

SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC
Form 10-K
December 06, 2004

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

ý

**Annual Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934**

**For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2004
OR**

o

**Transition Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Commission file number 0-15935

SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

California

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)

95-3634089

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

**10052 Mesa Ridge Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA**

(Address of principal executive offices)

92121

(Zip Code)

(858) 625-3000

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12 (b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
None	None

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12 (g) of the Act:

Common Stock

(Title of class)

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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of Registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 12b-2). Yes ☐ No ☒

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity on September 30, 2004, held by non-affiliates* of the Registrant, based upon the last price reported on the OTC Bulletin Board on such date was \$9,851,603.

The number of shares outstanding of the Registrant's Common Stock at the close of business on November 15, 2004 was 34,151,778.

* Without acknowledging that any individual director of Registrant is an affiliate, all directors have been included as affiliates with respect to shares owned by them.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Registrant's proxy statement relating to its 2005 Annual Shareholders Meeting are incorporated by reference into Part III hereof.

PART I

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from historical results or anticipated results, including those set forth under "Certain Factors That May Affect Future Results" under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Conditions and Results of Operations" and elsewhere in, or incorporated by reference into, this report. Other risks and uncertainties include such factors, among others, as market acceptance and market demand for the Company's (as defined below) technologies and services, pricing, the changing regulatory environment, the effect of the Company's accounting policies, potential seasonality, industry trends, adequacy of the Company's financial resources to execute its business plan, the Company's ability to attract, retain and motivate key technical, marketing and management personnel, possible disruption in commercial activities occasioned by terrorist activity and armed conflict, and other risk factors detailed in the Company's other SEC filings.

In some cases, you can identify forward looking statements by terms such as "may," "intend," "might," "will," "should," "could," "would," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "predict," "potential," or the negative of these terms, and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Such statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly release the result of any revisions to these forward-looking statements, which may be made to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. The forward-looking statements in this report are based upon management's current expectations and belief, which management believes are reasonable. These statements represent our estimates and assumptions only as of the date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, and we undertake no obligation to publicly release the result of any revisions to any forward-looking statement, which may be made to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements.

In this report, unless the context indicates otherwise, the terms "Company," "we," "us," and "our" refer to Spescom Software Inc., a California corporation, and its subsidiaries.

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

General

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

Spescom Software Inc, formerly Altris Software, Inc., (the Company) was founded and incorporated as a California corporation in 1981 and is headquartered in San Diego, California with an international sales and support subsidiary in London, United Kingdom. Our principal executive office is located at 10052 Mesa Ridge Court, Suite 100, San Diego, California, 92121. Our telephone number at that address is (858) 625-3000. Our website address is www.spescomsoftware.com. Our annual reports on Form 10-K, our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, our current reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 can be accessed, free of charge, at our website as soon as reasonably practicable after they are electronically filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Company develops, markets and supports *eB*, its integrated suite of collaborative document, configuration and records management software solutions. The *eB* suite enables organizations in a broad range of industries to create, capture, store, manage, share and distribute critical business information regarding their customers, products, assets and processes in an efficient manner. The *eB* suite also enables them to maintain complete, up-to-date information about the configuration of their products, assets and infrastructures so that they can achieve operational excellence and compliance with regulatory requirements. *eB* provides the capabilities of an Enterprise Content Management (ECM)/Electronic Document Management (EDM) System, but extends these

capabilities by also managing the things that the content/documents relate to such as products, assets, functions, processes, requirements, projects, organizations, locations, work orders, etc. As a result, *eB* can be used to manage the lifecycle of physical items (e.g. products, equipment or assets), and the requirements (e.g. functional, safety, performance, environmental, etc.) that govern them. It enables intelligent relationships to be defined between these items thereby creating an interdependency model. As a result, the effects of any change on requirements, documents and items can be determined and change can be managed to effectively ensure information integrity. In particular, *eB* enables organizations with extensive and complex physical infrastructures to efficiently identify, classify, structure, link, and manage documents, physical items, and requirements throughout their lifecycles and ensure that conformance between these is maintained by means of an automated change process.

eB's integration of document, configuration and records management functionality onto a single platform is a major differentiator and significant competitive advantage that allows the Company to address the information management needs of an enterprise in a more holistic manner than solutions provided by other vendors. In addition, *eB* provides interoperability and scalability across and beyond an enterprise, deployment over the web, and quick cost-effective out-of-the-box implementation. Finally, the product's full functionality is available via a set of application programming interfaces (APIs) that enable the rapid definition and deployment of customer specific solutions and integration with other business applications, including enterprise resource planning (ERP), maintenance management, and project management products.

History

In the 1980s, the Company and a handful of other pioneering companies set out to provide a better alternative for managing documents electronically. In the mid 1990s the Company acquired two of those other companies, Optigraphics Corp., and Trimco Ltd. that were recognized for their product excellence and vision. As a combined entity, the Company became a leading developer of enterprise document management solutions. In 2000, the Company acquired the rights to certain configuration management technology and skills from Spescom Ltd., which at the same time acquired a controlling interest in the Company. Due to this unique combination of document and configuration management technologies and skills, the Company began doing business as Spescom Software Inc. on October 1, 2001.

As of September 30, 2004 Spescom Ltd. owned 60% of the outstanding shares of the Company including the shares issuable upon conversion of the shares of the Company's Series F Preferred Stock held by Spescom Ltd.

A timeline summary of equity transactions between the Company and Spescom Ltd. follows:

1999

The Company sold 3,428,571 shares of its common stock to Spescom Ltd. for \$2,300,000 in cash. In addition, the Company sold a 60% interest in ASL, its United Kingdom subsidiary, for an additional \$1,000,000. At the end of 1999 Spescom Ltd. purchased the Company's subordinated debt and Series E Preferred Stock held by a third party. Under the terms of the debt and preferred stock, Spescom Ltd. had the right to convert the debt and preferred stock into common stock at \$1.90 per share which equated to 3,226,841 shares of common stock.

2000

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

In April 2000 the Company sold 5,284,714 shares of its common stock to Spescom Ltd. for \$3,700,000. Also, the Company agreed to convert its subordinated debt and Series E Preferred Stock held by Spescom Ltd. into 9,528,096 shares of common stock at an effective conversion rate of \$.70 per share. The Company also transferred its remaining interest in ASL to Spescom Ltd. for no consideration. In September 2000 the Company changed its year end from December 31 to September 30 to coincide with Spescom Ltd.'s year end.

2001

In October 2000 Spescom Ltd. contributed certain assets and liabilities of its United Kingdom subsidiary (formerly ASL) to the Company for 550,000 shares of common stock of the Company.

2002

In 2002 Spescom Ltd. loaned working capital to the Company under promissory notes secured by all of the assets of the Company.

2003

In September 2003 the Company agreed to convert \$5,292,000 of the \$5,791,000 owed to Spescom Ltd. into shares of the Company's Series F Preferred Stock. The Series F Preferred Stock is convertible into the Company's common stock based upon a conversion rate of \$.45 per share (subject to certain adjustments set forth in the related Certificate of Determination for the Series F Preferred Stock), which equates to 11,757,778 shares of common stock.

2004

In November 2004 the Company issued a note payable to Spescom UK with a principal balance of \$600,000 which was repaid in full during the year.

Industry Background

In today's marketplace, organizations are increasingly looking for better ways to help manage their business information and processes. Most companies are overwhelmed by the amount and variety of information generated by their suppliers, customers, employees and partners and by the rate at which change occurs in their operations. As a result, organizations are seeking computer-based information management solutions that enable them to improve productivity, reduce costs, react quickly to changes in their marketplace, improve customer service or comply with stringent regulatory and quality certification requirements.

Enterprise information can be broadly divided into two categories:

i) **Structured information** stored in a database regarding, for example, customers, suppliers, products and transactions. This data is readily manipulated by a computer application to achieve a specified business objective, for example, general accounting, manufacturing planning, inventory control, purchasing, asset management, personnel management. Most enterprise software applications including for example Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Customer Relationship Management (CRM), Supply Chain Management (SCM), and Product Lifecycle Management (PLM), solely use this category of information.

ii) **Unstructured information** generated by software for personal computers and workstations, such as word processing documents, spreadsheets and computer-aided design (CAD) drawings, as well as other types of information which may or may not be in electronic format, such as manufacturing procedures, maintenance records, training and technical manuals, facility layouts, blueprints, product and parts drawings, specifications, schematics, invoices, checks and other business records, presentation graphics, photos, audio and video clips and facsimile documents. The majority of corporate information is in an unstructured format and is growing at an exponential rate straining an enterprise's ability to efficiently, access, process and communicate that information.

Whatever the format and wherever the location, unstructured data represents information that is essential to a company's business and forms a key part of its intellectual capital. In today's competitive marketplace, companies need the ability to leverage their intellectual capital; however, limitations on a company's ability to access, process and communicate this information has restrained the productivity of businesses at both the individual and team levels. Without an effective means of obtaining business information, employees are often forced to re-create information from scratch, duplicating effort and increasing the potential for error. In addition, professionals often spend a significant amount of their time locating information rather than engaging in higher-value activities. Additional complexity results where information must be accessed and revised by collaborative teams dispersed throughout and beyond an enterprise that may operate different desktop software and computers. The lack of effective tools for communicating and sharing information and for automating the business logic makes this process even more time-consuming, inefficient and error-prone.

A further factor that is increasingly impacting business is that of information integrity. Due to the dynamic business environment, enterprises are being stretched to the limit to manage change effectively. The result of rapid change is a reduction in enterprise information integrity and an inevitable decrease in operational efficiency, safety, customer service, regulatory compliance and profitability. Independent research by the Institute of Configuration Management (ICM) based in Phoenix, Arizona has determined that a reduction of only 8% in information integrity

results in a 50% reduction in operational effectiveness.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 have again highlighted the need for enterprises to secure and protect their corporate information as its loss could threaten the ongoing operations of the business. The need to not only provide secured access to information but also implement effective disaster recovery plans is of utmost importance. Stringent regulatory requirements as a result of the Enron and other financial fiascos have also forced enterprise to re-examine and improve their information and records management policies and systems.

To address some of the above issues, Electronic Document Management Systems (EDMS) were developed in the late 1990's to enable enterprises to effectively and efficiently manage, share and distribute critical business information contained in documents. An EDMS solution is often viewed by organizations as part of their information systems re-engineering, and as a result there are several significant issues they typically consider when evaluating an EDMS solution. Such issues include scalability of the system, the ability to integrate with existing structural databases and applications, deployment over the web, the price of the system, the ability to view multiple document formats, the level and cost of integration services required, the impact of the system on network bandwidth, integration with existing business processes, the ability to control document security, the ability to operate on existing computing infrastructure and with existing applications, the system architecture and the ability to handle large and complex data types and to customize the product to the client's particular needs. In addition, organizations also consider user related issues such as the ability to search, retrieve, view, and edit data in a controlled manner and associate unstructured and structured data to company assets.

More recently EDMSs have evolved to Enterprise Content Management (ECM) systems that not only capture, manage and deliver document content but manage all types of content within an enterprise including email, web content, digital assets (video, voice, pictures) and forms.

A further category of software used to manage information about an enterprise's products and/or assets include Product Data Management (PDM), Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) and Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) applications. These applications typically enable all the component parts comprising a product or an asset/plant and all associated information to be identified, structured and managed throughout their lifecycles. PDM and PLM applications are mainly used to manage information regarding discrete products especially during the design and manufacturing phases. EAM applications typically are used to maintain a complex asset/plant throughout its operational life cycle.

The Company's Strategic Positioning

The document/content management technology developed by the Company and integrated with the configuration management technology developed by Spescom Ltd. provides an extremely powerful and unique solution to the business and information management challenges faced by enterprises that design, build, manage and operate complex products and assets.

Configuration management is the process of managing an organization's products, assets and processes by managing their requirements, including changes, and assuring that conformance is maintained between the requirements, the physical product/asset and all associated documents and data. It enables documents to be linked to physical or functional items and has the ability to manage change and assure information integrity.

The combined document and configuration management capabilities of its *eB* software suite enables it to provide full IDM functionality together with PDM functionality at price points that satisfy a broad range of user needs. It enables the management of all unstructured information (documents/content) as well as structured information (product/asset/process) on a single platform, thereby enabling change to be managed across both environments.

Competition

The market for the Company's products is intensely competitive, subject to rapid change and significantly affected by new product introductions and other market activities of industry participants. The Company currently encounters competition from a number of public and private companies, including Electronic Document Management Systems/Enterprise Content vendors such as EMC (formerly Documentum), FileNet, OpenText, Sword and Hummingbird; Enterprise Asset Management vendors such as Indus and MRO/Maximo; and to a lesser extent Product Data Management/Product Lifecycle Management vendors such as Matrix I, PTC and EDS. Many of these direct competitors have significantly greater financial, technical, marketing and other resources than the Company. The Company also expects that direct competition will increase as a result of recent consolidation in the software industry.

The Company also faces indirect competition from systems integrators and value added resellers (VARs). The Company relies on a number of systems consulting and systems integration firms for implementation and other customer support services, as well as for recommendation of its products to potential purchasers.

The Company believes that the principal competitive factors affecting its market include system features such as scalability of the system, the ability to integrate and compliment existing applications such as other EDMS, EAM and PDM, the ability to provide integrated document, configuration and records management capability, the price of the system, the level and cost of integration required, the impact of the system on network bandwidth, integration with existing business processes, the ability to operate on existing computing infrastructure and with existing applications, the system architecture and the ability to handle large and complex data types and to customize products to the client's needs. In addition, organizations also consider features such as the ability to search, retrieve, view, annotate and edit data in a controlled manner.

The Company's Solution

Challenges of Document and Change Management

Organizations operating in complex, asset intensive industries—utility, transportation, government and public sector, process manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and telecommunications—are increasingly required to meet the conflicting challenges to:

Deliver more complex, innovative and customized products and services at a faster rate.

Reduce costs, improve quality, and shorten time to market, while achieving the targeted return on investment.

Establish more comprehensive, collaborative, and improved relationships with their customers, suppliers, and business partners.

Comply with strictly enforced, ever increasingly stringent regulatory and safety requirements.

In addition, these organizations are expected to manage these challenges in an environment of continuous change throughout their asset and process lifecycles.

Current Solutions

To effectively address these challenges, organizations must efficiently manage information and change within their organizations to remain competitive. Consequently, companies have invested in, and in fact, built their organizations and processes on and around enterprise software platforms. Solution providers use core functions to build functional applications to improve the process of a particular product phase or functional department. For example, PDM solutions focus on the creation of product definition information and include authoring and analysis tools for mechanical, electrical and software design (e.g., CAD/CAM, CAE, EDA, and CASE). ERP solutions traditionally deal with the product/asset production lifecycle. SCM, which is primarily focused on ordering and procurement logistics, begins at the front end of the product/asset lifecycle. Once products are deployed in the field, CRM solutions are used to help manage the customer relationship and EAM solutions are used to maintain the product/asset throughout its operational phase. In addition, EDMSs or ECM systems are deployed to support these applications and manage all documents and content created and used within the enterprise. These various enterprise solutions have become a strategic business initiative and competitive necessity of most businesses.

Limitations of Enterprise Solutions

In spite of these investments, organizations still experience major problems due to the unavailability of quality information. To achieve adequate information quality, organizations need a process that ensures that the correct information is documented and available when and where it is needed, and in the appropriate format and context for the user. The impact of poor information management on operational efficiency is clear.

This lack of quality information and its ensuing detrimental effects are caused primarily by the deployment of solutions that do not adequately relate documentation to the appropriate assets. For instance, organizations deploy document management solutions on the one hand, and product, plant, and process management solutions on the other. However, neither product effectively provides a change management system that links documents, assets, and requirements capabilities that would enable organizations to effectively manage configurations of equipment and assets in complex, regulated environments.

Existing enterprise systems fail to address the real needs of many organizations for a variety of reasons:

In general, enterprise applications are all separate, largely independent systems with their own data models and functions. With the cost of integrating and customizing these applications typically exceeding the software license costs by a factor ranging from 3 to 7 times, companies utilizing these systems often fail to achieve the full benefit of their investment.

A second major issue is that of managing change across the enterprise. Information about a product, asset or process typically resides in a number of applications and data stores. When a change is made to the product, asset or process, it is very difficult if not impossible to predict the impact of this change across all the applications and ensure that the effect of the change is implemented and reflected everywhere throughout the various systems. The result is a reduction in enterprise information integrity and a substantial reduction in resource effectiveness.

Traditional document (EDMS) and content management solutions (ECM) only address one element of this problem. They do a good job of capturing, managing, storing, distributing and presenting documents/content for enterprise use; however, they do so in isolation as they do not capture or manage requirements nor do they capture and manage data about the assets, products or processes. The context that gives meaning to information is lost as classification and indexing is usually limited to a fixed set of attributes. Also, although they securely store information and provide revision and version control, they do not effectively manage the full effects of change within an enterprise. This results in a significant reduction of information integrity as information no longer accurately reflects the status of the requirements or assets that it relates to.

Although traditional PDM solutions capture both product/asset data and associated information contained in documents, they tend to focus on the needs of users during the product design and manufacturing phases of a product/asset with limited or no support

for the operation and maintenance of the product/asset. Also, incomplete interfaces between PDM environments and other document environments may not reliably reflect changes in the other, particularly if document or product data updates must be performed.

Maintenance and EAM solutions capture and manage assets and associated information but again do so for the specific purposes of maintenance and inventory control. They do not capture requirements nor do they effectively manage change and ensure the integrity of information. They typically only provide limited document management capabilities.

Finally, while some ERP solutions offer maintenance management and/or PDM capabilities, these tend to be add-on modules to their core financial, manufacturing and HR functions. They do not manage requirements, do not have a strong document and change management capability, and the linkage between documents and assets/products is limited or non-existent.

Market Opportunity: Information Integration and Synchronization

As enterprise solutions are deployed within a company's process environment, information tends to become localized within the enterprise platform making it difficult for users to access, obtain and share relevant information across widely distributed functional and geographic boundaries. Ultimately, the enterprise solutions employed by a business fall short of addressing the enterprise's complete need for close coordination and communication that accurately relate the intellectual assets, physical assets, and resources.

Businesses today need to deploy rational strategies that best harness the capabilities and core functions of each enterprise platform to optimize product development, production and deployment activities. Although solution providers promote communication among the various operating enterprise solutions, their approach is neither comprehensive nor do they adequately address the critical business requirements of configuration management, change management and requirements management. This is the critical market niche that the Company fills with its *eB* software solution.

The *eB* Solution

The Company's *eB* suite is a set of software technologies that support, improve and enable collaboration among legacy enterprise solutions, and enables the efficient capture, management and distribution of all types of information across an enterprise. This integrated document, configuration and records management suite breaks down information barriers inherent to enterprise solutions and provides users with:

1. Rapid access to information

Anytime, anywhere, anyhow throughout the collection of existing enterprise solutions

2. **Accurate information**

Ensures information integrity in a rapidly changing environment

3. **Information that is in context to what the user is working on**

Transforms information into knowledge

Differentiators Defining the Niche

Enterprises continue to struggle with the complex business problem of ensuring that conformance is maintained between:

Design requirements (what is **REQUIRED** to be there)

Actual asset configuration (what is **ACTUALLY** there), and

Asset configuration information found in documents, drawings, etc. (what the documentation **SAYS** is there).

To ensure that information integrity is maintained between the requirements for an item/asset, the information about the item/asset (usually contained in a document) and the item/asset itself, it is necessary to first identify the requirements, the information/documents and the item/asset. Then a process must be implemented to ensure that a change to the requirements, the information/document or the

item/asset is reflected in all three. The inability to do this using document/content management and/or maintenance management tools is increasingly being realized by leading enterprises as a major cause of operational inefficiency and is creating the opportunity for the Company to penetrate these accounts.

The Company's Unique Solution Addresses the Niche

The Company's integrated document, configuration and records management (iDCR) solutions enable all requirements (design, safety, environmental, etc.), all documents, structured and unstructured, within an enterprise (including office documents, emails, CAD drawings, images, voice and computer print outs), and all data on products, assets, processes, projects and people to be captured, identified and inter-linked. This results in a unified and structured view of all enterprise information and promotes rapid access to relevant information by authorized users in context to their tasks and functions. *eB*'s collaborative workspace environment provides an automated closed-loop change management process that ensures information integrity throughout the enterprise and compliance with legal, regulatory, corporate, audit and quality requirements.

The Company's Products

The Company's flagship product *eB* is the first fully integrated collaborative document, configuration and records management software suite that enables the efficient capture, management and distribution of all types of information across an enterprise.

The functionality of *eB* consists of a core platform that contains functionality usually provided by multiple applications in a single fully integrated environment. This includes:

Document/content management

Imaging

Workflow

Computer Output to Laser Disc (COLD/ERM)

Item management

Requirements management

Change management

Records management

Collaborative workspace management

This core functionality is exposed via a comprehensive set of application program interfaces available as a toolkit to enable rapid application development and easy integration with other software products.

eB provides a collaborative environment for managing both unstructured and structured enterprise information. In addition, it not only provides a hub to connect other applications to each, but also identifies and controls key information to ensure its integrity.

eB enables documents/content, as well as physical items (products, equipment or assets) and requirements (e.g., functional, safety, environmental) to be identified, classified, structured, linked and managed throughout their life-cycles. It ensures that conformance between these is maintained by means of an automated change process.

It provides all the capabilities of a document management suite but goes beyond this by also providing the capability to manage items and linking documents to items and requirements. It then applies industry standard configuration management rules to control the effects of change on both documents and items and ensure information integrity.

The records management functions of *eB* support the enterprise to achieve compliance with legal, regulatory, corporate, audit and quality requirements regarding declaration, archiving and disposition of enterprise records.

Multiple ways of accessing *eB* are provided from standard out-of-the-box interfaces as well as integrations with other business applications. Standard integrations with office, email, CAD and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications enable users to work from within these desktop environments, yet seamlessly access the full functionality of *eB*. Full access is also provided over the Internet using standard web browsers enabling global collaboration and access to information anytime, anywhere to authorized users. Any one or all of the components of *eB* can be deployed, depending on a customer's specific requirements.

This integrated solution provides enterprises with many benefits, including:

1. A single system for all document, data, records and process orientated functions across an enterprise that simplifies maintenance for administrators and IT staff.

2. A single point of entry for users, which reduces the cost of training and eliminates the need for users to know or care where documents and other information resides.
3. A broad range of functionality that addresses the needs of many different users throughout an organization, thereby maximizing the investment.
4. Rapid deployment using standard out-of-the-box interfaces and applications resulting in a fast return on investment.
5. A single point of contact and support for the technology, which results in potentially fewer problems with software upgrades, than might otherwise be encountered in systems that use products from multiple vendors.
6. Reduced integration effort compared to implementing best-of-breed systems using technologies from multiple vendors an approach that requires learning multiple programming interfaces in an attempt to integrate unrelated products.
7. Rapid application development and simplified integration with other critical systems such as ERP applications using the powerful *eB* Business Objects API toolkit.

Strategy

Business Model

The Company is building its business strategies around two core strengths: First, the Company's software and related services solve critical and recurring problems for companies operating in complex, asset-intensive industries. Second, the Company's software solutions have clear and significant architectural advantages that enable the Company to offer high value solutions to the Company's users as well as distinguish itself from its competitors. To capitalize on these strengths, the Company has instituted the strategic initiatives listed below. We believe that these initiatives will enhance the Company's ability to achieve a defensible, leading market position within its growing market niche.

Strategic Initiatives

Continue to Develop and Position eB as a Critical but Complementary Enterprise Platform. Rather than position and market eB as a standalone, mutually exclusive enterprise suite, the Company will continue to promote eB as an essential, high value, high functionality niche platform that complements, rather than supplants, existing/legacy solutions. By positioning eB in this less threatening manner, the Company not only minimizes repetitive and costly head-to-head evaluations with competitors having significantly greater resources, but also enables the conversion of its competitors into partners .

Continue Investment in the Company's Direct Sales Force. The Company currently employs a dual sales model comprised of both a direct sales force and select partners and re-sellers. Vertical markets targeted by the Company's direct sales force are those: 1) in which the Company has market domain expertise, and 2) that have a limited number of end-user customers that can be effectively penetrated and profitably served by its relatively small sales force.

The Company plans to grow revenues through its direct sales force by:

- i) Adding senior business development executives with extensive market contacts within each of the Company's targeted vertical markets in the US and UK/Europe. In addition, the Company plans to allocate additional resources to support these key persons with adequate staffs and budgets to leverage their effect in the market.
- ii) Leveraging existing user groups to increase the number of licensed seats and/or number of software modules. This will not only increase software sales but also enhance the recurring revenue stream the Company realizes from annual software maintenance contracts. In addition, the Company will target conversion of legacy Altris software seats into eB.
- iii) Applying resources to expand horizontally or vertically to new user groups, departments or subsidiaries within existing customer sites.

Enter New Markets Through Increased Investment in and Expansion of Strategic Partnerships. To expand into new markets, the Company seeks to increase its key strategic relationships with system integrators and channel partners having significantly greater resources and immediate access to customers. Because of the Company's positioning of eB as a complementary rather than replacement or standalone solution, the Company is well positioned to create win-win relationships with its direct/indirect competitors. Ultimately, the end-users benefit with higher value solutions that truly address their critical information requirements. Properly implemented, we believe this strategy affords the Company new, relatively immediate, incremental, high

margin revenues with substantially reduced investment. However, for this strategy to be successful, the Company must allocate resources for the additional demands placed on the Company. In particular, the Company must invest in: 1) product development to assure *eB* integrates easily with those of the expanding partner network, and 2) sales, marketing and customer support resources to train, coordinate, and support a growing partnership network and base of end-users.

Outsource Non-Core Operations. The Company plans to continue its program of outsourcing non-core service functions. Services presently outsourced include on-site implementation and integration using partners in selected regions and markets. The Company plans to expand these functions to include other regions and markets as well as outsourcing certain non-core software development to Spescom Ltd. in South Africa. Through careful partner and supplier selection and program coordination, monitoring and implementation, the Company is better positioned to:

- i) Allocate its resources to its critical, core functions, and
- ii) Focus on the delivery of higher margin services and products such as system design services and Company developed iDCR products.

Opportunistic Investing in Technology. It is the Company's intention to continue to efficiently execute its plan of organic growth through fiscal 2005. However the Company believes that it may benefit greatly from opportunistic investments that extend *eB*'s integrated functionality with video, voice and other data. In addition, the continued emergence of the Internet is increasingly pressuring companies to offer portal-based solutions. The Company believes that opportunities for technology acquisitions may speed its software development and improve its strategic market positioning.

Increase Company's Market Presence. The Company plans to increase the awareness and credibility of the Company and the *eB* suite within its vertical markets, with its partners, and within the investment and technology analyst communities. To heighten the profile of the Company in its customer markets, the Company plans to engage technology analysts including Gartner, Meta, and Doculabs to prepare industry reports which provide data on the Company's position in the market, establish validity of new markets and analyze the Company's solutions vis-à-vis its competitors. In addition, the Company plans to increase its attendance and participation in industry conferences, trade shows and seminars.

Customers

The Company is primarily active in markets characterized by customers that have extensive assets and infrastructures that need to be managed throughout their life cycles. The target markets specifically include:

Utilities (power, water and gas)

Transportation (air, rail and sea)

Telcos

Public Sector/Local Government

Process Manufacturing

Pharmaceuticals

Enterprises within these markets are highly regulated and operate extensive and complex assets and infrastructures that form the foundation for the products and services they provide to their customers and for generating revenues. For example, telcos operate an extensive communications infra-structure for providing voice and data communications services, rail transportation companies operate a complex rail network including tracks, signaling, electrification, etc. and utilities or public sector enterprises operate power, water or gas distribution networks.

The following are examples of customers who are using the Company's products:

Utilities. Within the utilities industry, countless documents relating to plant management, facility maintenance and support, transmittal processing and tracking and statutory compliance must be current and readily available at all times. Furthermore, with pending deregulation, utilities are under increasing pressure to minimize their costs. The Company has installed information management solutions at utilities around the world. In one example, a commercial utility was relying on more than 2,000,000 microfilm documents, 750,000 paper documents and 110,000 aperture cards (a form of microfilm technology) for its daily operations. Beginning in the engineering department, the Company added a document management solution containing its TIE-Technology, which transformed the paper system into an integrated part of the utility's existing applications, including its workflow applications. The utility purchased a license for an enterprise-wide deployment covering 2,000 individual users. The Company's solution enables all current and historic plant records, including those generated by word processors and spreadsheet programs, to be readily available throughout the utility.

Transportation. In the rail transportation segment, countless documents relating to scheduling, structures, track and signaling must be current and readily available at all times. For example, one of the world's oldest and largest public transportation systems had more than 3,000,000 maintenance and safety documents stored on aperture cards and microfiche, and manual handling processes were straining efficient operation. The Company's information management solution now enables users quick access to all documents on-line, including the documents described above as well as accounts payable and invoice records, internal letters and memoranda and other business records, with additional search, optical character recognition (OCR) and e-mail functionality. Today, the system can be accessed and operated by over 1,500 individual users who can retrieve critical business information whenever necessary on a near-instantaneous basis, thereby enabling this public transportation system to better ensure regulatory compliance.

Public Sector / Local Government. Local authorities constantly face the challenges of complying with safety, environmental and fiscal regulations. Many of these organizations have used *eB* to control their documents and data needed to support these business processes in a highly efficient manner. As an example, a major US metropolitan utilities district has adopted *eB* as its standard throughout the city and county, and has made extensive use of the interfaces with its Permit Tracking and Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Geo-spatial data is of utmost importance to the safety and security programs currently being developed by all metropolitan authorities. It allows them to accurately identify buildings, powerplants and other structures of high risk, and integrate all available data (e.g. building and evacuation plans, fire surveys, threat assessments) into police, fire and rapid response systems. *eB*'s ability to store this information and make it available in context to geographical location, forms a critical components of a solution for safety and security in local government.

A small number of customers has typically accounted for a large percentage of the Company's annual revenues. Network Rail and Constellation Energy Group accounted for 23% and 15%, respectively of revenues for fiscal 2004 while Network Rail accounted for 19% of revenue for fiscal 2003 and 2002. The Company's reliance on relatively few customers could have a material adverse effect on the results of its operations on a quarterly basis.

Sales and Marketing

Direct sales

The Company focuses its direct sales force on select vertical markets with compelling business needs for the Company's information management solutions. The Company has established a strong market presence in the utility, manufacturing, transportation and other processing industries both domestically and internationally. The Company's strategy is to continue its direct sales and marketing to increase its market penetration in these industries as well as in certain other select vertical markets, including telecommunication providers, aircraft maintenance and other governmental agencies, electrical and electronic equipment manufacturers, engineering and construction firms, financial institutions, property management companies and architecture firms. As of September 30, 2004, the Company's sales and marketing organization consisted of 13 employees, 9 based in the U.S. and 4 based in the UK. The Company's field sales force regularly conducts presentations and demonstrations of the Company's suite of products to management and users at customer sites as part of the direct sales effort. Sales cycles for the Company's products generally last from six to twelve months.

Indirect distribution channels

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

Although the Company has historically generated the majority of its revenues from its direct sales force, the Company has also established a network of third-party VARs, system integrators and OEMs who build and sell systems (with components or complete systems provided by the Company) that address specific customer needs within various vertical markets, including those targeted directly by the Company. Sales through indirect channels amounted to \$471,000 or 5%, \$214,000 or 3% and \$654,000 or 9% of total sales for fiscal years 2004, 2003 and 2002.

The Company's strategy is to further grow and develop its VAR, systems integrator and OEM channels which are primarily targeted at the industries and geographic regions not covered by its direct sales force in order to reach the broadest customer base. The VARs and systems integrators are an integral part of the Company's distribution strategy as they are responsible for identifying potential end-users, selling the Company's products to end-users as part of a complete hardware and software solution, customizing and integrating the Company's products at the end-user's site and supporting the end-user following the sale.

The Company is seeking to establish and/or expand its relationships with vendors that supply complimentary technologies, including EAM vendors such as Indus and MRO/Maximo, ECM vendors such as EMC (formerly Documentum), GIS vendors such as ESRI and CAD vendors such as AutoDesk and Bentley among others.

Customers, VARs, systems integrators and OEMs may not continue to purchase the Company's products. The failure by the Company to maintain its existing relationships, or to establish new relationships in the future, could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, results of operations and financial condition.

Services and Support

The Company believes that a high level of services and support are critical to its performance. As a result, the Company maintains a telephone hotline service to provide technical assistance and software support directly to its end-users on an as-needed basis. The Company also provides technical support, maintenance, training and consulting to its VARs, systems integrators and OEMs, which in turn provide technical support services directly to end-users. These services are designed to increase end-user satisfaction, provide feedback to the Company as to end-users demands and requirements and generate recurring revenue. The Company deployed its eSupport website during 2001 enabling customers and partners to obtain support on a self-service basis. The Company plans to continue to expand its support programs as the depth and breadth of the products offered by the Company increase.

VARs, Systems Integrators and OEM support

The Company employs pre-sales, technical support personnel that work directly with VARs, systems integrators and OEMs to provide responses to technical sales inquiries. The Company also offers educational and training programs, as well as customized consulting services to its VARs, systems integrators and OEMs. Fees for training and consulting services are generally charged on a per diem basis. The Company also provides product information bulletins on an ongoing basis, including bulletins posted through its Internet web site and through periodic informational updates about the products installed. These bulletins generally answer commonly asked questions and provide information about new product features.

Technical Support and Software Maintenance

The Company, in conjunction with its VARs and systems integrators, offers end-users a software maintenance program that includes software updates provided by the Company to end-users and technical support provided by the VARs and systems integrators. Telephone consultation is provided by the Company to VARs and systems integrators in response to end-user questions that VARs and systems integrators are unable to answer. VARs and systems integrators typically charge end-users a fee for maintenance and support of the entire EDMS and imaging system, including software and hardware. In turn, the Company charges VARs and systems integrators an annual fee based upon a percentage of the original purchase price of the licensed software.

The Company generally includes a 90-day limited warranty with software licenses. During the warranty period, end-users are entitled to corrections for documented program errors. The services provided during the warranty period may be extended by the end-user entering into the Company's software maintenance program.

Product Development

The Company's product development efforts are focused on providing customers with the most technologically advanced solutions for their document, configuration and records management needs. The Company believes that the marketplace is rapidly moving towards demanding that all corporate information, structured and unstructured, simple and complex, be managed in a consistent and controlled manner. Customers are requiring integrated solutions that address critical information management issues in a holistic manner, that can be implemented quickly and provide a rapid ROI. This trend demands that greater functionality is provided out-of-the-box thereby reducing the need for multiple products

from different vendors and the associated integration and support costs. It also demands that products work across technology platforms, across the web, business processes and geographic locations to provide real-time information management with integrated document/content, records and configuration management capabilities.

The Company intends to continue to extend its position as a technology leader in developing and marketing integrated document, configuration and records management solutions. The Company intends to do this by continuing to enhance the features and functionality of its current products, including tools to allow users to customize the Graphical User Interfaces, designing additional APIs to simplify tailoring by both users and application developers, administrative tools to enable systems operators to easily setup and make changes to the system and add tighter integration with other third party CAD, GIS and EAM products. Through this enhanced functionality and integration the Company's products can provide even faster deployment and greater management control of enterprise information. Through leveraging its technology, the Company also plans to introduce new products and product extensions which are complementary to its existing suite of products and which address both existing and emerging market needs.

During 2004, the Company released eB Version 14 which represents the next generation platform based on the Microsoft.Net architecture. This platform will provide the foundation for the migration of existing customers to eB Version 14 as well as future applications in development. The Company expects that the migration of existing customers will take place over the next 12 to 24 month time period. The Company will continue to enhance its records management capabilities to fully comply with Department of Defence records management standard 5015.2. The Company is developing specific applications for the vertical markets on which the Company has focused. The Company believes that the modular and open nature of eB provides an excellent platform for these market applications. The Company is a member of the Microsoft Developer Network (MSDN), which allows the Company to properly plan for support of the latest Microsoft environments.

Backlog and Current Contracts

The Company's contract backlog consists of the aggregate anticipated revenues remaining to be earned at a given time from the uncompleted portions of its existing contracts. It does not include revenues that may be earned if customers exercise options to make additional purchases. At September 30, 2004, the Company's contract backlog was \$2,599,000, as compared to \$2,584,000 at September 30, 2003. The Company expects the entire September 30, 2004 backlog to be substantially completed in fiscal 2005. The amount of contract backlog is not necessarily indicative of future contract revenues because short-term contracts, modifications to or terminations of present contracts and production delays can provide additional revenues or reduce anticipated revenues. The Company's backlog is typically subject to large variations from time to time when new contracts are awarded. Consequently, it is difficult to make meaningful comparisons of backlog.

The Company's contracts with its customers generally contain provisions permitting termination at any time at the convenience of the customer (or the U.S. Government if the Company is awarded a subcontract under a prime contract with the U.S. Government), upon payment of costs incurred plus a reasonable profit on the goods and services provided prior to termination. To the extent the Company deals directly or through prime contractors with the U.S. Government or other governmental sources, it is subject to the business risk of changes in governmental appropriations. In order to reduce the risks inherent in competing for business with the U.S. Government, the Company has directed its government contracts marketing efforts toward teaming with large corporations, who typically have existing government contracts, can alleviate the cash flow burdens often imposed by government contracts and have more extensive experience in and resources for administering government contracts. The Company does not have any contractual arrangements regarding such joint marketing efforts. In the past, such efforts have been pursued when deemed appropriate by the Company and such corporations in response to opportunities for jointly providing systems or services to potential government agency customers.

Patents and Technology

The Company's success is dependent in part upon proprietary technology. The Company owns certain U.S. and foreign patents covering certain aspects of its document management systems technology, including two patents that enable large format drawings to be rapidly downloaded and viewed over low speed communication links. The Company also owns a patent on technology to allow edit users to make changes to documents without having to specify whether they are working on raster or vector data and a patent for a reviser capability that allows users to modify and store drawing changes in raster and vector format for subsequent review of the original document and each sequential revision.

Employees

As of September 30, 2004, the Company had 46 full-time employees, of whom 9 were engaged in product development, 21 in customer support, implementation and application engineering activities, 13 in sales and marketing and 6 in administration. The Company also utilizes consultants for specific projects. None of the Company's employees is represented by a labor union. The Company has not experienced work stoppages and believes its relationship with its employees is good. Competition for qualified personnel in the industry in which the Company competes is intense and the Company expects that such competition will continue for the foreseeable future. The Company has an incentive stock option plan for granting options to employees as a means of attracting and keeping key individuals. The Company believes that its future success will depend, in large measure, on its ability to continue to attract, hire and retain qualified employees and consultants.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

The Company's headquarters are located in San Diego, California. The Company leases 12,192 square feet of a 40,000 square foot building in San Diego. The lease terminates on August 31, 2009 and carries a monthly rent starting at \$18,898 in year one, increasing 3% each year to \$21,908 in year five.

See Note 11 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further information regarding the Company's lease commitments.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Company is involved from time to time in litigation arising in the normal course of business. The Company believes that any liability with respect to such routine litigation, individually or in the aggregate, is not likely to be material to the Company's consolidated financial position or results of operations.

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

None

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

The Company trades on the OTC Bulletin Board under the symbol SPCO.OB. The following table shows, for the calendar quarters indicated, the high and low bid prices of the Common Stock. These high and low bid prices from the counter market quotations reflect inter-dealer prices, without retail mark-up, mark-down or commission and may not necessarily represent actual transactions.

	High	Low
Year Ended September 30, 2004		
First Quarter	\$ 0.73	\$ 0.40
Second Quarter	0.72	0.41
Third Quarter	0.56	0.42
Fourth Quarter	0.45	0.30
Year Ended September 30, 2003		
First Quarter	\$ 0.26	\$ 0.10
Second Quarter	0.33	0.14
Third Quarter	0.25	0.15
Fourth Quarter	0.75	0.15

On September 30, 2004, there were approximately 900 holders of record of the Company's Common Stock and the last sale price of the Common Stock as reported on the OTC Bulletin Board on September 30, 2004 was \$0.54 per share.

The Company has never paid a dividend on its Common Stock, and the current policy of its Board of Directors is to retain all earnings to provide funds for the operation and expansion of the Company's business. Consequently, the Company does not anticipate that it will pay cash dividends on its Common Stock in the foreseeable future.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table gives information about the Company's common stock that may be issued upon the exercise of options under all of the Company's equity compensation plans as of September 30, 2004. The table includes the 1996 Stock Incentive Plan.

Plan category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b)	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column a))
---------------	--	--	--

(c)

Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	5,090,750	\$	0.31	59,212
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	2,600,000(1)(2)	\$	0.24	
Total	7,690,750	\$	0.28	59,212

(1) Of these option shares 2,500,000 were granted to an investment consulting firm who is assisting the Company in seeking financing. The option has an exercise price of \$0.22 per share. One million of the shares are currently vested as a result of the closing of a private placement for \$605,000 in September 2003. The remaining 1,500,000 shares of common stock will vest if the Company consummates a transaction with investors introduced by or through this investment firm that provides the Company with at least \$2,400,000 in additional investment capital. This option will expire on August 15, 2006.

(2) Of these option shares 100,000 shares were granted in 1999 under a warrant to an investment firm. The exercise price under the warrant is \$0.72 per share. The warrant expires on December 15, 2004.

Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities.

In addition to those sales by the Company of unregistered securities previously disclosed pursuant to our Current Reports on Form 8-K, on September 5, 2004, pursuant to a consulting agreement dated March 5, 2004, the Company issued 75,000 shares of common stock to a consulting firm in consideration for consulting services rendered. The issuance was conducted without registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, in reliance upon the exemption provided by Section 4(2) of such Act.

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following table sets forth selected consolidated financial data of the Company. The financial data for each of the years ended September 30, 2004, 2003, 2002 and 2001, the nine months ended September 30, 2000 have been derived from the audited Consolidated Financial Statements. The Company changed its fiscal year from December 31 to September 30 beginning for fiscal year 2000.

The data set forth below should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto, and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

	2004	Years ended September 30, 200320022001				Nine months ended September 30, 2000
(In thousands except per share data)						
Consolidated Statement of Operations Data						
Revenues						
Licenses	\$3,897	\$2,053	\$1,958	\$4,806	\$1,405	
Services and other	5,105	5,309	5,012	6,352	3,849	
Total revenues	9,002	7,362	6,970	11,158	5,254	
Cost of revenues						
Licenses	260	690	2,041	1,371	922	
Services and other	2,249	2,334	3,218	3,914	1,969	
Total cost of revenues	2,509	3,024	5,259	5,285	2,891	
Gross profit	6,493	4,338	1,711	5,873	2,363	
Operating expenses:						
Research and development	1,393	1,494	1,828	1,963	1,362	
Marketing and sales	2,949	2,452	3,479	4,100	1,144	
General and administrative	1,965	1,410	1,809	1,276	584	
	6,307	5,356	7,116	7,339	3,090	
Income (loss) from operations	186	(1,018)	(5,405)	(1,466)	(727)	
Nonrecurring loss on conversion of debt to preferred stock						
		(1,499)				
Interest and other income	13	4	7	182	40	
Interest expense	(151)	(491)	(371)	(28)	(207)	
Net income (loss)	48	(3,004)	(5,769)	(1,312)	(894)	
Cumulative preferred dividends						
	(271)					
Net loss available to common shareholders	\$(223)	\$(3,004)	\$(5,769)	\$(1,312)	\$(894)	
Basic and diluted net loss per share	\$(0.01)	\$(0.10)	\$(0.19)	\$(0.04)	\$(0.05)	
Shares used in computing basic and diluted net loss per common share						
	34,016	31,100	30,842	30,792	22,768	

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

	2004	2003	September 30, 2002 (in thousands)	2001	2000
Consolidated Balance Sheet Data					
Working deficit	\$ (2,693)	\$ (3,880)	\$ (2,972)	\$ (2,468)	\$ (2,205)
Total assets	1,430	1,230	2,508	4,256	6,040
Long-term obligations	601	566	4,891	1,377	
Shareholders' (deficit) equity	(3,136)	(4,141)	(7,145)	(1,295)	234

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Overview

The Company develops, markets and supports *eB*, its integrated suite of collaborative document, configuration and records management software solutions. The *eB* suite enables organizations in a broad range of industries to create, capture, store, manage, share and distribute critical business information regarding their customers, products, assets and processes in an efficient manner. The *eB* suite also enables them to maintain complete, up-to-date information about the configuration of their products, assets and infrastructures so that they can achieve operational excellence and compliance with regulatory requirements. *eB* provides the capabilities of an Enterprise Content Management (ECM)/Electronic Document Management (EDM) System, but extends these capabilities by also managing the things that the content/documents relate to such as products, assets, functions, processes, requirements, projects, organizations, locations, work orders, etc. As a result, *eB* can be used to manage the lifecycle of physical items (e.g. products, equipment or assets), and the requirements (e.g. functional, safety, performance, environmental, etc.) that govern them. It enables intelligent relationships to be defined between these items thereby creating an interdependency model. As a result, the effects of any change on requirements, documents and items can be determined and change can be managed to effectively ensure information integrity. In particular, *eB* enables organizations with extensive and complex physical infrastructures to efficiently identify, classify, structure, link, and manage documents, physical items, and requirements throughout their lifecycles and ensure that conformance between these is maintained by means of an automated change process.

We develop, market and support *eB*, our integrated suite of collaborative document, configuration and records management software solutions. Our revenues in the fiscal year ended September 30, 2004 increased by 22% from the prior fiscal year as we continued to achieve higher sales of the *eB* product suite in response to higher demand in the market for comprehensive enterprise document, configuration and records management software.

Our revenues are derived from licenses of our software to our customers, services that we provide under maintenance support contracts and our non-maintenance services, consisting primarily of design studies, system implementation and training. Of our total revenues in fiscal 2004, license revenues accounted for 43%, maintenance services revenues accounted for 35% and non-maintenance services represented 22%.

Many of our customers are located outside the United States, with foreign-originated revenues accounting for 46% and 42% of fiscal 2004 and 2003 revenues, respectively. Our increased revenue in fiscal 2004 reflected a foreign currency gain of \$435,000 due to the declining value of the dollar during the year.

While revenues increased, our cost of revenues declined by 17% in fiscal 2004 compared to fiscal 2003, due primarily to a decrease in amortization expense associated with previously capitalized software costs. This allowed us to increase our gross profit from 59% to 72% of revenues. Operating expenses increased by 18% primarily as a result of our decision to expand the Company's marketing and sales efforts and an increase in our general and administrative expenses.

At September 30, 2004, our principal sources of liquidity consisted of \$109,000 of cash and cash equivalents, compared to \$333,000 at September 30, 2003. On November 5, 2004, we completed a private placement of preferred stock which resulted in gross proceeds of \$2,200,000, of which \$1,650,000 has been received, and an additional \$550,000 is payable within two days after we file a registration statement with the SEC for the resale of the common stock into which the preferred stock is convertible.

This Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation summarizes the significant factors affecting our consolidated operating results, financial condition, liquidity and cash flow during the three-year period ended September 30, 2004, each year therein being referred to as fiscal 2004, fiscal 2003 and fiscal 2002. Unless otherwise indicated, references to any year in this discussion refer to the applicable fiscal year ended September 30. This discussion should be read with the consolidated financial statements and financial statement footnotes included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Critical Accounting Policies

The consolidated financial statements are prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. As such, management is required to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The significant accounting policies which are most critical to aid in fully understanding and evaluating reported financial results include the following:

Revenue Recognition

The Company enters into contractual arrangements with end-users that may include licensing of the Company's software products, product support and maintenance services, consulting services or various combinations thereof, including the sale of such products or services separately. The Company recognizes revenue in accordance with Statement of Position (SOP) 97-2 Software Revenue Recognition and SOP 98-9, Modification of SOP 97-2, Software Revenue Recognition, with Respect to Certain Transactions and Staff Accounting Bulletin (SAB) No. 101, updated by SAB's 103 and 104 Update of Codification of Staff Accounting Bulletins.

Software license and third party product revenues are recognized upon shipment of the product if no significant vendor obligations remain and collection is probable. In cases where a significant vendor obligation exists, revenue recognition is delayed until such obligation has been satisfied. For new software products where a historical record has not yet been demonstrated that acceptance is perfunctory, the Company defers recognition of revenue until acceptance has occurred. If an undelivered element of the arrangement exists under the license arrangement, a portion of revenue is deferred based on vendor-specific objective evidence (VSOE) of the fair value of the undelivered element until delivery occurs. If VSOE does not exist for all undelivered elements, all revenue is deferred until sufficient evidence exists or all elements have been delivered. Annual maintenance revenues, which consist of ongoing support and product updates, are recognized on a straight-line basis over the term of the contract. Payments received in advance of performance of the related service for maintenance contracts are recorded as deferred revenue. Revenues from training and consulting services are recognized when the services are performed and adequate evidence of providing such services is available. Contract revenues for long-term contracts or programs requiring specialized systems are recognized using the percentage-of-completion method of accounting, primarily based on contract labor hours incurred to date compared with total estimated labor hours at completion. Provisions for anticipated contract losses are recognized at the time they become known.

Contracts are billed based on the terms of the contract. There are no retentions in billed contract receivables. Unbilled contract receivables relate to revenues earned but not billed at the end of the period.

The Company considers many factors when applying accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America related to revenue recognition. These factors include, but are not limited to:

The actual contractual terms, such as payment terms, delivery dates, and pricing of the various product and service elements of a contract

Availability of products to be delivered

Time period over which services are to be performed

Creditworthiness of the customer

The complexity of customizations to the Company's software required by service contracts

The sales channel through which the sale is made (direct, VAR, distributor, etc.)

Discounts given for each element of a contract

Any commitments made as to installation or implementation of go live dates.

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

Each of the relevant factors is analyzed to determine its impact, individually and collectively with other factors, on the revenue to be recognized for any particular contract with a customer. Management is required to make judgments regarding the significance of each factor in applying the revenue recognition standards, as well as whether or not each factor complies with such standards. Any misjudgment or error by management in its evaluation of the factors and the application of the standards, especially with respect to complex or new types of transactions, could have a material adverse effect on the Company's future operating results.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

The Company sells its products directly to end-users, generally requiring a significant up-front payment and remaining terms appropriate for the creditworthiness of the customer. The Company also sells its products to VARs and other software distributors generally under terms appropriate for the creditworthiness of the VAR or distributor. The Company retains no continuing obligations on sales to VARs. Management believes that no significant concentrations of credit risk existed at September 30, 2004. Receivables from customers are generally unsecured. The Company continuously monitors its customer account balances and actively pursues collections on past due balances. The Company maintains an allowance for doubtful accounts which is comprised of a general reserve based on historical collections performance plus a specific reserve for certain known customer collections issues. If actual bad debts are greater than the reserves calculated based on historical trends and known customer issues, the Company may be required to book additional bad debt expense which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition for the periods in which such additional expense occurs.

Results of Operations

The following table sets forth the percentage relationship to total revenues of items included in the Company's Consolidated Statements of Operations for the years ended September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002.

	Years ended September 30,		
	2004	2003	2002
Revenues			
Licenses	43%	28%	28%
Services and other	57%	72%	72%
Total revenues	100%	100%	100%
Cost of revenues			
Licenses	3%	9%	29%
Services and other	25%	32%	46%
	28%	41%	75%
Gross profit	72%	59%	25%
Operating expenses:			
Research and development	15%	20%	26%
Marketing and sales	33%	33%	50%
General and administrative	22%	19%	26%
	70%	72%	102%
Income (loss) from operations	2%	(14)%	(78)%
Nonrecurring loss on conversion of debt to preferred stock		(20)%	
Interest and other income			
Interest expense	(1)%	(7)%	(5)%
Net income (loss)	1%	(41)%	(83)%
Cumulative preferred dividends	(3)%		
Net loss available to common shareholders	(2)%	(41)%	(83)%

RevenuesLicenses Revenues

(in thousands)

	2004	Change	2003	Change	2002
License revenues	\$ 3,897	90%	\$ 2,053	5%	\$ 1,958
Percentage of total revenues	43%		28%		28%

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

License revenues increased by \$1.8 million, or 90%, to \$3.9 million from \$2.1 million in fiscal 2004 from fiscal 2003. The improvement was due to customers expanding their existing software systems and software orders from new customers in response to an increase in demand for a comprehensive content management solution needed for business process compliance, corporate record keeping and enterprise collaboration. The increase in demand for the eB product suite is demonstrated by sales to an existing customer, Network Rail, of \$1.5 million and a new customer, Constellation Energy Group, of \$750,000. License revenues increased by \$95,000, or 5%, to \$2.1 million from \$2.0 in fiscal 2003 from fiscal 2002. The increase was due primarily to an increase in number of licenses sold to both new and existing customers during fiscal 2003 as compared to fiscal 2002.

During fiscal 2004 and 2003 the Company has experienced higher sales of the eB product suite. We anticipate that the demand for enterprise document, configuration and records management software solutions will continue to increase if overall economic conditions continue to strengthen. The Company's license revenues fluctuate from quarter to quarter, but we have experienced and expect to continue to see increased license revenue opportunities as more users are deployed throughout existing customer enterprises and as we make additional sales to new customers.

Service and Other Revenues

(in thousands)

	2004	Change	2003	Change	2002
Service and other revenues	\$ 5,105	(4)%	\$ 5,309	6%	\$ 5,012
Percentage of total revenues	57%		72%		72%

Services and other revenues are comprised of maintenance and non-maintenance services. Non-maintenance services typically relate to design studies, implementation of systems and training which vary with the level of license revenues while maintenance revenue is primarily dependent on customers renewing their annual maintenance support contracts.

Service and other revenue decreased in absolute dollars and as a percentage of total revenue during fiscal 2004 as compared to fiscal 2003. The \$204,000, or 4%, decrease in fiscal 2004 was mainly comprised of a decrease in non-maintenance services of \$375,000 which was partially offset by an increase in maintenance revenue of \$179,000. The decrease in non-maintenance service revenue in fiscal 2004 resulted from the fact that the Company had one large implementation service contract in fiscal 2004 as compared to two large implementation service contracts during fiscal 2003. The increase in maintenance revenue is due to additional maintenance resulting from the increase in license sales in fiscal 2004 as compared with fiscal 2003.

Services and other revenue increased in absolute dollars and as a percentage of total revenue during fiscal 2003 as compared to fiscal 2002. The \$297,000, or 6%, increase in fiscal 2003 was comprised of an increase in non-maintenance services of \$572,000, or 32% due to sales to several large new customers. The increase in non-maintenance revenue was partially offset by a decrease of \$275,000, or 8% in maintenance revenue. The decrease in maintenance revenue is the result of customers who had downsized their organizations and lowered their maintenance requirements.

We anticipate that service and other revenue will fluctuate primarily due to fluctuations in sales to new customers, which require more services that typically include a business process study, integration with other business systems and training. In addition, we expect that service and other revenues will continue to fluctuate from quarter to quarter based on the timing of customer orders.

A small number of customers has typically accounted for a large percentage of the Company's total annual revenues. Network Rail and Constellation Energy Group accounted for 23% and 15%, respectively, of revenues for fiscal 2004 while Network Rail accounted for 19% of revenue for fiscal 2003 and 2002. The Company's reliance on relatively few customers could have a material adverse effect on the results of its operations on a quarterly basis.

Cost of Revenues*Cost of Licenses Revenues*

(in thousands)

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

	2004	Change	2003	Change	2002
Cost of license revenues	\$ 260	(62)%	\$ 690	(66)%	\$ 2,041
Percentage of license revenues	7%		34%		104%

Cost of licenses revenues consists of costs associated with reselling third-party products and amortization of internal software development costs.

Cost of license revenue decreased in absolute dollars and as a percentage of license revenues in fiscal 2004 compared to fiscal 2003. The \$430,000, or 62% decrease was due to a decrease of \$374,000 in amortization expense of capitalized software costs as a result of a majority of such costs being fully amortized by the end of fiscal 2003. In addition, third party software costs decreased by \$56,000 due to fewer sales of third-party products as a percentage of total sales in fiscal 2004. The overall decrease in costs of license revenues and increase in license revenue resulted in an improvement in gross profit margin to 93% in fiscal 2004 as compared to 66% in fiscal 2003.

Cost of license revenue decreased by \$1,351,000, or 66%, in fiscal 2003 compared to fiscal 2002 due to a decrease in amortization of \$1,436,000 as a result of the write-down in 2002 of capitalized costs associated with certain older software products. The decrease was partially offset by an increase in third-party software costs of \$87,000 relating to an increase in license sales in fiscal 2003. The overall decrease in cost of license revenues resulted in an improvement in gross profit percentage of license revenues to 66% for fiscal 2003 as compared to 49% for fiscal 2002.

We expect the cost of license revenues to fluctuate based on customer requirements for third-party software products since these costs have the largest impact on cost of license revenues.

Cost of Services and Other Revenues

(in thousands)

	2004	Change	2003	Change	2002
Cost of services and other revenues	\$ 2,249	(4)%	\$ 2,334	(27)%	\$ 3,218
Percentage of total revenues	44%		45%		64%

Cost of services and other revenues consists primarily of personnel-related costs in providing consulting services, training to customers and support. It also includes costs associated with reselling third-party hardware and maintenance, which includes telephone support costs.

Cost of services and other revenue decreased \$85,000, or 4%, in fiscal 2004 compared to fiscal 2003 primarily due to decreased third party service costs of \$64,000 associated with a customer project recognized in fiscal 2003 to convert their data to electronic form. Gross profit from services and other revenue as a percentage of services and other revenues remained unchanged at 56% in fiscal 2004 as compared to fiscal 2003.

Cost of services and other revenue decreased \$884,000, or 27%, in fiscal 2003 compared to fiscal 2002. Gross profit from services and other revenue as a percentage of services and other revenues improved to 56% in fiscal 2003 as compared to 36% in fiscal 2002. The improvement from fiscal 2002 to fiscal 2003 reflects a full year of benefits derived from the Company's restructuring implemented in March 2002. The effect of personnel reductions decreased payroll and related expenses by \$486,000 from fiscal 2002 to fiscal 2003. In addition, third party costs, including maintenance, consultants and travel decreased by \$282,000 from fiscal 2002 to fiscal 2003.

We expect the cost of service and other revenues to fluctuate in absolute dollar amounts and as a percentage of total revenues as the related service revenue fluctuates.

Operating Expenses*Research and Development*

(in thousands)

	2004	Change	2003	Change	2002
Research and development expenses	\$ 1,393	(7)%	\$ 1,494	(18)%	\$ 1,828
Percentage of total revenue	15%		20%		26%

Research and development expenses consist of salaries and benefits for software developers as well as an allocation of corporate expenses, calculated on the basis of headcount, such as corporate insurance, facilities, telephone and other.

Research and development expenses decreased in absolute dollars and as a percentage of total revenue for fiscal 2004 as compared to fiscal 2003. The \$101,000, or 7%, decrease in fiscal 2004 was due primarily to a reduction in facility costs of \$172,000 associated with the Company moving to a smaller facility in June of fiscal 2003. The decrease in facility costs were partially offset by an increase of \$60,000 in labor and related costs associated with the Company adding additional personnel dedicated to quality assurance.

Research and development expenses decreased in absolute dollars and as a percentage of total revenue for fiscal 2003 as compared to fiscal 2002. The \$334,000, or 18%, decrease in fiscal 2003 is due to the reduction of personnel and associated costs as part of the restructuring the Company implemented in March 2002. The restructuring was implemented in mid-year of fiscal 2002 and resulted in a decrease of \$362,000 in fiscal 2003 compared to fiscal 2002, reflecting a full year effect from the reduction in personnel. The reductions were implemented with a view to retaining the Company's core technological competencies and maintaining its abilities to continue to enhance its eB product suite.

We believe that continued investment in research and development is a critical factor in maintaining our competitive position and we expect research and development costs to increase in absolute dollar amounts, but decrease as a percentage of total revenue.

Marketing and Sales

(in thousands)

	2004	Change	2003	Change	2002
Marketing and sales expenses	\$ 2,949	20%	\$ 2,452	(30)%	\$ 3,479
Percentage of total revenue	33%		33%		50%

Marketing and sales expenses consist of salaries, cost of benefits, sales commissions and other expenses related to the direct sales force, as well as allocation of overall corporate expenses, calculated on the basis of headcount, related to items such as corporate insurance, facilities, telephone and other.

Marketing and sales expenses increased in absolute dollars for fiscal 2004 compared to fiscal 2003. The increase of \$497,000, or 20%, for fiscal 2004 as compared to fiscal 2003 is due primarily to an increase of \$253,000 in marketing labor and related costs associated with additional marketing and sales personnel, \$133,000 in commission expenses related to higher revenues and \$145,000, in marketing costs primarily related to technology consultants and trade shows as part of efforts to raise the Company's profile in the industry. The increase in marketing costs was partially offset by reduced facility costs of \$34,000 associated with the Company moving into a smaller facility in June of fiscal 2003.

Marketing and sales expenses decreased in absolute dollars and as a percentage of total revenue for fiscal 2003 compared to fiscal 2002. The decrease of \$1.0 million, or 30%, for fiscal 2003 as compared to fiscal 2002 was due primarily to the reduction of marketing and sales personnel and associated costs as part of the restructuring the Company implemented in March 2002. Since the restructuring was implemented in mid-year of fiscal 2002 the decrease of \$1.0 million in fiscal 2003 reflects a full year effect from the reduction.

We expect marketing and sales expense to increase in absolute dollar amounts and as a percentage of total revenue as a result of the planned expansion of our sales and marketing efforts in the next several quarters.

General and Administrative

(in thousands)

	2004	Change	2003	Change	2002
General and administrative expenses	\$ 1,965	39%	\$ 1,410	(22)%	\$ 1,809
Percentage of total revenue	22%		19%		26%

General and administrative expenses consist primarily of personnel costs for finance, information technology, human resources and general management, as well as outside professional services and an allocation of overall corporate expenses, calculated on the basis of headcount, such as corporate insurance, facilities, telephone and other.

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

The \$555,000, or 39%, increase in fiscal 2004 compared to fiscal 2003 was due primarily to an increase in accounting and legal fees of \$331,000 relating to a routine SEC review of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2002 and several registration filings. In addition, the Company incurred additional expenses of \$92,000 relating to a new public relations firm engaged in September, 2003, and increased costs of \$30,000 associated with the annual shareholder meeting held in January, 2004.

The \$399,000, or 22%, decrease in fiscal 2003 compared to fiscal 2002 was due primarily to the reduction in general and administrative personnel and their associated costs of \$272,000 as a result of the personnel reductions associated with the Company's restructuring in March 2002. In addition, the general and administrative expense was reduced by the Company lower its allowance for bad debt by \$78,000 reflecting the decrease in the gross accounts receivable balance from year end 2002 to 2003.

We expect that general and administrative expenses will fluctuate in absolute dollars based on the timing of accounting and legal matters such as the Company's recent registration statement filings.

Interest and Other Income

Interest income consists primarily of interest earned on our cash and cash equivalents and gain on revaluation of derivatives. Interest and other income increased by \$9,000 to \$13,000 in fiscal 2004, as compared to \$4,000 in fiscal 2003 due primarily to a gain of \$6,000 on the revaluation of a derivative that was recognized as a liability in the consolidated balance sheet in fiscal 2003 but was converted into stock in the second quarter of fiscal 2004 (See Note 8). Interest and other income decreased by \$3,000 to \$4,000 for fiscal 2003 from \$7,000 for fiscal 2002 due to lower average cash balances throughout fiscal 2003.

Interest Expense

Interest expense consists primarily of amortization of fixed interest obligations relating to our outstanding notes payable to Spescom as well as interest paid on capital lease obligations. Interest expense totaled \$126,000 for fiscal 2004, \$491,000 for fiscal 2003 and \$371,000 for fiscal 2002. The decrease of \$365,000 of interest expense in fiscal 2004 was due to lower debt balances as a result of the conversion of \$5.3 million ion debt to preferred stock in 2003. The increase of \$120,000 of interest expense for fiscal 2003 was due to additional interest expense on the Company s higher debt balances owed to Spescom Ltd. during 2003.

Cumulative Preferred Dividends

Cumulative preferred dividends on the outstanding Series F convertible preferred stock are entitled to receive dividends of 5% of the stated value of \$1,000 per share per annum, payable on a quarterly basis in cash or common stock (valued on the basis of the average per share market value on the 30 trading days immediately prior to the date on which such dividend is declared by the Board of Directors). Unpaid dividends accrue interest at the rate of 8% per annum. As of September 30, 2004, unpaid dividends and accrued interest amounted to \$264,000 and \$7,000, respectively.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

At September 30, 2004, our principal sources of liquidity consisted of \$109,000 of cash and cash equivalents compared to \$333,000 at September 30, 2003. Our liquidity could be negatively impacted by a decrease in demand for our products, which are subject to rapid technological changes, reductions in capital expenditures by our customers and intense competition, among other factors.

The Company has received loans from Spescom Ltd. in the past to meet its obligations. The outstanding balance of its demand notes owed to Spescom Ltd. including interest was \$557,000 at September 30, 2004 as compared to \$504,000 at September 30, 2003. Spescom Ltd. has agreed not to call the notes prior to October 1, 2005.

Cash used in operating activities was \$168,000 and \$232,000 for the fiscal 2004 and 2003, respectively. The \$168,000 used in operations for fiscal 2004 was due to a decrease in operating assets and liabilities of \$575,000 while adjustments for non-cash activities increased \$359,000, offset by the Company s net income of \$48,000. The \$233,000 used in operations for fiscal 2003 was due to an increase in operating assets and liabilities of \$329,000 and \$2.4 million in adjustments for non-cash activities, offset by our net loss of \$3.0 million.

Cash used in investing activities was \$32,000 and \$43,000 for fiscal 2004 and 2003, respectively which was primarily for acquisitions of computer software and equipment.

Cash used in financing activities of \$9,000 for fiscal 2004 was primarily for repayment of capital lease obligations. Cash provided by financing activities for fiscal 2003 of \$574,000 was primarily the proceeds from issuance of common stock in a private financing. The proceeds were partially offset by \$15,000 used in repayment of capital lease obligations.

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

On November 5, 2004, the Company completed a private placement with an investment consulting firm. The Company intends to use the funds from this private placement to expand its sales and marketing efforts and improve its liquidity. In connection with the private placement, the Company issued 2,200 shares of Series G Convertible Preferred Stock, and warrants, expiring November 5, 2007, to purchase 2,750,000 shares of common stock at \$0.44 per share. The preferred stock is convertible into up to 7,333,334 shares of common stock. The private placement resulted in gross proceeds to the Company of \$2,200,000, of which \$1,650,000 was paid to the Company by the investors on November 5, 2004 and an additional \$550,000 is payable to the Company within two days after the Company files a registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the resale of the common stock into which the preferred stock is convertible, as well as the 2,750,000 shares issuable under the warrants. The Company has agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to file the registration statement by December 5, 2004.

Net Operating Loss Tax Carryforwards

As of September 30, 2004, the Company had a net operating loss carryforward (NOL) for federal income tax purposes of \$35,221,000, which expires over the years 2005 through 2022. The Company also had a NOL carryforward for state income tax purposes of \$6,699,000, which expires over the years 2005 through 2011. In addition, the Company generated but has not used research and investment tax credits for federal income tax purposes of approximately \$328,000, which will substantially expire in the years 2005 through 2011. Under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), the Company generally would be entitled to reduce its future Federal income tax liabilities by carrying unused NOL forward for a period of 20 years to offset future taxable income earned, and by carrying unused tax credits forward for a period of 20 years to offset future income taxes. As a result of the issuances of shares to Spescom Ltd. in the past, an additional ownership change occurred in April 2000. The Company's ability to utilize the consolidated NOL in future years will be limited pursuant to Code Section 382. The annual limitation is approximately \$1,159,000.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

At September 30, 2004 and September 30, 2003, we did not have any relationships with unconsolidated entities or financial partnerships, including entities often referred to as structured finance or special purpose entities that would have been established for the purpose of facilitating off-balance sheet arrangements or other contractually narrow or limited purposes. Therefore, we are not materially exposed to any financing, liquidity, market or credit risk that could arise if we were engaged in such relationships.

Foreign Currency

The Company's geographic markets are primarily in the United States and Europe, with some sales in other parts of the world. In fiscal 2004, revenues recorded in the United States were 54% of total revenues, and revenues from Europe and other locations were 46% of total revenues. In fiscal 2003, revenues recorded in the United States were 58% of total revenues, and revenues from Europe and other locations were 42% of total revenues. In fiscal 2002, revenues recorded in the United States were 46% of total revenues, and revenues from Europe and other locations in the world were 54% of total revenues.

Revenues from our United Kingdom subsidiary can fluctuate from quarter to quarter based on the timing of customer orders. The increased revenue in fiscal 2004 was improved by a foreign currency gain of \$435,000 due to a weakened dollar value compared to the pound sterling. Changes in foreign currency rates, the condition of local economies, and the general volatility of software markets may result in a higher or lower proportion of foreign revenues in the future. Although the Company's operating and pricing strategies take into account changes in exchange rates over time, future fluctuations in the value of foreign currencies may have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operating results and financial condition.

Inflation

The Company believes that inflation has not had a material effect on its operations to date. Although the Company enters into fixed-price contracts, management does not believe that inflation will have an adverse material impact on its operations for the foreseeable future, as the Company takes into account expected inflation in its contract proposals and is generally able to project its costs based on forecasted contract requirements.

Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments

The following summarizes our contractual obligations and other commitments at September 30, 2004, and the effect such obligations could have on our liquidity and cash flow in future periods:

Total	Amount of Commitment Expiring by Period			Over 5 Years
	Less Than	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

1 Year							
Notes and Accounts Payable to							
Spescom Ltd.							
	\$	647,000	\$	90,000	\$	557,000	\$
Lease commitments	Operating						
Leases		1,241,000		241,000		759,000	241,000
Lease commitments	Capital						
Leases		78,000		27,000		51,000	
Total		\$ 1,966,000	\$	358,000	\$	1,367,000	241,000 \$

CERTAIN FACTORS THAT MAY AFFECT FUTURE RESULTS

The Company will be controlled by Spescom Ltd. and its subsidiaries (Spescom) as long as Spescom owns a majority of the Company s common stock, and the Company s other shareholders will be unable to affect the outcome of shareholder voting during such time.

As of September 30, 2004, Spescom Ltd. owned 27,408,249 shares of common stock, or approximately 60%, of the Company s outstanding common stock on a fully-diluted basis. As long as Spescom Ltd. owns a majority of the Company s outstanding common stock, Spescom Ltd. will continue to be able to elect the Company s entire board of directors and to remove any director, with or without cause, without calling a special meeting. Moreover, even if Spescom Ltd. s percentage ownership of the Company s common stock drops below 50%, it is likely that Spescom Ltd. would have sufficient votes to continue to retain control of the Company. As a result, Spescom Ltd. will likely continue to control for the foreseeable future all matters affecting the Company, including, but not limited to:

the composition of the Company s board of directors and, through it, any determination with respect to the Company s business direction and policies, including the appointment and removal of officers;

the allocation of business opportunities that may be suitable for the Company and Spescom Ltd.;

any determinations with respect to mergers or other business combinations or extraordinary transactions;

the Company s acquisition or disposition of assets; and

the Company s financing.

Spescom Ltd. is not prohibited from selling a controlling interest in us to a third party.

The Company has borrowed funds from Spescom Ltd. which debts are secured by all of the Company s assets, and the Company may become insolvent if repayment of such debt is due prior to the Company s ability to obtain funds to repay such debt or if the Company fails to restructure such debt.

At September 30, 2004, the Company owed, including accrued but unpaid interest, an aggregate amount of \$557,000 to Spescom Ltd. Interest accrues on such debt at an annual interest rate of 10%, and such debt is secured by a security interest in favor of Spescom Ltd. on all of the Company s assets. Spescom Ltd. has agreed to extend the maturity date on such debt until October 2005. If the Company is unable to generate

sufficient cash flow from its operations, secure funds from the capital markets or lenders or restructure its debt to Spescom Ltd., the Company will become insolvent.

The Company may not be able to rely on Spescom Ltd. to fund its future capital requirements, and financing from other sources may not be available on favorable terms or at all.

Although the Company in the past has received funding from Spescom Ltd. for working capital purposes, such additional financing if necessary is not assured. The Company may need financing in the future and such financing from Spescom Ltd. or other sources may not be available on favorable terms or at all. In addition, if Spescom Ltd. is otherwise able to provide additional loans on terms acceptable to the Company, the funding of such loans may be delayed or prevented by currency exchange regulations of the Republic of South Africa, under which Spescom Ltd. is required to apply for and obtain the approval of the South African Reserve Bank before providing any funds to the Company.

The Company believes its capital requirements will vary greatly from quarter to quarter, depending on, among other things, capital expenditures, fluctuations in its operating results, financing activities, and investments and third party products and receivables management. The Company's future liquidity will depend on its ability to generate new system sales of its *eB* product suite in the near term, which cannot be assured. Failure to generate sufficient system sales to meet the Company's cash flow needs can be expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, results of operations, and financial condition. Management believes that the Company's current cash and receivables, as well as additional cash that may be generated from operations, will be sufficient to meet its short-term needs for working capital. However, the Company may not be able to obtain sufficient orders to enable the Company to continue on a cash flow break-even level, which would be necessary to continue operations in the absence of further financing. Future equity financings would be dilutive to the existing holders of the Company's common stock. Future debt financings could involve restrictive covenants.

The Company is dependent on sales to a relatively small number of new customers each quarter, so any failure to close a sale to any customer could have a material adverse effect on its quarterly operating results.

A small number of customers has typically accounted, and will continue in the future to account, for a large percentage of the Company's annual revenues. Network Rail and Constellation Energy Group accounted for 23% and 15%, respectively of revenues for fiscal 2004 while Network Rail accounted for 19% of revenue for fiscal 2003 and 2002. Because of the Company's reliance on sales to relatively few customers, the loss of any sale could have a material adverse effect on the results of its operations on any given quarter. Additionally, a significant portion of the Company's revenues has historically been, and is expected in the future to be, derived from the sale of systems to new customers. The Company generally incurs significant marketing and sales expense prior to entering into a contact with a new customer that generates revenues. The length of time it takes to establish a new customer relationship typically ranges from 6 to 12 months. As such, the Company may incur significant expenses associated with its sales efforts directed to prospective customers in any particular period before any associated revenues stream begins. If the Company is not successful at obtaining significant new customers or if a small number of customers cancel or delay their orders for its products, then its business and its prospects could be harmed which may cause the price of the Company's common stock to decline.

The Company's operating results are difficult to predict and fluctuate substantially from quarter to quarter and year to year, which may increase the difficulty of financial planning and forecasting and may result in declines in the Company's stock price.

The Company's future operating results may vary from the Company's past operating results, are difficult to predict and may vary from year to year due to a number of factors. Many of these factors are beyond the Company's control. These factors include:

the potential delay in recognizing revenue from license transactions due to revenue recognition rules which the Company must follow;

the tendency to realize a substantial amount of revenue in the last weeks, or even days, of each quarter due to the tendency of some of the Company's customers to wait until quarter or year end in the hope of obtaining more favorable terms;

customer decisions to delay implementation of the Company's products;

the size and complexity of the Company's license transactions;

any seasonality of technology purchases;

demand for the Company's products, which can fluctuate significantly;

the timing of new product introductions and product enhancements by both the Company and its competitors;

changes in the Company's pricing policy;

the publication of opinions concerning us, the Company's products or technology by industry analysts;

changes in foreign currency exchange rates; and

domestic and international economic and political conditions.

One or more of these factors may cause the Company's operating expenses to be disproportionately high or the Company's gross revenues to be disproportionately low during any given period, which could cause the Company's net revenue and operating results to fluctuate significantly. The Company's operating results have fluctuated significantly in the past. You should not rely on the Company's annual operating results to predict its future results because of the significant fluctuations to which the Company's results are subject.

As a result of these and other factors, operating results for any fiscal year are subject to significant variation, and the Company believes that period-to-period comparisons of its results of operations are not necessarily meaningful in terms of their relation to future performance. You should not rely upon these comparisons as indications of future performance. It is likely that the Company's future quarterly and annual operating results from time to time will not meet the expectations of public market analysts or investors, which could cause a drop in the price of its common stock.

The Company's market is subject to rapid technological change and if the Company fails to continually enhance its products and services in a timely manner, its revenue and business would be harmed.

The Company must continue to enhance and improve the performance, functionality and reliability of its products and services in a timely manner. The software industry is characterized by rapid technological change, changes in user requirements and preferences, frequent new product and services introductions embodying new technologies, and the emergence of new industry standards and practices that could render the Company's products and services obsolete. The Company has experienced product development delays in the past, and may experience delays in the future. The Company's failure to continually enhance its products and services in a timely manner would adversely impact its business and prospects. In the past, the Company has also discovered that some of its customers desire additional performance and functionality not currently offered by its products. The Company's success will depend, in part, on its ability to internally develop and license leading technologies to enhance its existing products and services, to develop new products and services that address the increasingly sophisticated and varied needs of its customers, and to respond to technological advances and emerging industry standards and practices on a cost-effective and timely basis. The Company's product development efforts with respect to its *eB* product suite are expected to continue to require substantial investments by the Company, and the Company may not have sufficient resources to make the necessary investments. If the Company is unable to adapt its products and services to changing market conditions, customer requirements or emerging industry standards, it may not be able to maintain or increase its revenue and expand its business.

The Company's lack of product diversification means that any decline in price or demand for its products and services would seriously harm its business.

The *eB* product suite and related services have accounted for substantially all of the Company's revenue and this situation is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Consequently, a decline in the price of, or demand for, the *eB* product suite or related services, or their failure to achieve broad market acceptance, would seriously harm the Company's business.

Significant unauthorized use of the Company's products would result in material loss of potential revenues and the Company's pursuit of protection for its intellectual property rights could result in substantial costs to it.

The Company's software is licensed to customers under license agreements containing provisions prohibiting the unauthorized use, copying and transfer of the licensed program. Policing unauthorized use of the Company's products is difficult and, while the Company is unable to determine the extent to which piracy of its software products exists, any significant piracy of its products could materially and adversely affect the Company's business, results of operations and financial condition. In addition, the laws of some foreign countries do not protect the Company's proprietary rights to as great an extent as do the laws of the United States and the Company's means of protecting its proprietary rights may not be adequate.

The Company relies on third party software products incorporated in its products. Any loss of use to such third party software could result in delays in the Company's product shipments.

The Company relies on certain software that it licenses from third parties, including software that is integrated with internally developed software and used in the Company's products to perform key functions. There can be no assurances that the developers of such software will remain in business, that they will continue to support their products, that their products will otherwise continue to be available to the Company on commercially reasonable terms or that their products are free from bugs or defects. The loss of or inability to maintain any of these software licenses could result in delays or reductions in product shipments until equivalent software can be developed, identified, licensed and integrated,

which could adversely affect the Company's business, operating results and financial condition.

If third parties claim that the Company infringes on their patents, trademarks, or other intellectual property rights, it may result in costly litigation or require the Company to make royalty payments.

The Company is not aware that any of its software products infringe the proprietary rights of third parties. There can be no assurance, however, that third parties will not claim infringement by the Company with respect to its current or future products. The Company expects that software product developers will increasingly be subject to infringement claims. Any such claims, with or without merit, could be time-consuming, result in costly litigation, cause product shipment delays, consume significant management time or require the Company to enter into royalty or licensing agreements. Such royalty or licensing agreements, if required, may not be available on terms acceptable to the Company or at all, which could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, results of operations and financial condition.

The Company may face product liability claims from its customers.

The Company's license agreements with its customers usually contain provisions designed to limit its exposure to potential product liability claims. It is possible, however, that the limitation of liability provisions contained in the Company's license agreements may not be effective under the laws of some jurisdictions. A successful product liability claim brought against the Company could result in payment by the Company of substantial damages, which would harm its business, operating results and financial condition and cause the price of its common stock to fall.

If the Company loses key personnel, or is unable to attract and retain additional key personnel, the Company may not be able to successfully grow and manage its business.

The Company believes that its future success will depend upon its ability to attract and retain its key technical and management personnel. These employees are not subject to employment contracts. The Company may not be successful in retaining its key employees in the future or in attracting and assimilating replacement or additional key personnel. Any failure in retaining and attracting management personnel may impair its ability to rapidly grow and manage its business.

The Company faces intense competition from several competitors and may be unable to compete successfully.

The market for the Company's products is intensely competitive, subject to rapid change and significantly affected by new product introductions and other market activities of industry participants. The Company currently encounters competition from a number of public and private companies, including Electronic Document Management System/Enterprise Content Management vendors such as EMC (formerly Documentum), FileNet, OpenText, Sword and Hummingbird; Enterprise Asset Management vendors such as Indus and MRO/Maximo; and to a lesser extent Product Data Management/Product Lifecycle Management vendors such as Matrix I, PTC and EDS. Many of these direct competitors have significantly greater financial, technical, marketing and other resources than the Company. The Company also expects that direct competition will increase as a result of recent consolidation in the software industry.

The Company also faces indirect competition from systems integrators and VARs. The Company relies on a number of systems consulting and systems integration firms for implementation and other customer support services, as well as for recommendation of its products to potential purchasers. Although the Company seeks to maintain close relationships with these service providers, many of these third parties have similar, and often more established, relationships with the Company's principal competitors. If the Company were unable to develop and retain effective, long-term relationships with these third parties, the Company's competitive position would be materially and adversely affected. Further, these third parties may market software products in competition with the Company in the future and may otherwise reduce or discontinue their relationship with, or support of, the Company and its products.

In addition, database vendors, such as Oracle, IBM and Microsoft are potential competitors in the future if they acquire competitive technology or otherwise expand their current product offerings. Like the Company's current competitors, these companies have longer operating histories, significantly greater financial, technical, marketing and other resources and name recognition and a larger installed base of customers than the Company. Several of these companies, including Oracle, Microsoft, IBM and others, have well-established relationships with the Company's current and potential customers and strategic partners, as well as extensive resources and knowledge of the enterprise software industry that may enable them to offer a single-vendor solution more easily than the Company can. In addition, the Company's competitors may be able to respond more quickly to new or emerging technologies and changes in customer requirements, or to devote greater resources to the development, promotion and sale of their products than the Company can. If the Company cannot respond to its competitors adequately and in a timely manner, then it may be required to reduce prices for its products and could suffer reduced gross margins and loss of market share, any of which

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

could harm its business, prospects, financial condition and operating results, causing the price of its common stock to decline. In addition, the Company's past financial losses and customer uncertainty regarding the Company's financial condition are likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company's ability to sell its products in the future against competitors.

The Company's common stock is deemed to be penny stock, which may make it more difficult for investors to sell their shares due to suitability requirements.

The Company's common stock is deemed to be penny stock as that term is defined in Rule 3a51-1 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These requirements may reduce the potential market for the Company's common stock by reducing the number of potential investors. This may make it more difficult for investors in the Company's common stock to sell shares to third parties or to otherwise dispose of them. This could cause the Company's stock price to decline. Penny stock is stock:

With a price of less than \$5.00 per share;

That is not traded on a recognized national exchange;

Whose prices are not quoted on the NASDAQ automated quotation system (NASDAQ listed stock must still have a price of not less than \$5.00 per share); or

In issuers with net tangible assets less than or equal to \$2.0 million (if the issuer has been in continuous operation for at least three years) or \$5.0 million (if in continuous operation for less than three years), or with average revenues of less than \$6.0 million for the last three years.

Broker/dealers dealing in penny stocks are required to provide potential investors with a document disclosing the risks of penny stock. Moreover, broker/dealers are required to determine whether an investment in a penny stock is a suitable investment for a prospective investor.

The Company's common stock trades sporadically; the market price of the Company's common stock may be volatile.

The Company's common stock currently trades sporadically on the OTC Bulletin Board. The market for the Company's common stock may continue to be an inactive market, and the market price of the Company's common stock may experience significant volatility. The Company's quarterly results, failure to meet analysts' expectations, announcements by the Company or its competitors regarding acquisitions or dispositions, loss of existing customers, new industry standards or technology, changes in general conditions in the economy, and general market conditions could cause the market price of the common stock to fluctuate substantially. In addition, the stock market has experienced significant price and volume fluctuations that have particularly affected the trading prices of equity securities of many technology companies. These price and volume fluctuations often have been unrelated to the operating performance of the affected companies.

Future sales of common stock by the Company's shareholders, including investors in future offerings and Spescom Ltd., could adversely affect the Company's stock price.

The Company has registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission the resale of shares issued as part of a private placement completed in September 2003. Such registration, which was declared effective by the Commission on May 7, 2004, covered 6,723,335 shares of common stock outstanding or issuable upon exercise of options or warrants. Any sales of these shares or shares of the Company's common stock issued in any future offering could cause a decline in the price of the Company's stock. In addition, Spescom holds 27,408,249 shares of the Company's common stock on a fully diluted basis as of September 30, 2004, and if it sells its shares of the Company from time to time in the future, the Company's stock price may be adversely affected. Spescom also has certain demand and piggyback registration rights relating to 11,757,778 of these shares.

The exercise of outstanding options and warrants would result in dilution of the Company's stock.

As of September 30, 2004, the Company had outstanding stock options to purchase approximately 5,090,750 shares of common stock and warrants to purchase approximately 1,108,335 shares of common stock. If all or a significant number of the options are exercised, shareholders could suffer significant dilution.

The Company is subject to significant foreign currency fluctuations which may have a material adverse effect on the Company's business and financial results.

Changes in foreign currency rates, the condition of local economies, and the general volatility of software markets may result in a higher or lower proportion of foreign revenues in the future. Although the Company's operating and pricing strategies take into account changes in exchange rates over time, future fluctuations in the value of foreign currencies may have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operating results and financial condition.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Interest Rate Risk

The Company's exposure to market rate risk for changes in interest rates relates primarily to the Company's investment portfolio. The Company does not use derivative financial instruments in its investment portfolio. The Company places its investment with high quality issuers and follows internally developed guidelines to limit the amount of credit exposure to any one issuer. Additionally, in an attempt to limit interest rate risk, the Company follows guidelines to limit the average and longest single maturity dates. The Company is adverse to principal loss and ensures the safety and preservation of its invested funds by limiting default, market and reinvestment risk. As of September 30, 2004 the Company did not have any investments in money market accounts while as of September 30, 2003 the Company's investments did include money market accounts.

Foreign Exchange Risk

Our revenue originating outside the United States was 46%, 42% and 54% for fiscal 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively. International sales are made mostly from our foreign sales subsidiary in the United Kingdom. The functional currency of the Company's United Kingdom subsidiary is the pound sterling. Our subsidiary incurs and settles most of its expenses in its local currency.

The assets and liabilities of our subsidiary are translated into U.S. dollars at exchange rates in effect at the balance sheet date. Income and expense items are translated at the daily current exchange rates. Gains and losses from translation are included in stockholders' equity.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants

Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2004 and 2003

Consolidated Statements of Operations for the years ended September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002

Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Deficit for the years ended September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Audit Committee

Spescom Software Inc.

San Diego, California

We have audited the consolidated balance sheet of Spescom Software Inc. and subsidiaries as of September 30, 2004, and the related consolidated statement of operations, comprehensive loss, shareholders' deficit and cash flow for the year then ended September 30, 2004. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Spescom Software Inc. and subsidiaries as of September 30, 2004, and the results of their operations and their cash flow for the year then ended September 30, 2004, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

SINGER LEWAK GREENBAUM & GOLDSTEIN LLP

Los Angeles, California

October 29, 2004, except for Note 14 as to which the date is November 5, 2004

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Board of Directors

Spescom Software Inc.

San Diego, California

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheet of Spescom Software Inc. (formerly Altris Software, Inc.) as of September 30, 2003, and the related consolidated statements of operations, changes in shareholders' deficit and cash flows for each of the two years in the period ended September 30, 2003. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Spescom Software Inc. as of September 30, 2003, and the consolidated results of its operations and its consolidated cash flows for each of the two years in the period ended September 2003, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have also audited Schedule II of Spescom Software Inc. for each of the two years in the period ended September 30, 2003. In our opinion, this Schedule, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein.

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

Irvine, California

October 24, 2003 (except for Note 6 and Note 8, as to which the date is November 19, 2003)

SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC.
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	2004	September 30,	2003
ASSETS			
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 109,000	\$	333,000
Receivables, net	954,000		423,000
Other current assets	209,000		169,000
Total current assets	1,272,000		925,000
Property and equipment, net	116,000		213,000
Computer software, net	15,000		63,000
Other assets	27,000		29,000
Total assets	\$ 1,430,000	\$	1,230,000
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' DEFICIT			
Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 440,000	\$	405,000
Payable to Spescom	90,000		46,000
Preferred stock dividend payable to Spescom Ltd.	271,000		
Accrued liabilities	1,226,000		1,080,000
Lease obligations - current portion	19,000		23,000
Deferred revenue	1,919,000		2,018,000
Fair value of equity instruments redeemable for common stock			1,233,000
Total current liabilities	3,965,000		4,805,000
Notes and accrued interest payable to Spescom	557,000		504,000
Lease obligations	44,000		62,000
Total liabilities	4,566,000		5,371,000
Convertible preferred stock, \$1,000 stated value, 1,000,000 shares authorized; 5,291 shares issued and outstanding in 2004 and 2003			6,790,000
Shareholders' deficit:			
Convertible preferred stock, \$1,000 stated value, 1,000,000 shares authorized; 5,291 shares issued and outstanding in 2004 and 2003	6,790,000		
Common stock, no par value, 100,000,000 shares authorized; 34,143,278 and 33,922,278 issued and outstanding in 2004 and 2003	74,726,000		73,676,000
Common stock warrants	278,000		278,000
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(387,000)		(294,000)
Accumulated deficit	(84,543,000)		(84,591,000)
Total shareholders' deficit	(3,136,000)		(4,141,000)
Total liabilities and shareholders' deficit	\$ 1,430,000	\$	1,230,000

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

SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

	2004	Years ended September 30,		2003	2002
Revenues:					
Licenses	\$	3,897,000	\$	2,053,000	\$ 1,958,000
Services and other		5,105,000		5,309,000	5,012,000
Total revenues		9,002,000		7,362,000	6,970,000
Cost of revenues:					
Licenses		260,000		690,000	2,041,000
Services and other		2,249,000		2,334,000	3,218,000
Total cost of revenues		2,509,000		3,024,000	5,259,000
Gross profit		6,493,000		4,338,000	1,711,000
Operating expenses:					
Research and development		1,393,000		1,494,000	1,828,000
Marketing and sales		2,949,000		2,452,000	3,479,000
General and administrative		1,965,000		1,410,000	1,809,000
		6,307,000		5,356,000	7,116,000
Income (loss) from operations		186,000		(1,018,000)	(5,405,000)
Nonrecurring loss on conversion of debt to preferred stock				(1,499,000)	
Interest and other income		13,000		4,000	7,000
Interest and other expense		(151,000)		(491,000)	(371,000)
Net income (loss)		48,000		(3,004,000)	(5,769,000)
Cumulative preferred dividends		(271,000)			
Net loss available to common shareholders	\$	(223,000)	\$	(3,004,000)	\$ (5,769,000)
Earnings per share:					
Basic and diluted	\$	(0.01)	\$	(0.10)	\$ (0.19)
Weighted average shares outstanding:					
Basic and diluted		34,016,000		31,100,000	30,792,000
Statement of Comprehensive Loss					
Net income (loss)	\$	48,000	\$	(3,004,000)	\$ (5,769,000)
Other Comprehensive income (loss):					
Foreign currency translation adjustment		(93,000)		(138,000)	(123,000)
Comprehensive loss	\$	(45,000)	\$	(3,142,000)	\$ (5,892,000)

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

SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS DEFICIT

Years Ended September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002

(In thousands except share data)

	Preferred Stock		Common Stock		Stock	Accumulated	Accumulated	Total	Comprehensive
	Share	Amount	Share	Amount	Warrants	Other Comprehensive Income	Deficit		loss
Balance at September 30, 2001			30,842	\$ 73,838	\$ 718	\$ (33)	\$ (75,818)	\$ (1,295)	
Options Issued to consultant				42				42	
Expiration of warrants				585	(585)				
Foreign currency translation adjustment						(123)		(123)	\$ (123)
Net Loss							(5,769)	(5,769)	(5,769)
Total comprehensive loss									\$ (5,892)
Balance at September 30, 2002			30,842	74,465	133	(156)	(81,587)	(7,145)	
Exercise of stock options			56	6				6	
Proceeds from private placement			3,025	438	145			583	
Reclass of equity instruments redeemable for common stock to current liabilities (see Note 6)				(1,233)				(1,233)	
Foreign currency translation adjustment						(138)		(138)	\$ (138)
Net loss							(3,004)	(3,004)	(3,004)
Total comprehensive loss									\$ (3,142)
Balance at September 30, 2003			33,922	73,676	278	(294)	(84,591)	(10,931)	
Exercise of stock options			56	14				14	
Reclassification of Preferred Stock (See Note 6)	5,291	\$ 6,790						6,790	
Reclassification of equity instruments redeemable for common stock to current liabilities (see Note 8)				1,226				1,266	
Preferred Stock dividend				(264)				(264)	
Common stock issued for services			165	74				74	
Foreign currency translation adjustment						(93)		(93)	\$ (93)
Net income							48	48	48
Total comprehensive loss									\$ (45)
	5,291	\$ 6,790	34,143	\$ 74,726	\$ 278	\$ (387)	\$ (84,543)	\$ (3,136)	

Balance at September
30, 2004

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

SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	2004	Years ended September 30,		2002
		2003		
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Net income (loss)	\$ 48,000	\$ (3,004,000)	\$	(5,769,000)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:				
Depreciation and amortization	183,000	491,000		1,059,000
Unpaid interest to Spescom Ltd.	108,000	453,000		362,000
Nonrecurring loss on conversion of debt to preferred stock		1,499,000		
Impairment of capitalized software				865,000
Common Stock issued to consultant	74,000			42,000
Gain on derivative revaluation	(6,000)			
Changes in assets and liabilities:				
Receivables, net	(518,000)	1,128,000		(239,000)
Other current assets	14,000	(263,000)		514,000
Accounts payable	30,000	(401,000)		(261,000)
Payable to Spescom Ltd.				468,000
Accrued liabilities	60,000	103,000		(622,000)
Deferred revenue	(161,000)	(238,000)		480,000
Other assets				10,000
Net cash used in operating activities	(168,000)	(232,000)		(3,091,000)
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Purchases of property and equipment	(22,000)	(31,000)		(25,000)
Purchases of software	(10,000)	(12,000)		(58,000)
Net cash used in investing activities	(32,000)	(43,000)		(83,000)
Cash flows from financing activities:				
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	14,000	6,000		
Proceeds from Spescom Ltd. loans	600,000			3,142,000
Repayment of Spescom Ltd. loan	(600,000)			
Proceeds from private placement of common stock		583,000		
Payments on capital lease obligations	(22,000)	(15,000)		
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	(8,000)	574,000		3,142,000
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	(16,000)	(53,000)		(25,000)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(224,000)	246,000		(57,000)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	333,000	87,000		144,000
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 109,000	\$ 333,000	\$	87,000

*See Note 1 for supplemental cash flow information.

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

SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002

Note 1 The Company and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Company

The Company develops markets and supports a suite of integrated document, configuration and records management software products. These products were developed to enable customers in a broad range of industries, including utilities, transportation and state and local governments among others to effectively and efficiently manage, share and distribute critical business information, expertise and other intellectual capital. The Company is headquartered in San Diego, California with an international sales and support subsidiary in London, UK.

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements are prepared using accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned United Kingdom subsidiary, Spescom Software Ltd. All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated.

Foreign Currency

The functional currency of the Company's United Kingdom subsidiary is the pound sterling. Assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars at end-of-period exchange rates. Revenues and expenses are translated at average exchange rates in effect for the period. Net currency exchange gains or losses resulting from such translations are excluded from net income and are accumulated in a separate component of shareholders deficit as accumulated other comprehensive income(loss). Gains and losses resulting from foreign currency transactions, which are not significant, are included in the consolidated statements of operations.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and also requires disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Significant estimates made by management include revenue recognition estimates, the viability of recognizing deferred income tax assets, capitalized software costs and the valuation of equity instruments, and the allowance for doubtful accounts.

Revenue Recognition

The Company enters into contractual arrangements with end-users that may include licensing of the Company's software products, product support and maintenance services, consulting services or various combinations thereof, including the sale of such products or services separately. The Company recognizes revenue in accordance with Statement of Position (SOP) 97-2 Software Revenue Recognition and SOP 98-9, Modification of SOP 97-2, Software Revenue Recognition, with Respect to Certain Transactions and Staff Accounting Bulletin (SAB) No. 101, updated by SAB's 103 and 104 Update of Codification of Staff Accounting Bulletins.

Software license and third party product revenues are recognized upon shipment of the product if no significant vendor obligations remain and collection is probable. In cases where a significant vendor obligation exists, revenue recognition is delayed until such obligation has been satisfied. For new software products where a historical record has not yet been demonstrated that acceptance is perfunctory, the Company defers recognition of revenue until acceptance has occurred. If an undelivered element of the arrangement exists under the license arrangement, a portion of revenue is deferred based on vendor-specific objective evidence (VSOE) of the fair value of the undelivered element until delivery occurs. If VSOE does not exist for all undelivered elements, all revenue is deferred until sufficient evidence exists or all elements have been delivered. Annual maintenance revenues, which consist of ongoing support and product updates, are recognized on a straight-line basis over the term of the contract. Payments received in advance of performance of the related service for maintenance contracts are recorded as deferred revenue. Revenues from training and consulting services are recognized when the services are performed and adequate evidence of providing such services is available. Contract revenues for long-term contracts or programs requiring specialized systems are recognized using the percentage-of-completion method of accounting, primarily based on contract labor hours incurred to date compared with total estimated labor hours at completion. Provisions for anticipated contract losses are recognized at the time they become known.

Contracts are billed based on the terms of the contract. There are no retentions in billed contract receivables. Unbilled contract receivables relate to revenues earned but not billed at the end of the period.

The Company considers many factors when applying accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America related to revenue recognition. These factors include, but are not limited to:

The actual contractual terms, such as payment terms, delivery dates, and pricing of the various product and service elements of a contract

Availability of products to be delivered

Time period over which services are to be performed

Creditworthiness of the customer

The complexity of customizations to the Company's software required by service contracts

The sales channel through which the sale is made (direct, VAR, distributor, etc.)

Discounts given for each element of a contract

Any commitments made as to installation or implementation of go live dates.

Each of the relevant factors is analyzed to determine its impact, individually and collectively with other factors, on the revenue to be recognized for any particular contract with a customer. Management is required to make judgments regarding the significance of each factor in applying the revenue recognition standards, as well as whether or not each factor complies with such standards. Any misjudgment or error by management in its evaluation of the factors and the application of the standards, especially with respect to complex or new types of transactions, could have a material adverse effect on the Company's future operating results.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 107, "Disclosures About Fair Value of Financial Instruments", requires management to disclose the estimated fair value of certain assets and liabilities defined by SFAS No. 107 as cash or a contractual obligation that both conveys to one entity a right to receive cash or other financial instruments from another entity, and imposes on the other entity the obligation to deliver cash or other financial instruments to the first entity. At September 30, 2004 and 2003, management believes that the carrying amounts of cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments, accounts receivable and accounts payable, and accrued expenses approximate fair value because of the short maturity of these financial instruments. The Company believes that the carrying value of its loans, leases and lines of credit approximate their fair values based on current market rates of interest.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The Company provides products and services to customers in a variety of industries worldwide, including local governments, petrochemicals, utilities, manufacturing and transportation. Concentration of credit risk with respect to trade receivables is limited due to the geographic and

industry dispersion of the Company's customer base. The Company has not experienced significant credit losses on its customer accounts.

A small number of customers has typically accounted for a large percentage of the Company's annual revenues. Network Rail and Constellation Energy Group accounted for 23% and 15%, respectively of revenues for fiscal 2004 while Network Rail accounted for 19% of revenues for fiscal 2003 and 2002.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment is recorded at cost and depreciated using the straight-line method over useful lives of two to seven years. Leasehold improvements are amortized on a straight-line basis over the shorter of their useful life or the term of the related lease.

Accumulated depreciation of property plant and equipment was \$1,256,000 and \$1,142,000 at September 30, 2004 and 2003 respectively. The related depreciation expense was \$125,000, \$123,000 and \$290,000 for the years ended September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002 respectively. Expenditures for ordinary repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred while major additions and improvements are capitalized.

Software Development Costs and Purchased Software

Software development costs and purchased software are capitalized when technological feasibility and marketability of the related product have been established. Software development costs incurred solely in connection with a specific contract are charged to cost of revenues. Capitalized software costs are amortized on a product-by-product basis, beginning when the product is available for general release to customers. Annual amortization expense is calculated using the greater of the ratio of each product's current gross revenues to the total of current and expected gross revenues or the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of three to four years. Accumulated amortization of capitalized software costs was \$272,000 and \$215,000 at September 30, 2004 and 2003, respectively. The related amortization expense was \$58,000, \$368,000, and \$937,000 for the years ended September 30, 2004, 2003

and 2002, respectively. In 2002, the Company determined that certain of its capitalized software development cost had been impaired in accordance with SFAS No. 86, *Accounting for the Costs of Computer Software to Be Sold, Leased, or Otherwise Marketed*. Based on the expectation that future net cash flows would be less than the carrying amount of the asset, the Company wrote down the capitalized software by \$865,000 to its net realizable value.

Long-lived Assets

The Company assesses potential impairments to its long-lived assets when there is evidence that events or changes in circumstances have made recovery of the asset's carrying value unlikely. An impairment loss would be recognized when the sum of the expected future net cash flows is less than the carrying amount of the asset. The Company concluded in fiscal 2003 that there were no events or changes in circumstances that would indicate that the carrying amounts of long-lived assets were impaired.

Derivatives

Under Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) Issue No. 00-19, *Accounting for Derivative Financial Instruments Indexed to, and Potentially Settle in, a Company's Own Stock*, the initial balance sheet classification of contracts that require net cash settlement are recorded as assets or liabilities and contracts that require settlement in shares are recorded as equity instruments. At each balance sheet date, the Company reviews contracts and equity instruments that are to be settled in common stock to determine if sufficient common shares are available to satisfy the maximum number of shares that could be required to net-share settle the contracts, among other conditions. If sufficient common shares do not exist, then certain contracts are reclassified as a liability based on their fair value. Changes in fair value are accounted for in the statement of operations. (See Note 8).

Stock-Based Compensation

The Company measures compensation expense for its stock-based employee compensation plans using the intrinsic value method and provides pro forma disclosures of net loss and basic and diluted net loss per share as if the fair value-based method had been applied in measuring compensation expense. The Company applies SFAS No. 123, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation* and Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25 and related Interpretations in accounting for its employee stock-based compensation plan.

No compensation cost was recognized for employee stock option grants during 2004, 2003 or 2002 based upon the intrinsic value method, which were fixed in nature, as the options were granted at exercise prices equal to fair market value on the date of grant. Had compensation cost for the Company's employee stock-based compensation plan been determined based on the fair value at the grant dates the disclosure requirements of SFAS 148, which amends the disclosure requirements of FAS 123, would have been as follows:

	Years ended September 30,		
	2004	2003	2002

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

Net income (loss) used in computing net income (loss) per share						
As reported	\$	48,000	\$	(3,004,000)	\$	(5,769,000)
Add: Total stock based employee compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards, net of related tax effects						
		(423,000)		(76,000)		(184,000)
Pro forma	\$	(375,000)	\$	(3,080,000)	\$	(5,953,000)
Basic and diluted net loss per share						
As reported	\$	(0.01)	\$	(0.10)	\$	(0.19)
Pro forma	\$	(0.01)	\$	(0.10)	\$	(0.19)

The fair value of each option grant is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions used for grants:

	2004	2003	2002
Dividend yield	0%	0%	0%
Expected volatility	170%	315%	239%
Risk free interest rate	4.13%	4.20%	4.90%
Expected lives (years)	10	10	10

Income Taxes

Current income tax expense is the amount of income taxes expected to be payable for the current year. A deferred income tax asset or liability is established for the expected future consequences resulting from the differences in the financial reporting and tax bases of assets and liabilities. Deferred income tax expense (benefit) is the change during the year in the deferred income tax asset or liability. Valuation allowances are established when necessary to reduce deferred tax assets to the amount expected to be more likely than not realized in the future based on the Company's current and expected operating results.

Net Loss per Common Share

Basic net loss per common share is computed as net loss divided by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the year. Diluted net loss per common share is computed as net loss divided by the weighted average number of common shares and potential common shares, using the treasury stock method, outstanding during the year and assumes conversion into common stock at the beginning of each period of all outstanding shares of convertible preferred stock, stock options, warrants and other potential common stock. Computations of diluted net loss per share do not give effect to individual potential common stock for any period in which their inclusion would be anti-dilutive.

Statements of Cash Flows

The following table provides supplemental cash flow information:

	2004	Years ended September 30,	
		2003	2002
Supplemental cash flow information:			
Interest paid	\$ 43,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,000
Non-cash financing and investing activities:			
Accrued preferred stock dividends	\$ 271,000		
Acquisition of equipment under capital lease.		\$ 84,000	\$ 20,000
Conversion of debt and payables owed to Spescom Ltd. into preferred stock		\$ 5,291,000	
Nonrecurring loss on conversion of debt and payables to preferred stock		\$ 1,499,000	

Note 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

In November 2002, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 45 (FIN No. 45), *Guarantors' Accounting and Disclosure Requirements for Guarantees, Including Indirect Guarantees of Indebtedness of Others*. FIN No. 45 expands on the accounting guidance of FASB Statements No. 5, 57, and 107 and incorporates without change the provisions of FASB Interpretation No. 34, which is being superseded. FIN No. 45 will affect leasing transactions involving residual guarantees, vendor and manufacturer guarantees, and tax and environmental indemnities. All such guarantees will need to be disclosed in the notes to the financial statements starting with the period ending after December 15, 2002. Existing guarantees will be grandfathered and will not be recognized on the balance sheet. The provisions related to recognizing a liability at inception of the guarantee do not apply to product warranties, indemnification provisions in our software license arrangements or to guarantees accounted for as derivatives. The initial recognition and measurement provision are effective prospectively for guarantees issued or modified on or after December 31, 2002 and the disclosure requirements apply to guarantees outstanding as of December 31, 2002. This interpretation did not have a material effect on our consolidated financial position or results of operations as we currently do not have any guarantees or obligations falling under the scope of Interpretation No. 45.

In January 2003, the FASB issued Interpretation 46, *Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities*. In general, a variable interest entity is a corporation, partnership, trust, or any other legal structure used for business purposes that either (a) do not have equity investors with voting rights or (b) have equity investors that do not provide sufficient financial resources for the entity to support its activities. Interpretation 46 requires a variable interest entity to be consolidated by a company if that company is subject to a majority of the risk of loss from the variable interest entity's activities or entitled to receive a majority of the entity's residual returns or both. The

consolidation requirements of Interpretation 46 apply immediately to variable interest entities created after January 31, 2003. The consolidation requirements apply to older entities in the first fiscal year or interim period beginning after June 15, 2003. Certain of the disclosure requirements apply in all financial statements issued after January 31, 2003, regardless of when the variable interest entity was established. This interpretation did not have a material effect on our consolidated financial position or consolidated results of operations as we currently do not have any variable interest entities falling within the scope of Interpretation 46.

In April 2003, the FASB issued SFAS No. 149, Amendment of Statement 133 on Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities. SFAS No. 149 amends and clarifies accounting for derivative instruments, including certain derivative instruments embedded in other contracts and for hedging activities under SFAS 133, effective for reporting periods ending after June 30, 2003. In particular, SFAS No. 149 clarifies under what circumstances a contract within an initial net investment meets the characteristic of a derivative and when a derivative contains a financing component that warrants special reporting in the statement of cash flows. SFAS No. 149 is generally effective for contracts entered into or modified after June 30, 2003. The adoption of SFAS 149 had a material effect on our consolidated financial position or consolidated results of operations. See Note 8 Derivatives.

In May 2003, the FASB issued SFAS No. 150, Accounting for Certain Financial Instruments with Characteristics of Both Liabilities and Equity. SFAS No. 150 establishes standards for how an issuer classifies and measures certain financial instruments with characteristics of both liabilities and equity. It requires that an issuer classify a financial instrument that is within its scope as a liability (or an asset in some circumstances). Many of those instruments were previously classified as equity. SFAS No. 150 is effective for financial instruments entered into or modified after May 31, 2003, and otherwise is effective at the beginning of the first interim period beginning after June 15, 2003. The adoption of SFAS No. 150 did not have a material effect on our consolidated financial position or consolidated results of operations as we currently do not have any financial instruments falling within the scope of SFAS No. 150.

Note 3 Spescom Ltd. Transaction and Related Parties

In September 2003 \$5,291,000 of debt owed to Spescom Ltd. and Spescom Ltd. UK was converted into preferred stock. The debt converted was comprised of the outstanding principal balance of promissory notes plus accrued but unpaid interest as well as accounts payable due to Spescom Ltd. UK in the amount of \$492,000. On September 30, 2003, the Company issued 5,291 Series F Convertible Preferred Stock which has a stated value of \$1,000 per share. The Series F preferred stock are convertible into common stock based on a conversion price of \$0.45 per share subject to certain adjustments. The conversion is at the option of Spescom Ltd. through September 30, 2008.

Related party liabilities consist of the following:

	2004	September 30,	2003
Notes and accrued interest payable on demand Spescom Ltd. UK \$	557,000	\$	504,000

On November 18, 2003 the Company issued a note payable to Spescom Ltd. UK with a principal balance of \$600,000 bearing an interest rate of 5% per annum, with principal payable in two installments of approximately \$300,000 plus interest at January 31, 2004 and March 31, 2004. The first payment of \$305,000 was made on January 29, 2004 to Spescom Ltd. UK and the remaining balance of \$304,000 was paid on May 18, 2004. The due date for the second payment had been extended from March 31, 2004 to May 31, 2004. Interest expense on the note for fiscal 2004 was \$9,000.

In addition, the Company had two demand notes payable to Spescom Ltd. UK for \$400,000 and \$100,000, each bearing an annual interest rate of 10%. Spescom Ltd. has agreed that it will not cause Spescom Ltd. UK to demand repayment under the two notes prior to October 1, 2005. These notes payable are collateralized by a security interest in favor of both Spescom Ltd. and Spescom Ltd. UK in respect of all of the Company's assets.

During 2002 under a royalty arrangement, Spescom resold the Company's software. This arrangement was terminated effective October 1, 2002. For the year ended September 30, 2002 the Company recognized royalty revenue of \$60,000. Under a new royalty arrangement in 2004, Spescom Ltd. resold the Company's software and maintenance services. Royalty revenue recognized in 2004 totaled \$47,000. The Company also charged Spescom Ltd. for certain marketing services totaling \$59,000, \$49,000 and \$52,000 for the year ended September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

Spescom Ltd. provides certain administrative and accounting functions for the Company's United Kingdom subsidiary. The Company is billed a monthly fee by Spescom Ltd. for reimbursement of certain costs in the United Kingdom including the office facilities, all accounting and human resources services, and certain corporate marketing activities. For the year ended September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002 the administrative fees totaled \$588,000, \$545,000 and \$710,000, respectively. The office rent for the Company's United Kingdom operations included in the administrative fee totaled \$344,000, \$287,000 and \$260,000, respectively for the year ended

September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002. The Company purchased engineering consulting services totaling \$45,000 from Spescom Ltd. during the year ended September 30, 2002. At September 30, 2004 and 2003 the Company had a payable to Spescom Ltd. of \$90,000 and \$46,000, respectively. In 1999, as part of an agreement to sell a 60% interest in its United Kingdom subsidiary to Spescom Ltd., the lease for the United Kingdom office facility was to be assigned to Spescom Ltd.; however, the landlord did not grant its consent to the assignment and as such Spescom Ltd. has paid the lease for the entire office directly to the landlord. The lease expires in March 2006 and has an annual rent of \$530,000. A portion of the office has been subleased to third party tenants for an annual rent of \$252,000. The subleases also expire March 2006.

Spescom Ltd. and the Company have entered into a license agreement pursuant to which Spescom has licensed to the Company the right to use the name "Spescom" and to use a trademark owned by Spescom Ltd. related to certain computer software. The Company will not pay any royalties to Spescom Ltd. in connection with this license. The license is for an indefinite term, but is terminable by either party upon 60 days prior written notice. Under the license agreement, Spescom Ltd. has agreed to indemnify and hold harmless the Company and its directors, officers, employees and agents against liabilities arising from any claim brought against the Company that alleges that Spescom Ltd.'s or the Company's use of the licensed trademark infringes the rights of any third party, provided that the Company is in material compliance with the provisions of the license agreement.

Note 4 Balance Sheet Information

	September 30,	
	2004	2003
Receivables, net:		
Receivables	\$ 1,037,000	\$ 501,000
Less: allowance for doubtful accounts	(83,000)	(78,000)
	\$ 954,000	\$ 423,000
Property and equipment, net:		
Computer equipment	\$ 1,211,000	\$ 1,175,000
Machinery and equipment	84,000	95,000
Furniture & fixtures	77,000	85,000
	1,372,000	1,355,000
Less accumulated depreciation & amortization	(1,256,000)	(1,142,000)
	\$ 116,000	\$ 213,000
Accrued liabilities		
Accrued vacation	\$ 330,000	\$ 284,000
Employee compensation related expenses	251,000	199,000
Payable to customers	204,000	208,000
Accrued audit and tax fees	162,000	130,000
Sales and VAT taxes payable	95,000	48,000
Other	184,000	211,000
	\$ 1,226,000	\$ 1,080,000

Note 5 Reconciliation of Net Loss and Shares Used in Per Share Computations:

Basic earnings per share is computed on the basis of the weighted average number of common shares outstanding. Diluted earnings per share is computed on the basis of the weighted average number of common shares outstanding plus the effect of outstanding stock options, stock awards and shared performance stock awards using the treasury stock method. The components of basic and diluted earnings per share were as follows:

	Years ended September 30,		
	2004	2003	2002
Net income (loss) available for common shareholders	\$ (223,000)	\$ (3,004,000)	\$ (5,769,000)
Common stock and common stock equivalents	34,016,000	31,100,000	30,842,000

For the years September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002, shares totaling 1,069,000, 240,000 and 6,000, respectively, attributable to outstanding stock options, were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share because the effect was antidilutive.

In September 2003, the Company issued an option to purchase 2,500,000 shares of common stock to an investment consulting firm involved in a private placement and the Company issued 5,291 shares of Series F Preferred Stock to Spescom Ltd. and Spescom Ltd. UK with a stated value of \$1,000 per share which are convertible into the Company's common stock at a stated conversion price of \$0.45 per share representing a total of 11,757,778 shares of common stock. In addition in September 2003, the Company issued warrants to investors who participated in the private placement to purchase 1,008,335 shares of the Company's common stock. The stock options, warrants and convertible preferred stock were excluded from calculations of per share amounts, because their effect would be antidilutive.

Note 6 Convertible Preferred StockSeries F Convertible 5% Preferred Stock

On September 30, 2003, the Company issued 5,291 shares of Series F Preferred Stock (the Preferred Shares) with a stated value of \$1,000 per share in consideration of the cancellation of \$5,291,000 of its debt owed to Spescom Ltd. and its subsidiary (See Note 3). The Preferred Shares are convertible into the Company's common stock at a stated conversion price of \$0.45 per share, subject to certain adjustments to prevent dilution, representing a total of 11,757,778 shares of the Company's common stock. Such conversion may occur at the option of the holder until September 30, 2008. On that date, any outstanding Preferred Shares not previously converted are to be converted automatically.

The Preferred Shares are entitled to a liquidation preference equal to \$1,000 per share, plus accrued but unpaid dividends per share and interest on all accrued but unpaid dividends. The Preferred Shares are also entitled to receive dividends of 5% of the stated value of \$1,000 per share per annum, payable on a quarterly basis in cash or common stock (valued on the basis of the average per share market value on the 30 trading days immediately prior to the date on which such dividend is declared by the Board of Directors). Unpaid dividends accrue interest at the rate of 8% per annum. As of September 30, 2004, unpaid dividends and accrued interest amounted to \$264,000 and \$7,000, respectively. As part of the transaction, Spescom Ltd. and its U.K. subsidiary received certain demand and piggyback registration rights with respect to the common stock underlying the Preferred Shares. The holder of each share of preferred stock is entitled to the number of votes equal to the number of shares of common stock which the Preferred Shares is entitled to upon conversion on all matters submitted to the vote of the holders of common stock, and shall vote as a class with the holders of common stock. In a change of control, merger or sale, the Preferred Shares holders would preserve

their conversion rights and would be entitled to the same number and amount of shares immediately prior to such transaction.

The Company recorded an inducement charge of \$1,499,000 on the issuance of the Preferred Shares as of the commitment date of September 30, 2003 based on the difference between the carrying value of the debt of \$5,291,000 and the fair value of the Preferred Shares of \$6,790,000. The Company determined the fair value of the Preferred Shares at \$6,790,000 based on factors including contemporary trading prices and a valuation using the Black-Scholes model. As a result, the effective conversion rate at which the Preferred Shares are convertible into common stock is \$0.57 per share. In addition due to the effective conversion rate exceeding the fair value of the underlying common stock on the date of issuance, there is no beneficial conversion feature associated with the preferred stock.

Note 7 Shareholders Deficit

Private Placement

In August 2003, the Company issued a vested three-year option to purchase 1,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock at \$0.22 that expires on August 15, 2006 to an investment consulting firm upon completion of a private placement of at least \$600,000. In September 2003, the Company completed a private placement of 3,025,000 shares of common stock with accredited investors resulting in gross proceeds to the Company of \$605,000. After expenses, net proceeds to the Company totaled \$583,000. In connection with the private placement the investors received 1,008,335 warrants to purchase shares of common stock on a one for one basis at \$0.20 per share. The warrants expire on August 31, 2005. The investment consulting firm received an additional option to purchase 1,500,000 shares of common stock at \$0.22 per share which will vest if the Company consummates a transaction with investors introduced by that firm that provides the Company with at least \$2,400,000 in additional investment capital. The option will expire on August 15, 2005. In addition, the firm has been granted piggyback registration rights entitling it to have any shares issuable to it by the Company included in any registration statement filed by the Company.

Common Stock for Services

In September 2003, the Company entered into a six-month agreement with a new public relations firm. In connection with this agreement 90,000 shares of fully-paid non-assessable stock, valued at \$0.51 per share or \$45,000, was part of the compensation to the firm for its services to the Company. In March 2004, the Company renewed the agreement for an additional six-month period. In connection with this renewal, 75,000 shares of fully-paid non-assessable stock, valued at \$0.38 per share or \$28,000 were issued as part of the compensation to the firm for services to the Company. In fiscal year 2002, the Company issued 130,000 stock options to a consultant for services and recorded compensation expense of \$42,000 based upon the fair value of the options computed using a Black-Scholes model.

Warrants

At September 30, 2003, there is an outstanding warrant to purchase 100,000 shares of the Company's common stock at an exercise price of \$0.72 per share. The warrant expires in December 2004. In addition, in September 2003, warrants were issued to investors to purchase 1,008,335 shares of the Company's common stock at an exercise price of \$0.20 per share in conjunction with a private placement of accredited investors. The warrants expire in August 2005. All warrants were recorded based on their fair value at date of issuance determined using a Black-Scholes model. (see Note 8)

Common Stock Options

In September 2003, in connection with the private placement, an investment consulting firm received a vested three-year option to purchase 1,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock at an exercise price of \$0.22 per share. This option became vested upon completion of the private placement. This firm also received an additional option to purchase 1,500,000 shares of common stock at \$0.22, which will vest if the Company consummates a transaction with investors introduced by or through this firm investment consulting firm that provides the Company with at least \$2,400,000 in additional investment capital. These options expire on August 15, 2006.

In April 1996, the Company adopted its 1996 Stock Incentive Plan (the "1996 Plan"). The 1996 Plan is administered by either the Board of Directors or a committee designated by the Board to oversee the plan. On January 30, 2004 at the stockholder's meeting a motion was approved to increase the authorized shares by 3,000,000 from 2,425,000 for the maximum number of shares of Common Stock to be issued were 5,425,000, under the 1996 plan. As of September 30, 2004, options to purchase 5,090,750 shares are outstanding and 59,212 shares are available for grant.

The option vesting period under the plan is determined by the Board of Directors or a Stock Option Committee and usually provides that 25% of the options granted can be exercised 90 days from the date of grant, and thereafter, those options vest and become exercisable in additional cumulative annual installments of 25% commencing on the first anniversary of the date of grant. Options granted are generally due to expire upon the sooner of ten years from date of grant, thirty days after termination of services other than by reason of convenience of the Company, three months after disability, or one year after the date of the option holder's death. The option exercise price is equal to the fair market value of the common stock on the date of grant. Options granted to employees under the 1996 Plan may be either incentive stock options or nonqualified options. Only nonqualified options may be granted to nonemployee directors.

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

The following table summarizes information about employee stock options outstanding:

	2004		Year ended, September 30, 2003		2002	
	Shares	Weighted average exercise price	Shares	Weighted average exercise price	Shares	Weighted average exercise price
Outstanding at beginning of year	4,635,750	\$ 0.31	1,971,876	\$ 0.45	1,824,750	\$ 0.76
Options granted	620,000	0.35	2,830,000(1)	0.21	746,126	0.20
Options exercised	(56,000)	0.24	(55,688)	0.14		
Options forfeited	(109,000)	0.65	(110,438)	0.21	(599,000)	0.89
Outstanding at end of year	5,090,750	\$ 0.31	4,635,750	\$ 0.31	1,971,876	\$ 0.45
Options exercisable at end of year	3,054,000		1,454,250		1,205,814	
Weighted average fair value of options during the year	\$ 0.31		\$ 0.26		\$.15	

(1) These shares include 2,580,000 options approved by the Board but were subject to shareholder approval of an increase in the authorized number of shares under the 1996 Stock Incentive Plan. The increase was approved by the Company's shareholders in January 2004.

The following table summarizes information about employee stock options outstanding at September 30, 2004:

	Options Outstanding			Options Exercisable		
	Number outstanding at September 30, 2004	Weighted average remaining contractual life	Weighted Average exercise price	Number exercisable at September 30, 2004	Weighted average exercise price	
<u>Range of Exercise prices</u>						
\$0.080 to \$0.080	15,000	2.85 years	\$ 0.080	11,250	\$ 0.080	
\$0.140 to \$0.140	560,000	7.57 years	\$ 0.140	417,000	\$ 0.014	
\$0.180 to \$0.180	250,000	8.54 years	\$ 0.180	125,000	\$ 0.180	
\$0.210 to \$0.210	2,580,000	8.87 years	\$ 0.210	1,290,000	\$ 0.210	
\$0.250 to \$0.330	134,500	5.28 years	\$ 0.268	104,500	\$ 0.250	
\$0.350 to \$0.350	596,250	9.23 years	\$ 0.350	180,000	\$ 0.350	
\$0.370 to \$0.562	694,750	6.04 years	\$ 0.517	666,000	\$ 0.522	
\$0.625 to \$5.940	256,250	5.49 years	\$ 1.091	256,250	\$ 1.091	
\$6.380 to \$6.380	3,000	2.26 years	\$ 6.380	3,000	\$ 6.380	
\$7.875 to \$7.875	1,000	2.97 years	\$ 7.875	1,000	\$ 7.875	
\$0.080 to \$7.875	5,090,750	8.08 years	\$ 0.310	3,054,000	\$ 0.359	

Note 8 Derivatives

At September 30, 2003, the Company did not have a sufficient number of authorized shares of its common stock to satisfy potential exercises of 1,108,335 warrants held by investors and 1,150,000 options held by non-employees. As a result, the fair value of such equity instruments was reclassified from shareholders' deficit to current liabilities. The fair value of the warrants and options was

determined using the Black-Scholes model at the date of reclassification and totaled \$1,233,000. As of December 31, 2003 the total options held by non-employees was reduced by 130,000 options from 1,150,000 to 1,020,000 due to the exercise of 50,000 options and the expiration of 80,000 options. The Company recognized a gain of \$5,000 on the revaluation of the remaining warrants and options as of December 31, 2003. At the Annual Meeting of Shareholders that was held on January 30, 2004, the shareholders approved a proposal to amend the Company's Articles of Incorporation to increase the number of shares of authorized common stock from 40,000,000 to 100,000,000 shares. As a result, the Company has sufficient number of shares of common stock authorized to satisfy potential exercises of 1,108,335 warrants held by investors and 1,150,000 options held by non-employees. In 2004, the fair value of such equity instruments of \$1,159,000 was reclassified from current liabilities to equity and a gain of \$1,000 was recognized on the revaluation of the warrants and options to equity during the quarter ended March 31, 2004. In addition the preferred stock of \$6,790,000 was reclassified to equity from mezzanine equity.

Note 9 - Income Taxes:

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are comprised of the following:

	2004	September 30,	2003
Deferred tax assets:			
Net operating loss carryforwards	\$ 12,567,000	\$ 12,479,000	
Research and development costs	1,007,000	891,000	
Depreciation and amortization	94,000	124,000	
Deferred revenue	576,000	530,000	
Accruals	184,000	150,000	
Credits	328,000	328,000	
Other	66,000	(498,000)	
Total deferred tax assets	14,822,000	14,004,000	
Less valuation allowance	(14,822,000)	(14,004,000)	
Net deferred tax assets	\$	\$	

The Company has recorded a valuation allowance amounting to the entire net deferred tax asset balance due to its lack of a history of earnings, possible limitations on the use of carryforwards, and the expiration of certain of the net operating loss carryforwards (NOL) which gives rise to uncertainty as to whether the net deferred tax asset is realizable. The valuation allowance decreased by \$818,000 during the year ended September 30, 2004. Internal Revenue Code Section 382 and similar California rules place a limitation on the amount of taxable income that can be offset by carryforwards after a change in control (generally greater than a 50% change in ownership).

As a result of these provisions, utilization of the NOL may be limited. There were no significant differences from the Company's total provision for income taxes as compared to applying the statutory foreign and U.S. federal income tax rates for the years ended September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002.

The Company has NOL carryforwards of \$35,221,000 and \$6,699,000 for federal and state tax purposes, respectively, which expire

over the years 2004 through 2022. Effective September 11, 2002, pursuant to California revenue and tax code section 24416.3, no net operating loss deduction would be allowed for any taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2002, and before January 1, 2004. For any suspended losses, the carryover period would be extended by one year for losses incurred in tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2002, and before January 1, 2003; and by two years for losses incurred in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2002. The Company has investment and research activity credit carryforwards aggregating \$328,000, which will substantially expire in the years 2004 through 2006.

Note 10 Segment and Geographic Information

The Company has one business segment, which consists of the development and sale of a suite of integrated document, configuration and records management software product.

Revenues for the years ended September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002, by customer location are as follows:

	2004	2003	2002
United States	\$ 4,706,000	\$ 4,237,000	\$ 3,464,000
Europe, primarily United Kingdom	4,112,000	3,072,000	3,207,000
Other International	184,000	53,000	299,000
	\$ 9,002,000	\$ 7,362,000	\$ 6,970,000

Information by geographic location for the years ended September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002, are as follows:

	United States	Europe and Other	Corporate Research and Development	Consolidated
2004				
Revenues	\$ 4,883,000	\$ 4,119,000	\$	\$ 9,002,000
Operating income (loss)	1,630,000	(51,000)	(1,393,000)	186,000
Identifiable assets	973,000	457,000		1,430,000
2003				
Revenues	\$ 4,271,000	\$ 3,091,000	\$	\$ 7,362,000
Operating income (loss)	199,000	249,000	(1,466,000)	(1,018,000)
Identifiable assets	941,000	289,000		1,230,000
2002				
Revenues	\$ 3,464,000	\$ 3,506,000	\$	\$ 6,970,000
Impairment of capitalized software	(865,000)			(865,000)
Operating loss	(3,334,000)	(243,000)	(1,828,000)	(5,405,000)
Identifiable assets	1,082,000	1,426,000		2,508,000

A majority of the Europe and other revenues and operating income (loss) and all of the identifiable assets are attributable to the Company's subsidiary in the United Kingdom. Research and development is performed both in the United States and Europe for the benefit of the entire Company and has not been separately allocated to geographic regions.

Note 11 Long Term Obligations and Commitments

The Company leases equipment and office space under non-cancelable operating and capital leases with terms through September 2009. Annual future minimum payments under capital and operating leases as of September 30, 2004 are as follows:

	Operating Leases	Capital Leases
2005	\$ 241,000	\$ 27,000
2006	248,000	23,000
2007	254,000	20,000
2008	257,000	8,000
2009	241,000	
Thereafter		
Total minimum payments	\$ 1,241,000	78,000
Less amount representing interest		(15,000)
Present value of future minimum payments		63,000
Less current portion		(19,000)
Long-term portion		\$ 44,000

Rent expense for the Company's principal office for the years ended September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002 was \$223,000, \$411,000 and \$515,000 respectively. Costs of equipment under capital leases at September 30, 2004 and 2003 was \$84,000 for both years. Payments for equipment under capital leases, including interest at September 30, 2004 and 2003 were \$ 25,000 and \$21,000, respectively. Accumulated depreciation of equipment under capital leases at September 30, 2004 and 2003 was \$22,000 and \$17,000, respectively.

In 1999, the Company sold a 60% ownership interest in the Company's former United Kingdom subsidiary. Under the sales agreement Spescom Ltd. U.K., a subsidiary of Spescom Ltd., agreed to the assignment of the lease for the United Kingdom office facility; however the landlord did not grant its consent to the assignment. The office facilities for the Company's U.K. subsidiary are rented from Spescom Ltd. (See Note 3).

Note 12 Contingencies

The Company's contingencies included the usual obligations of a software company and may include from time to time in litigation arising in the normal course of business. Management believes that any liability with respect to such matters or routine litigation if any, individually or in the aggregate, is not likely to be material to the Company's consolidated financial position or results of operations.

Note 13 Quarterly Results of Operations (Unaudited)

	Fiscal 2004			
	Three Months Ended			
	December 31,	March 31,	June 30,	September 30,
Revenues	\$ 2,125,000	\$ 1,601,000	\$ 2,900,000	\$ 2,376,000
Gross profit	\$ 1,471,000	\$ 1,007,000	\$ 2,277,000	\$ 1,738,000
Net income (loss)	\$ 11,000	\$ (573,000)	\$ 443,000	\$ 167,000
Cumulative preferred dividends	\$ (66,000)	\$ (66,000)	\$ (66,000)	\$ (73,000)
Net income (loss) available to common shareholders	\$ (55,000)	\$ (639,000)	\$ 377,000	\$ 94,000
Basic net income (loss) per common share	\$ (0.00)	\$ (0.02)	\$ 0.01	\$ (0.00)
Diluted net income (loss) per common share	\$ (0.00)	\$ (0.02)	\$ 0.01	\$ (0.00)
Shares used in computing basic and diluted net income (loss) per common share	33,929,000	33,979,000	34,068,000	34,089,000

	Fiscal 2003			
	Three Months Ended			
	December 31,	March 31,	June 30,	September 30,
Revenues	\$ 2,289,000	\$ 1,815,000	\$ 1,902,000	\$ 1,356,000
Gross profit	\$ 1,420,000	\$ 1,190,000	\$ 1,058,000	\$ 642,000
Net loss (1)	\$ (62,000)	\$ (378,000)	\$ (390,000)	\$ (2,174,000)
Basic and diluted net loss per common share	\$ (0.00)	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.02)
Shares used in computing basic and diluted net loss per common share	30,842,000	30,847,000	30,890,000	31,100,000

(1) The Company recorded a non-recurring loss on the conversion of debt to preferred stock of \$1,499,000 during the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2003.

Note 14 Subsequent EventsPrivate Placement:

On November 5, 2004, the Company completed a private placement with an investment consulting firm. In connection with the private placement, the Company issued 2,200 shares of Series G Convertible Preferred Stock, and warrants, expiring November 5, 2007, to purchase 2,750,000 shares of common stock at \$0.44 per share. The preferred stock is convertible up to 7,333,334 shares of common stock.

The private placement resulted in gross proceeds to the Company of \$2,200,000, of which \$1,650,000 was paid to the Company by the investors on November 5, 2004 and an additional \$550,000 is payable to the Company within two days after the Company files a registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the resale of the common stock into which the preferred stock is convertible, as well as the 2,750,000 shares issuable under the warrants. The Company has agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to file the registration statement by December 5, 2004.

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

In connection with the transaction, another investment consulting firm received a fee of \$176,000 and will also receive a warrant to purchase a number of shares equal to 10% of the shares into which the securities issued in the transaction are convertible, at a price equal to the price paid by the purchasers. In addition, the investment consulting firm has been granted piggyback registration rights entitling it to have any shares issuable to it by the Company included in any registration statement filed by the Company.

Issuance of Warrants to Investor Relations Firm

On November 4, 2004, the Company entered into a six-month letter of engagement with an investment relations firm to develop and implement a marketing program to create extensive financial market and investor awareness for the Company to drive long-term shareholder support. As part of this agreement the investor relations firm received warrants to purchase 1,000,000 shares of its common stock at \$0.40 per share, expiring November 3, 2007. The warrants vest and become exercisable as follows: (i) 500,000 warrants vest on the date that the average of the last sale price of the Company's stock on the OTC Bulletin Board for the ten trading days immediately preceding such date (the "Market Price") exceeds \$0.60 per share, (ii) 250,000 warrants vest on the date that the Market Price exceeds \$0.70 per share, and (iii) the remaining 250,000 warrants vest and become exercisable on the date that the Market Price exceeds \$0.80 per share. In addition, Trilogy has been granted piggyback registration rights entitling it to have any shares issuable to it by the Company included in any registration statement filed by the Company.

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

(a) Termination of Independent Public Accountants

On April 15, 2004, Spescom Software Inc. (the Company) dismissed Grant Thornton LLP as the principal independent accountants engaged to audit the Company's financial statements. The Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors approved the decision to change the independent accountants. Grant Thornton LLP's report on the financial statements for the two most recent fiscal years ended September 30, 2002 and September 30, 2003 did not contain any adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion, nor was it qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope, or accounting principle.

In connection with its audit for the two most recent fiscal years and through April 15, 2004, there have been no disagreements with Grant Thornton LLP on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure or auditing scope or procedure, which disagreements if not resolved to Grant Thornton LLP's satisfaction would have caused Grant Thornton LLP to make reference thereto in Grant Thornton LLP's report on the financial statements for such periods; and there were no reportable events as described in Item 304(a) (1) (v) of Regulation S-K.

(b) New Independent Public Accountants

On April 15, 2004 the Company engaged Singer, Lewak, Greenbaum and Goldstein, LLP (SLGG) as its independent public accountants. The Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors approved the appointment of SLGG.

During the Company's two most recent fiscal years, the Company has not consulted with SLGG regarding either the application of accounting principles to a specified transaction, either completed or proposed, or the type of audit opinion that might be rendered on the Company's financial statements, or any matter that was the subject of a disagreement, within the meaning of Item 304 (a) (1) (iv) of Regulation S-K, or a reportable event, as described in the Item 304 (a) (1) (v) of Regulation S-K.

In addition the Company has appointed Horwath Clark Whitehill as the independent accountants of the Company's United Kingdom subsidiary, Spescom Software Ltd. The Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors and the Board of Directors of Spescom Software Limited approved the appointment of Horwath Clark Whitehill on April 15, 2004.

For the year ended September 30, 2004, Horwath Clark Whitehill has audited the financial statements for the purposes of performing the statutory audit. However, for the purposes of this Form 10-K filing, SLGG have audited the consolidated financial statements of the Company and have issued an audit opinion accordingly.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

The Company carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's management, including the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of September 30, 2004. Based upon that evaluation, we have concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective in recording, processing, summarizing and reporting within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms material information relating to the Company (including its consolidated subsidiaries) required to be included in the Company's periodic SEC filings.

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004, there were no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting or in other factors that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal controls over financial reporting.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT

Information in the Proxy Statement for the 2005 Annual Meeting of Stockholder s set forth under the captions Directors and Executive Officers is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information in the Proxy Statement for the 2005 Annual Meeting of Stockholder s set forth under the captions Executive Officer Compensation is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS.

The information set forth under the caption Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters of the Proxy Statement for the 2005 Annual Meeting of Stockholder s is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS.

The information set forth under the caption Certain Relationships and Related Transactions of the Proxy Statement for the 2005 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

The information set forth under the caption Principal Accountant Fees and Services of the Proxy Statement for the 2005 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is incorporated herein by reference.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) Financial Statements, Schedules, and Exhibits

(1) Financial Statements:

Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2004 and 2003

Consolidated Statements of Operations for the years ended September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002.

Consolidated Statements of Changes In Shareholders' Deficit for the year ended September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002.

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended September 30, 2004, 2003 and 2002.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

(2) Financial Statement Schedules:

Schedule II Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

All other schedules for which provision is made in the applicable accounting regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission are not required under the related instructions or are inapplicable and therefore have been omitted.

(3) Exhibits And Reports on Form 8-K:

Item 16. Exhibits

(a) Exhibits

3.1 Registrant's Articles of Incorporation, as amended.

3.2* Registrant's Bylaws, as amended.

4.1* Specimen certificate of Common Stock

4.2 (2)

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

Certificate of Determination of Series F Convertible Preferred Stock of Altris Software, Inc., dated September 29, 2003.

- 4.3 (3) Certificate of Determination of Series G Convertible Preferred Stock of Spescom Software Inc., dated November 5, 2004.
- 4.3 (4) Registration Rights Agreement by and among Altris Software, Inc., Spescom Limited, and Spescom Ltd., dated September 30, 2003.
- 4.4 (5) Form of Warrant to Purchase Common Stock of Altris Software, Inc.
- 4.5 (6) Registration Rights Agreement by and among Altris Software, Inc. and certain shareholders, dated August 31, 2003.
- 4.6 (7) Registration Rights Agreement by and among the Company, Monarch Pointe Fund, Ltd. and Mercator Advisory Group, LLC, dated November 5, 2004.
- 4.7 (8) Warrant to Purchase Common Stock issued to Mercator Advisory Group, LLC, dated November 5, 2004.
- 4.8 (9) Warrant to Purchase Common Stock issued to Monarch Pointe Fund, Ltd., dated November 5, 2004.
- 4.9 (10) Warrants to Purchase Common Stock issued to Trilogy Capital Partners, dated November 4, 2004.
- 10.1 (12) Lease between CFD-Mesa Ridge Partners and Altris Software, Inc., dated April 1, 2003.
- 10.2 (13) 10.0% promissory note due October 15, 2003 in principal amount of \$1,235,076 issued by Altris Software, Inc. to Spescom Limited, a South African corporation on February 15, 2002.
- 10.3 (14) 10.0% promissory note due October 15, 2003 in principal amount of \$1,810,383 issued by Altris Software, Inc. to Spescom Limited, a United Kingdom corporation, on February 15, 2002.
- 10.4 (15) Security Agreement between Altris Software, Inc. and Spescom Limited, a United Kingdom corporation, and Spescom Limited, a South African corporation, dated February 15, 2002.
- 10.5 (16) 10% promissory note due upon demand in principal amount of \$400,000 issued by Altris Software, Inc. to Spescom Limited, a United Kingdom corporation, on March 15, 2002.
- 10.6 (17) Security Agreement dated March 15, 2002 between Altris Software, Inc., a California corporation, and Spescom Limited, a United Kingdom corporation.
- 10.7 (18) Pledge Agreement dated March 15, 2002 by and between Altris Software, Inc., a California corporation, Spescom Limited, a United Kingdom corporation, and Solomon Ward Seidenwurm & Smith, LLP.
- 10.8 (19) 10.0% promissory note due upon demand in principal amount of \$500,000 issued by Altris Software, Inc. to Spescom Limited, a United Kingdom corporation, on April 19, 2002.
- 10.9 (20) 10.0% promissory note due upon demand in principal amount of \$700,000 issued by Altris Software, Inc. to Spescom Limited, a United Kingdom corporation, on May 31,

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

2002.

- 10.10 (21) Debt Conversion Agreement by and between Altris Software, Inc., Spescom Limited, and Spescom Ltd., dated September 30, 2003.
 - 10.11 (22) Promissory Note dated November 18, 2003 issued by Spescom Software Inc. to Spescom Ltd., a United Kingdom Corporation.
 - 10.16 (23) Subscription Agreement by and among the Company, Monarch Pointe Fund, Ltd. and Mercator Advisory Group, LLC, dated November 5, 2004.
 - 10.17 (24) Amended and restated 1996 Stock Incentive Plan.
 - 10.18 (25) Form of Incentive Stock-Option Agreement, Non-Statutory Stock-Option Agreement and Restricted Stock Option Agreement under Amended and Restated 1996 Stock Incentive Plan.
 - 10.19 * 1987 Stock Option Plan, as amended April 27, 1994.
 - 10.20* Forms of Incentive Stock Option Agreement and Nonstatutory Stock Option Agreement under 1987 Stock Option Plan.
 - 21.1 (26) Subsidiaries of the Registrant
 - 23.1 Consent of Singer Lewack Greenbaum and Goldstein LLP
 - 23.2 Consent of Grant Thornton LLP
 - 31.1 Section 302 Certification by Carl Mostert, Chief Executive Officer
 - 31.2 Section 302 Certification by John W. Low, Chief Financial Officer
 - 32.1 Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
 - 32.2 Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- (b) Reports on Form 8-K

We furnished to the SEC reports on Form 8-K on November 12, 2004 and November 19, 2004. The November 12, 2004 Form 8-K was for the purpose of announcing the completion of a private placement with Monarch Pointe Fund, Ltd. and Advisory Group, LLC. The November 19, 2004 Form 8-K was for the purpose of announcing the results of operations for the year ended September 30, 2004 and to announce the appointment of Michael Silverman as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

-
- (2) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.3 to the Form 8-K filed on October 10, 2003.
 - (3) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Form 8-Kk filed on November 12, 2004.
 - (4) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.4 to the Form 8-K filed on October 10, 2003.
 - (5) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Form 8-K filed on October 1, 2003.

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

- (6) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.3 to the Form 8-K filed on October 1, 2003.
- (7) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 8-K filed on November 12, 2004.

- (8) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Form 8-K filed on November 12, 2004.
- (9) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Form 8-K filed on November 12, 2004.
- (10) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Form 8-K filed on November 12, 2004.
- (12) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 10-Q filed on August 14, 2003
- (13) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.28 to the Form 10-Q filed on May 15, 2002.
- (14) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.29 to the Form 10-Q filed on May 15, 2002.
- (15) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.29 to the Form 10-Q filed on May 15, 2002.
- (16) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.29 to the Form 10-Q filed on May 15, 2002.
- (17) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.29 to the Form 10-Q filed on May 15, 2002.
- (18) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.29 to the Form 10-Q filed on May 15, 2002.
- (19) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.34 to the Form 10-Q filed on August 14, 2002.
- (20) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.35 to the Form 10-Q filed on August 14, 2002.
- (21) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Form 8-K filed on October 10, 2003.
- (22) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to the Form 10-Q filed on February 13, 2004.
- (23) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 8-K filed on November 12, 2004.
- (24) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed on April 5, 2004.
- (25) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Form 10-k filed March 31, 1997.
- (26) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 21 to the Form 10-K filed on December 20, 2002.

* Incorporated herein by this reference from previous filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) 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, in the City of San Diego, State of California, on December 6, 2004.

Spescom Software INC.

By: /s/ Carl Mostert
Carl Mostert

Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this Report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ Carl Mostert Carl Mostert	Director and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	December 6, 2004
/s/ John W. Low John W. Low	Chief Financial Officer and Secretary (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	December 6, 2004
/s/ D. Ross Hamilton D. Ross Hamilton	Director	December 6, 2004
/s/ Hilton Isaacman Hilton Isaacman	Director	December 6, 2004
/s/ Johann Leitner Johann Leitner	Director	December 6, 2004
/s/ James Myers James Myers	Director	December 6, 2004
/s/ Larry D. Unruh Larry D. Unruh	Director	December 6, 2004
/s/ Michael Silverman Michael Silverman	Director	December 6, 2004

To the Audit Committee

Spescom Software Inc.

San Diego, California

Our audit was conducted in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole. The consolidated supplemental schedule II is presented for purposes of complying with the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and is not a part of the basic consolidated financial statements. This schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic consolidated financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole.

SINGER LEWAK GREENBAUM & GOLDSTEIN LLP

Los Angeles, California

October 29, 2004, except for Note 14 as to which the date is November 5, 2004.

SCHEDULE II VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS

SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC.

Column A	Column B		Column C	Column D		Column E
Description	Balance at Beginning of Period	Charged to Costs and Expenses	Charged to Other Accounts Describe	Deductions Describe	Balance at End of Period	
Year ended September 30, 2004						
Deducted from asset accounts:						
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$ 78,000	\$ 5,000(f)			\$ 83,000	
Allowance for deferred tax benefit	\$ 14,004,000		\$ 818,000(c)		\$ 14,822,000	
Year ended September 30, 2003						
Deducted from asset accounts:						
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$ 156,000			\$ (78,000)(e)	\$ 78,000	
Allowance for deferred tax benefit	\$ 14,108,000		\$ 94,000(c)		\$ 14,004,000	
Year ended September 30, 2002						

Edgar Filing: SPESCOM SOFTWARE INC - Form 10-K

Deducted from asset accounts:

Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$	90,000	\$	85,000(d)	\$	(19,000)(a)	\$	156,000
Reserve for excess inventory	\$	50,000			\$	(50,000)(b)		
Allowance for deferred tax benefit	\$	12,757,000		\$	1,351,000(c)		\$	14,108,000

-
- (a) Amount written off
- (b) Inventory scrapped or sold at less than cost
- (c) Valuation allowance against benefit recorded
- (d) Addition to allowance from acquisition of assets and liabilities of Spescom Ltd. U.K.
- (e) Reduction in allowance for doubtful accounts due to decrease in gross accounts receivable
- (f) Addition to allowance from increase in foreign currency exchange rate