

Clearfield, Inc.  
Form 10-Q  
April 29, 2015

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2015

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

Commission File Number 0-16106

Clearfield, Inc.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Minnesota  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

41-1347235  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

7050 Winnetka Avenue North, Suite 100, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota 55428  
(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

(763) 476-6866  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

YES     NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

YES     NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a "large accelerated filer," an "accelerated filer," a "non-accelerated filer" or a "smaller reporting company" (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Large accelerated filer    Accelerated filer    Non-accelerated filer    Smaller Reporting Company  

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

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YES  NO

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

| Class:                        | Outstanding at April 27, 2015 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Common stock, par value \$.01 | 13,715,833                    |

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FORM 10-Q  
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## PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CLEARFIELD, INC.  
CONDENSED BALANCE SHEETS

|   | (Unaudited)<br>March 31,<br>2015 | (Audited)<br>September<br>30,<br>2014 |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>   |                                  |                                       |
| <b>Current Assets</b>   |                                  |                                       |
| Cash and cash equivalents   | \$ 17,061,497                    | \$ 18,191,493                         |
| Short-term investments  | 7,858,000                        | 6,632,000                             |
| Accounts receivables, net   | 4,755,767                        | 5,027,856                             |
| Inventories   | 5,164,221                        | 5,390,342                             |
| Deferred taxes  | 2,053,528                        | 2,249,435                             |
| Other current assets  | 917,542                          | 543,257                               |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>   | <b>37,810,555</b>                | <b>38,034,383</b>                     |
| Property, plant and equipment, net  | 5,258,571                        | 2,462,250                             |
| <b>Other Assets</b>   |                                  |                                       |
| Long-term investments   | 7,078,000                        | 8,302,000                             |
| Goodwill  | 2,570,511                        | 2,570,511                             |
| Deferred taxes –long term   | -                                | 156,622                               |
| Other   | 310,965                          | 322,132                               |
| <b>Total other assets</b>   | <b>9,959,476</b>                 | <b>11,351,265</b>                     |
| <b>Total Assets</b>   | <b>\$53,028,602</b>              | <b>\$51,847,898</b>                   |
| <b>Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity</b>   |                                  |                                       |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>  |                                  |                                       |
| Accounts payable  | \$ 2,581,117                     | \$ 2,104,526                          |
| Accrued compensation  | 1,540,949                        | 2,749,080                             |
| Accrued expenses  | 374,421                          | 247,658                               |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>  | <b>4,496,487</b>                 | <b>5,101,264</b>                      |
| <b>Other Liabilities</b>  |                                  |                                       |
| Deferred taxes  | 359,471                          | -                                     |
| Deferred rent   | 218,085                          | -                                     |
| <b>Total other liabilities</b>  | <b>577,556</b>                   | <b>-</b>                              |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>  | <b>5,074,043</b>                 | <b>5,101,264</b>                      |
| Commitment and Contingencies  | -                                | -                                     |
| <b>Shareholders' Equity</b>   |                                  |                                       |
| Preferred stock, \$.01 par value; authorized 500 shares; no shares outstanding  | -                                | -                                     |
| Common stock, authorized 50,000,000, \$.01 par value; 13,715,833 and 13,742,964, shares issued and outstanding at March 31, 2015 and September 30, 2014 | 137,158                          | 137,430                               |

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|  |              |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Additional paid-in capital                 | 55,887,152   | 56,036,989   |
| Accumulated deficit                        | (8,069,751 ) | (9,427,785 ) |
| Total Shareholders' Equity                 | 47,954,559   | 46,746,634   |
| Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity | \$53,028,602 | \$51,847,898 |

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CLEARFIELD, INC.  
 CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS  
 UNAUDITED

|                                      | Three Months Ended<br>March 31, |              | Six Months Ended<br>March 31, |              |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
|                                      | 2015                            | 2014         | 2015                          | 2014         |
| Net sales                            | \$12,370,784                    | \$13,213,855 | \$26,357,404                  | \$29,361,477 |
| Cost of sales                        | 7,617,347                       | 7,493,292    | 15,861,453                    | 16,703,269   |
| Gross profit                         | 4,753,437                       | 5,720,563    | 10,495,951                    | 12,658,208   |
| Operating expenses                   |                                 |              |                               |              |
| Selling, general and administrative  | 4,289,304                       | 3,805,011    | 8,415,301                     | 7,670,030    |
| Income from operations               | 464,133                         | 1,915,552    | 2,080,650                     | 4,988,178    |
| Interest income                      | 24,528                          | 24,753       | 50,384                        | 44,453       |
| Income before income taxes           | 488,661                         | 1,940,305    | 2,131,034                     | 5,032,631    |
| Income tax expense                   | 200,000                         | 714,000      | 773,000                       | 1,824,000    |
| Net income                           | \$288,661                       | \$1,226,305  | \$1,358,034                   | \$3,208,631  |
| Net income per share:                |                                 |              |                               |              |
| Basic                                | \$0.02                          | \$0.09       | \$0.10                        | \$0.25       |
| Diluted                              | \$0.02                          | \$0.09       | \$0.10                        | \$0.24       |
| Weighted average shares outstanding: |                                 |              |                               |              |
| Basic                                | 13,191,234                      | 12,746,904   | 13,206,877                    | 12,717,842   |
| Diluted                              | 13,546,572                      | 13,613,287   | 13,564,173                    | 13,580,117   |

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CLEARFIELD, INC.  
CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
UNAUDITED

|   | Six Months Ended March<br>31, |              |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------|
|   | 2015                          | 2014         |
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>                                       |                               |              |
| Net income  | \$1,358,034                   | \$3,208,631  |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: |                               |              |
| Depreciation and amortization   | 545,782                       | 309,835      |
| Deferred taxes  | 712,000                       | 1,691,885    |
| (Gain) loss on disposal of assets   | (13,290 )                     | 6,338        |
| Stock-based compensation  | 564,466                       | 374,369      |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities:                                      |                               |              |
| Accounts receivable, net  | 272,089                       | 4,408,039    |
| Inventories   | 226,121                       | 770,865      |
| Prepaid expenses and other  | (363,352 )                    | (660,652 )   |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses   | (386,692 )                    | 223,365      |
| Net cash provided by operating activities   | 2,915,158                     | 10,332,675   |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>                                       |                               |              |
| Purchases of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets                  | (3,328,579 )                  | (331,591 )   |
| Purchases of investments  | (4,168,000 )                  | (7,411,000 ) |
| Proceeds from maturities of investments   | 4,166,000                     | 4,667,000    |
| Net cash used in investing activities   | (3,330,579 )                  | (3,075,591 ) |
| <b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>                                       |                               |              |
| Proceeds from issuance of common stock under employee stock purchase plan         | 105,615                       | 90,417       |
| Proceeds from issuance of common stock upon exercise of stock options             | 28,967                        | 101,034      |
| Tax withholding related to exercise of stock options                              | -                             | (129,488 )   |
| Repurchase of common stock  | (849,157 )                    | -            |
| Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities                               | (714,575 )                    | 61,963       |
| (Decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents                                  | (1,129,996 )                  | 7,319,047    |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period                                    | 18,191,493                    | 9,807,957    |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period  | \$17,061,497                  | \$17,127,004 |
| Supplemental disclosures for cash flow information                                |                               |              |
| Cash paid during the year for income taxes  | \$4,750                       | \$263,139    |
| Non-cash financing activities   |                               |              |
| Cashless exercise of stock options  | \$80,802                      | \$179,609    |

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



## NOTES TO CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Note 1. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying (a) condensed balance sheet as of September 30, 2014, which has been derived from audited financial statements, and (b) the unaudited interim condensed financial statements have been prepared by the Company in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for interim financial information, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Pursuant to these rules and regulations, certain financial information and footnote disclosures normally included in the financial statements have been condensed or omitted. However, in the opinion of management, the financial statements include all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring accruals, necessary for a fair presentation of the financial position and results of operations and cash flows of the interim periods presented. Operating results for the interim periods presented are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for the full year or for any other interim period, due to variability in customer purchasing patterns and seasonal, operating and other factors. These condensed financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2014.

In preparation of the Company's financial statements, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect reported amounts of assets and liabilities and related revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. As future events and their effects cannot be determined with precision, actual results could differ significantly from these estimates.

## Note 2. Net Income Per Share

Basic net income per common share ("EPS") is computed by dividing net income by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the reporting period. Diluted EPS equals net income divided by the sum of the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding plus all additional common stock equivalents, such as stock options and restricted stock awards, when dilutive.

|   | Three Months Ended March |              | Six Months Ended March 31, |              |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
|   | 2015                     | 31,<br>2014  | 2015                       | 2014         |
| Net income  | \$ 288,661               | \$ 1,226,305 | \$ 1,358,034               | \$ 3,208,631 |
| Weighted average common shares                      | 13,191,234               | 12,746,904   | 13,206,877                 | 12,717,842   |
| Dilutive potential common shares                    | 355,338                  | 866,383      | 357,296                    | 862,275      |
| Weighted average dilutive common shares outstanding | 13,546,572               | 13,613,287   | 13,564,173                 | 13,580,117   |
| Net income per common share:                        |                          |              |                            |              |
| Basic   | \$ 0.02                  | \$ 0.09      | \$ 0.10                    | \$ 0.25      |
| Diluted   | \$ 0.02                  | \$ 0.09      | \$ 0.10                    | \$ 0.24      |

## Note 3. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments

The Company currently invests its excess cash in money market accounts and bank certificates of deposit (CDs) with a term of not more than three years. CDs with original maturities of more than three months are reported as held-to-maturity investments and are carried at amortized cost. The maturity dates of the Company's CDs as of March 31, 2015 and September 30, 2014 are as follows:

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
|                | September 30, |
| March 31, 2015 | 2014          |

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|                    |               |               |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Less than one year | \$ 7,858,000  | \$ 6,632,000  |
| 1-3 years          | 7,078,000     | 8,302,000     |
| Total              | \$ 14,936,000 | \$ 14,934,000 |

Note 4. Stock-Based Compensation

The Company recorded \$280,839 and \$564,466 of compensation expense related to current and past option grants, restricted stock grants and the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan ("ESPP") for the three and six months ended March 31, 2015, respectively. The Company recorded \$186,209 and \$374,369 of compensation expense related to current and past equity awards for the three and six months ended March 31, 2014, respectively. This expense is included in selling, general and administrative expense. As of March 31, 2015, \$4,749,642 of total unrecognized compensation expense related to non-vested equity awards is expected to be recognized over a period of approximately 9.6 years.

There were no stock options granted during the six month periods ended March 31, 2015 and March 31, 2014. The following is a summary of stock option activity during the six months ended March 31, 2015:

|                                   | Number of<br>options | Weighted<br>average<br>exercise price |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Outstanding at September 30, 2014 | 373,051              | \$ 4.93                               |
| Granted                           | -                    | -                                     |
| Exercised                         | (40,000 )            | 2.74                                  |
| Cancelled or Forfeited            | (1,000 )             | 6.36                                  |
| Outstanding at March 31, 2015     | 332,051              | \$ 5.19                               |

The intrinsic value of an option is the amount by which the fair value of the underlying stock exceeds its exercise price. As of March 31, 2015, the weighted average remaining contractual term for all outstanding stock options was 2.1 years and their aggregate intrinsic value was \$3,196,987. As of March 31, 2015, the weighted average remaining contractual terms of options that were exercisable was 2.2 years and their aggregate intrinsic value was \$2,701,625. During the six months ended March 31, 2015, the Company received proceeds of \$28,967 from the exercise of stock options. During the six months ended March 31, 2014, exercised stock options totaled 91,300 shares, resulting in \$101,034 of proceeds to the Company.

#### Restricted Stock

The Company's 2007 Stock Compensation Plan permits its Compensation Committee to grant stock-based awards, including stock options and restricted stock, to key employees and non-employee directors. The Company has made restricted stock grants that vest over one to ten years.

During the six month period ended March 31, 2015, the Company granted non-employee directors restricted stock awards totaling 3,705 shares of common stock, with a vesting term of approximately one year and a fair value of \$13.48 per share. Additionally, the Company granted employees restricted stock awards totaling 3,000 shares of common stock, with a vesting term of ten years and a fair value of \$13.33 per share. During the six month period ended March 31, 2014, the Company granted non-employee directors restricted stock awards totaling 1,915 shares of common stock, with a vesting term of approximately one year and a fair value of \$26.09 per share. Restricted stock transactions during the six month period ended March 31, 2015 are summarized as follows:

|                                       | Number of<br>shares | Weighted<br>average grant<br>date fair value |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Unvested shares at September 30, 2014 | 518,515             | \$ 10.02                                     |
| Granted                               | 6,705               | 13.41  |
| Vested                                | (1,915 )            | 26.09  |
| Forfeited                             | (5,800 )            | 10.69  |
| Unvested at March 31, 2015            | 517,505             | \$ 9.99                                      |

#### Employee Stock Purchase Plan

Clearfield, Inc.'s ESPP allows participating employees to purchase shares of the Company's common stock at a discount through payroll deductions. The ESPP is available to all employees subject to certain eligibility requirements. Terms of the ESPP provide that participating employees may purchase the Company's common stock on a voluntary after-tax basis. Employees may purchase the Company's common stock at a price that is no less than the lower of 85% of the fair market value of one share of common stock at the beginning or end of each stock

purchase period or phase. The ESPP is carried out in six month phases, with phases beginning on January 1 and July 1 of each calendar year. For the phases that ended on December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, employees purchased 10,097 and 10,920 shares at a price of \$10.46 and \$8.28 per share, respectively. After the employee purchase on December 31, 2014, 175,559 shares of common stock were available for future purchase under the ESPP.

## Note 5. Accounts Receivable and Net Sales

Credit is extended based on the evaluation of a customer's financial condition and collateral is generally not required. Accounts that are outstanding longer than the contractual payment terms are considered past due. The Company writes off accounts receivable when they become uncollectible; payments subsequently received on such receivables are credited to the allowance for doubtful accounts. As of both March 31, 2015 and September 30, 2014, the balance in the allowance for doubtful accounts was \$97,950.

See Note 7, "Major Customer Concentration" for further information regarding accounts receivable and net sales.

## Note 6. Inventories

Inventories consist of the following as of:

|                  | March 31, 2015 | September 30,<br>2014 |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Raw materials    | \$ 3,681,674   | \$ 3,729,160          |
| Work-in-progress | 383,235        | 292,557               |
| Finished goods   | 1,099,312      | 1,368,625             |
|                  | \$ 5,164,221   | \$ 5,390,342          |

## Note 7. Major Customer Concentration

The following table summarizes customers comprising 10% or more of net sales for the three and six months ended March 31, 2015 and March 31, 2014:

|            | Three Months Ended |      | Six Months Ended |      |
|------------|--------------------|------|------------------|------|
|            | March 31,          |      | March 31,        |      |
|            | 2015               | 2014 | 2015             | 2014 |
| Customer A | *                  | 22 % | *                | 36 % |
| Customer B | 31 %               | 18 % | 27 %             | 14 % |
| Customer C | *                  | 11 % | *                | *    |

\* Less than 10%

As of March 31, 2015, Customer B accounted for 16% of accounts receivable. As of September 30, 2014, another customer accounted for 10% of accounts receivable.

## Note 8. Goodwill and Patents

The Company analyzes its goodwill for impairment annually or at an interim period when events occur or changes in circumstances indicate potential impairment. The result of the analysis performed in the fourth quarter ended September 30, 2014 did not indicate an impairment of goodwill. During the six months ended March 31, 2015, there were no triggering events that indicate potential impairment exists.

The Company capitalizes legal costs incurred to obtain patents. Once accepted by either the U.S. Patent Office or the equivalent office of a foreign country, these legal costs are amortized using the straight-line method over the remaining estimated lives, not exceeding 17 years. As of March 31, 2015, the Company has four patents granted in the United States and four pending applications pending inside and outside the United States.



## Note 9. Income Taxes

For the three and six months ended March 31, 2015, the Company recorded a provision for income taxes of \$200,000 and \$773,000, respectively, reflecting an effective tax rate of 40.9% and 36.3%, respectively. The primary difference between the effective tax rate and the statutory tax rate is related to nondeductible meals and entertainment and expenses related to equity award compensation.

As of both March 31, 2015 and September 30, 2014, the Company had a remaining valuation allowance of approximately \$848,000 related to state net operating loss carry-forwards the Company does not expect to utilize. Based on the Company's analysis and review of long-term forecasts and all available evidence, the Company has determined that there should be no change in this existing valuation allowance in the current quarter.

For the three and six months ended March 31, 2014, the Company recorded a provision for income taxes of \$714,000 and \$1,824,000, respectively, reflecting an effective tax rate of 36.8% and 36.2%, respectively. The primary difference between the effective tax rate and the statutory tax rate is related to nondeductible meals and entertainment expenses and expenses related to equity award compensation.

Deferred taxes recognize the impact of temporary differences between the amounts of the assets and liabilities recorded for financial statement purposes and these amounts measured in accordance with tax laws. The Company's realization of net operating loss carry-forwards and other deferred tax temporary differences is contingent upon future taxable earnings. The Company reviewed its deferred tax asset for expected utilization using a "more likely than not" criteria by assessing the available positive and negative factors surrounding its recoverability.

As of March 31, 2015, we do not have any unrecognized tax benefits. It is the Company's practice to recognize interest and penalties accrued on any unrecognized tax benefits as a component of income tax expense. The Company does not expect any material changes in its unrecognized tax positions over the next 12 months.

## Note 10. Accounting Pronouncements

### Recent Accounting Pronouncement

Revenue from Contracts with Customers - In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued guidance creating Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") Section 606, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers". The new section will replace Section 605, "Revenue Recognition" and creates modifications to various other revenue accounting standards for specialized transactions and industries. The section is intended to conform revenue accounting principles with a concurrently issued International Financial Reporting Standards with previously differing treatment between United States practice and those of much of the rest of the world, as well as, to enhance disclosures related to disaggregated revenue information. The updated guidance is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after December 15, 2016, and interim periods within those annual periods. The Company will adopt the new provisions of this accounting standard at the beginning of fiscal year 2018, given that early adoption is not an option. The Company will further study the implications of this statement in order to evaluate the expected impact on the consolidated financial statements.

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

The statements contained in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q that are not purely historical are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements relate to future events and typically address the Company's expected future business and financial performance. Words such as "plan," "expect," "aim," "believe," "project," "target," "anticipate," "intend," "estimate," "will," "should," "could" and

terms of similar meaning, typically identify these forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are based on certain assumptions and expectations of future events and trends that are subject to risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ from those projected in any forward-looking statements because of the factors identified in and incorporated by reference from Part I, Item 1A, "Risk Factors," of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2014, as well as in other filings we make with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which should be considered an integral part of Part I, Item 2, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations." All forward-looking statements included herein are made as the date of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and we assume no obligation to update the forward-looking statements or to update the reasons why actual results could differ from those projected in the forward-looking statements.

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations as of and for the three and six months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014 should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and related notes in Item 1 of this report and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2014.

## OVERVIEW

### General

Clearfield, Inc. manufactures, markets, and sells an end-to-end fiber management and enclosure platform that consolidates, distributes and protects fiber as it moves from the inside plant to the outside plant and all the way to the home, business and cell site. While continuing to penetrate the wireline requirements for FTTH builds, Clearfield is actively engaged in the expansion of wireless services through the deployments of its technologies for cell backhaul and distributed antennas wireless services.

The Company has successfully established itself as a value-added supplier to its target market of broadband service providers, including independent local exchange carriers (telephone, or “telcos”), multiple service operators (cable), wireless service providers, municipal-owned utilities, as well as commercial and industrial original equipment manufacturers (“OEMs”). Clearfield has expanded its product offerings and broadened its customer base during the last five years.

The Company has historically focused on the un-served or under-served rural communities who receive their voice, video and data services from independent telephone companies. By aligning its in-house engineering and technical knowledge alongside its customers, the Company has been able to develop, customize and enhance products from design through production. Final build and assembly of the Company’s products is completed at Clearfield’s plants in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, and Mexico, with manufacturing support from a network of domestic and global manufacturing partners. On September 9, 2014, the Company entered into a lease for a new facility in Brooklyn Park, MN to replace its plant in Plymouth. The lease term commenced in January 2015 and this facility now serves as the Company’s headquarters. Clearfield specializes in producing these products on both a quick-turn and scheduled delivery basis. The Company deploys a hybrid sales model with some sales made directly to the customer, some made through two-tier distribution (channel) partners, and some sales through original equipment suppliers who private label their products.

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

### THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2015 VS. THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

Net sales for the second quarter of fiscal 2015 ended March 31, 2015 were \$12,371,000, a decrease of approximately 6% or \$843,000 from net sales of \$13,214,000 for the second quarter of fiscal 2014. Net sales to broadband service providers and commercial data networks customers were \$11,124,000 in the second quarter of fiscal 2015, versus \$12,170,000 in the same period of fiscal 2014. Among this group, the Company recorded \$1,362,000 in international sales for the second quarter of fiscal 2015, versus \$2,197,000 in the same period of fiscal 2014. Net sales to build-to-print and OEM customers were \$1,247,000 in the second quarter of fiscal 2015 versus \$1,044,000 in the same period of fiscal 2014. The Company allocates sales from external customers to geographic areas based on the location to which the product is transported. Accordingly, international sales represented 11% and 17% of total net sales for the second quarters of fiscal 2015 and 2014, respectively.

The decrease in net sales for the second quarter of fiscal 2015 of \$843,000 compared to the same quarter of fiscal 2014 is primarily attributable to a decrease of \$2,060,000 related to a slowdown in an ongoing build of a U.S.-based broadband service provider. Net sales were also negatively affected by a decrease in international sales of \$835,000. Offsetting these decreases was an increase of \$2,052,000 in net sales to our customer base of commercial

data network providers, build-to-print and OEM manufacturers, and broadband service providers, outside of the U.S.-based broadband service provider and international sales noted above, when compared to the same quarter of 2014. The Company does not have the ability to forecast future sales as revenue from all customers is obtained from purchase orders submitted from time to time. Accordingly, the Company's ability to predict orders in future periods or trends affecting orders in future periods is limited.

Cost of sales for the second quarter of fiscal 2015 was \$7,617,000, an increase of \$124,000, or 2%, from \$7,493,000 in the comparable period of fiscal 2014. Gross margin was 38.4% in the fiscal 2015 second quarter, down from 43.3% for the fiscal 2014 second quarter. Gross profit decreased \$968,000, or 17%, to \$4,753,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2015 from \$5,721,000 in the comparable period in fiscal 2014. The increase in cost of sales and the decrease in gross profit is primarily as a result of lower absorption of factory overhead associated with lower production volumes, product mix, as well as costs associated with a new manufacturing facility in Mexico.

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$484,000, or 13%, to \$4,289,000 in the fiscal 2015 second quarter from \$3,805,000 for the fiscal 2014 second quarter. The increase in the second quarter of fiscal 2015 consists primarily of higher compensation expenses in the amount of \$315,000 mainly due to additional personnel and wage increases and one-time costs of \$137,000 associated with our move to new headquarters which was completed in the second quarter. Also, stock compensation expense increased \$95,000 when compared to the same period of 2014 due to a higher amount of equity awards outstanding. These increases were partially offset by lower performance compensation accruals of \$243,000.

Income from operations for the quarter ended March 31, 2015 was \$464,000 compared to income from operations of \$1,916,000 for the comparable quarter of fiscal 2014, a decrease of approximately 76%. This decrease is attributable to decreased net sales and lower gross profit.

Interest income for the quarters ended March 31, 2015 and March 31, 2014 was unchanged at \$25,000. The Company invests its excess cash primarily in FDIC-backed bank certificates of deposit and money market accounts.

We recorded a provision for income taxes of \$200,000 and \$714,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Due to net operating loss utilization, income tax expense primarily had a non-cash effect on the operating cash flow in the second quarters of both fiscal 2015 and 2014. We record our quarterly provision for income taxes based on our estimated annual effective tax rate for the year. The decrease in tax expense of \$514,000 from the second quarter for fiscal 2014 is primarily due to lower profitability in the second quarter of fiscal 2015. Our provisions for income taxes include current federal alternative minimum tax expense, state income tax expense and deferred tax expense.

The Company's net income for the three months ended March 31, 2015 was \$289,000, or \$0.02 per basic and diluted share. The Company's net income for the three months ended March 31, 2014 was \$1,226,000, or \$0.09 per basic and diluted share.

#### SIX MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2015 VS. SIX MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

Net sales for the six months ended March 31, 2015 were \$26,357,000, a decrease of 10% or approximately \$3,004,000 from net sales of \$29,361,000 for the first six months of fiscal 2014. Net sales to broadband service providers and commercial data networks customers were \$23,917,000 for the first six months of fiscal 2015, versus \$27,248,000 in the same period of fiscal 2014. Among this group, the Company recorded \$2,709,000 in international sales versus \$3,212,000 in the same period of fiscal 2014. Net sales to build-to-print and OEM customers were \$2,440,000 in the first six months of fiscal 2015 versus \$2,113,000 in the same period of fiscal 2014. The Company allocates sales from external customers to geographic areas based on the location to which the product is transported. Accordingly, international sales represented 10% and 11% of total net sales for the first six months of fiscal 2015 and 2014, respectively.

The decrease in net sales for the six months ended March 31, 2015 of \$3,004,000 compared to the same period of fiscal 2014 is primarily attributable to a decrease of \$9,120,000 related to a slowdown in an ongoing build of a U.S.-based broadband service provider. Net sales were also negatively affected by a decrease in international sales of \$503,000 during the same period. Offsetting these decreases was an increase of \$6,619,000 in net sales to our

customer base of commercial data network providers, build-to-print and OEM manufacturers, and broadband service providers, outside of the U.S.-based broadband service provider and international sales noted above, when compared to the same period of 2014. The Company does not have the ability to forecast future sales as revenue from all customers is obtained from purchase orders submitted from time to time. Accordingly, the Company's ability to predict orders in future periods or trends affecting orders in future periods is limited.

Cost of sales for the six months ended March 31, 2015 was \$15,861,000, a decrease of \$842,000, or 5%, from \$16,703,000 in the comparable period. Gross margin was 39.8% in the fiscal 2015 first six months, down from 43.1% for the comparable six months in fiscal 2014. Gross profit decreased \$2,162,000, or 17%, to \$10,496,000 for the six months ended March 31, 2015 from \$12,658,000 in the comparable period in fiscal 2014. The decrease in cost of sales in the first six months of fiscal 2015 is primarily a result of decreased sales volume. Gross profit decreased primarily as a result of additional costs associated with start-up operations related to the addition of our Mexico manufacturing facility in late fiscal 2014, lower absorption of factory overhead associated with lower production volumes, as well as product mix.

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased 10%, or \$745,000, from \$7,670,000 for the first six months of fiscal 2014 to \$8,415,000 for the first six months of fiscal 2015. The increase in the first six months of fiscal 2015 consists primarily of higher compensation expenses in the amount of \$665,000 mainly due to additional personnel and wage increases and one-time costs of \$137,000 associated with our move to expanded U.S. operations which was completed in the second quarter. Also, stock compensation expense increased \$190,000 when compared to the same period of 2014 due to a higher amount of equity awards outstanding. These increases were offset by lower performance compensation accruals of \$454,000.

Income from operations for the six months ended March 31, 2015 was \$2,081,000 compared to income of \$4,988,000 for the first six months of fiscal 2014, a decrease of \$2,907,000, or 58%. This decrease is attributable to decreased net sales and lower gross profit.

Interest income for the six months ended March 31, 2015 was \$50,000 compared to \$44,000 for the comparable period for fiscal 2014. The Company invests its excess cash primarily in FDIC-backed bank certificates of deposit and money market accounts.

We recorded a provision for income taxes of \$773,000 and \$1,824,000 for the six months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Due to net operating loss utilization, income tax expense primarily included a non-cash effect on the operating cash flow for the first six months of both fiscal 2015 and 2014. We record our quarterly provision for income taxes based on our estimated annual effective tax rate for the year. The decrease in tax expense of \$1,051,000 from the six months ended March 31, 2014 is primarily due to lower profitability in the first six months of fiscal 2015. Our provisions for income taxes include current federal alternative minimum tax expense, state income tax expense and deferred tax expense.

The Company's net income for the first six months of fiscal 2015 ended March 31, 2015 was \$1,358,000, or \$0.10 per basic and diluted share. The Company's net income for the first six months of fiscal 2014 ended March 31, 2014 was \$3,209,000, or \$0.25 per basic and \$0.24 per diluted share.

## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

As of March 31, 2015, our principal source of liquidity was our cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments. Those sources total \$24,919,000 at March 31, 2015 compared to \$24,823,000 at September 30, 2014. Our excess cash is invested mainly in certificates of deposit backed by the FDIC and money market accounts which are insured by the FDIC. Investments considered long-term were \$7,078,000 at March 31, 2015, compared to \$8,302,000 at September 30, 2014. We believe the combined balances of short-term cash and investments along with long-term investments provide a more accurate indication of our available liquidity. As of March 31, 2015, Clearfield had no debt and \$31,997,000 in cash, cash equivalents and investments, compared to \$33,125,000 at September 30, 2014.

The Company expects to fund operations with its working capital, which is the combination of existing cash and cash equivalents and cash flow from operations, accounts receivable and inventory. We believe these resources will be

sufficient to fund our working capital and capital resources needs for the next 12 months. The Company intends on utilizing its available cash and assets primarily for its continued organic growth and potential future strategic transactions, as well as execution of the share repurchase program adopted by the Board of Directors and announced on November 13, 2014.

## Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities totaled \$2,915,000 for the six months ended March 31, 2015. This was primarily due to net income of \$1,358,000, non-cash expenses for depreciation and amortization of \$546,000, deferred taxes of \$712,000, and stock-based compensation of \$564,000, in addition to changes in operating assets and liabilities providing cash. Changes in operating assets and liabilities providing cash include decreases in accounts receivable and inventory of \$272,000 and \$226,000, respectively. Accounts receivable balances can be influenced by the timing of shipments for customer projects and payment terms. The decrease in inventory represents an adjustment for seasonal demand along with changes in stocking levels for product development life cycles. Changes in working capital items using cash include an increase in prepaid expenses and other of \$363,000 and an increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses of \$387,000, primarily related to a reclassification from accounts receivable of \$284,000 to accrued liabilities for customers with rebate terms as rebates owed exceeded the related accounts receivable balance at March 31, 2015.

Net cash provided by operating activities totaled \$10,333,000 for the six months ended March 31, 2014. This was primarily due to net income of \$3,209,000, non-cash expenses for depreciation and amortization of \$310,000, deferred taxes of \$1,692,000, and stock-based compensation of \$374,000, in addition to changes in operating assets and liabilities providing cash. Changes in operating assets and liabilities providing cash include decreases in accounts receivable and inventory of \$4,408,000 and \$771,000, respectively, and an increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses of \$223,000. Accounts receivable balances can be influenced by the timing of shipments for customer projects and payment terms. The decrease in accounts receivable was primarily a result of significant payments received in the first quarter from one customer with a large balance at September 30, 2013, resulting in a substantially lower receivable balance at March 31, 2014. The decrease in inventory reflects the fulfillment of orders that were in the Company's backlog as of September 30, 2013 and also represents an adjustment for seasonal demand along with changes in stocking levels for product development life cycles. The increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses primarily reflects a reclassification from accounts receivable of \$2,660,000 to accrued rebates for customers with rebate terms as rebates owed exceeded the related accounts receivable balances as of March 31, 2014. The change in accounts payable and accrued expenses also reflects a decrease related to the fiscal 2013 accrued bonus compensation accruals of approximately \$2,691,000 which were paid during the first quarter of fiscal 2014. Changes in working capital items using cash include an increase in prepaid expenses and other of \$661,000, primarily related to deposits on inventory and capital equipment expected to be put into production during fiscal 2014.

## Investing Activities

We invest our excess cash in money market accounts and bank CDs in denominations across numerous banks. We believe we obtain a competitive rate of return given the economic climate along with the security provided by the FDIC on these investments. During the six months ended March 31, 2015, we used cash to purchase \$4,168,000 of FDIC-backed securities and received \$4,166,000 on CDs that matured. Purchases of capital equipment and patents consumed \$3,329,000 of cash. This consisted primarily of \$3,027,000 in leasehold improvements and office equipment for the build out of our new facility which was completed in the second quarter.

During the six months ended March 31, 2014, we used cash to purchase \$7,411,000 of FDIC-backed securities and received \$4,667,000 on CDs that matured. Purchases of patent fees and capital equipment, mainly information technology and manufacturing equipment, consumed \$332,000 of cash.

## Financing Activities

For the six months ended March 31, 2015, we received \$106,000 from employees' participation and purchase of stock through our ESPP and \$29,000 from the issuance of stock as a result of employees exercising options. For the six months ended March 31, 2015, we used \$849,000 to repurchase our common stock. As of March 31, 2015, we had

the authority to purchase approximately \$7,151,000 in additional shares under the repurchase program announced on November 13, 2014.

For the six months ended March 31, 2014, we received \$90,000 from employees' participation and purchase of stock through our ESPP. We received \$101,000 from the issuance of stock as a result of employees exercising options, and used \$129,000 to pay for taxes for employees who elected to tender shares to satisfy tax withholding obligations upon exercise of stock options.

## CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

Management utilizes its technical knowledge, cumulative business experience, judgment and other factors in the selection and application of the Company's accounting policies. The accounting policies considered by management to be the most critical to the presentation of the financial statements because they require the most difficult, subjective and complex judgments include revenue recognition, stock based compensation, deferred tax asset valuation allowances, accruals for uncertain tax positions, and impairment of goodwill and long-lived assets.

These accounting policies are described in Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2014. Management made no changes to the Company's critical accounting policies during the quarter ended March 31, 2015.

In applying its critical accounting policies, management reassesses its estimates each reporting period based on available information. Changes in these estimates did not have a significant impact on earnings for the quarter ended March 31, 2015.

## ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Not applicable.

## ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

### Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

The Company's management carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and the Company's Chief Financial Officer of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) as of March 31, 2015. Based upon that evaluation, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and the Company's Chief Financial Officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

### Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There were no changes to the Company's internal control over financial reporting, as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, that occurred during the quarter ended March 31, 2015 that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

## PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

### ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Company is exposed to a number of asserted and unasserted legal claims encountered in the ordinary course of business. Although the outcome of any such legal action cannot be predicted, management believes that there are no pending legal proceedings against or involving the Company for which the outcome is likely to have a material adverse effect upon its financial position or results of operations.

### ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

The most significant risk factors applicable to the Company are described in Part I, Item 1A “Risk Factors” of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2014. There have been no material changes from the risk factors previously disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K.

## ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

In the three months ending March 31, 2015, the Company repurchased shares of stock as follows:

| ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES |   |                                    |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Period                                | Total<br>Number<br>of Shares<br>Purchased | Average<br>Price Paid<br>per Share | Total Number<br>of<br>Shares<br>Purchased as<br>Part<br>of Publicly<br>Announced<br>Plans<br>or Programs | Approximate<br>Dollar Value<br>of Shares that<br>May Yet Be<br>Purchased<br>Under the<br>Program (1) |
| January 1-31, 2015                    | 57,682                                    | \$ 11.77                           | 57,682   | \$ 7,150,843   |
| February 1-28, 2015                   | 3,713                                     | 13.33                              | —  | —  |
| March 1-31, 2015                      | —   | —                                  | —  | —  |
| Total                                 | 61,395                                    | \$ 11.87                           | 57,682   | \$ 7,150,843   |

(1) Amount remaining from the \$8,000,000 repurchase authorization approved by the Company's Board of Directors in November 2014. The program does not obligate Clearfield to repurchase any particular amount of common stock during any period. The repurchase will be funded by cash on hand. The repurchase program is expected to continue indefinitely until the maximum dollar amount of shares has been repurchased or until the repurchase program is earlier modified, suspended or terminated by the Board of Directors.

In the three months ending March 31, 2015, the Company repurchased a total of 3,713 shares that were owned by employees and delivered to the Company to pay for the exercise price of employee stock options. The Company may also repurchase shares of our common stock in connection with payment of taxes upon vesting of restricted stock previously issued to employees. There were no such repurchases during the quarter ended March 31, 2015.

## ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

## ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

## ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

## ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

Exhibit 31.1 – Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) of the Exchange Act

Exhibit 31.2 – Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) of the Exchange Act

Exhibit 32.1 – Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §1350



SIGNATURES

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

CLEARFIELD, INC.

April 29, 2015

/s/ Cheryl P. Beranek  
By: Cheryl P. Beranek  
Its: President and Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

April 29, 2015

/s/ Daniel Herzog  
By: Daniel Herzog  
Its: Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)