% on the MicroStrategy BI Platform, including the MicroStrategy Mobile App Platform, and 37.6% on other research and development, including MicroStrategy Cloud, the MicroStrategy Social Intelligence Platform, and our Angel.com business.

**Provision for Income Taxes.** For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, we recorded a provision for income taxes from operations of \$5.2 million that resulted in an effective tax rate of 29.6%, as compared to a provision for income taxes from operations of \$0.7 million that resulted in an effective tax rate of 7.1% for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The higher effective tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was primarily due to stronger 2012 results forecasted for the Company's operations in the U.S., where the tax rate is higher, and the fact that for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, we recorded significant tax benefits resulting from a favorable settlement with the U.K. tax authority, while no such benefits were recorded for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. The estimated effective tax rate is subject to fluctuation based upon the level and mix of earnings and losses by tax jurisdiction, foreign tax rate differentials, and the relative impact of permanent book to tax differences (i.e., non-deductible expenses). Each quarter, a cumulative adjustment is recorded for any fluctuations in the estimated annual effective tax rate as compared to the prior quarter. As a result of these factors, and due to potential changes in our period to period results, fluctuations in our effective tax rate and respective tax provisions or benefits may occur.



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As of September 30, 2012, the Company had U.S. net operating loss ( NOL ) carryforwards of \$63.9 million, for which no valuation allowance was deemed necessary. However, only \$7.8 million of this U.S. NOL has been reflected in our financial statements as of September 30, 2012, as we were not able, under U.S. GAAP, to recognize a deferred tax asset for U.S. NOLs arising directly from tax deductions related to equity compensation in excess of compensation recognized for financial reporting. Equity will be increased by \$21.9 million if and when such U.S. NOLs are ultimately utilized. As of September 30, 2012, U.S. and foreign NOL carryforwards, other temporary differences and carryforwards, and credits resulted in deferred tax assets, net of valuation allowances and deferred tax liabilities, of \$22.2 million. As of September 30, 2012, we had a valuation allowance of \$0.7 million primarily related to certain foreign tax credit carryforward tax assets that, in our present estimation, more likely than not will not be realized.

Except as discussed below, we intend to indefinitely reinvest the accumulated undistributed earnings of certain foreign subsidiaries. Therefore, the annualized effective tax rate applied to our pre-tax income from operations for the period ended September 30, 2012 did not include any provision for U.S. federal and state taxes on the amount of the undistributed foreign earnings. U.S. federal tax laws, however, require us to include in our U.S. taxable income certain investment income earned outside of the U.S. in excess of certain limits ( Subpart F deemed dividends ). Because Subpart F deemed dividends are already required to be recognized in our U.S. federal income tax return, we regularly repatriate Subpart F deemed dividends to the U.S. and no additional tax is incurred on the distribution. As of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the amount of cash and cash equivalents held by U.S. entities was \$40.3 million and \$35.7 million, respectively, and by non-U.S. entities was \$176.3 million and \$163.9 million, respectively. If the cash and cash equivalents held by non-U.S. entities were to be repatriated to the U.S., we would generate U.S. taxable income to the extent of our undistributed foreign earnings, which amounted to \$159.9 million at December 31, 2011. Although the tax impact of repatriating these earnings is difficult to determine, we would not expect the maximum effective tax rate that would be applicable to such repatriation to exceed the U.S. statutory rate of 35.0%, after considering applicable foreign tax credits.

**Deferred Revenue and Advance Payments.** Deferred revenue and advance payments represent product support and other services fees that are collected in advance and recognized over the contract service period and product licenses revenues relating to multiple element software arrangements that include future deliverables.

The following table summarizes deferred revenue and advance payments (in thousands), as of:

|   | September 30,<br>2012 | December 31,<br>2011 | September 30,<br>2011 |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Current:  |                       |                      |                       |
| Deferred product licenses revenue                       | \$ 8,553              | \$ 14,876            | \$ 11,133             |
| Deferred product support revenue                        | 133,165               | 143,165              | 125,109               |
| Deferred other services revenue                         | 16,937                | 20,397               | 14,502                |
| Gross current deferred revenue and advance payments     | 158,655               | 178,438              | 150,744               |
| Less: unpaid deferred revenue                           | (56,272)              | (75,239)             | (53,292)              |
| Net current deferred revenue and advance payments       | \$ 102,383            | \$ 103,199           | \$ 97,452             |
| Non-current:  |                       |                      |                       |
| Deferred product licenses revenue                       | \$ 2,852              | \$ 3,528             | \$ 4,121              |
| Deferred product support revenue                        | 7,265                 | 9,453                | 9,672                 |
| Deferred other services revenue                         | 3,591                 | 960                  | 490                   |
| Gross non-current deferred revenue and advance payments | 13,708                | 13,941               | 14,283                |
| Less: unpaid deferred revenue                           | (4,032)               | (3,100)              | (3,244)               |
| Net non-current deferred revenue and advance payments   | \$ 9,676              | \$ 10,841            | \$ 11,039             |

We offset our accounts receivable and deferred revenue for any unpaid items included in deferred revenue and advance payments.



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Total gross deferred revenue and advance payments decreased \$20.0 million as of September 30, 2012, as compared to December 31, 2011, primarily due to the recognition of previously deferred product licenses, product support, and other services revenues. Total gross deferred revenue and advance payments increased \$7.3 million as of September 30, 2012, as compared to September 30, 2011, primarily due to an increase in the number of technical support and other services contracts in our installed customer base, partially offset by the recognition of previously deferred product licenses revenues.

We expect to recognize approximately \$158.7 million of deferred revenue and advance payments over the next 12 months. However, the timing and ultimate recognition of our deferred revenue and advance payments depend on our performance of various service obligations, and the amount of deferred revenue and advance payments at any date should not be considered indicative of revenues for any succeeding period.

As of September 30, 2012, we had entered into certain additional agreements that include future minimum commitments by our customers to purchase products, product support, or other services through 2017, totaling approximately \$110.4 million. Revenue relating to such future commitments by our customers is not included in our deferred revenue balances.

Revenue relating to such agreements will be recognized during the period in which all revenue recognition criteria are met. The timing and ultimate recognition of any revenue from such customer purchase commitments depend on our customers' meeting their future purchase commitments and our meeting our associated performance obligations related to those purchase commitments.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

**Liquidity.** Our principal sources of liquidity are cash, cash equivalents, and on-going collection of our accounts receivable. Cash and cash equivalents include holdings in money market funds and U.S. Treasury bills.

As of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the amount of cash and cash equivalents held by U.S. entities were \$40.3 million and \$35.7 million, respectively, and by non-U.S. entities were \$176.3 million and \$163.9 million, respectively. We earn a significant amount of our revenues outside the U.S. and, except for Subpart F deemed dividends, we intend to indefinitely reinvest undistributed earnings of certain non-U.S. entities. We do not anticipate needing to repatriate the cash or cash equivalents held by non-U.S. entities to the U.S. to finance our U.S. operations. However, if we were to elect to repatriate these amounts, we would generate U.S. taxable income to the extent of our undistributed foreign earnings, which amounted to \$159.9 million at December 31, 2011. Although the tax impact of repatriating these earnings is difficult to determine and our effective tax rate could increase as a result of any such repatriation, we would not expect the maximum effective tax rate that would be applicable to such repatriation to exceed the U.S. statutory rate of 35.0%, after considering applicable foreign tax credits.

We believe that existing cash and cash equivalents held by us and anticipated to be generated by us are sufficient to meet working capital requirements, anticipated capital expenditures, and contractual obligations for at least the next 12 months, and accordingly, we do not expect that we will need to borrow money to finance our operations. However, we are currently evaluating options to borrow money in the near term in order to take advantage of favorable pricing in the credit markets.

The following table sets forth a summary of our cash flows (in thousands) and related percentage changes in our cash flows for the periods indicated:

|   | September 30, |           | %      |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------|
|   | 2012          | 2011      | Change |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | \$ 41,187     | \$ 32,376 | 27.2%  |
| Net cash used in investing activities     | (32,879)      | (26,150)  | 25.7%  |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 8,701         | 5,998     | 45.1%  |

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**Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities.** The primary source of our net cash provided by operating activities is cash collections of our accounts receivable from customers following the sales and renewals of our software licenses, technical software support, software updates and upgrades, as well as consulting, education, and other services. Our primary uses of cash from operating activities are for personnel related expenditures for software development, personnel related expenditures for providing consulting, education, and other services, and for sales and marketing costs, general and administrative costs, and income taxes.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$41.2 million and \$32.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The increase in net cash provided by operating activities during the nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, was primarily due to a \$19.9 million increase in non-cash items and a \$3.4 million increase in net income, partially offset by a \$14.4 million change in operating assets and liabilities. Non-cash items primarily consist of depreciation and amortization, bad debt expense, deferred taxes, and excess tax benefits from share-based compensation arrangements.

**Net Cash Used in Investing Activities.** The changes in net cash used in investing activities primarily relate to expenditures on property, plant and equipment, capitalized software development costs, and receipts of insurance proceeds related to our owned corporate aircraft. Net cash used in investing activities was \$32.9 million and \$26.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The increase in net cash used in investing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, was primarily due to a \$2.5 million decrease in the amount of insurance proceeds received related to our owned corporate aircraft, a \$2.2 million increase in capitalized software development costs, and the fact that we had received \$3.4 million of proceeds from the sale of an investment in the prior year, partially offset by a \$1.1 million decrease in purchases of property and equipment, comprised primarily of computer equipment, expenditures associated with repairs to our owned corporate aircraft, and leasehold improvements.

**Net Cash Provided by Financing Activities.** The changes in net cash provided by financing activities primarily relate to the exercise of employee stock options and stock repurchases. Net cash provided by financing activities was \$8.7 million and \$6.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The increase in net cash provided by financing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the same period in the prior year, was primarily due to a \$6.8 million increase in proceeds from the exercise of employee stock options, partially offset by a \$3.8 million decrease in excess tax benefits from share-based compensation arrangements.

**Contractual Obligations.** As disclosed in Note 7, Commitments and Contingencies, to the Consolidated Financial Statements, we lease office space and computer and other equipment under operating lease agreements. We also lease certain computer and other equipment under capital lease agreements. Under these agreements, in addition to base rent, we are generally responsible for certain taxes, utilities and maintenance costs, and other fees, and several leases include options for renewal or purchase. The following table shows future minimum rent payments under noncancellable operating and capital leases and agreements with initial terms of greater than one year, net of total future minimum rent payments to be received under noncancellable sublease agreements (in thousands), based on the expected due dates of the various installments as of September 30, 2012:

|                                 |            | Payments due by period ended September 30, |           |           |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|--|-----------|-----------|------------|
|                                 | Total      | 2013                                       | 2014-2015 | 2016-2017 | Thereafter |
| <i>Contractual Obligations:</i> |            |  |           |           |            |
| Operating leases                | \$ 138,760 | \$ 24,580                                  | \$ 40,035 | \$ 29,221 | \$ 44,924  |
| Capital leases                  | 3,269      | 1,555                                      | 1,704     | 10        | 0          |
|                                 |            |  |           |           |            |
| Total                           | \$ 142,029 | \$ 26,135                                  | \$ 41,739 | \$ 29,231 | \$ 44,924  |

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**Unrecognized Tax Benefits.** As of September 30, 2012, we had \$17.4 million of total gross unrecognized tax benefits, including interest accrued. The unrecognized tax benefits are recorded in other long-term liabilities. The timing of any payments which could result from these unrecognized tax benefits will depend on a number of factors, and accordingly the amount and period of any future payments cannot be estimated. We do not expect a significant tax payment related to these obligations within the next year.

**Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements.** As of September 30, 2012, we did not have any off-balance sheet arrangements that had or were reasonably likely to have a current or future material impact on our financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenues or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures, or capital resources.

**Recent Accounting Standards**

In June 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05, *Presentation of Comprehensive Income* ( ASU 2011-05 ). This standard eliminated the option to report other comprehensive income and its components in the statement of changes in equity. Under this standard, an entity can elect to present items of net income and other comprehensive income in one continuous statement referred to as the statement of comprehensive income or in two separate, but consecutive, statements. In December 2011, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-12, *Deferral of the Effective Date for Amendments to the Presentation of Reclassifications of Items Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income* in Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05 ( ASU 2011-12 ). ASU 2011-12 defers the effective date of the requirement in ASU 2011-05 to disclose on the face of the financial statements the effects of reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive income on the components of net income and other comprehensive income. All other requirements of ASU 2011-05 are not affected by ASU 2011-12. We adopted ASU 2011-05 and ASU 2011-12 effective December 31, 2011. ASU 2011-05 and ASU 2011-12 did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

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

The following discussion about our market risk exposures involves forward-looking statements. Actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements.

We are exposed to the impact of both interest rate changes and foreign currency fluctuations.

**Interest Rate Risk.** We face exposure to changes in interest rates primarily relating to our investments. We generally invest our excess cash in short-term, highly-rated, fixed-rate financial instruments. These fixed-rate instruments are subject to interest rate risk and may fall in value if interest rates increase. As of September 30, 2012, we did not have any material investments other than our cash and cash equivalents.

**Foreign Currency Risk.** We conduct a significant portion of our business in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, the currency in which we report our Consolidated Financial Statements. International revenues accounted for 41.0% and 40.5% of our total revenues for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively, and 40.1% and 41.7% of our total revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. We anticipate that international revenues will continue to account for a significant portion of our total revenues. The functional currency of each of our foreign subsidiaries is the local currency.

Assets and liabilities of our foreign subsidiaries are translated into U.S. dollars at exchange rates in effect as of the applicable balance sheet date and any resulting translation adjustments are included as an adjustment to stockholders' equity. Revenues and expenses generated from these subsidiaries are translated at average monthly exchange rates during the quarter in which the transactions occur. Gains and losses from transactions in local currencies are included in net income.

Historically, we have generated a significant portion of our revenues and incurred a significant portion of our expenses in euros and British pounds sterling. As a result of transacting in multiple currencies and reporting our financial statements in U.S. dollars, our operating results may be adversely impacted by currency exchange rate fluctuations in the future. The impact of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations on current and comparable periods is described in Item 2, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

We cannot predict the effect of exchange rate fluctuations upon our future results. We attempt to minimize our foreign currency risk by converting our excess foreign currency held in foreign jurisdictions to U.S. dollar denominated cash and investment accounts. To date, we have not hedged the risks associated with foreign currency exchange exposure. Although we may do so in the future, we cannot be sure that any hedging techniques will be successful or that our business, results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows will not be materially adversely affected by exchange rate fluctuations.

As of September 30, 2012 and 2011, a 10% adverse change in foreign currency exchange rates versus the U.S. dollar would have decreased our aggregate reported cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash and investments by 0.6% and 0.7%, respectively. The decrease in exposure as of September 30, 2012 was primarily due to the decrease of cash balances in our non-U.S. dollar based bank accounts and the strengthening of the U.S. dollar as compared to the prior year. If average exchange rates during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 had changed unfavorably by 10%, our revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 would have decreased by 3.7%. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012, our revenues decreased 3.2% as a result of a 7.2% unfavorable change in weighted average exchange rates, as compared to the same period in the prior year.

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**Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

***Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures.*** Our management, with the participation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report. Management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives and management necessarily applies its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures. Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance of achieving their control objectives. Based on the evaluation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that, as of such date, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level.

***Changes in internal controls.*** No change in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) occurred during the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2012 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

**Table of Contents****PART II - OTHER INFORMATION****Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

In 2007, Diagnostic Systems Corp., a subsidiary of Acacia Research Corporation ( Acacia Research ), filed a complaint for patent infringement against the Company and a number of other unrelated defendants in the United States District Court for the Central District of California, Southern Division. The Company and Acacia Research, Acacia Patent Acquisition LLC, and Acacia Technology Services LLC reached a settlement with respect to the consolidated complaint in December 2009 (the Settlement Agreement ). On June 29, 2010, the Company received correspondence from a law firm representing Database Application Solutions LLC ( DAS ), an affiliate of Acacia Research, alleging that the Company infringes U.S. Patent Number 5,444,842 (the 842 Patent ). On August 17, 2010, the Company sued Acacia Research and DAS in the Delaware Court of Chancery alleging, among other things, breach of the Settlement Agreement and breach of representations and warranties made in the Settlement Agreement. In addition, the Company brought a fraudulent inducement claim against Acacia Research relating to the Settlement Agreement. Acacia Research and DAS filed separate motions to dismiss the Company's lawsuit. On December 30, 2010, the court dismissed the Company's breach of contract claim against Acacia Research and DAS, denied Acacia Research's and DAS's motions to dismiss the breach of representation and warranty claim against both Acacia Research and DAS, and permitted the Company to continue to pursue its fraudulent inducement claim against Acacia Research. On October 31, 2011, the Company received correspondence from the law firm representing Acacia Research and DAS containing a purported unilateral release and covenant not to sue the Company on the 842 Patent. On October 31, 2011, Acacia Research and DAS filed a motion for summary judgment alleging, among other things, that their purported unilateral release and covenant not to sue moots the Company's breach of contract and fraudulent inducement claims. Acacia Research and DAS also asserted a counterclaim against the Company seeking to recover their legal fees for the Company's alleged breach of the Settlement Agreement. Both parties have filed motions for summary judgment, and arguments on the motions are scheduled for November 8, 2012. Trial is scheduled for February 4, 2013. The outcome of this matter is not presently determinable.

In December 2011, Datatarn, Inc. ( Datatarn ) filed a complaint for patent infringement against the Company in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. The complaint alleged that the Company infringes U.S. Patent No. 6,101,502 (the 502 Patent ), allegedly owned by Datatarn, by making, selling, or offering for sale several of the Company's products and services including MicroStrategy 9, MicroStrategy Intelligence Server, MicroStrategy BI Platform, Cloud Personal, and other MicroStrategy applications for creating or using data mining, dashboards, business analytics, data storage and warehousing, and web hosting support. The complaint accused the Company of willful infringement and seeks an unspecified amount of damages, an award of attorneys' fees, and preliminary and permanent injunctive relief. The case has been stayed pending final judgment in a separate action involving the 502 Patent filed by Datatarn in the Southern District of New York, in which MicroStrategy is not a party. We have also received indemnification requests from certain of our resellers who were sued by Datatarn in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts in lawsuits alleging infringement of the 502 Patent. The outcome of these matters is not presently determinable.

In December 2011, Vasudevan Software, Inc. ( Vasudevan ) filed a complaint for patent infringement against the Company in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. The complaint alleged that the Company's sale of MicroStrategy 9 and other MicroStrategy products infringe four patents allegedly owned by Vasudevan known as U.S. Patent Nos. 6,877,006, 7,167,864, 7,720,861, and 8,082,268, all entitled Multimedia Inspection Database System for Dynamic Runtime Evaluation. The complaint accused the Company of infringement, inducing others to infringe, and acts of contributory infringement with respect to the patents at issue and seeks a permanent injunction, an unspecified amount of damages, and other relief as may be granted by the court. The Company filed its answer to the Vasudevan complaint and pled inequitable conduct counterclaims in March 2012. Discovery in the case is ongoing. The outcome of this matter is not presently determinable.

We are also involved in various other legal proceedings arising in the normal course of business. Although the outcomes of these other legal proceedings are inherently difficult to predict, we do not expect the resolution of these other legal proceedings to have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.



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### **Item 1A. Risk Factors**

You should carefully consider the risks described below before making an investment decision. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones facing MicroStrategy. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations.

If any of the following risks actually occur, our business, financial condition, or results of operations could be materially adversely affected. In such case, the trading price of our class A common stock could decline and you may lose all or part of your investment.

#### **Our quarterly operating results, revenues, and expenses may fluctuate significantly, which could have an adverse effect on the market price of our stock**

For a number of reasons, including those described below, our operating results, revenues, and expenses have in the past varied and may in the future vary significantly from quarter to quarter. These fluctuations could have an adverse effect on the market price of our class A common stock.

*Fluctuations in Quarterly Operating Results.* Our quarterly operating results may fluctuate, in part, as a result of:

the size, timing, volume, and execution of significant orders and shipments;

the mix of products and services ordered by customers, including product licenses and MicroStrategy Cloud offerings, which can affect the extent to which revenue is recognized immediately or over a period of time;

the timing of the release or delivery of new or enhanced offerings, which may affect the period in which we are able to recognize revenue;

the timing of announcements of new offerings by us or our competitors;

changes in our pricing policies or those of our competitors;

market acceptance of business intelligence software generally and of new and enhanced versions of our products and services in particular;

the length of our sales cycles;

seasonal factors, such as our traditionally lower pace of new product licenses transactions in the summer;

changes in our operating expenses;

planned major maintenance activities related to our owned corporate aircraft;

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the timing of research and development projects and the capitalization of software development costs;

personnel changes;

our use of channel partners;

utilization of our consulting and education services, which can be affected by delays or deferrals of customer implementation of our software products;

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the quarterly performance of our Angel.com business;

changes in foreign currency exchange rates;

our profitability and expectations for future profitability and its effect on our deferred tax assets and net income for the period in which any adjustment to our net deferred tax asset valuation allowance may be made;

increases or decreases in our liability for unrecognized tax benefits; and

changes in customer budgets.

*Limited Ability to Adjust Expenses.* We base our operating expense budgets on expected revenue trends. Many of our expenses, such as office leases, corporate aircraft arrangements, and certain personnel costs, are relatively fixed. We may be unable to adjust spending quickly enough to offset any unexpected revenue shortfall. Accordingly, any shortfall in revenue may cause significant variation in operating results in any quarter.

Based on the above factors, we believe that quarter-to-quarter comparisons of our operating results are not a good indication of our future performance. It is possible that in one or more future quarters, our operating results may be below the expectations of public market analysts and investors. In that event, the trading price of our class A common stock may fall.

**The trading price of our class A common stock has been and may continue to be volatile**

The trading price of our class A common stock historically has been volatile and may continue to be volatile. The trading price of our class A common stock may fluctuate widely in response to various factors, some of which are beyond our control. These factors include, but are not limited to:

quarterly variations in our results of operations or those of our competitors;

announcements about our earnings that are not in line with analyst expectations, the likelihood of which may be enhanced because it is our policy not to give guidance relating to our anticipated financial performance in future periods;

announcements by us or our competitors of acquisitions, new offerings, significant contracts, commercial relationships, or capital commitments;

the emergence of new sales channels in which we are unable to compete effectively;

our ability to develop, market, and deliver new and enhanced offerings on a timely basis;

commencement of, or our involvement in, litigation;

any major change in our board or management;

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changes in governmental regulations or in the status of our regulatory approvals;

recommendations by securities analysts or changes in earnings estimates;

announcements by our competitors of their earnings that are not in line with analyst expectations;

the volume of shares of class A common stock available for public sale;

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sales of stock by us or by our stockholders;

short sales, hedging, and other derivative transactions involving shares of our class A common stock; and

general economic conditions and slow or negative growth of related markets.

In addition, the stock market in general, and the market for technology companies in particular, have experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of technology companies. These broad market and industry factors may seriously harm the market price of our class A common stock, regardless of our actual operating performance.

**We may not be able to sustain or increase profitability in the future**

We generated net income for each of the nine month periods ended September 30, 2012 and 2011; however, we may not be able to sustain or increase profitability on a quarterly or annual basis in the future.

In 2011 and the first nine months of 2012, we significantly increased our headcount as part of our initiatives to focus specific research and development efforts on providing our customers with high levels of performance for BI applications of all sizes and introducing a number of innovative technologies designed to enable companies to capitalize on the big data, mobile applications, cloud-based BI, and social intelligence trends in the marketplace. As a result, our cost of revenues and operating expenses have significantly increased. If our revenues are not sufficient to offset these increased operating expenses or we are unable to timely adjust our operating expenses in response to any shortfall in anticipated revenue, our profitability may decrease or we may cease to be profitable or incur operating losses. As a result, our business, results of operations, and financial condition may be materially adversely affected.

As of September 30, 2012, we had \$28.8 million of deferred tax assets, net of a \$0.7 million valuation allowance, and if we are unable to sustain profitability, we may be required to increase the valuation allowance against these deferred tax assets, which would result in a charge that would adversely affect net income in the period in which the charge is incurred.

**Economic uncertainty, particularly in the financial services and retail industries, could adversely affect our business and results of operations**

General worldwide economic conditions remain uncertain. Economic uncertainty, such as uncertainty in connection with various European sovereign debt crises and associated macroeconomic conditions, makes it extremely difficult for our customers and us to accurately forecast and plan future business activities, and could cause our customers to slow spending on our products and services, which could delay and lengthen sales cycles. Furthermore, during uncertain economic times our customers may face issues gaining timely access to sufficient credit, which could result in an impairment of their ability to make timely payments to us. If that were to occur, we may be required to increase our allowance for doubtful accounts and our results would be negatively impacted.

Furthermore, we have a significant number of customers in the financial services and retail industries. A significant downturn in these industries may cause organizations to react by reducing their capital expenditures in general or by specifically reducing their spending on information technology. In addition, customers in these industries may delay or cancel information technology projects or seek to lower their costs by renegotiating vendor contracts. Customers with excess information technology resources may choose to develop in-house software solutions rather than obtain those solutions from us. Moreover, competitors may respond to challenging market conditions by lowering prices and attempting to lure away our customers. In addition, consolidation in the financial services industry may result in reduced overall spending on our products and services.

We cannot predict the timing, strength, or duration of any economic slowdown or any subsequent recovery generally, or in the financial services and retail industries in particular. If the conditions in the general economy and the markets in which we operate worsen from present levels, our business, financial condition, and results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

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### **We may have exposure to greater than anticipated tax liabilities**

We are subject to income taxes and non-income taxes in a variety of domestic and foreign jurisdictions. Our future income taxes could be adversely affected by earnings that are lower than anticipated in jurisdictions where we have lower statutory rates and earnings that are higher than anticipated in jurisdictions where we have higher statutory rates, by changes in the valuation of our deferred tax assets and liabilities, changes in the amount of unrecognized tax benefits, or by changes in tax laws, regulations, accounting principles, or interpretations thereof.

Our determination of our tax liability is subject to review by applicable domestic and foreign tax authorities. For example, we are currently under tax examination in Germany. Any adverse outcome of such a review could have an adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition. The determination of our worldwide provision for income taxes and other tax liabilities requires significant judgment and, in the ordinary course of business, there are many transactions and calculations where the ultimate tax determination is uncertain. Moreover, as a multinational business, we have subsidiaries that engage in many intercompany transactions in a variety of tax jurisdictions where the ultimate tax determination is uncertain.

We also have contingent tax liabilities that, in management's judgment, are not probable of assertion. If such unasserted contingent liabilities were to be asserted, or become probable of assertion, we may be required to record significant expenses and liabilities in the period in which these liabilities are asserted or become probable of assertion.

As a result of these and other factors, the ultimate amount of tax obligations owed may differ from the amounts recorded in our financial statements and any such difference may materially affect our financial results in future periods in which we change our estimates of our tax obligations or in which the ultimate tax outcome is determined.

### **If the market for business intelligence offerings fails to grow as we expect, or if businesses fail to adopt our products and services, our business, operating results, and financial condition could be materially adversely affected**

Nearly all of our revenues to date have come from sales of business intelligence offerings and related technical support, consulting, and education services. We expect these sales to account for a large portion of our revenues for the foreseeable future. Although demand for business intelligence offerings has grown in recent years, the market for business intelligence offerings continues to evolve. Resistance from consumer and privacy groups to increased commercial collection and use of data on spending patterns and other personal behavior and governmental restrictions on the collection and use of personal data may impair the further growth of this market, as may other developments. We cannot be sure that this market will continue to grow or, even if it does grow, that businesses will adopt our solutions. We have spent, and intend to keep spending, considerable resources to educate potential customers about business intelligence offerings in general and our solutions in particular. However, we cannot be sure that these expenditures will help our offerings achieve any additional market acceptance. If the market fails to grow or grows more slowly than we currently expect, our business, operating results, and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

### **We face intense competition, which may lead to lower prices for our products and services, reduced gross margins, loss of market share, and reduced revenue**

The markets for business intelligence software, analytical applications, and information delivery are intensely competitive and subject to rapidly changing technology. In addition, many companies in these markets are offering, or may soon offer, products and services that may compete with MicroStrategy offerings.

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MicroStrategy faces competitors in several broad categories, including full business intelligence platforms, analytics applications, dashboarding tools, data visualization and exploration tools, report generation and delivery tools, mobile BI products, and software-as-a-service solutions. Independent competitors that are primarily focused on business intelligence offerings include, among others, Actuate, arcplan, Information Builders, LogiXML, Qlik Technologies, Roambi, the SAS Institute, Tableau Software, and TIBCO Spotfire. We also compete with large software corporations, including suppliers of enterprise resource planning software that provide one or more capabilities competitive with our offerings, such as IBM, Microsoft, Oracle, SAP, and Infor, and with open source business intelligence vendors, including Pentaho and JasperSoft.

Some of our competitors have longer operating histories and significantly greater financial, technical, and marketing resources than we do. As a result, they may be able to respond more quickly to new or emerging technologies and changes in customer requirements or devote greater resources to the development, promotion, sale, and marketing of their offerings than we can, such as offering certain business intelligence products and services free of charge when bundled with other software offerings. In addition, many of our competitors have strong relationships with current and potential customers, extensive industry and specialized business knowledge, as well as corresponding proprietary technologies that they can leverage, such as multidimensional databases and ERP repositories. As a result, they may be able to prevent MicroStrategy from penetrating new accounts or expanding within existing accounts.

Increased competition may lead to price cuts, reduced gross margins, and loss of market share. We may not be able to compete successfully against current and future competitors and the failure to meet the competitive pressures we face may have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results, and financial condition.

Current and future competitors may also make strategic acquisitions or establish cooperative relationships among themselves or with others. By doing so, these competitors may increase their ability to meet the needs of our potential customers by virtue of their expanded offerings. Our current or prospective channel partners may establish cooperative relationships with our current or future competitors. These relationships may limit our ability to sell our products and services through specific distribution channels. Accordingly, new competitors or alliances among current and future competitors may emerge and rapidly gain significant market share. These developments could limit our ability to obtain revenues from new customers and to maintain technical support revenues from our installed customer base. In addition, basic office productivity suites, such as Microsoft Office®, could evolve to offer analysis and reporting capabilities that may reduce the demand for our products and services.

### **We depend on revenue from a single suite of products and related services**

Our MicroStrategy BI Platform and related products and services account for a substantial portion of our revenue. Because of this revenue concentration, our business could be harmed by a decline in demand for, or in the prices of, our MicroStrategy BI Platform software as a result of, among other factors, any change in our pricing model, increased competition, a maturation in the markets for these products, or other risks described in this document.

### **If we are unable to develop and release product enhancements and new offerings to respond to rapid technological change in a timely and cost-effective manner, our business, operating results, and financial condition could be materially adversely affected**

The market for our offerings is characterized by rapid technological change, frequent new product introductions and enhancements, changing customer demands, and evolving industry standards. The introduction of offerings embodying new technologies can quickly make existing offerings obsolete and unmarketable. We believe that our future success depends largely on three factors:

our ability to continue to support a number of popular operating systems and databases;

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our ability to maintain and improve our current offerings; and

our ability to rapidly develop new offerings that achieve market acceptance, maintain technological competitiveness, and meet an expanding range of customer requirements.

Business intelligence applications are inherently complex, and it can take a long time and require significant research and development expenditures to develop and test new offerings and product enhancements. In addition, customers may delay their purchasing decisions because they anticipate that new or enhanced versions of our products will soon become available. We cannot be sure that we will succeed in developing, marketing, and delivering on a timely and cost-effective basis new or enhanced offerings that respond to technological change or new customer requirements, nor can we be sure that any new or enhanced offerings will achieve market acceptance. Moreover, even if we introduce a new offering, we may experience a decline in revenues of our existing offerings that is not fully matched by the new offering's revenue. For example, customers may delay making purchases of a new offering to permit them to make a more thorough evaluation of the offering, or until industry and marketplace reviews become widely available. Some customers may hesitate migrating to a new offering due to concerns regarding the complexity of migration and product infancy issues on performance. In addition, we may lose existing customers who choose a competitor's offering rather than migrate to our new offering. This could result in a temporary or permanent revenue shortfall and materially affect our business.

### **Our investment in new business strategies and initiatives could disrupt the operations of our ongoing business and present risks that we have not adequately anticipated**

We have invested, and in the future may invest, in new business strategies and initiatives. For example, we recently introduced a number of innovative technologies designed to enable companies to capitalize on the big data, mobile applications, cloud-based BI, and social intelligence trends in the marketplace. These endeavors may involve significant risks and uncertainties, including distraction of management from other business operations, the dedication of significant research and development, sales and marketing, and other resources to these new initiatives at the expense of our other business operations, generation of insufficient revenue to offset expenses associated with new initiatives, incompatibility of our new technologies with third-party platforms, inadequate return of capital, and other risks that we may not have adequately anticipated. Because new strategies and initiatives are inherently risky, these strategies and initiatives may not be successful and could materially adversely affect our financial condition and operating results.

### **Business disruptions could affect our operating results**

A significant portion of our research and development activities are concentrated in facilities in Northern Virginia and two cities in China (Hangzhou and Beijing), and certain other critical business operations are concentrated in facilities in Northern Virginia and Warsaw, Poland. We are also a highly automated business and a disruption or failure of our systems could cause delays in completing sales and providing services. A major earthquake, fire, act of terrorism, or other catastrophic event that results in the destruction or disruption of any of our critical business operations or information technology systems could severely affect our ability to conduct normal business operations and, as a result, our future operating results could be materially adversely affected.

### **We use channel partners and if we are unable to maintain successful relationships with them, our business, operating results, and financial condition could be materially adversely affected**

In addition to our direct sales force, we use channel partners such as value-added resellers, system integrators, and original equipment manufacturers to license and support our products. For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, transactions by channel partners for which we recognized revenues accounted for 32.9% of our total product licenses revenues. Our channel partners generally offer customers the products and services of several different companies, including offerings that compete with ours. Because our channel partners generally do not have an exclusive relationship with us, we cannot be certain that they will prioritize or provide adequate resources to selling our products. Moreover, divergence in strategy or contract defaults by any of these channel partners may materially adversely affect our ability to develop, market, sell, or support our offerings.



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Although we believe that direct sales will continue to account for a majority of product licenses revenues, we seek to maintain a significant level of sales activities through our channel partners. There can be no assurance that our channel partners will continue to cooperate with us. In addition, there can be no assurance that actions taken or omitted to be taken by such parties will not adversely affect us. Our ability to achieve revenue growth in the future will depend in part on our ability to maintain successful relationships with our channel partners. If we are unable to maintain our relationships with these channel partners, our business, operating results, and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

In addition, we rely on our channel partners to operate in accordance with the terms of their contractual agreements with us. For example, our agreements with our channel partners limit the terms and conditions pursuant to which they are authorized to resell or distribute our software and offer technical support and related services. We also typically require our channel partners to represent to us the dates and details of product licenses transactions sold through to end user customers. If our channel partners do not comply with their contractual obligations to us, our business, results of operations, and financial condition may be materially adversely affected.

### **Our recognition of deferred revenue and advance payments and future customer purchase commitments is subject to future performance obligations and may not be representative of revenues for succeeding periods**

Our gross current and non-current deferred revenue and advance payments totaled \$172.4 million as of September 30, 2012. We offset our accounts receivable and deferred revenue for any unpaid items, which totaled \$60.3 million, resulting in net current and non-current deferred revenue and advance payments of \$112.1 million as of September 30, 2012. The timing and ultimate recognition of our deferred revenue and advance payments depend on various factors, including our performance of various service obligations.

We have entered into certain additional agreements that include future minimum commitments by our customers to purchase products, product support, or other services through 2017 totaling \$110.4 million. These future commitments are not included in our deferred revenue balances. Because of the possibility of customer changes or delays in customer development or implementation schedules or budgets, and the need for us to satisfactorily perform product support services, deferred revenue and advance payments at any particular date may not be representative of actual revenue for any succeeding period.

### **Managing our international operations is complex and our failure to do so successfully or in a cost-effective manner could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results, and financial condition**

We receive a significant portion of our total revenues from international sales, and are seeking to expand our business activities in various foreign countries, including some emerging markets where we have limited experience and where the challenges of conducting our business can be significantly different from those we have faced in more developed markets. International revenues accounted for 41.0% and 40.5% of our total revenues for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively, and 40.1% and 41.7% of our total revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Our international operations require significant management attention and financial resources.

There are certain risks inherent in our international business activities including:

changes in foreign currency exchange rates;

unexpected changes in regulatory requirements;

tariffs, export restrictions, and other trade barriers;

costs of localizing our offerings;

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lack of acceptance of localized offerings;

difficulties in and costs of staffing, managing, and operating our international operations;

tax issues, including restrictions on repatriating earnings;

weaker intellectual property protection;

economic weakness or currency related crises;

the burden of complying with a wide variety of laws, including labor laws;

generally longer payment cycles and greater difficulty in collecting accounts receivable;

our ability to adapt to sales practices and customer requirements in different cultures; and

political instability in the countries where we are doing business.

President Obama released a proposed corporate tax reform package in February 2012. The proposals include corporate income tax rate cuts, elimination of certain corporate tax incentives, and a minimum tax on overseas earnings. It is not clear whether, and to what extent, these proposals may be enacted. Significant changes to the U.S. taxation of our international income could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

From time to time, we may undertake various potential intercompany transactions and legal entity restructurings that involve our international subsidiaries. We consider various factors in evaluating these potential transactions and restructurings, including the alignment of our corporate structure with our organizational objectives, the operational and tax efficiency of our corporate structure, and the long-term cash flows and cash needs of our business. Such transactions and restructurings could negatively impact our overall tax rate and result in additional tax liabilities.

In addition, compliance with foreign and U.S. laws and regulations that are applicable to our international operations is complex and may increase our cost of doing business in international jurisdictions, and our international operations could expose us to fines and penalties if we fail to comply with these regulations. These laws and regulations include import and export requirements, U.S. laws such as the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the U.K. Bribery Act, and local laws prohibiting corrupt payments to governmental officials. Although we have implemented policies and procedures designed to help ensure compliance with these laws, there can be no assurance that our employees, partners, and other persons with whom we do business will not take actions in violation of our policies or these laws. Any violations of these laws could subject us to civil or criminal penalties, including substantial fines or prohibitions on our ability to offer our products and services to one or more countries, and could also materially damage our reputation, our brand, and our international expansion efforts.

These factors may have a material adverse effect on our future sales and, consequently, on our business, operating results, and financial condition.

**We may lose sales, or sales may be delayed, due to the long sales and implementation cycles for our products, which could reduce our revenues**

To date, our customers have typically invested substantial time, money, and other resources and involved many people in the decision to license our software products and purchase our consulting and other services. As a result, we may wait nine months or more after the first contact with a customer for that customer to place an order while it seeks internal approval for the purchase of our products or services. During this long sales cycle, events may occur that affect the size and/or timing of the order or even cause it to be canceled. For example, our competitors may

introduce new offerings, or the customer's own budget and purchasing priorities may change.

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Even after an order is placed, the time it takes to deploy our products and complete consulting engagements can vary widely. Implementing our products can take several months, depending on the customer's needs, and may begin only with a pilot program. It may be difficult to deploy our products if the customer has complicated deployment requirements, which typically involve integrating databases, hardware, and software from different vendors. If a customer hires a third party to deploy our products, we cannot be sure that our products will be deployed successfully.

### **Our results in any particular period may depend upon the number and volume of large transactions in that period and these transactions may involve more lengthy, complex, and unpredictable sales cycles than other transactions**

As existing and potential customers seek to standardize on a single business intelligence vendor, our business may experience larger transactions at the enterprise level and larger transactions may account for a greater proportion of our business. The presence or absence of one or more large transactions in a particular period may have a material positive or negative effect on our revenue and operating results for that period. For the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, our top three product licenses transactions with recognized revenue totaled \$12.8 million and \$9.1 million, respectively, or 12.7% and 9.1% of total product licenses revenues, respectively. These transactions represent significant business and financial decisions for our customers and require considerable effort on the part of customers to assess alternative products and require additional levels of management approval before being concluded. They are also often more complex than smaller transactions. These factors generally lengthen the typical sales cycle and increase the risk that the customer's purchasing decisions may be postponed or delayed from one period to another subsequent or later period or that the customers will alter their purchasing requirements. The sales effort and service delivery scope for larger transactions also require additional resources to execute the transaction. These factors could result in lower than anticipated revenue and earnings for a particular period or in the reduction of estimated revenue and earnings in future periods.

### **We face a variety of risks in doing business with the U.S. and foreign governments, various state and local governments, and agencies, including risks related to the procurement process, budget constraints and cycles, termination of contracts, and compliance with government contracting requirements**

Our customers include the U.S. government and a number of state and local governments and agencies. There are a variety of risks in doing business with government entities, including:

*Procurement.* Contracting with public sector customers is highly competitive and can be time-consuming and expensive, requiring that we incur significant up-front time and expense without any assurance that we will win a contract.

*Budgetary Constraints and Cycles.* Demand and payment for our products and services are impacted by public sector budgetary cycles and funding availability, with funding reductions or delays adversely impacting public sector demand for our products and services.

*Termination of Contracts.* Public sector customers often have contractual or other legal rights to terminate current contracts for convenience or due to a default. If a contract is terminated for convenience, which can occur if the customer's needs change, we may only be able to collect for products or services delivered prior to termination and settlement expenses. If a contract is terminated because of default, we may not recover even those amounts, and we may be liable for excess costs incurred by the customer for procuring alternative products or services.

*Compliance with Government Contracting Requirements.* Government contractors are required to comply with a variety of complex laws, regulations, and contractual provisions relating to the formation, administration, or performance of government contracts that give public sector customers substantial rights and remedies, many of which are not typically found in commercial contracts. These may include rights with respect to price protection, the accuracy of information

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provided to the government, contractor compliance with socio-economic policies, and other terms that are particular to government contracts. U.S. government and state and local governments and agencies routinely investigate and audit contractors for compliance with these requirements. If, as a result of an audit or review, it is determined that we have failed to comply with these requirements, we may be subject to civil and criminal penalties and administrative sanctions, including termination of contracts, forfeiture of profits, cost associated with the triggering of price reduction clauses, fines, and suspensions or debarment from future government business, and we may suffer harm to our reputation.

Our customers also include a number of foreign governments and agencies. Similar procurement, budgetary, contract, and audit risks also apply to our doing business with these entities. In addition, compliance with complex regulations and contracting provisions in a variety of jurisdictions can be expensive and consume significant management resources. In certain jurisdictions our ability to win business may be constrained by political and other factors unrelated to our competitive position in the market. Each of these difficulties could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

### **We depend on technology licensed to us by third parties, and the loss of this technology could impair our software, delay implementation of our offerings, or force us to pay higher license fees**

We license third-party technologies that we incorporate into our existing offerings. There can be no assurance that the licenses for such third-party technologies will not be terminated or that we will be able to license third-party software for future products. In addition, we may be unable to renegotiate acceptable third-party license terms. Changes in or the loss of third-party licenses could lead to a material increase in the costs of licensing or to our software offerings becoming inoperable or their performance being materially reduced, with the result that we may need to incur additional development costs to ensure continued performance of our software offerings, and we may experience a decreased demand for our software offerings.

### **If we are unable to recruit or retain skilled personnel, or if we lose the services of any of our key management personnel, our business, operating results, and financial condition could be materially adversely affected**

Our future success depends on our continuing ability to attract, train, assimilate, and retain highly skilled personnel. Competition for these employees is intense. We may not be able to retain our current key employees or attract, train, assimilate, or retain other highly skilled personnel in the future. Our future success also depends in large part on the continued service of key management personnel, particularly Michael J. Saylor, our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and Sanju K. Bansal, our Vice Chairman, Executive Vice President and Secretary. If we lose the services of one or both of these individuals or other key personnel, or if we are unable to attract, train, assimilate, and retain the highly skilled personnel we need, our business, operating results, and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

### **The emergence of new industry standards may adversely affect the demand for our existing offerings**

The emergence of new industry standards in related fields may adversely affect the demand for our existing offerings. This could happen, for example, if new web standards and technologies emerged that were incompatible with customer deployments of our software offerings. MicroStrategy currently supports SQL and MDX standards in database access technology. If we are unable to adapt our software offerings on a timely basis to new standards in database access technology, the ability of MicroStrategy's software offerings to access customer databases could be impaired. In addition, the emergence of new standards in the field of operating system support could adversely affect the demand for our existing software offerings. MicroStrategy technology is currently compatible with most major operating systems, including, among others, Windows Server, Sun Solaris, IBM AIX, HP's HP-UX, Red Hat Linux AS, SuSE Linux Enterprise Server, Apple's iOS and OSX, RIM's Blackberry® OS, and Google's Android™. If a different operating system were to gain widespread acceptance, we may not be able to achieve compatibility on a timely basis, resulting in an adverse effect on the demand for our software offerings.

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### **The nature of our software offerings makes them particularly vulnerable to undetected errors, or bugs, which could cause problems with how the offerings perform and which could in turn reduce demand for our offerings, reduce our revenue, and lead to product liability claims against us**

Software as complex as ours may contain errors and/or defects. Although we test our software offerings extensively, we have in the past discovered software errors in our offerings after their introduction. Despite testing by us and by our current and potential customers, errors may be found in new offerings or releases after commercial shipments begin. This could result in lost revenue, damage to our reputation, or delays in market acceptance, which could have a material adverse effect upon our business, operating results, and financial condition. We may also have to expend resources and capital to correct these defects.

Our license agreements with customers typically contain provisions designed to limit our exposure to product liability, warranty, and other claims. It is possible, however, that these provisions may not be effective under the laws of certain domestic or international jurisdictions and we may be exposed to product liability, warranty, and other claims. A successful product liability claim against us could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results, and financial condition.

### **Changes in laws or regulations relating to privacy or protection of personal data, or any failure by us to comply with such laws and regulations or our privacy policies, could adversely affect our business**

Aspects of our business, including our MicroStrategy Cloud and social intelligence offerings, involve processing and storing personal data, which is subject to our privacy policies and certain federal, state, and foreign laws and regulations relating to privacy and data protection. The amount of data that we store for our customers on our servers, including personal data, is increasing. Any systems failure or security breach that results in the release of personal data, or any failure or perceived failure by us to comply with our privacy policies or any applicable laws or regulations relating to privacy or data protection, could result in proceedings against us by governmental entities or others. Such proceedings could result in the imposition of fines, penalties, liabilities, and/or governmental orders requiring that we change our data practices, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results, and financial condition. Further, any systems failure or security breach that results in the release of personal data, or any failure or perceived failure by us to comply with our privacy policies or applicable laws or regulations relating to privacy or data protection, could result in a loss of customer confidence in us and damage to our brand, which could adversely affect our business.

The interpretation and application of laws and regulations relating to privacy and data protection are currently unsettled both in the U.S. and internationally. These laws and regulations may be interpreted and applied inconsistently from country to country, and these interpretations and applications may be inconsistent with our policies and practices. In addition, various federal, state, and foreign legislative or regulatory bodies may enact new or additional laws or regulations concerning privacy and data protection that could adversely impact our business. Complying with these varying requirements could cause us to incur substantial costs or require us to change our business practices, either of which could adversely affect our business and operating results.

### **Our intellectual property is valuable, and any inability to protect it could reduce the value of our products, services, and brand**

We rely on a combination of copyright, patent, trade secrets, confidentiality procedures, and contractual commitments to protect our intellectual property. Despite our efforts, these measures can only provide limited protection. Unauthorized third parties may try to copy or reverse engineer portions of our products or otherwise obtain and use our intellectual property. Any patents owned by us may be invalidated, circumvented, or challenged. Any of our pending or future patent applications, whether or not being currently challenged, may not be issued with the scope of the claims we seek, if at all. Moreover, recent amendments to U.S. patent law may affect our ability to protect our intellectual property and defend against claims of patent infringement. In addition, the laws of some countries do not provide the same level of protection of our intellectual property as do the laws of the United States. If we cannot protect our intellectual property against unauthorized copying or use, we may not remain competitive.

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### **Third parties may claim we infringe their intellectual property rights**

We periodically receive notices from others claiming we are infringing their intellectual property rights, principally patent rights. We expect the number of such claims will increase as the number of offerings and level of competition in our industry segments grow, the functionality of offerings overlap, and the volume of issued patents and patent applications continues to increase. Responding to any infringement claim, regardless of its validity, could:

be time-consuming, costly, and/or result in litigation;

divert management's time and attention from developing our business;

require us to pay monetary damages or enter into royalty and licensing agreements that we would not normally find acceptable;

require us to stop selling certain of our offerings;

require us to redesign certain of our offerings using alternative non-infringing technology or practices, which could require significant effort and expense; or

require us to satisfy indemnification obligations to our customers.

If a successful claim is made against us and we fail to develop or license a substitute technology, our business, results of operations, financial condition, or cash flows could be adversely affected.

For example, we are currently being sued by two separate parties who allege that certain of our core business intelligence products infringe their respective patents. These matters are described in further detail in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q under Part II. Item 1. Legal Proceedings.

### **Pending or future litigation could have a material adverse impact on our results of operation and financial condition**

In addition to intellectual property litigation, from time to time, we have been subject to other litigation. Regardless of the merits of any claims that may be brought against us, such litigation could result in a diversion of management's attention and resources and we may be required to incur significant expenses defending against these claims. If we are unable to prevail in litigation we could incur substantial liabilities. Where we can make a reasonable estimate of the liability relating to pending litigation and determine that it is probable, we record a related liability. As additional information becomes available, we assess the potential liability and revise estimates as appropriate. However, because of uncertainties relating to litigation, the amount of our estimates could be wrong. In addition to the related cost and use of cash, pending or future litigation could cause the diversion of management's attention and resources.

### **Because of the rights of our two classes of common stock, and because we are controlled by our existing holders of class B common stock, these stockholders could transfer control of MicroStrategy to a third party without the approval of our Board of Directors or our other stockholders, prevent a third party from acquiring MicroStrategy, or limit your ability to influence corporate matters**

We have two classes of common stock: class A common stock and class B common stock. Holders of our class A common stock generally have the same rights as holders of our class B common stock, except that holders of class A common stock have one vote per share while holders of class B common stock have ten votes per share. As of October 23, 2012, holders of our class B common stock owned 2,227,327 shares of class B common stock, or 71.2% of the total voting power. Michael J. Saylor, our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, beneficially owned 2,011,668 shares of class B common stock, or 64.3% of the total voting power, as of October 23, 2012. Accordingly, Mr. Saylor is able to control MicroStrategy through his ability to determine the outcome of elections of our directors, amend our certificate of incorporation and by-laws, and take other actions requiring the vote or consent of stockholders, including mergers, going-private transactions, and other extraordinary transactions and their terms.





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Our certificate of incorporation allows holders of class B common stock, all of whom are current employees or directors of our company or related parties, to transfer shares of class B common stock, subject to the approval of stockholders possessing a majority of the outstanding class B common stock. Mr. Saylor or a group of stockholders possessing a majority of the outstanding class B common stock could, without the approval of our Board of Directors or our other stockholders, transfer voting control of MicroStrategy to a third party. Such a transfer of control could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results, and financial condition. Mr. Saylor or a group of stockholders possessing a majority of the outstanding class B common stock will also be able to prevent a change of control of MicroStrategy, regardless of whether holders of class A common stock might otherwise receive a premium for their shares over the then current market price. In addition, this concentrated control limits stockholders' ability to influence corporate matters and, as a result, we may take actions that our non-controlling stockholders do not view as beneficial. As a result, the market price of our class A common stock could be adversely affected.

**We rely on the controlled company exemption from certain corporate governance requirements for Nasdaq-listed companies, which could make our class A common stock less attractive to some investors or otherwise adversely affect our stock price**

Because we qualify as a controlled company under the corporate governance rules for Nasdaq-listed companies, we are not required to have a majority of our board of directors be comprised of independent directors. Additionally, our board of directors is not required to have a compensation committee or an independent nominating committee, or to have the independent directors exercise the nominating function. We also are not required to have the compensation of our executive officers be determined by a compensation committee of independent directors or a majority of the independent members of our board of directors.

In light of our status as a controlled company, our board of directors has determined not to establish an independent nominating committee or have its independent directors exercise the nominating function, and has elected instead to have the board of directors be directly responsible for nominating members of the board. A majority of our board of directors is currently comprised of independent directors, and our board of directors has established a compensation committee comprised entirely of independent directors. The compensation committee determines the compensation of our chief executive officer. However, our board of directors has authorized our chief executive officer to determine the compensation of executive officers other than himself, rather than having such compensation determined by the compensation committee, except that certain executive officer compensation that is intended to qualify as performance-based compensation for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code is determined by the compensation committee pursuant to the requirements of Section 162(m).

Although currently a majority of our board of directors is comprised of independent directors and the compensation committee is comprised entirely of independent directors, we may elect in the future not to have independent directors constitute a majority of the board of directors or the compensation committee, have our chief executive officer's compensation determined by a compensation committee of independent directors, or have a compensation committee of the board of directors at all.

Accordingly, should the interests of our controlling stockholder differ from those of other stockholders, the other stockholders may not have the same protections that are afforded to stockholders of companies that are required to follow all of the corporate governance rules for Nasdaq-listed companies. Our status as a controlled company could make our class A common stock less attractive to some investors or otherwise adversely affect our stock price.

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**Revenue recognition accounting pronouncements may adversely affect our reported results of operations**

We continuously review our compliance with all new and existing revenue recognition accounting pronouncements. Depending upon the outcome of these ongoing reviews and the potential issuance of further accounting pronouncements, implementation guidelines, and interpretations, we may be required to modify our reported results, revenue recognition policies, or business practices, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

**Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds**

During the three months ended September 30, 2012, we did not repurchase any equity securities registered by us pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act. See Note 8, Treasury Stock, to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Part I. Item 1. Financial Statements for further information regarding the Company's share repurchase plan.

**Item 6. Exhibits**

We hereby file as part of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q the exhibits listed in the Index to Exhibits.

All other items not included in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are omitted because they are not applicable or the answers thereto are none.

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**SIGNATURES**

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

**MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED**

By: /s/ Michael J. Saylor  
Michael J. Saylor  
Chairman of the Board of Directors

and Chief Executive Officer

By: /s/ Douglas K. Thede  
Douglas K. Thede  
Senior Executive Vice President &

Chief Financial Officer

Date: November 2, 2012

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**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|---------------------------|--|
| 3.1                       | Second Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the registrant (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2003 (File No. 000-24435) and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 3.2                       | Amended and Restated By-Laws of the registrant (filed as Exhibit 3.2 to the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003 (File No. 000-24435) and incorporated by reference herein).                      |
| 4.1                       | Form of Certificate of Class A Common Stock of the registrant (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2003 (File No. 000-24435) and incorporated by reference herein).   |
| 31.1                      | Certification pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer.  |
| 31.2                      | Certification pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer.   |
| 32                        | Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.  |
| 101.INS                   | XBRL Instance Document+  |
| 101.SCH                   | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema+  |
| 101.CAL                   | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase+  |
| 101.DEF                   | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase+   |
| 101.LAB                   | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase+  |
| 101.PRE                   | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase+   |

+ furnished, not filed, herewith