

CYANOTECH CORP  
Form DEF 14A  
July 16, 2003

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

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

CYANOTECH CORPORATION

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(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11
  - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:  

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

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(3) Filing Party:

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(4) Date Filed:

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**CYANOTECH CORPORATION**

73-4460 Queen Kaahumanu Hwy., Suite 102  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
(808) 326-1353

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**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

To be held Thursday, August 21, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. Hawaii Standard Time

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To Our Stockholders:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2003 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") of Cyanotech Corporation, a Nevada corporation ("Cyanotech" or the "Company") to be held on Thursday, August 21, 2003 at 7:00 P.M., Hawaii Standard Time, at the King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel, 75-5660 Palani Road, Kailua Kona, Hawaii, for the following purposes:

1. To elect six directors to serve until the next Annual Meeting or until their successors are elected and qualified;
2. To ratify the selection of KPMG LLP as the Company's independent auditors for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004; and
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.
- 4.

These matters are more fully described in the Proxy Statement accompanying this notice.

In addition to the formal items of business, Cyanotech will review the major developments and accomplishments of fiscal 2003 and answer appropriate questions that you may have about Cyanotech and its activities.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on June 20, 2003 as the record date (the "Record Date") for Stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and any adjournment thereof. The stock transfer books will not be closed between the Record Date and Annual Meeting. Only stockholders of record at the Record Date are entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting; however, all

stockholders are cordially invited to attend the meeting.

**It is important that your shares be represented at the meeting. Please sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed envelope, even if you plan to attend the meeting. If you do attend the meeting, you may personally vote, which will revoke your signed proxy. You may also revoke your proxy at any time before the meeting by following the instructions in the Proxy Statement.**

Thank you for your ongoing support and continued interest in Cyanotech. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Jeffrey H. Sakamoto  
Secretary

Kailua-Kona, Hawaii  
July 15, 2003

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**Stockholders Should Read the Entire Proxy Statement  
Carefully Prior to Returning Their Proxies**

**PROXY STATEMENT  
FOR  
ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF  
CYANOTECH CORPORATION  
To Be Held Thursday, August 21, 2003**

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of CYANOTECH CORPORATION ("Company" or "Cyanotech") of proxies to be voted at the 2003 Annual Meeting of Stockholders which will be held at 7:00 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time, on Thursday, August 21, 2003 at the King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel, 75-5660 Palani Road, Kailua Kona, Hawaii, or at any adjournment or postponement thereof, for the purposes set forth in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders. This Proxy Statement and the proxy card were first mailed to stockholders on or about July 18, 2003.

The Company's principal executive offices are located at 73-4460 Queen Kaahumanu Highway, Suite 102, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740.

**VOTING RIGHTS AND SOLICITATION**

The enclosed proxy is being solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors of Cyanotech for use at the Annual Meeting.

The close of business on June 20, 2003 is the record date for stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting. All holders of the Company's Common Stock outstanding on the record date are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. Each stockholder has one vote for each share so held. At June 20, 2003, Cyanotech had 18,316,701 shares of Common Stock, \$.005 par value per share, issued and outstanding. The presence in person or by proxy of the holders of record of a majority of the voting power of the outstanding shares entitled to vote constitutes a quorum. A majority of the voting power at a meeting at which a quorum is present, is required for approval of all matters to be voted on. Abstentions are counted only for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present. Broker non-votes are not treated as votes nor are they counted in determining the existence of a quorum.

Shares represented by proxies in the accompanying form which are properly executed and returned to Cyanotech will be voted at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the stockholders' instructions contained therein. In the absence of contrary instructions, shares represented by such proxies will be voted FOR the election of each of the directors as described herein under "Proposal One Election of Directors," and FOR ratification of the selection of accountants as described herein under "Proposal Two Ratification of Selection of Independent Auditor." Management does not know of any matters to be presented at this Annual Meeting other than those set forth in this Proxy Statement and in the Notice accompanying this Proxy Statement. If other matters should properly come before the meeting, the proxy holders will vote on such matters in accordance with their best judgment.

The entire cost of soliciting the proxies will be borne by Cyanotech. Proxies will be solicited principally through the use of the mails, but, if deemed desirable, may be solicited personally or by telephone, e-mail, facsimile or letter by officers and regular Cyanotech employees who will receive no additional compensation. Arrangements may be made with brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries to send proxies and proxy material to the beneficial owners of the Company's Common Stock, and such persons may be reimbursed for their expenses.

**REVOCABILITY OF PROXIES**

Any person giving a proxy pursuant to this solicitation has the power to revoke it at any time before it is voted. It may be revoked by filing with the Secretary of the Company at the Company's principal executive office, 73-4460 Queen Kaahumanu Hwy., Suite 102, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740, a

written notice of revocation or a duly executed proxy bearing a later date, or it may be revoked by attending the meeting, notifying the Secretary of the Meeting of the revocation of the prior proxy, and voting in person. Attendance at the meeting will not, by itself, revoke a proxy.

**STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS**

Information about stockholder proposals intended to be considered at the 2004 Annual Meeting of Stockholders must be received by the Company no later than March 10, 2004. In addition, if a stockholder proposal is not submitted to the Company prior to May 24, 2004, the proxy to be solicited by the Board of Directors for the 2004 Annual Meeting of Stockholders will confer authority on the holders of the proxy to vote the shares in accordance with their best judgment and discretion when such proposal is presented at the 2004 Annual Meeting of Stockholders without any discussion of the proposal in the proxy statement for such meeting. The stockholder proposal must be mailed to the Company's principal executive offices, 73-4460 Queen Kaahumanu Hwy., Suite 102, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740, Attention: Corporate Secretary. Such proposals may be included in next year's proxy statement if they comply with certain rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC").

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**PROPOSAL ONE:  
ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

**Board Nominees**

A board of six (6) directors are to be elected at the meeting. Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy holders will vote the proxies received by them **FOR** the election of the six Board nominees named below, all of whom are presently directors of the Company. Each nominee has consented to be named a nominee in this Proxy Statement and to continue to serve as a director if elected. If any nominee becomes unable or declines to serve as a director or if additional persons are nominated at the meeting, the proxy holders intend to vote all proxies received by them in such a manner as will assure the election of as many nominees listed below as possible (or, if new nominees have been designated by the Board of Directors, in such a manner as to elect such nominees) and the specific nominees to be voted for will be determined by the proxy holders. The Company is not aware of any reason that any nominee will be unable or will decline to serve as a director. Each director elected at this Annual Meeting will serve until the next Annual Meeting or until such director's successor has been elected and qualified. Voting for the election of directors is non-cumulative.

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the nominees for election to the Board of Directors, all of whom were elected at the last annual meeting except Mr. Davis.

| <b>Name</b>               | <b>Principal Occupation</b>                                                                  | <b>Director Since</b> | <b>Age</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Gerald R. Cysewski, Ph.D. | Chairman of the Board,<br>President and Chief<br>Executive Officer,<br>Cyanotech Corporation | 1983                  | 54         |
| Michael A. Davis          | Private investor                                                                             | March 2003            | 50         |
| David I. Rosenthal        | Executive Vice President,                                                                    | 2000                  | 48         |

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| Name                | Principal Occupation                                                                                       | Director Since | Age |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----|
|                     | Chief Financial Officer<br>StarTek, Inc. (provider of<br>customized outsourcing services)                  |                |     |
| Ronald P. Scott     | Financial Consultant                                                                                       | 1995           | 48  |
| John T. Waldron     | Adjunct Professor of Marketing<br>Lake Forest Graduate School of<br>Management (private college)           | 1998           | 51  |
| Paul C. Yuen, Ph.D. | Retired, formerly Dean,<br>College of Engineering,<br>University of Hawaii at Manoa<br>(public university) | 1993           | 75  |

Dr. Cysewski co-founded the Company in 1983 and has served as a director of the Company since that time. Until June 1996, he also served as Scientific Director. Since March 1990, Dr. Cysewski has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company and in October 1990 was also appointed to the position of Chairman of the Board. From 1988 to November 1990, he served as Vice Chairman of the Company. From 1980 to 1982, Dr. Cysewski was Group Leader of Microalgae Research and Development at Battelle Northwest, a major contract research and development firm. From 1976 to 1980, Dr. Cysewski was an assistant professor in the Department of Chemical and Nuclear Engineering at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he received a two-year grant

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from the National Science Foundation to develop a culture system for blue-green algae. Dr. Cysewski received his doctorate in Chemical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley.

Mr. Davis was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Company in March 2003 subsequent to his acquisition of \$1,250,000 of subordinated convertible debentures of the Company in September 2002. Mr. Davis is a Principal at Ebb and Flow Ventures, a private equity firm; President of Skywords Family Foundation and a Director of Athena Root, Inc. and Canobie Films, Inc. Mr. Davis attended Harvard University and presently resides in San Francisco, California.

Mr. Rosenthal was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Company in November 2000. Mr. Rosenthal is currently the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of StarTek, Inc., a provider of customized outsourcing services. Previously, Mr. Rosenthal was acting Chief Financial Officer at Celestial Seasoning, Inc. until its merger with the Hain Food Group in 2000. Prior to joining Celestial Seasonings, he was the Chief Financial Officer of Hauser, Inc., a manufacturer of natural extracts products, from 1994 to 1999. Before 1994, Mr. Rosenthal held senior financial management positions in public and private high technology companies, including Tandem Computers and Octel Communication Corporation. Mr. Rosenthal holds a B.S. degree in Accounting from the University of California at Berkeley and a M.B.A. degree from California State University, Hayward. Mr. Rosenthal is also a Certified Public Accountant.

Mr. Scott is currently a financial consultant. Prior to his resignation in March 2003, Mr. Scott served as Executive Vice President Finance & Administration of Cyanotech Corporation from August 1995 through February 2003 and, prior to 1995, as Vice President Finance & Administration from 1990 to 1995. Mr. Scott was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Company in November 1995. Mr. Scott holds a B.S. degree in Finance and Management from California State University, San Jose, and an M.B.A. degree from the University of Santa Clara.

Mr. Waldron is currently Adjunct Professor of Marketing at the Lake Forest Graduate School of Management in Lake Forest, Illinois. Prior to his resignation in May 1999, Mr. Waldron was Executive Vice President for Takeda U.S.A. and was responsible for the sales and marketing of Takeda's bulk vitamin and fine chemical products in the North American market. From 1986 until 1995, Mr. Waldron was Vice President, Sales and Marketing for Takeda U.S.A. and Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing from 1996 until June 1997, when he was appointed to the position of Executive Vice President. Mr. Waldron was also on the Board of Directors of Takeda U.S.A. from 1993 to 1999, and served as a member of its Executive Committee and Compensation Committee. Mr. Waldron holds a Master of Management degree from Northwestern University's J. L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

Dr. Yuen has served as a director of the Company since August 1993. Prior to his retirement in September 1999, Dr. Yuen served as Dean, College of Engineering for the University of Hawaii at Manoa. From July 1992 to March 1993, Dr. Yuen was Acting President of the University of Hawaii. From 1989 to 1992, Dr. Yuen was Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Hawaii at Manoa. Dr. Yuen holds M.S.

and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

**The Board of Directors recommends that the stockholders vote FOR all of the above named director nominees.**

#### **BOARD MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES**

The Board of Directors of the Company held eleven regular meetings in fiscal 2003. No incumbent director attended less than 75% of the combined meetings of the Board of Directors and of the committees, if any, upon which such director served.

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The Board of Directors of the Company has an Audit Committee and a Compensation and Stock Option Committee. The Board of Directors does not have a standing nominating committee.

The Audit Committee, which consisted of non-employee directors David I. Rosenthal (chair), John T. Waldron and Paul C. Yuen, held three regularly scheduled meetings during fiscal year 2003. The functions of the Audit Committee are set forth in the Audit Committee Charter adopted by the Board of Directors, a copy of which was attached as Appendix A to the Company's 2001 Proxy.

The Compensation and Stock Option Committee, which consisted during fiscal 2003 of non-employee directors John T. Waldron (chair), Eric H. Reichl (who is retiring as a director on August 21, 2003) and David I. Rosenthal held one regularly scheduled meeting during fiscal year 2003. The Compensation and Stock Option Committee reviews and makes recommendations to the Board concerning the Company's executive compensation policy, bonus plans and incentive option plans, and approves the grants of stock options to officers, employees and consultants.

#### **DIRECTOR REMUNERATION**

Each non-employee director receives \$500 per Board meeting attended in person and is reimbursed for all out-of-pocket costs incurred in connection with attendance at such meetings. In addition, each non-employee director is entitled at first election, pursuant to the Company's 1994 Non-Employee Directors Stock Option and Stock Grant Plan (the "Non-Employee Directors Plan"), to receive a 10-year option to purchase 3,000 shares of the Company's Common Stock, and thereafter a grant of 2,000 shares of Common Stock each year that are non-transferable for six months following the date of such grant. On the date of the 2002 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, Eric H. Reichl (who is retiring as a director on August 21, 2003), David I. Rosenthal, Paul C. Yuen and John T. Waldron each received grants of 2,000 shares of Common Stock. On the date of the 2003 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, each non-employee director continuing as a director will receive, under the Non-Employee Directors Plan, an automatic grant of 2,000 shares of fully paid and non-assessable shares of Common Stock except Mr. Davis who will receive a 10-year option to purchase 3,000 shares of the Company's Common Stock.

#### **PROPOSAL TWO:**

##### **RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR**

The firm of KPMG LLP has served as independent auditor for the Company since 1987. The Board of Directors has selected the firm to continue in this capacity for the current fiscal year ending March 31, 2004. A representative of KPMG LLP is expected to attend the annual meeting with the opportunity to make a statement and to respond to appropriate questions from stockholders present at the meeting.

Although it is not required to do so, the Company wishes to provide stockholders with the opportunity to indicate their approval of the selection of auditors and accordingly is submitting a proposal to ratify the selection of KPMG LLP. If the stockholders should fail to approve this proposal, the Board of Directors will consider the selection of another auditing firm.

A majority of the shares of the Common Stock cast at a meeting at which a quorum is present, is required for approval of the proposal.

**The Board of Directors recommends that stockholders vote FOR ratification of KPMG LLP to serve as the Company's independent auditors for the year ending March 31, 2004.**

**COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 16(a) OF THE EXCHANGE ACT**

Section 16(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), requires the Company's directors, executive officers, and beneficial owners of more than 10% of a registered class of the Company's equity securities, (collectively "Insiders") to file reports with the SEC and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. disclosing direct and indirect ownership of Common Stock and other equity securities of the Company and reports of changes in such ownership. Insiders are required by SEC regulation to provide the Company with copies of all Section 16(a) forms filed with the SEC. Based solely on review of copies of Section 16(a) reports received by the Company, and written representations that no other reports were required by the SEC, the Company believes Insiders have complied with all Section 16(a) filing requirements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2003 except that Jeffrey H. Sakamoto (Vice President, Finance and Administration and Secretary) failed to file with the SEC Form 3, the initial statement of beneficial ownership on a timely basis when he was elected an officer of the Company in March 2003.

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**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth information regarding the beneficial ownership of the Company's Common Stock as of June 20, 2003 by (i) each person who is known by the Company to own beneficially more than 5% of the outstanding shares of the Common Stock of the Company and Common Stock equivalents, (ii) each of the Company's executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table appearing herein, (iii) each director and (iv) all directors and executive officers as a group. The following table sets forth what such persons' beneficial security ownership position would be assuming the exercise of all outstanding stock options and warrants, exercisable on the date hereof or within 60 days of June 20, 2003. All shares shown are subject to the named person's sole voting and investment power.

| Name and Address                                                | Shares<br>Beneficially<br>Owned | Approximate<br>Percent Owned (1) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Gerald R. Cysewski (2)                                          | 495,233(3)                      | 2.4                              |
| Michael A. Davis (2)                                            | 3,148,076(4)                    | 14.2                             |
| David I. Rosenthal (2)                                          | 5,000(5)                        | *                                |
| Ronald P. Scott (2)                                             | 52,075                          | *                                |
| John T. Waldron (2)                                             | 54,952(6)                       | *                                |
| Paul C. Yuen (2)                                                | 37,800                          | *                                |
| All directors and executive officers<br>as a group (10 persons) | 3,912,336(7)                    | 17.6                             |

\* Less than 1.0%

- (1) Approximate percentage owned assumes the conversion of \$1,250,000 of Convertible Subordinated Debentures into 1,923,076 shares of Common Stock (for a total of 20,239,777 shares of Common Stock and Common Stock equivalents at June 20, 2003.)
- (2) Address is c/o Cyanotech Corporation, 73-4460 Queen Kaahumanu Hwy., Suite 102, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740.

- (3) Includes options exercisable within 60 days of June 20, 2003 for 40,625 shares of Common Stock.
- (4) Includes 1,923,076 shares of Common Stock which are issuable upon conversion of \$1,250,000 of Convertible Subordinated Debentures. Mr. Davis controls 100% of the Convertible Subordinated Debentures.
- (5) Includes options exercisable within 60 days of June 20, 2003 for 3,000 shares of Common Stock.
- (6) Includes options exercisable within 60 days of June 20, 2003 for 6,096 shares of Common Stock.
- (7) Includes options exercisable within 60 days of June 20, 2003 for 129,471 shares of Common Stock and conversion of \$1,250,000 of Convertible Subordinated Debentures into 1,923,076 shares of Common Stock.

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**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION**

No current member of the Company's Compensation and Stock Option Committee is a current or former officer or employee of the Company or its subsidiaries and no executive officer of the Company was a member of the Compensation Committee of any corporation of which a member of the Company's Compensation and Stock Option Committee is an executive officer.

**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION AND OTHER INFORMATION**

The following table sets forth the compensation paid or accrued by the Company to the Chief Executive Officer and all executive officers of the Company who earned more than \$100,000 for services rendered in all capacities to the Company (hereinafter referred to as the "named executive officers") for the fiscal years ended March 31, 2003, 2002, and 2001. In February 2003, Ronald P. Scott resigned from his position as Executive Vice President Finance & Administration, effective March 7, 2003. No executive officers who would have otherwise been included in such tables on the basis of salary and bonus earned for fiscal 2003 have resigned or terminated employment during the fiscal year.

**SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE**

| Name and Principal Position                                                              | Fiscal Year | Annual Compensation |       | Long-Term Compensation Awards                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                          |             | Salary              | Bonus | Shares of Common Stock underlying Options(#) |
| Gerald R. Cysewski<br>Chairman of the Board,<br>President and Chief<br>Executive Officer | 2003        | \$ 110,000          | \$ 0  | 12,500                                       |
|                                                                                          | 2002        | 110,000             | 0     | 12,500                                       |
|                                                                                          | 2001        | 113,808             | 0     | 25,000                                       |
| Ronald P. Scott(1)<br>Executive Vice President,<br>Finance and Administration            | 2003        | \$ 103,846          | \$ 0  | 12,500                                       |
|                                                                                          | 2002        | 100,000             | 0     | 12,500                                       |
|                                                                                          | 2001        | 103,461             | 0     | 25,000                                       |

(1)



Resigned as an officer of the Company in February 2003. His salary for such year includes accrued vacation pay.

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### EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION

We maintain two equity compensation plans, the 1995 Stock Option Plan ("1995 Plan"), approved by the stockholders which reserves a total of 800,000 shares of common stock. The 1995 Plan provides for the issuance of both incentive and non-qualified stock options. Options are to be granted at, or above, the fair market value of the Company's common stock at the date of grant and generally become exercisable over a five-year period. The Company also has a Non-employee Director Stock Option and Stock Grant Plan, approved by the stockholders in 1994 (the "1994 Plan") which reserves a total of 100,000 shares of common stock for issuance under the Plan. Under the 1994 Plan, and upon election to the Board of Directors, non-employee directors are granted a ten-year option to purchase 3,000 shares of the Company's common stock at its fair market value on the date of grant. In addition, on the date of each Annual Meeting of Stockholders in each year that the 1994 plan is in effect, each non-employee director continuing in office will be automatically granted, without payment, 2,000 shares of common stock that is non-transferable for six months following the date of grant.

The following table contains information concerning the grant of stock options made under the 1995 Plan for the 2003 fiscal year to the named executive officers. No stock appreciation rights ("SARs") have been granted under the 1995 Plan.

| Name               | Shares Underlying Options Granted(1) | % of Total Options Granted to Employees in Fiscal Year | Exercise Price Per Share | Expiration Date | Potential Realized Value at Assumed Annual Rates of Stock Price Appreciation For Option Term |          |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
|                    |                                      |                                                        |                          |                 | 5%                                                                                           | 10%      |
| Gerald R. Cysewski | 12,500                               | 9.0%                                                   | \$ .60                   | 8/23/07         | \$ 2,070                                                                                     | \$ 4,583 |
| Ronald P. Scott(2) | 12,500                               | 9.0%                                                   | \$ .60                   | 8/23/07         | \$ 2,070                                                                                     | \$ 4,583 |

- (1) The options were granted under the 1995 Plan on August 23, 2002, and are exercisable in four equal and cumulative annual installments over the optionee's period of service with the Company, beginning one year after the grant date. The option has a term of five (5) years.
- (2) As a result of Mr. Scott's resignation, all options granted to him were cancelled 90 days after the effective date of his resignation (March 7, 2003), pursuant to the terms of the Company's 1995 Plan.

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### AGGREGATED OPTION EXERCISES IN LAST FISCAL YEAR AND FISCAL YEAR-END OPTION VALUES

The following table provides information with respect to the named executive officers concerning the exercise of options during the 2003 fiscal year and the number and value of unexercised options held at year end. No SARs have been granted under the 1995 Plan.

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| Name                | Shares Acquired on Exercise | Value Realized | Number of Shares of Common Stock Underlying Unexercised Options at FY-End (#) |               | Value of Unexercised In-the-Money Options at FY-End \$(1) |               |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
|                     | (#)                         | (\$)           | Exercisable                                                                   | Unexercisable | Exercisable                                               | Unexercisable |
| Gerald R. Cysewski  | 0                           | \$0            | 49,375                                                                        | 40,625        | \$0                                                       | \$0           |
| Ronald P. Scott (2) | 0                           | \$0            | 49,375                                                                        | 40,625        | \$0                                                       | \$0           |

(1) Market value of shares covered by in-the-money options on March 31, 2003 (\$.48), less the option exercise price. Options are in-the-money if the market value of the shares covered thereby is greater than the option exercise price.

(2) As a result of Mr. Scott's resignation, all options granted to him were cancelled 90 days after the effective date of his resignation (March 7, 2003), pursuant to the terms of the Company's 1995 Plan.

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**Report of the Compensation and Stock Option Committee of the Board of Directors**

The Compensation and Stock Option Committee of the Board of Directors (the "Committee") is composed of two or more non-employee directors. During fiscal 2003 the Committee was composed of John T. Waldron (chair), Eric H. Reichl (who is retiring as a director on August 21, 2003) and Paul C. Yuen.

The Committee is responsible for setting and administering the compensation policies, annual executive officers' compensation, making recommendations on potential bonus and stock option plans, granting bonuses and recommending to the Board of Directors grants of stock options to executive officers.

**Compensation Philosophy**

The goals of the compensation program are to align compensation with business objectives and performance, and to enable the Company to attract, motivate and retain executives of outstanding ability, potential, and drive commensurate with the size and development requirements of the Company. Key elements of this philosophy are:

The Company pays competitively with comparable small companies with which the Company competes for talent. To ensure that pay is competitive, the Company compares its pay practices with these companies and sets its pay parameters based in part on this review.

The Company maintains annual incentive opportunities sufficient to provide motivation to achieve specific operating goals and to generate rewards that bring total compensation to competitive levels.

The Company provides significant equity-based incentives for executives to ensure that they are motivated over the long term to respond to the Company's business challenges.

The Committee endeavors to balance Company needs and values with the employees' needs and believes that it is important that the Committee maintain this relationship.

### **Cash Compensation**

**Base Salary.** The base salaries of the executive officers are determined initially on the basis of one or more salary surveys conducted by third parties as well as surveys of biopharmaceutical companies both nationally and more specifically in the Western United States obtained from public information such as filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Based on such surveys, the executive officers' salaries are set within the ranges of the surveys targeted at the median; the exact level is determined after the Committee considers the experience and capability of the executive officer, the level of responsibility, and the needs of the Company.

**Incentive Bonus Compensation.** The Committee believes that, as a general rule, annual compensation in excess of base salaries should be dependent on the employee's performance and the Company's performance, and should be awarded based on recommendations of the Committee, and in the discretion of the Board. Accordingly, at the beginning of each fiscal year, the Committee establishes a Management Incentive Plan for executive officers and other key management personnel under which executive officers and other key management personnel may earn bonuses, in amounts ranging up to 100% of the annual salaries, provided the Company achieves or exceeds the pre-tax net income goal established for the year.

The net income goal is established in part on the basis of an annual operating plan developed by management and approved by the Board of Directors. The annual operating plan is designed to maximize profitability, within the constraints of economic and competitive conditions, some of which are outside the control of the Company, and is developed on the basis of: (I) the Company's

performance in the prior year; (ii) estimates of sales revenue for the plan year based upon recent market conditions and trends and other factors which, based on historical experience, are expected to affect the level of sales that can be achieved; (iii) historical operating cost and cost savings that management believes can be achieved; and (iv) competitive conditions faced by the Company. Taking all of these factors into account, as part of the operating plan, bonus awards are determined under the Management Incentive Plan, and are fixed at what is believed to be a realistic level so as to make the incentives meaningful to executives and to avoid penalizing executives and other key management personnel for conditions outside of their control.

In certain instances, bonuses under the Management Incentive Plan are awarded not only on the basis of the Company's overall profitability, but also on the achievement by an executive of specific objectives within his or her area of responsibility. For example, a bonus may be awarded for an executive's efforts in achieving greater than anticipated cost savings, or establishing new or expanded markets for the Company's products. Typically, the maximum bonus that may be awarded for achievement of specific objectives is determined at the beginning of the year to provide the requisite incentive for such performance.

As a result of this performance-based Management Incentive Plan, executive compensation, and the proportion of each executive's total cash compensation that is represented by incentive or bonus income, increases in those years in which the Company achieves the anticipated level of growth and profitability. On the other hand, in years in which the Company experiences less than anticipated profit growth, bonuses, and therefore also total executive compensation, should tend to be lower.

### **Long-Term Equity-Based Compensation**

The Committee intends to make stock option grants on an annual basis. Each grant is designed to align the interests of the executive officers with those of the stockholders and provide each individual with a significant incentive to manage the Company from the perspective of an owner with an equity stake in the business. Each grant generally allows the executive officer to acquire shares of the Company's Common Stock at a fixed price per share (usually the market price on the grant date) over a specified period of time (up to 10 years), thus providing a return to the executive officer only if he or she remains in the employ of the Company and the market price of the shares appreciate over the option term. The size of the option grant to each executive officer generally is set at a level that is intended to create a meaningful opportunity for stock ownership based upon the individual's current position with the Company, but also taken into account are the size of comparable awards made to individuals in similar positions in the industry as reflected in external surveys, the individual's potential for future responsibility and promotion over the option term, the individual's personal performance in recent periods and the number of options held by the individual at the time of grant. Generally, as an executive officer's level of responsibility increases, a greater portion of his or her total compensation will be dependent upon Company performance and stock price appreciation rather than base salary. The relative weight given to these factors varies with each individual, in the sole discretion of the Committee.

### Chief Executive Officer's Compensation

The Committee uses the same philosophy and procedures described above with respect to the other executive officers in setting the cash compensation and equity incentives for the Chief Executive Officer.

The compensation payable to Dr. Cysewski, the Company's Chief Executive Officer in fiscal 2003, was determined by the Committee. Dr. Cysewski's base salary was set at a level which the Board felt would be competitive with the base salary levels in effect for chief executive officers at similarly-sized companies within the industry. Based on Dr. Cysewski's performance and on the compensation policy summarized in this report, the Compensation Committee decided that Dr. Cysewski's salary would remain unchanged at \$110,000.

Dr. Cysewski was a participant in the Company's 2003 Management Incentive Plan as described above. During fiscal 2003, the Company did not achieve the annual operating plan targets. As a result, no cash bonus was awarded to Dr. Cysewski.

Dr. Cysewski received a grant of an option to purchase 12,500 shares of Common Stock in fiscal 2003 based on his position as President and Chief Executive Officer, and the desire to provide him with a continuing economic interest in the long term appreciation of the Company's Common Stock.

Submitted by the Compensation and Stock Option Committee of the Company's Board of Directors.

John T. Waldron, Chairman  
Eric H. Reichl  
Paul C. Yuen

*The material in this Compensation and Stock Option Committee Report and the following Report of the Audit Committee, and the accompanying Stockholder Return Performance Graph are not "soliciting material," and are not deemed "filed" with the SEC or subject to the SEC's proxy rules or to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, and are not to be incorporated by reference in any filing of the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), or the Exchange Act, as amended, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language in such filing.*

### Report of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee, which met three times in fiscal 2003, has reviewed and discussed the Company's audited financial statements with management. The Audit Committee has discussed with KPMG LLP, the Company's independent accountants, the matters required to be discussed by Statement of Auditing Standards No. 61, "Communication with Audit Committees," which includes, among other items, matters related to the conduct of the audit of the Company's financial statements. The Audit Committee has also received written disclosures and the letter from KPMG LLP required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1, which relates to the accountants' independence from the Company and its related entities, and has discussed with KPMG LLP their independence from the Company.

The Audit Committee is governed by the Audit Committee Charter adopted by the Board of Directors, a copy of which was attached as Appendix A to the 2001 Proxy Statement of the Company. Pursuant to the Charter, the Audit Committee has the following primary responsibilities:

- 1) Review the performance of the independent auditors and make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the appointment or termination of the independent auditors;
- 2)

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Confer annually with the independent auditors concerning the scope of their examinations of the books and records of the Company and its subsidiaries; reviewing and approving the independent auditors' annual engagement letter, and authorizing the independent auditors' to perform such supplemental reviews or audits as the Committee may deem desirable;

- 3) Review the range and cost of audit and non-audit services performed by the independent auditors;
- 4) Review the Company's audited financial statements and the independent auditors' opinion rendered with respect to such financial statements, including reviewing the nature and extent of any significant changes in accounting principles or the application thereof;
- 5) Review the adequacy of the Company's systems of internal controls.

Each of the members of the Audit Committee qualifies as an "independent" Director under the current listing standards of the National Association of Securities Dealers.

The firm of KPMG LLP served as the Company's independent auditor for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2003. As stated in Proposal Two, the Board has selected KPMG LLP to serve as the Company's independent auditor for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2004.

Audit services provided by KPMG LLP consisted of the examination of the Company's annual financial statements and services related to filings with the SEC as well as their review of the Company's quarterly financial statements. All fees paid to KPMG LLP were reviewed and considered for independence by the Audit Committee.

Based on the review and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Company's Board of Directors that the Company's audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report of Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2003.

AUDIT COMMITTEE  
David I. Rosenthal, Chairman  
John T. Waldron  
Paul C. Yuen

### **Independent Auditor's Fees**

#### **Audit Fees**

The aggregate fees billed by KPMG LLP for professional services rendered for the audit of the Company's annual financial statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2003 and 2002 were \$72,100 and \$66,600, respectively.

#### **Audit Related Fees**

The aggregate fees billed by KPMG LLP for audit related services for the year ended March 31, 2003 were \$11,000. Audit related services consisted primarily of review of registration statements and issuance of consents. There were no fees billed by KPMG LLP for audit related services for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2002.

#### **Financial Information Systems Design and Implementation Fees**

There were no fees billed by KPMG LLP for professional services rendered for information technology services relating to financial information systems design and implementation for the fiscal years ended March 31, 2003 and 2002.

#### **All Other Fees**

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The aggregate fees billed by KPMG LLP for services to the Company, other than the services described above under "Audit Fees" and "Audit Related Fees" for the fiscal years ended March 31, 2003 and 2002, were \$6,900 and \$14,700, respectively. These amount consist primarily of a) tax related fees during fiscal 2003 and b) tax related fees and international tax and consulting services related to Cyanotech Japan YK during fiscal 2002.

The Audit Committee has considered whether the provision of all other services by the Company's auditor is compatible with maintaining independence. See "Report of the Audit Committee."

The representative of KPMG LLP is expected to attend the 2003 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, and will have an opportunity to make a statement and to respond to appropriate questions from Stockholders.

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### STOCKHOLDER RETURN PERFORMANCE GRAPH

The following graph sets forth the Corporation's total cumulative stockholder return as compared to the NASDAQ Composite U.S. Index and the NASDAQ Pharmaceutical index for the period beginning March 31, 1998 and ending March 31, 2003. Total stockholder return assumes \$100.00 invested at the beginning of the period in the Common Stock of the Corporation, the stocks represented in the NASDAQ Composite U.S. Index and the NASDAQ Pharmaceutical Index, respectively. Total return assumes reinvestment of dividends; the Corporation has paid no dividends on its Common Stock. Historical price performance should not be relied upon as indicative of future performance.

|      | <u>Cyanotech Corporation</u> | <u>Nasdaq Composite</u> | <u>Nasdaq Pharmaceutical Index</u> |
|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3/98 | \$ 100                       | \$ 100                  | \$ 100                             |

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|      | Cyanotech<br>Corporation | Nasdaq<br>Composite | Nasdaq<br>Pharmaceutical<br>Index |
|------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3/99 | 29                       | 135                 | 127                               |
| 3/00 | 73                       | 251                 | 267                               |
| 3/01 | 30                       | 101                 | 201                               |
| 3/02 | 31                       | 101                 | 207                               |
| 3/03 | 14                       | 74                  | 162                               |

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**OTHER MATTERS**

At the date of this Proxy Statement, the Board of Directors does not know of any business to be presented for consideration at the meeting other than those set forth herein and in the Notice accompanying this Proxy Statement. If any other business should properly come before the meeting, the shares represented by Proxies may be voted in accordance with the judgment of the persons named in such proxies.

The Company will provide, without charge, to each person whose proxy is solicited by this Proxy Statement, on the written request of such person, a copy of the Company's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, including financial statements and financial statement schedules thereto, and if a nominal fee is paid, the exhibits thereto, as filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Requests should be directed to: Secretary, Cyanotech Corporation, 73-4460 Queen Kaahumanu Hwy., Suite 102, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740.

The Annual Report to the Stockholders of the Company, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2003, including financial statements, is enclosed with this proxy statement.

You are most cordially invited to attend this meeting in person. **However, whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, please sign, date and return the enclosed proxy as promptly as possible in the envelope provided. This will not prevent you from voting in person at the meeting if you so desire.**

By Order of the Board of Directors

Jeffrey H. Sakamoto  
Secretary

Kailua-Kona, Hawaii  
July 15, 2003

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**PROXY**

**CYANOTECH CORPORATION  
PROXY FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD THURSDAY AUGUST 21, 2003  
This proxy is solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors**

**PROXY**

The undersigned hereby appoints Jeffrey H. Sakamoto and Gerald R. Cysewski and each of them (with full power to act without the other), as proxies, each having full power to substitute, to represent and to vote, as designated below, all shares of stock of Cyanotech Corporation which the undersigned would be entitled to vote if personally present at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation to be held at the King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel, 75-5660 Palani Road, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii on Thursday, August 21, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. prevailing local time, and any adjournment thereof, with respect to matters set forth below and described in the Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement dated July 15, 2003.

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1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

FOR all nominees listed below (except as marked to the contrary) o

WITHHOLD AUTHORITY to vote for all nominees. o (To withhold authority to vote for any nominee, strike a line through nominee's name in list below.)

Directors to be elected by holders of Common Stock:

Gerald R. Cysewski, Michael A. Davis, David I. Rosenthal, Ronald P. Scott, John T. Waldron, Paul C. Yuen

2. Ratify selection of KPMG LLP as independent auditor for fiscal year 2004.

o FOR o AGAINST o ABSTAIN

When properly executed this proxy will be voted in the manner directed by the stockholder. If no direction is given, this proxy will be voted for Proposals 1 and 2.

3. In their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before this meeting.

(Continued on reverse side)

All other proxies heretofore given by the undersigned to vote shares of stock of Cyanotech Corporation which the undersigned would be entitled to vote if personally present at said Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof are hereby expressly revoked. This proxy may be revoked at any time prior to the voting hereof as set forth in the Proxy Statement.

Please date this proxy and sign it exactly as your name or names appear on your share. If signing as an attorney, executor, administrator, guardian or trustee, please give full title as such. If a corporation, please sign full corporate name by duly authorized officer or officers.

Dated: , 2003

Signature

Signature

Please sign and date this proxy and return it promptly whether you expect to attend the meeting or not. If you do attend the meeting you may vote in person.

QuickLinks

- PROXY STATEMENT FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF CYANOTECH CORPORATION To Be Held Thursday, August 21, 2003
PROPOSAL ONE: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS
BOARD MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES
DIRECTOR REMUNERATION
PROPOSAL TWO: RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR
COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 16(a) OF THE EXCHANGE ACT
SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT
COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION
EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION AND OTHER INFORMATION
SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE
EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION



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AGGREGATED OPTION EXERCISES IN LAST FISCAL YEAR AND FISCAL YEAR-END OPTION VALUES

Report of the Compensation and Stock Option Committee of the Board of Directors

Report of the Audit Committee

Independent Auditor's Fees

STOCKHOLDER RETURN PERFORMANCE GRAPH

OTHER MATTERS