



Qualstar Corporation and Subsidiaries

**Annual Report
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024**

**Qualstar Corporation
15707 Rockfield Boulevard, Suite 105
Irvine, CA 92618
Phone: +1 (805) 583-7744
www.qualstar.com**

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

INDEX TO UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Consolidated Balance Sheets — December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2023.....	1
Consolidated Statements of Operations — Three Months and Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023	2
Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity — Three Months and Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023	3
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows — Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023	4
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	5
Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	21

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(In thousands, except share amounts)
(Unaudited)

	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,403	\$ 2,275
Marketable securities	42	140
Accounts receivable, net	681	2,174
Inventories	2,795	2,870
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	321	343
Total current assets	6,242	7,802
Property and equipment, net	26	52
Right-of-use assets	380	88
Deferred tax assets	30	30
Other assets	47	59
Total assets	\$ 6,725	\$ 8,031
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 505	\$ 1,482
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	98	139
Deferred service revenue	490	577
Lease liabilities, current	137	95
Other liabilities	65	130
Total current liabilities	1,295	2,423
Long-term liabilities:		
Lease liabilities, long-term	245	-
Deferred service revenue, long-term	583	567
Other liabilities	27	27
Total long-term liabilities	855	594
Total liabilities	2,150	3,017
Commitments and contingencies (Note 8)		
Shareholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, no par value; 5,000,000 shares authorized; no shares issued	-	-
Common stock, no par value; 50,000,000 shares authorized; 1,411,336 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2024; and 1,447,122 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2023	17,733	17,701
Accumulated deficit	(13,158)	(12,687)
Total shareholders' equity	4,575	5,014
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 6,725	\$ 8,031

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(In thousands, except per share amounts)
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Year Ended December 31,	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Revenues	\$ 2,033	\$ 3,404	\$ 8,044	\$ 10,616
Cost of goods sold	1,350	2,191	5,586	7,336
Gross profit	683	1,213	2,458	3,280
Operating expenses:				
Engineering	48	149	395	393
Sales and marketing	197	390	963	1,353
General and administrative	376	364	1,570	1,394
Total operating expenses	621	903	2,928	3,140
Income (loss) from operations	62	310	(470)	140
Other income (expense), net	(69)	13	2	54
Income (loss) before income taxes	(7)	323	(468)	194
Provision for income taxes	3	3	3	3
Net income (loss)	\$ (10)	\$ 320	\$ (471)	\$ 191
Earnings (loss) per share:				
Basic and diluted	\$ (0.01)	\$ 0.21	\$ (0.33)	\$ 0.12
Weighted average common shares outstanding:				
Basic and diluted	1,417	1,498	1,437	1,570

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

(In thousands)

(Unaudited)

Three Months Ended December 31, 2024	Common Stock		Accumulated		Total
	Shares	Amount	Deficit		
Balances at October 1, 2024	1,420	\$ 17,719	\$ (13,148)	\$	4,571
Stock-based compensation expense	-	46	-	-	46
Share repurchases	(9)	(32)	-	-	(32)
Net loss	-	-	(10)	-	(10)
Balances at December 31, 2024	1,411	\$ 17,733	\$ (13,158)	\$	4,575

Year Ended December 31, 2024	Common Stock		Accumulated		Total
	Shares	Amount	Deficit		
Balances at January 1, 2024	1,447	\$ 17,701	\$ (12,687)	\$	5,014
Stock-based compensation expense	1	175	-	-	175
Share repurchases	(37)	(143)	-	-	(143)
Net loss	-	-	(471)	-	(471)
Balances at December 31, 2024	1,411	\$ 17,733	\$ (13,158)	\$	4,575

Three Months Ended December 31, 2023	Common Stock		Accumulated		Total
	Shares	Amount	Deficit		
Balances at October 1, 2023	1,573	\$ 18,075	\$ (13,007)	\$	5,068
Stock-based compensation expense	2	5	-	-	5
Share repurchases	(128)	(379)	-	-	(379)
Net income	-	-	320	-	320
Balances at December 31, 2023	1,447	\$ 17,701	\$ (12,687)	\$	5,014

Year Ended December 31, 2023	Common Stock		Accumulated		Total
	Shares	Amount	Deficit		
Balances at January 1, 2023	1,627	\$ 18,218	\$ (12,878)	\$	5,340
Stock-based compensation expense	2	5	-	-	5
Share repurchases	(182)	(522)	-	-	(522)
Net income	-	-	191	-	191
Balances at December 31, 2023	1,447	\$ 17,701	\$ (12,687)	\$	5,014

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(In thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Year Ended	
	December 31,	
	2024	2023
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income (loss)	\$ (471)	\$ 191
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	26	37
Stock-based compensation expense	175	5
Realized and unrealized (gain) loss on marketable securities	49	(6)
Adjustment to reconcile operating lease expense to cash paid	(5)	(10)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	1,493	(531)
Inventories	75	166
Prepaid expenses and other assets	33	(193)
Accounts payable	(976)	536
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	(41)	(1)
Deferred service revenue	(71)	(53)
Other liabilities	(65)	(3)
Net cash provided by operating activities	222	138
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment	-	(7)
Proceeds from sale of (purchases of) marketable securities, net	49	(101)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	49	(108)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Share repurchases	(143)	(522)
Net cash (used in) financing activities	(143)	(522)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	128	(492)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	2,275	2,767
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>\$ 2,403</u>	<u>\$ 2,275</u>
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:		
Income taxes paid	\$ 11	\$ 5
Interest paid	\$ -	\$ -
Supplemental non-cash investing and financing activities:		
Lease liabilities arising from obtaining right-of-use assets	<u>\$ 438</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

Note 1 – Significant Accounting Policies

Business

Qualstar Corporation and its Subsidiaries (“Qualstar”, the “Company”, “we”, “us” or “our”) manufacture and market data storage system products and compact, high-efficiency power supply solutions. Our data storage systems are marketed under the Qualstar brand and include highly scalable automated magnetic tape libraries used to store, retrieve and manage electronic data primarily in the network computing environment. Our data storage devices include models ranging from entry level to enterprise and are a cost-effective solution for organizations requiring backup, recovery and archival storage of critical electronic information. The distribution channels for our data storage devices include resellers, system integrators, and original equipment manufacturers (“OEMs”). In addition, the Company is a leading provider of standard, semi-custom and custom power supply solutions marketed under the N2Power brand. Our power supply solution products provide OEMs and product designers increased functionality while reducing thermal loads and cooling requirements and lowering operating costs. Our power supply solution products are currently sold to OEMs in a wide range of markets, including telecom/networking equipment, audio/visual, industrial, gaming and medical.

Qualstar Corporation was incorporated in California in 1984 and currently has three wholly owned subsidiaries. The N2Power, Inc. subsidiary (“N2Power”) operates the Company’s power supplies business. The Q-Smart Data Limited (China) subsidiary pursues new data storage business opportunities in Asia. The Qualstar Limited (U.K.) subsidiary supports expansion of the Company’s data storage business in the United Kingdom, Europe and Africa.

We sell our products globally through authorized resellers and distributors and directly to OEMs. Our data storage products are manufactured by our OEM suppliers in other parts of the world and configured to order by us at our facility in Camarillo, California, or at our facility in Shenzhen, China, or by our fulfilment and logistics partner in Warsaw, Poland. N2Power utilizes contract manufacturers in Asia to produce our power supply solutions products.

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include our accounts and the accounts of each of our wholly owned subsidiaries that were in existence during the periods presented: N2Power, Inc., Q-Smart Data Limited (China), and Qualstar Limited (U.K.). All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Estimates and Assumptions

Preparing financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue, and expenses. Examples include estimates of loss contingencies, product life cycles and inventory obsolescence, credit loss bad debts, sales returns, warranty costs, share-based compensation forfeiture rates, the tax consequences of events that have been recognized in our consolidated financial statements or tax returns, and determinations as to when investment impairments are other-than-temporary. Actual results and outcomes may differ from management’s estimates and assumptions.

Revenue Recognition

The Company recognizes revenue when its customer obtains control of promised goods or services, in an amount that reflects the consideration which we expect to receive in exchange for those goods or services. To determine revenue recognition for arrangements that the Company determines are within the scope of ASC 606, we perform the following five steps: (i) identify the contract(s) with a customer; (ii) identify the performance obligations in the contract; (iii) determine the transaction price; (iv) allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract; and (v) recognize revenue when (or as) we satisfy a performance obligation. The five-step model is applied to contracts when it is probable that we will collect the consideration we are entitled to in exchange for the goods or services transferred to the customer. At contract inception, once the contract is determined to be within the scope of ASC 606, we assess the goods or services promised within each contract and determine those that are performance obligations and

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

assess whether each promised good or service is distinct. We then recognize revenue in the amount of the transaction price that is allocated to the respective performance obligation when (or as) the performance obligation is satisfied.

We derive revenues from two primary sources: products and services. Product revenue includes the shipment of product according to the agreement with our customers for data storage products and power supplies. Services include customer support (technical support), installations, consulting, and design services. A contract may include both product and services. Rarely, contracts with customers contain multiple performance obligations. For these contracts, the Company accounts for individual performance obligations separately if they are distinct. The transaction price is allocated to the separate performance obligations on a relative standalone selling price basis. Standalone selling prices are typically estimated based on observable transactions when these services are sold on a standalone basis. Title and risk of loss generally pass to our customers upon shipment and therefore revenue is recognized at the time goods are shipped to the customers. In limited circumstances where either title or risk of loss pass upon destination, we defer revenue recognition until such events occur.

A variety of technical services can be contracted by our customers for a designated period of time. The service contracts allow customers to call Qualstar for technical support, to have defective parts replaced and to have onsite service provided by Qualstar's third-party contract service provider. We record revenue for contract services at the amount of the service contract, but such amount is deferred at the beginning of the service term and amortized ratably over the life of the contract.

Deferred service revenue is shown separately in the consolidated balance sheets as current and long term. At December 31, 2024 we had deferred service revenue of approximately \$1,073,000. At December 31, 2023 we had deferred service revenue of approximately \$1,144,000.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Qualstar classifies as cash equivalents only cash and those investments that are highly liquid, interest-earning investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of purchase.

Allowance for Credit Losses

The allowance for credit losses reflects our best estimate of probable losses inherent in the accounts receivable balance. We determine the allowance based on known troubled accounts, historical experience, and other currently available evidence.

Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost (first in, first out basis) or net realizable value. Cost includes materials, labor, and manufacturing overhead related to the purchase and production of inventories. We regularly review inventory quantities on hand, future purchase commitments with our suppliers, and the estimated utility of our inventory. If our review indicates a reduction in utility below carrying value, we reduce our inventory to a new cost basis.

Property and Equipment, net

Property and equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation and amortization. Depreciation expense is computed using the straight-line method. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the shorter of the estimated useful life of the asset or the term of the lease. Estimated useful lives are as follows:

Machinery and equipment	5-7 years
Furniture and fixtures	5-7 years
Computer equipment	3-5 years
Leasehold improvements	Shorter of estimated useful life of the asset or the lease term

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

Expenditures for normal maintenance and repairs are charged to expense as incurred, and improvements are capitalized. Upon the sale or retirement of property or equipment, the asset cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the respective accounts and any gain or loss is included in the results of operations.

Long-Lived Assets

Qualstar evaluates long-lived assets for potential impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying amount of any asset may not be recoverable. An impairment loss would be recognized when the estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to result from the use of the asset and its eventual disposition is less than the carrying amount. If impairment is indicated, the amount of the loss to be recorded is based upon an estimate of the difference between the carrying amount and the fair value of the asset. Fair value is based upon discounted cash flows expected to result from the use of the asset and its eventual disposition and other valuation methods. No impairment losses of long-lived assets were recognized during the periods presented.

Warranty Obligations

A provision for costs related to warranty expense is recorded when revenue is recognized, which is estimated based on historical warranty costs incurred.

We provide a three-year warranty on all Q-Series, XLS and RLS libraries. This includes replacement of components, or if necessary, complete libraries. XLS libraries sold in North America also include one year of on-site service. Customers may purchase on-site service if they are located in the United States and selected countries in Europe, Asia Pacific and Latin America. All customers may purchase extended warranty service coverage upon expiration of the standard warranty.

We provide a three-year warranty on all power supplies that includes repair or, if necessary, replacement of the power supply.

Shipping and Handling Costs

Qualstar includes all customer charges for outbound shipping and handling in revenue. All inbound and outbound shipping and fulfillment costs are included in cost of goods sold.

Engineering

All engineering costs are charged to expense as incurred. These costs consist primarily of engineering salaries, benefits, outside consultant fees, purchased parts and supplies directly involved in the design and development of new products, compliance testing, facilities costs and other internal costs.

Advertising

Advertising and promotion expenses include costs associated with direct and indirect marketing, trade shows and public relations. Qualstar expenses all costs of advertising and promotion as incurred.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts of the Company's financial instruments, which include cash equivalents, marketable securities, accounts receivable, and accounts payable, approximate their fair values.

We determine fair value measurements based on assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. As a basis for considering market participant assumptions in fair value measurements, we follow the following fair value hierarchy that distinguishes between (1) market participant assumptions developed based on market data obtained from independent sources (observable inputs) and (2) our own assumptions about market

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

participant assumptions developed based on the best information available in the circumstances (unobservable inputs):

Level 1: Observable inputs such as quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets;

Level 2: Other inputs observable directly or indirectly, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities or market-corroborate inputs; and

Level 3: Unobservable inputs for which there is little or no market data and which requires the owner of the assets or liabilities to develop its own assumptions about how market participants would price these assets or liabilities.

Our assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement requires judgment and may affect the valuation of assets and liabilities and their placement within the fair value hierarchy.

Our marketable securities consist of equity securities classified as available-for-sale and recorded at fair value, as determined using Level 1 inputs on the fair value hierarchy. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are reported in earnings within “other income (expense), net”. The specific identification method is used to determine realized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities.

Foreign Currency Translation

The functional currency for our subsidiaries in China and the United Kingdom is the United States dollar. However, our Chinese and United Kingdom subsidiaries also transact business in their local currency. Foreign currency transaction and remeasurement gains and losses are included in results of operations within “other income (expense), net”.

Share-Based Compensation

Share-based compensation cost is measured at the grant date based on fair value of the award and is recognized as expense over the applicable vesting period of the stock award using the straight-line method.

Income Taxes

Income taxes are accounted for using the liability method. Under this method, deferred tax liabilities and assets are recognized for the expected future tax consequences of temporary differences between the financial statement and tax bases of assets and liabilities, and for the expected future tax benefit to be derived from tax credits and loss carryforwards. Current income tax expense or benefit represents the amount of income taxes expected to be payable or refundable for the current year. A valuation allowance is established when, in the opinion of management, it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized.

Leases

The Company accounts for its leases under ASC 842. Under this guidance, arrangements meeting the definition of a lease are classified as operating or financing leases and are recorded on the consolidated balance sheet as both a right-of-use asset and lease liability, calculated by discounting fixed lease payments over the lease term at the rate implicit in the lease or the Company’s incremental borrowing rate. Lease liabilities are increased by interest and reduced by payments each period, and the right-of-use asset is amortized over the lease term. For operating leases, interest on the lease liability and the amortization of the right-of-use asset result in straight-line rent expense over the lease term. For finance leases, interest on the lease liability and the amortization of the right-of-use asset results in front-loaded expense over the lease term. Variable lease expenses are recorded when incurred.

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)**

In calculating the right-of-use asset and lease liability, the Company has elected to combine lease and non-lease components. The Company excludes short-term leases having initial terms of 12 months or less as an accounting policy election and recognizes rent expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Operating Segments

The Company operates in two segments, Data Storage and Power Supplies. Operating segments are identified as functional groups within an enterprise for which discrete financial information is utilized by the chief operating decision maker in allocating resources and assessing performance. In the case of Qualstar, the chief operating decision maker is its President and Chief Executive Officer. This position maintains decision-making control over, and assesses the performance of, the two divisional levels of the Company.

Recent Accounting Guidance Not Yet Adopted

We reviewed all recently issued, but not yet effective, accounting pronouncements and concluded none are expected to be applicable or material to our consolidated financial statements.

Subsequent Events

The Company has evaluated subsequent events through March 6, 2025, being the date these consolidated financial statements were issued.

Note 2 – Balance Sheet Details

The following tables provide details of selected balance sheet accounts:

	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
Inventories	(In thousands)	
Raw materials	\$ 95	\$ 161
Finished goods	2,700	2,709
Inventories	\$ 2,795	\$ 2,870

	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
Property and equipment, net	(In thousands)	
Machinery and equipment	\$ 389	\$ 389
Furniture and fixtures, and computer equipment	258	258
Leasehold improvements	119	119
	766	766
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(740)	(714)
Property and equipment, net	\$ 26	\$ 52

Depreciation and amortization expense for the three months ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 was \$2,000 and \$9,000. Depreciation and amortization expense for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 was \$26,000 and \$37,000.

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)**

	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	(In thousands)	
Accrued salaries, wages, and payroll taxes	\$ 18	\$ 26
Accrued vacation	80	113
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	\$ 98	\$ 139
	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
Other liabilities	(In thousands)	
Accrued warranty	\$ 38	\$ 36
Accrued outside commissions	15	84
Other accrued liabilities	12	10
Other liabilities	\$ 65	\$ 130

Note 3 – Shareholders’ Equity

Preferred Stock

The Company’s Articles of Incorporation allow for the issuance of up to 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock. The Board of Directors has authority to fix the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions, including voting rights, of these shares of preferred stock without any vote or action by the shareholders. At December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2023, there were no outstanding shares of preferred stock.

Common Stock

The Company’s Articles of Incorporation allow for the issuance of up to 50,000,000 shares of common stock. At December 31, 2024, there were 1,411,336 shares of common stock outstanding; and at December 31, 2023, there were 1,447,122 shares of common stock outstanding.

Stock Repurchase Program

The Company’s board of directors has approved a stock repurchase program (the “Stock Repurchase Program”) to repurchase shares of the Company’s common stock. The Stock Repurchase Program (as updated and extended from time to time, most recently in March 2025) permits the Company to repurchase up to an additional 100,000 shares of common stock through December 31, 2026. During the overall period of the Stock Repurchase Program from September 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024, the Company has repurchased 471,161 shares for an aggregate purchase price of \$1,270,000. During the three- and twelve-month periods ended December 31, 2024, the Company repurchased 8,717 shares and 36,656 shares, respectively, for aggregate purchase prices of \$32,000 and \$143,000, respectively. During the three- and twelve-month periods ended December 31, 2023, the Company repurchased 128,041 shares and 182,570 shares, respectively, for aggregate purchase prices of \$379,000 and \$522,000, respectively.

Note 4 – Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share has been computed by dividing net income/loss by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share is computed by dividing net income/loss by the weighted average number of diluted common shares, which is inclusive of common stock equivalents from unexercised stock options. Unexercised stock options are considered to be common stock equivalents if, using the treasury stock method, they are determined to be dilutive.

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)**

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share for the periods indicated (in thousands, except per share amounts).

	Three Months Ended		Year Ended	
	December 31,		December 31,	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Net income (loss)	\$ (10)	\$ 320	\$ (471)	\$ 191
Weighted average outstanding shares of common stock - basic	1,417	1,498	1,437	1,570
Dilutive potential common shares from employee stock options	-	-	-	-
Weighted average outstanding shares of common stock - diluted	1,417	1,498	1,437	1,570
Earnings (loss) per share:				
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$ (0.01)	\$ 0.21	\$ (0.33)	\$ 0.12
Diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$ (0.01)	\$ 0.21	\$ (0.33)	\$ 0.12

For the three months ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, 211,300 and 111,300 outstanding stock options were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share as their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive. For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, 211,300 and 111,300 outstanding stock options were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share as their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive.

Note 5 – Stock Based Compensation

Stock Incentive Plan

The Company’s 2017 Stock Incentive Plan (the “2017 Plan”) permits the award of stock options (both incentive and non-qualified options), stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, unrestricted stock, performance shares, dividend equivalent rights and cash-based awards to employees (including executive officers), directors and consultants of the Company and its subsidiaries. The 2017 Plan authorizes the issuance of an aggregate of 300,000 shares of common stock, of which 88,700 shares remain available for issuance as of December 31, 2024. The 2017 Plan is administered by the Compensation Committee of the Company’s Board of Directors.

With respect to options, the fair value of each option award is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option valuation model that uses various assumptions, such as volatility, expected term and risk-free interest rate. Expected volatilities are based on the historical volatility of the Company’s stock. The Company uses historical data to estimate option exercise and employee termination in determining forfeiture rates. The expected term of options granted is estimated based on the vesting term of the award, historical employee exercise behavior, expected volatility of the Company’s stock and an employee’s average length of service. The risk-free interest rate used in this model correlates to a U.S. constant rate Treasury security with a contractual life that approximates the expected term of the option award.

In February 2024, the Company granted an option to its Chief Executive Officer to purchase 100,000 shares of common stock at \$4.45 per share through February 13, 2034; the option vests 50% on January 31, 2025 and 50% on January 31, 2026. The grant date fair value of the option was \$371,000, which was determined based on the following Black-Scholes option valuation model assumptions: expected annual volatility 79%; expected term 10 years; risk-free rate 4.5%; expected dividend rate 0%; exercise price \$4.45; and stock price on grant date \$4.45. The grant date fair value of the option is recorded as stock-based compensation expense ratably over the 24-month vesting period, for which

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)**

expense of approximately \$46,000 and \$170,000 was recorded in the three- and twelve-month periods ended December 31, 2024, respectively. The other \$5,000 of stock based-compensation expense recorded in each of the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 was for shares issued to a director for services as part of the Company's outside director compensation policy.

The following table summarizes stock option activity:

	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price per Share	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term (years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Outstanding at December 31, 2023	111,300	\$ 7.08	3.59	\$ -
Granted	100,000	4.45		
Exercised	-	-		
Forfeited, canceled or expired	-	-		
Outstanding at December 31, 2024	211,300	\$ 5.84	5.68	\$ -
Exercisable at December 31, 2024	111,300	\$ 7.08	2.59	\$ -

Note 6 – Income Taxes

The provision for income taxes is comprised of the following:

	Year Ended December 31, 2024	Year Ended December 31, 2023
	(In thousands)	
Current:		
Federal	\$ -	\$ -
State	3	3
Foreign	-	-
Current income tax provision (benefit)	3	3
Deferred:		
Federal	-	-
State	-	-
Foreign	-	-
Deferred income tax provision (benefit)	-	-
Net income tax provision (benefit)	\$ 3	\$ 3

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

The following is a reconciliation of the statutory federal income tax rate to Qualstar’s effective income tax rate:

	Year Ended December 31, 2024	Year Ended December 31, 2023
Statutory federal income tax provision (benefit)	21.0 %	21.0 %
State income taxes, net of federal income tax benefit	20.6	54.1
Foreign income taxes, net of federal income tax benefit	(1.6)	13.2
Deferred tax adjustment – Research and development credit	(40.3)	(9.4)
Deferred tax adjustment – Capital loss carryforward	-	(17.9)
Valuation allowance	(3.3)	(59.7)
Other	3.3	(0.1)
Effective income tax rate	<u>(0.3) %</u>	<u>1.2 %</u>

The tax effect of temporary differences resulted in deferred income tax assets (liabilities) as follows:

	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
(In thousands)		
Deferred tax assets:		
Net operating loss carry forwards	\$ 8,252	\$ 8,191
Capital loss carry forwards	55	42
Engineering credit carry forwards	1,733	1,847
Inventory reserves	367	327
Depreciation and other	1	3
Allowance for credit losses and returns	3	3
Share-based compensation	143	97
Capitalized inventory costs, and other accruals	266	204
Total gross deferred tax assets	<u>10,820</u>	<u>10,714</u>
Less valuation allowance on deferred tax assets	<u>(10,685)</u>	<u>(10,662)</u>
Net deferred tax assets	<u>135</u>	<u>52</u>
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Depreciation and other	(3)	(3)
Right-of-use assets	(102)	(19)
Total deferred tax liabilities	<u>(105)</u>	<u>(22)</u>
Net deferred taxes	<u>\$ 30</u>	<u>\$ 30</u>

With respect to global intangible low-taxed income (“GILTI”) rules which are applicable to a U.S. shareholder of any controlled foreign corporation (“CFC”), the Company accounts for taxes related to GILTI as such income is incurred.

The Company records a valuation allowance against its net deferred income tax assets when in management’s judgment, it is more likely than not that the deferred income tax assets will not be realized in the foreseeable future. For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Company placed a valuation allowance on net deferred tax assets. With the exception of a small amount of California net operating loss (“NOL”) carryforward, the Company continues to fully offset its deferred tax assets with a valuation allowance. With regard to California deferred tax assets, because Qualstar files on a separate company basis and because Qualstar expects to generate income in the foreseeable future applicable to California, the Company reduced a portion of the valuation allowance related to Qualstar’s separate company NOL carryovers.

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)**

The Company has net operating loss carryforwards for federal income tax purposes of approximately \$32.4 million as of December 31, 2024, and \$32.2 million as of December 31, 2023. The Company has capital loss carryforwards for federal income tax purposes of approximately \$0.2 million as of both December 31, 2024 and 2023. The Company has net operating loss carryforwards for state income tax purposes of approximately \$21.9 million as of December 31, 2024, and \$21.7 million as of December 31, 2023. The Company has capital loss carryforwards for state income tax purposes of approximately \$0.2 million as of both December 31, 2024 and 2023. The Company had engineering and other credit carryforwards for tax purposes of \$2.4 million as of December 31, 2024, and \$2.5 million as of December 31, 2023.

If not utilized, the federal NOL will begin to expire in 2027, and other tax credit carryforwards will begin to expire beginning in 2025. If not utilized, the state NOL carryforwards will begin to expire in 2025. The state engineering credit has no limit on the carry-forward period.

For U.S. purposes, the Company completed its evaluation, as of December 31, 2020, of net operating loss and credit carryforward utilization limitations under Internal Revenue Code, as amended (the “Code”), Sections 382 and 383. Code Sections 382 and 383 impose certain limitations on the use of NOL or credit carryforwards in certain situations, including when a company has a change in ownership as defined in such sections. As of December 31, 2020, the Company has determined that it has not had a change in ownership within the meaning of IRC Sections 382 and 383. Management, at the date of this filing, is of the opinion that its NOL and credit carryforwards should not be limited, pursuant to Sections 382 and 383, as to the amount of such carryforwards that can be utilized each year.

The following table summarizes the activity related to the Company’s uncertain tax positions:

	Year Ended December 31, 2024	Year Ended December 31, 2023
(In thousands)		
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 27	\$ 27
Increases related to tax positions taken in current year	4	2
Increases related to tax positions taken in prior year	-	-
Decreases due to lapse of statute of limitations and other adjustments	(4)	(2)
Related interest and penalties, net of federal tax benefit	-	-
Balance at end of year	\$ 27	\$ 27

The deferred tax asset amounts related to NOL and credit carryforwards have been reduced by approximately \$456,600 of uncertain tax positions. The Company expects that any future changes in the unrecognized tax benefit will have no impact on the Company’s effective tax rate due to the existence of the valuation allowance.

The Company’s policy is to include interest and penalties on uncertain tax positions in income tax expense, which are not significant for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023. The Company files its tax returns in accordance with the laws of the jurisdictions in which it operates. The Company’s federal tax returns for fiscal years December 31, 2021 and subsequent and California tax returns for fiscal years December 31, 2020 and subsequent, are still subject to examination. Various state and foreign jurisdictions’ tax years remain open to examination as well, although the Company does not believe that any additional assessment will be material to its consolidated financial statements. The Company does not have any open examinations as of December 31, 2024. For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the operations of Qualstar Limited were not material for tax purposes and had no significant impact on the tax provision.

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

Note 7 – Concentration of Credit Risk, Significant Customers, and Geographic Information

Our cash balances in our bank accounts may be in excess of FDIC insurance limits.

One customer accounted for more than 10% of the Company’s revenue for the three-month period ended December 31, 2024, and a different customer accounted for more than 10% of the Company’s revenue for the three-month period ended December 31, 2023. One customer accounted for more than 10% of the Company’s revenue for each of the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023.

Our financial results are affected by fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates, changing economic conditions both domestically and internationally, changes in tariffs, and various other global economic factors. As all of our sales are currently transacted in U.S. dollars, a strengthening of the dollar could make our products less competitive in foreign markets.

The following table summarizes revenue by geographic area (in thousands, except percentages):

	Three Months Ended December 31,				Year Ended December 31,			
	2024		2023		2024		2023	
North America	\$ 1,115	54.8 %	\$ 2,515	73.9 %	\$ 5,106	63.5 %	\$ 7,637	71.9 %
Europe	511	25.1	690	20.3	1,602	19.9	2,170	20.4
Asia Pacific	373	18.3	184	5.4	1,075	13.4	744	7.0
Other	34	1.7	15	0.4	261	3.2	65	0.6
	<u>\$ 2,033</u>	<u>100.0 %</u>	<u>\$ 3,404</u>	<u>100.0 %</u>	<u>\$ 8,044</u>	<u>100.0 %</u>	<u>\$ 10,616</u>	<u>100.0 %</u>

Note 8 – Commitments and Contingencies

Lease Agreements

The Company leases a 9,910 square-foot facility in Camarillo, California. The original term of this lease was for five years and three months expiring July 31, 2024. In February 2024, the Company extended the term of this lease through July 31, 2027. The rent on this facility is currently \$12,983 per month, with a 3% step-up annually. Qualstar permits Interlink Electronics, Inc. (“Interlink”) to use a portion of the facility and is reimbursed for the space and other related expenses on a monthly basis. As described in Note 10, Interlink is a related party.

The Company leases a 1,400 square-foot storage facility in Camarillo, California. The Company renewed the lease through August 2025 and has the option to renew it for an additional year. The rent on this facility is currently \$1,850 per month.

The Company uses a portion of Interlink’s Irvine, California office as its corporate headquarters, for which the Company pays a facility usage fee of approximately \$1,600 per month. The Company also previously used a portion of Interlink’s Los Angeles, California office through August 2023, for which the Company paid a facility usage fee of approximately \$1,100 per month.

The Company uses a portion of Interlink’s Bellevue, Washington office, for which the Company pays a facility usage fee of approximately \$4,300 per month.

The Company leases a 560 square-foot office in Singapore on a month-to-month basis for approximately \$1,600 per month.

The Company previously leased a 7,287 square foot facility in Shenzhen, China for approximately \$3,500 per month under a lease that expired in May 2024.

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

The Company's leases do not require any contingent rental payments, impose any financial restrictions, or contain any residual value guarantees. Variable expenses generally represent the Company's share of the landlord's operating expenses. The Company does not have any leases classified as financing leases.

The rate implicit in each lease is not readily determinable; we therefore use our incremental borrowing rate to determine the present value of the lease payments. The weighted average incremental borrowing rate used to determine the initial value of ROU assets and lease liabilities during the year ended December 31, 2024 was 6.50%. No new ROU assets were capitalized during the year ended December 31, 2023. Certain of our contracts for real estate may contain both lease and non-lease components which we have elected to treat as a single lease component.

Right-of-use assets for operating leases are periodically reduced by impairment losses. As of December 31, 2024, we have not recognized any impairment losses for our ROU assets.

We monitor for events or changes in circumstances that require a reassessment of our leases. When a reassessment results in the remeasurement of a lease liability, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the corresponding ROU asset unless doing so would reduce the carrying amount of the ROU asset to an amount less than zero. In that case, the amount of the adjustment that would result in a negative ROU asset balance is recorded in profit or loss.

At December 31, 2024, the Company had right-of-use assets of \$380,000 and current and long-term operating lease liabilities of \$137,000 and \$245,000, respectively. At December 31, 2023, the Company had right-of-use assets of \$88,000 and current operating lease liabilities of \$95,000. Future imputed interest as of December 31, 2024 totaled approximately \$34,000. The weighted average remaining lease term of the Company's leases as of December 31, 2024 is approximately 2.6 years.

Future minimum lease payments under these leases are as follows, in thousands:

	Minimum Lease Payment
2025	\$ 158
2026	162
2027	96
2028	-
2029	-
Total undiscounted future non-cancelable minimum lease payments	416
Less: Imputed interest	(34)
Present value of lease liabilities	<u>\$ 382</u>

During the three months ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Company incurred approximately \$54,000 and \$44,000, respectively, of operating lease costs, which are included in operating expenses in our consolidated statements of operations. During the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Company incurred approximately \$182,000 and \$173,000, respectively, of operating lease costs, which are included in operating expenses in our consolidated statements of operations.

Legal and Other Contingencies

The Company is subject to a variety of claims and legal proceedings that arise from time to time in the ordinary course of our business. Although management currently believes that resolving claims against us, individually or in the aggregate, will not have a material adverse impact on our consolidated financial statements, these matters are subject to inherent uncertainties and management's view of these matters may change in the future. An estimated loss from a loss

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

contingency such as a legal proceeding or claim is accrued by a charge to income if it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. When legal costs that the entity expects to incur in defending itself in connection with a loss contingency accrual are expected to be material, the loss should factor in all costs and, if the legal costs are reasonably estimable, they should be accrued in accordance with ASC 450, regardless of whether a liability can be estimated for the contingency itself. Disclosure of a contingency is required if there is at least a reasonable possibility that a loss has been incurred. Changes in these factors could materially impact our consolidated financial statements. No loss contingency was recorded as of December 31, 2024.

Benefit Plan

The Company has a voluntary deferred compensation plan (the “Plan”) qualifying for treatment under Internal Revenue Code Section 401(k). All employees are eligible to participate in the Plan following three months of service of employment and may contribute up to 100% of their compensation on a pre-tax basis, not to exceed the annual IRS maximum. The Company makes matching contributions in an amount equal to 50% of compensation contributed by participants, up to \$5,000 per participant per year. The Company made matching contributions of \$1,000 and \$5,000 during the three months ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, and \$30,000 and \$28,000 during the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Note 9 – Segment Information

In its operation of the business, management reviews certain financial information, including segmented internal profit and loss statements prepared on a basis consistent with GAAP. Our two segments are Data Storage and Power Supplies. The two segments discussed in this analysis are presented in the way we internally manage and monitor performance for 2024 and 2023. The types of products and services provided by each segment are summarized below:

Data Storage — We manufacture and market data storage systems, including highly scalable automated magnetic tape libraries used to store, retrieve and manage electronic data. Our tape-based storage solutions enable businesses to manage the massive growth of digital data assets in a cost-effective manner, and address long-term archive, backup and recovery of electronic data. These products consist of networked libraries that store and move high-density tape cartridges and high-speed tape drives that stream data to and from the tape cartridges. These optimized solutions allow data-rich and video-centric markets such as media and entertainment, oil and gas, surveillance, digital security and medical imaging to achieve targeted data workflows. We also offer technical customer support service contracts, which provide customers with access to technical assistance, parts replacement of defective items, and the option to schedule on-site services, including support, installation, consulting, and design services, either through our team or our third-party service providers.

Power Supplies — We design and market high-efficiency switching power supplies. These power supplies are used to convert AC line voltage to DC voltages, or DC voltages to other DC voltages, for use in a wide variety of electronic equipment such as communications equipment, industrial machine tools, wireless systems, as well as medical and gaming devices. We utilize contract manufacturers in Asia to produce our power supplies products. We sell our products globally through authorized resellers and directly to OEMs.

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)**

Segment revenue, income (loss) before taxes, and total assets were as follows:

	Three Months Ended		Year Ended	
	December 31,		December 31,	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
(In thousands)				
Revenues				
Data Storage:				
Product	\$ 1,266	\$ 1,327	\$ 3,933	\$ 4,500
Service	288	296	1,153	1,148
Total Data Storage	1,554	1,623	5,086	5,648
Power Supplies	479	1,781	2,958	4,968
Revenues	\$ 2,033	\$ 3,404	\$ 8,044	\$ 10,616

	Three Months Ended		Year Ended	
	December 31,		December 31,	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
(In thousands)				
Income (Loss) Before Taxes				
Data Storage	\$ 49	\$ 263	\$ 127	\$ 399
Power Supplies	(56)	60	(595)	(205)
Income (loss) before taxes	\$ (7)	\$ 323	\$ (468)	\$ 194

	December 31,	
	2024	2023
(In thousands)		
Total Assets		
Data Storage		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,319	\$ 2,211
Marketable securities	42	140
Accounts receivable, net	538	662
Inventories	1,163	1,569
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	315	316
Property and equipment, net	21	45
Right-of-use assets	380	88
Other assets	54	51
Total Data Storage assets	4,832	5,082
Power Supplies		
Cash and cash equivalents	84	64
Accounts receivable, net	143	1,512
Inventories	1,632	1,301
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	6	27
Property and equipment, net	5	7
Other assets	23	38
Total Power Supplies assets	1,893	2,949
Total Assets	\$ 6,725	\$ 8,031

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)**

Note 10 – Related Party Transactions

Interlink Electronics, Inc.

Interlink Electronics, Inc. (Nasdaq: LINK) is a related party. Steven N. Bronson, our President and Chief Executive Officer and Director, is also Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Interlink. Ryan J. Hoffman, our Acting Chief Financial Officer, is also the Chief Financial Officer of Interlink. Mr. Bronson, together with BKF Capital Group, Inc. (OTCMKTS: BKFG) (“BKF Capital”) which he controls, has a controlling interest in both Qualstar and Interlink. We have a facilities agreement with Interlink to allow Interlink to use of a portion of our Camarillo, California office and warehouse facility, for which we have agreed to split substantially all rent and facilities-related costs on an apportioned basis according to the approximate relative usage levels by each entity. We also have facilities agreements with Interlink to allow us to use a portion of Interlink’s office facilities in Irvine, California, and Bellevue, Washington, and also its prior Los Angeles, California office facility through August 2023, for which we have agreed to split substantially all rent and facilities-related costs on an apportioned basis according to the approximate relative usage levels by each entity. In addition, we have consulting agreements with Interlink for certain of our respective employees and/or independent contractors that provide certain operational, sales, marketing, general and administrative services to the other entity. Qualstar and Interlink have also agreed to reimburse, or be reimbursed by, one another for certain expenses paid by one company on behalf of the other. Transactions with Interlink are as follows:

	Three Months Ended December 31,			
	2024		2023	
	Due to Interlink	Due from Interlink	Due to Interlink	Due from Interlink
	(in thousands)			
Balance at October 1,	\$ 26	\$ 29	\$ 27	\$ 12
Billed (or accrued) to Interlink by Qualstar	-	40	-	47
Paid by Interlink to Qualstar	-	(57)	-	(25)
Billed (or accrued) to Qualstar by Interlink	129	-	128	-
Paid by Qualstar to Interlink	(147)	-	(151)	-
Balance at December 31,	\$ 8	\$ 12	\$ 4	\$ 34
	Year Ended December 31,			
	2024		2023	
	Due to Interlink	Due from Interlink	Due to Interlink	Due from Interlink
	(in thousands)			
Balance at January 1,	\$ 2	\$ 32	\$ 6	\$ -
Billed (or accrued) to Interlink by Qualstar	-	158	-	134
Paid by Interlink to Qualstar	-	(178)	-	(100)
Billed (or accrued) to Qualstar by Interlink	450	-	758	-
Paid by Qualstar to Interlink	(444)	-	(760)	-
Balance at December 31,	\$ 8	\$ 12	\$ 4	\$ 34

BKF Capital Group, Inc.

BKF Capital Group, Inc. (OTCMKTS: BKFG) is a related party. Steven N. Bronson, our President and Chief Executive Officer and Director, is also the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of BKF Capital. Ryan J. Hoffman, our Acting Chief Financial Officer, is also the Chief Financial Officer of BKF Capital. BKF Capital, together with Mr. Bronson, has a controlling interest in Qualstar. We have consulting agreements with BKF Capital for certain of our respective employees and/or independent contractors that provide operational and general and administrative services to the other entity. Until its termination in April 2024, we were party to an agreement with Bronson Financial LLC (“BF”), a wholly owned subsidiary of BKF Capital, under which BF provided M&A advisory consulting services to us.

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)**

Qualstar and BKF Capital have also agreed to reimburse, or be reimbursed by, one another for certain expenses paid by one company on behalf of the other. Transactions with BKF Capital are as follows:

	Three Months Ended December 31,			
	2024		2023	
	Due to BKF Capital	Due from BKF Capital	Due to BKF Capital	Due from BKF Capital
	(in thousands)			
Balance at October 1,	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Billed (or accrued) to BKF Capital by Qualstar	-	-	-	-
Paid by BKF Capital to Qualstar	-	-	-	-
Billed (or accrued) to Qualstar by BKF Capital	-	-	30	-
Paid by Qualstar to BKF Capital	-	-	(30)	-
Balance at December 31,	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

	Year Ended December 31,			
	2024		2023	
	Due to BKF Capital	Due from BKF Capital	Due to BKF Capital	Due from BKF Capital
	(in thousands)			
Balance at January 1,	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Billed (or accrued) to BKF Capital by Qualstar	-	-	-	3
Paid by BKF Capital to Qualstar	-	-	-	(3)
Billed (or accrued) to Qualstar by BKF Capital	40	-	143	-
Paid by Qualstar to BKF Capital	(40)	-	(143)	-
Balance at December 31,	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Ridgefield Acquisition Corp.

Ridgefield Acquisition Corp. (Nasdaq: RDGA) (“Ridgefield”) is a related party. Steven N. Bronson, our President and Chief Executive Officer and Director, is also the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Ridgefield as well as Ridgefield’s largest shareholder. In September 2022, the Company executed an unsecured Revolving Promissory Note with Ridgefield (the “Ridgefield Note”). Under the terms of the Ridgefield Note, the Company may (but is not required to) make loans to Ridgefield from time to time upon request by Ridgefield, up to a maximum principal amount of \$200,000 outstanding at any time. The Ridgefield Note may be prepaid by Ridgefield at any time without penalty and is repayable on demand by the Company on or after December 31, 2024. The Ridgefield Note provides for interest to accrue on the outstanding principal balance at a rate of ten percent per annum (calculated on the basis of a 360-day year), compounded quarterly. Ridgefield borrowed an initial amount of \$20,000 under the Ridgefield Note in September 2022, and additional amounts of \$30,000 in December 2022, \$25,000 in June 2023, \$25,000 in December 2023, and \$10,000 in April 2024. The balance of principal and accrued interest on the Ridgefield Note was \$130,000 as of December 31, 2024, and \$108,000 as of December 31, 2023 (classified in Prepaid Expenses and Other Current Assets on our consolidated balance sheets).

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Overview

Qualstar Corporation and its Subsidiaries (“Qualstar”, the “Company”, “we”, “us” or “our”) manufacture and market data storage system products and compact, high-efficiency power supply solutions. Our data storage systems are marketed under the Qualstar brand and include highly scalable automated magnetic tape libraries used to store, retrieve and manage electronic data primarily in the network computing environment. Our data storage devices include models ranging from entry level to enterprise and are a cost-effective solution for organizations requiring backup, recovery and archival storage of critical electronic information. The distribution channels for our data storage devices include resellers, system integrators, and original equipment manufacturers (“OEMs”). In addition, the Company is a leading provider of standard, semi-custom and custom power supply solutions marketed under the N2Power brand. Our power supply solution products provide OEMs and product designers increased functionality while reducing thermal loads and cooling requirements and lowering operating costs. Our power supply solution products are currently sold to OEMs in a wide range of markets, including telecom/networking equipment, audio/visual, industrial, gaming and medical.

Qualstar Corporation was incorporated in California in 1984 and currently has three wholly owned subsidiaries. The N2Power, Inc. subsidiary (“N2Power”) operates the Company’s power supplies business. The Q-Smart Data Limited (China) subsidiary pursues new data storage business opportunities in Asia. The Qualstar Limited (U.K.) subsidiary supports expansion of the Company’s data storage business in the United Kingdom, Europe and Africa.

We sell our products globally through authorized resellers and distributors and directly to OEMs. Our data storage products are manufactured by our OEM suppliers in other parts of the world and configured to order by us at our facility in Camarillo, California, or at our facility in Shenzhen, China, or by our fulfilment and logistics partner in Warsaw, Poland. N2Power utilizes contract manufacturers in Asia to produce our power supply solutions products.

Results of Operations

The dollar amounts in the following tables are in thousands.

	Three Months Ended December 31,				Year Ended December 31,			
	2024		2023		2024		2023	
	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues
Data storage revenues	\$ 1,554	76.4 %	\$ 1,623	47.7 %	\$ 5,086	63.2 %	\$ 5,648	53.2 %
Power supplies revenues	479	23.6	1,781	52.3	2,958	36.8	4,968	46.8
Revenues	2,033	100.0	3,404	100.0	8,044	100.0	10,616	100.0
Cost of goods sold	1,350	66.4	2,191	64.4	5,586	69.4	7,336	69.1
Gross profit	683	33.6	1,213	35.6	2,458	30.6	3,280	30.9
Operating expenses:								
Engineering	48	2.4	149	4.4	395	4.9	393	3.7
Sales and marketing	197	9.7	390	11.5	963	12.0	1,353	12.7
General and administrative	376	18.5	364	10.7	1,570	19.5	1,394	13.1
Total operating expenses	621	30.5	903	26.5	2,928	36.4	3,140	29.6
Income (loss) from operations	62	3.0	310	9.1	(470)	(5.8)	140	1.3
Other income (expense), net	(69)	(3.4)	13	0.4	2	0.0	54	0.5
Income (loss) before taxes	(7)	(0.3)	323	9.5	(468)	(5.8)	194	1.8
Provision for income taxes	3	0.1	3	0.1	3	0.0	3	0.0
Net income (loss)	\$ (10)	(0.5) %	\$ 320	9.4 %	\$ (471)	(5.9) %	\$ 191	1.8 %

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Revenues:

	Three Months Ended December 31,				Change	
	2024		2023			
	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues	\$	%
Data storage revenues	\$ 1,554	76.4 %	\$ 1,623	47.7 %	\$ (69)	(4.3) %
Power supplies revenues	479	23.6	1,781	52.3	(1,302)	(73.1)
Revenues	\$ 2,033	100.0 %	\$ 3,404	100.0 %	\$ (1,371)	(40.3) %

	Year Ended December 31,				Change	
	2024		2023			
	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues	\$	%
Data storage revenues	\$ 5,086	63.2 %	\$ 5,648	53.2 %	\$ (562)	(10.0) %
Power supplies revenues	2,958	36.8	4,968	46.8	(2,010)	(40.5)
Revenues	\$ 8,044	100.0 %	\$ 10,616	100.0 %	\$ (2,572)	(24.2) %

The fluctuations in revenues for the three- and twelve-month periods ended December 31, 2024 compared to the prior year periods are attributable to the segment-specific factors described below.

Segment Revenue

Data Storage – For the three months ended December 31, 2024 compared to the same quarter last year, data storage revenues were down 4%, which was attributable to a 5% reduction in product revenue from lower shipments of our tape-based data storage products and solutions, and a 3% decrease in revenues from technical service and support contracts. For the year ended December 31, 2024 compared to the same period last year, data storage revenues were down 10%, which was attributable to a 13% reduction in product revenue, while services revenues were flat.

Power Supplies – The 73% and 40% decreases in power supplies revenues in the three- and twelve-month periods ended December 31, 2024, respectively, compared to the corresponding prior-year periods were due to decreased customer demand and order fulfillment of our power supplies products in the current year periods. We expect a significant revenue reduction in our power supplies business for the foreseeable future due to the loss of a large customer.

Gross Profit:

	Three Months Ended December 31,				Change	
	2024		2023			
	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues	\$	%
Gross profit	\$ 683	33.6 %	\$ 1,213	35.6 %	\$ (530)	(43.7) %

	Year Ended December 31,				Change	
	2024		2023			
	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues	\$	%
Gross profit	\$ 2,458	30.6 %	\$ 3,280	30.9 %	\$ (822)	(25.1) %

The decreases in gross profit for the three- and twelve-month periods ended December 31, 2024 compared to the corresponding periods in the prior year were due to decreases in sales volume, while the slight declines in gross margin percentages over those same periods were attributable to changes in our product mix.

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Operating Expenses:

	Three Months Ended December 31,				Change	
	2024		2023			
	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues	\$	%
Engineering	\$ 48	2.4 %	\$ 149	4.4 %	\$ (101)	(67.8) %
Sales and marketing	197	9.7	390	11.5	(193)	(49.5)
General and administrative	376	18.5	364	10.7	12	3.3
Total operating expenses	<u>\$ 621</u>	<u>30.5 %</u>	<u>\$ 903</u>	<u>26.5 %</u>	<u>\$ (282)</u>	<u>(31.2) %</u>

	Year Ended December 31,				Change	
	2024		2023			
	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues	\$	%
Engineering	\$ 395	4.9 %	\$ 393	3.7 %	\$ 2	0.5 %
Sales and marketing	963	12.0	1,353	12.7	(390)	(28.8)
General and administrative	1,570	19.5	1,394	13.1	176	12.6
Total operating expenses	<u>\$ 2,928</u>	<u>36.4 %</u>	<u>\$ 3,140</u>	<u>29.6 %</u>	<u>\$ (212)</u>	<u>(6.8) %</u>

Engineering

Engineering expenses decreased for the three-month period ended December 31, 2024 compared to the prior year primarily due to a decrease in power supplies engineering consultants engaged. Engineering expenses were flat for the year ended December 31, 2024 compared to the prior year.

Sales and Marketing

Sales and marketing expenses decreased for the three-month and twelve-month periods ended December 31, 2024 compared to the same periods last year primarily due to lower compensation expense on reduced sales employee headcount.

General and Administrative

General and administrative costs increased for the three-month and twelve-month periods ended December 31, 2024 compared to the prior year periods primarily due to increased compensation and related costs, professional services costs, and facilities costs.

Other Income (Expense), net

Other income (expense), net for the three months ended December 31, 2024 included \$20,000 of interest income, \$33,000 of losses on foreign currency exchange, and \$56,000 of losses on marketable securities. Other income (expense) for the three months ended December 31, 2023 included \$22,000 of interest income, \$26,000 of gains on foreign currency exchange, and \$35,000 of losses on marketable securities.

Other income (expense), net for the year ended December 31, 2024 included \$80,000 of interest income, \$29,000 of losses on foreign currency exchange, and \$49,000 of losses on marketable securities. Other income (expense) for the year ended December 31, 2023 included \$46,000 of interest income, \$3,000 of gains on foreign currency exchange, and \$5,000 of gains on marketable securities.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Cash and cash equivalents increased \$128,000 to \$2,403,000 at December 31, 2024, from \$2,275,000 at December 31, 2023.

Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$222,000 for the year ended December 31, 2024 compared with \$138,000 for the year ended December 31, 2023. Cash provided by operations in 2024 was the result of net loss of

QUALSTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

\$471,000, non-cash expenses of \$196,000, losses on marketable securities of \$49,000, and cash provided by changes in operating assets and liabilities of \$448,000. Cash provided by operations for the year ended December 31, 2023 was the result of net income of \$191,000, non-cash expenses of \$32,000, gains on marketable securities of \$6,000, and cash used in changes in operating assets and liabilities of \$79,000.

Investing Activities

Cash provided by investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2024 consisted of \$49,000 of proceeds from net sales of marketable securities. Cash used in investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2023 consisted of \$101,000 of net purchases of marketable securities, and \$7,000 of purchases of property and equipment.

Financing Activities

Cash used in financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 consisted of \$143,000 and \$522,000, respectively, of cash used to repurchase shares of the Company's common stock under the Company's Stock Repurchase Program.

We believe that our existing cash and cash equivalents and cash flows from our operating activities will be sufficient to fund our working capital and capital expenditure needs for at least twelve months from the date of this report. We may utilize cash to invest in or acquire businesses, products or technologies that we believe are additive to the strategic expansion of the Company. We periodically evaluate other companies and technologies for possible investment or acquisition. In addition, we have made, and may in the future make, investments in companies with whom we have identified potential synergies. However, we have no present commitments or agreements with respect to any material investment in or acquisition of other businesses or technologies. In the event that we require additional capital to meet our business needs, there can be no assurance that additional funding will be available to us when needed or, if available, that it can be obtained on commercially reasonable terms.