

QUALCOMM INC/DE
Form 10-K
November 05, 2009

Table of Contents

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

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

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

**For the fiscal year ended September 27, 2009
OR**

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____ .

**Commission file number 0-19528
QUALCOMM Incorporated**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)**

**95-3685934
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)**

**5775 Morehouse Drive
San Diego, California
(Address of principal executive offices)**

**92121-1714
(Zip Code)**

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (858) 587-1121
Securities registered pursuant to section 12(b) of the Act:**

Title of Each Class	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Common stock, \$0.0001 par value	NASDAQ Stock Market LLC
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:	

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

YES NO

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

YES NO

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

YES NO

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements

Edgar Filing: QUALCOMM INC/DE - Form 10-K

incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant 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 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

YES NO

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

YES NO

Table of Contents

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of March 29, 2009 was \$62,311,546,530. *

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's common stock was 1,670,313,078 as of November 2, 2009.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement to be filed with the Commission pursuant to Regulation 14A in connection with the registrant's 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, to be filed subsequent to the date hereof, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Report. Such Definitive Proxy Statement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission not later than 120 days after the conclusion of the registrant's fiscal year ended September 27, 2009.

* Excludes the Common Stock held by executive officers, directors and stockholders whose ownership exceeds 5% of the Common Stock outstanding at March 29, 2009. This calculation does not reflect a determination that such persons are affiliates for any other purposes.

QUALCOMM INCORPORATED
Form 10-K
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 27, 2009
Index

	Page
<u>PART I</u>	
<u>Item 1. Business</u>	1
<u>Overview</u>	1
<u>Wireless Telecommunications Market</u>	3
<u>Wireless Technologies</u>	4
<u>Operating Segments</u>	7
<u>Research and Development</u>	12
<u>Sales and Marketing</u>	12
<u>Competition</u>	12
<u>Patents, Trademarks and Trade Secrets</u>	13
<u>Corporate Responsibility</u>	14
<u>Employees</u>	14
<u>Available Information</u>	14
<u>Executive Officers</u>	14
<u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u>	16
<u>Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	34
<u>Item 2. Properties</u>	35
<u>Item 3. Legal Proceedings</u>	36
<u>Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders</u>	37
<u>PART II</u>	
<u>Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	38
<u>Item 6. Selected Financial Data</u>	41
<u>Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	42
<u>Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u>	56
<u>Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	58
<u>Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	58
<u>Item 9A. Controls and Procedures</u>	58
<u>Item 9B. Other Information</u>	58
<u>PART III</u>	
<u>Item 10. Directors and Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	59
<u>Item 11. Executive Compensation</u>	59
<u>Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	59
<u>Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	59
<u>Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u>	59
<u>PART IV</u>	

Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedule

60

EX-10.84

EX-10.85

EX-21

EX-23.1

EX-31.1

EX-31.2

EX-32.1

EX-32.2

EX-101 INSTANCE DOCUMENT

EX-101 SCHEMA DOCUMENT

EX-101 CALCULATION LINKBASE DOCUMENT

EX-101 LABELS LINKBASE DOCUMENT

EX-101 PRESENTATION LINKBASE DOCUMENT

EX-101 DEFINITION LINKBASE DOCUMENT

Table of Contents

TRADEMARKS AND TRADE NAMES

QUALCOMM®, QCT-®, MSM , Snapdragon , Wireless Reach & Design , gpsOne®, BREW®, BINARY RUNTIME ENVIRONMENT FOR WIRELESS®, MediaFLO USA , MediaFLO®, FLO , FLO TV , FLASH-OFDM™, RadioRouter®, QPoint®, Flarion®, Gobi , Plaza , Plaza Mobile Internet , Plaza Retail , Xiam and QChat® are trademarks and/or service marks of QUALCOMM Incorporated. QUALCOMM, QUALCOMM Enterprise Services , QES , QUALCOMM CDMA Technologies, QCT, QUALCOMM Technology Licensing, QTL, QUALCOMM Wireless & Internet, QUALCOMM Wireless & Internet Group, QWI, QUALCOMM Internet Services, QIS, QUALCOMM Government Technologies, QGOV, QUALCOMM MEMS Technologies, QMT, QUALCOMM Technologies & Ventures, QUALCOMM MediaFLO Technologies, MFT, QUALCOMM Flarion Technologies, QFT, QUALCOMM Global Trading, QGT, QUALCOMM Strategic Initiatives, QSI, MediaFLO USA, FLO TV and Spike are trade names of QUALCOMM Incorporated. Firethorn® is a registered trademark of Firethorn Holdings, LLC. Mirasol® is a registered trademark of QUALCOMM MEMS Technologies, Inc.

cdmaOne is a trademark of the CDMA Development Group, Inc. CDMA2000® is a registered service mark and certification mark of the Telecommunications Industry Association. Java® is a registered trademark and service mark of Sun Microsystems, Inc. Windows Mobile® is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation. Palm OS® is a registered trademark of Palm Inc. Linux® is a registered trademark of Linus Torvalds. Android and Google Chrome are trademarks of Google Inc. Symbian® is a trademark of Symbian Foundation Limited. Bluetooth® is a registered trademark of Bluetooth SIG, Inc. iPhone® is a registered trademark of Apple, Inc.

All other trademarks, service marks and/or trade names appearing in this document are the property of their respective holders.

Table of Contents

In this document, the words Qualcomm, we, our, ours and us refer only to QUALCOMM Incorporated and not to any other person or entity.

PART I

Item 1. Business

This Annual Report (including, but not limited to, the following section regarding Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations) contains forward-looking statements regarding our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects. Words such as expects, anticipates, intends, plans, believes, seeks, estimates and similar expressions or variations of such words are intended to identify forward-looking statements, but are not the exclusive means of identifying forward-looking statements in this Annual Report. Additionally, statements concerning future matters such as the development of new products, enhancements or technologies, sales levels, expense levels and other statements regarding matters that are not historical are forward-looking statements.

Although forward-looking statements in this Annual Report reflect our good faith judgment, such statements can only be based on facts and factors currently known by us. Consequently, forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties and actual results and outcomes may differ materially from the results and outcomes discussed in or anticipated by the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences in results and outcomes include without limitation those discussed under the heading Risk Factors below, as well as those discussed elsewhere in this Annual Report. Readers are urged not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this Annual Report. We undertake no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements in order to reflect any event or circumstance that may arise after the date of this Annual Report. Readers are urged to carefully review and consider the various disclosures made in this Annual Report, which attempt to advise interested parties of the risks and factors that may affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

We incorporated in 1985 under the laws of the state of California. In 1991, we reincorporated in the state of Delaware. We operate and report using a 52-53 week fiscal year ending the last Sunday in September. Our 52-week fiscal years consist of four equal quarters of 13 weeks each, and our 53-week fiscal years consist of three 13-week fiscal quarters and one 14-week fiscal quarter. The financial results for our 53-week fiscal years and our 14-week fiscal quarters will not be exactly comparable to our 52-week fiscal years and our 13-week fiscal quarters. Both of the fiscal years ended September 27, 2009 and September 28, 2008 include 52 weeks. The fiscal year ended September 30, 2007 includes 53 weeks.

Overview

In 1989, we publicly introduced the concept that a digital communication technique called CDMA could be commercially successful in cellular wireless communication applications. CDMA stands for Code Division Multiple Access and is one of the main technologies currently used in digital wireless communications networks (also known as wireless networks). CDMA and TDMA (Time Division Multiple Access), of which Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) is the primary commercial form, are the primary digital technologies currently used to transmit a wireless device user's voice or data over radio waves using a public cellular wireless network. Because we led, and continue to lead, the development and commercialization of CDMA technology, we own significant intellectual property, including patents, patent applications and trade secrets, which applies to all versions of CDMA, portions of which we license to other companies and implement in our own products. The wireless communications industry generally recognizes that a company seeking to develop, manufacture and/or sell products that use CDMA technology will require a patent license from us.

We also continue our leading role in the development of Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing Access (OFDMA)-based technologies, for which we have substantial intellectual property. Our CDMA licensees' sales of multimode third generation (3G) CDMA and OFDMA devices are covered by their existing CDMA license agreements with us. We have begun to license companies to make and sell single-mode OFDMA devices. In addition, nine companies have royalty-bearing licenses under our patent portfolio for use in single-mode OFDMA products.

Our Revenues. We generate revenues by licensing portions of our intellectual property to manufacturers of wireless products (such as wireless phones and other devices and the infrastructure required to establish and operate a

wireless network). We receive licensing fees and royalties on products sold by our licensees that incorporate our patented technologies. We also sell products and services, which include:

1

Table of Contents

CDMA-based integrated circuits (also known as chips or chipsets) and Radio Frequency (RF) and Power Management (PM) chips and system software used in mobile devices (also known as subscriber units, which include handsets and modem cards) and in wireless networks;

Equipment, software and services used by companies, including those in the transportation industry and governments to wirelessly connect with their assets and workforce;

Software products and services for content enablement across a wide variety of platforms and devices for the wireless industry;

Services to wireless operators delivering multimedia content, including live television, in the United States;

Software and hardware development services; and

Software products and services that enable financial institutions and wireless operators to offer mobile commerce services.

Our Integrated Circuits Business. We develop and supply CDMA-based integrated circuits and system software for wireless voice and data communications, multimedia functions and global positioning system products. We also design and create multimode and multiband integrated circuits incorporating other wireless standards for roaming in global roaming markets. Our integrated circuit products and system software are used in wireless devices, particularly mobile phones, laptops, data modules, handheld wireless computers, data cards and infrastructure equipment. The integrated circuits for wireless devices include the baseband Mobile Station Modem (MSM), Mobile Data Modem (MDM), Qualcomm Single Chip (QSC), Qualcomm Snapdragon (QSD), RF, PM and Bluetooth devices, as well as the system software that enables the other device components to interface with the integrated circuit products and is the foundation software enabling device manufacturers to develop handsets utilizing the functionality within the integrated circuits. These integrated circuits for wireless devices and system software perform voice and data communication, multimedia and global positioning functions, radio conversion between RF and baseband signals and power management. Our infrastructure equipment Cell Site Modem (CSM) integrated circuits and system software perform the core baseband CDMA modem functionality in the wireless operator's base station equipment providing wireless standards-compliant processing of voice and data signals to and from wireless devices. Because of our broad and unique experience in designing and developing CDMA-based products, we not only design the baseband integrated circuit, but the supporting system as well, including the RF devices, PM devices and accompanying software products. This approach enables us to optimize the performance of the wireless device with improved product features, as well as the integration and performance of the network system. Our design of the system allows CDMA systems and devices manufactured by our customers to come to market faster. We provide our integrated circuits and system software, including reference designs and tools, to many of the world's leading wireless device and infrastructure equipment manufacturers. We also provide support to enable our customers to reduce the time required to design their products and bring their products to market faster. We plan to add additional features and capabilities to our integrated circuit products to help our customers reduce the costs and size of their products, to simplify our customers' design processes and to enable more wireless devices and services.

Our Licensing Business. We grant licenses to use portions of our intellectual property portfolio, which includes certain patent rights essential to and/or useful in the manufacture and sale of certain wireless products, and collect license fees and royalties in partial consideration for such licenses.

Our Wireless Device Software and Related Services Business. We provide software products and services for the global wireless industry. Our BREW (Binary Runtime Environment for Wireless) services enable wireless operators, device manufacturers and software developers to provide over-the-air and pre-loaded wireless applications and services. Our Plaza suite of products, which includes Plaza Retail and Plaza Mobile Internet, enable wireless operators, device manufacturers and publishers to create and distribute mobile content across a wide variety of platforms and devices. We also offer Xiam wireless content discovery and recommendation products to help wireless

operators improve usage and adoption of digital content and services. We also provide QChat, a push to talk product optimized for 3G networks, as well as QPoint, which enables wireless operators to offer enhanced 911 (E-911) wireless emergency and other location-based applications and services.

Our Asset Tracking and Services Business. We design, manufacture and sell equipment, license software and provide services to our customers to enable them to connect wirelessly with their assets, products and workforce. We offer satellite- and terrestrial-based two-way wireless connectivity and position location services to transportation and logistics fleets and other enterprise companies to enable our customers to track the location and monitor the performance of their assets, and the workflow of their personnel.

Table of Contents

Our Mobile Banking Business. We provide a single, secure, certified application embedded on select wireless devices, which enables financial institutions and merchants to deliver branded services to consumers through the wireless devices. Our application enables wireless operators to deliver consumer-convenient, mass-market applications to subscribers, and wireless device users to access and add multiple financial relationships with one password.

Our FLO TV Business. Our subsidiary, FLO TV Incorporated (FLO TV), formerly MediaFLO USA, Inc., offers its service over our nationwide multicast network based on our MediaFLO Media Distribution System (MDS) and MediaFLO technology, which leverages the Forward Link Only (FLO) air interface standard. This network is utilized as a shared resource for wireless operators and their customers in the United States. The commercial availability of the FLO TV network and service on wireless operator devices will continue, in part, to be determined by our wireless operator partners. FLO TV's network uses the 700 MHz spectrum for which we hold licenses nationwide. Additionally, FLO TV has and will continue to procure, aggregate and distribute content in service packages, which we will continue to make available on a wholesale basis to our wireless operator customers (whether they operate on CDMA, WCDMA or GSM) in the United States. In fiscal 2010, FLO TV expects to offer the FLO TV service on a subscription basis directly to consumers in the United States. FLO TV plans to provide the services for use in personal television devices, automotive devices and other portable device accessories. These devices are expected to be sold through various retail and distribution channels.

Our MediaFLO Technologies (MFT) division is developing MediaFLO technology and marketing it for deployment outside of the United States. The market for mobile TV remains nascent with numerous competing technologies and standards.

Our Display Business. We develop display technology for the full range of consumer-targeted mobile products. Our interferometric modulator (IMOD) display technology, based on a MEMS structure combined with thin film optics and sold under the *mirasol* brand, is expected to provide performance, power consumption and cost benefits as compared to current display technologies.

Wireless Telecommunications Market

Use of wireless telecommunications devices has increased dramatically in the past decade. According to Wireless Intelligence estimates as of November 2009, the number of worldwide mobile connections is expected to reach approximately 4.6 billion by the end of 2009 and almost 6.3 billion in 2013 reaching a wireless penetration rate of approximately 89%. Growth in the market for wireless telecommunications services has traditionally been fueled by demand for voice communications. There have been several factors responsible for the increasing demand for wireless voice services, including:

- lower cost of wireless handsets, joined with an increasing selection of appealing mobile devices;
- lower cost of service, including flat-rate and bundled long-distance calling plans;
- prepaid services, particularly popular in developing countries;
- increased coverage, roaming, privacy, reliability and clarity of voice transmissions;
- wireless networks becoming the primary communications infrastructure in developing countries due to the higher costs of and longer time required for installing wireline networks; and
- regulatory environments worldwide favoring increased competition in wireless telecommunications.

In addition to the tremendous demand for wireless voice services, wireless service providers are increasingly focused on providing broadband wireless access to the Internet, as well as e-mail, multimedia, entertainment, messaging, social networking, mobile commerce and position location services. These services have been aided by the development and commercialization of third-generation (3G) wireless networks and 3G devices which are capable of supporting higher data rates that incorporate an ever-increasing array of new features and functionality, such as assisted Global Positioning System (GPS)-based position location, digital cameras with flash and zoom capabilities, internet browsers, e-mail, mobile widgets, interactive games, music and video downloads and software download capability (e.g., application stores platform). In September 2009, the Yankee Group, a global market intelligence and advisory firm in the technology and telecommunications industries, estimated that more than 3.6 billion people will be using mobile data services by 2013, and the revenue produced from these services will account for 25% of total wireless service revenue worldwide. We believe the growing availability of 3G-enabled devices capable of performing

a wide variety of consumer and enterprise applications will accelerate the demand for many wireless data services on a global basis and thus lead to an increased replacement rate of second-generation (2G) mobile devices to 3G mobile devices using our technologies and integrated circuits. Affordable wireless broadband

Table of Contents

data connectivity is important to the consumer and enterprise, and its demand will continue to drive the evolution of wireless standards.

According to Wireless Intelligence, the use of this 2G wireless standard has spread throughout the world and is currently the basis for approximately 80% of the digital mobile communications in use. With the deployment of WCDMA, a 3G CDMA-based technology, by GSM operators, many of the current 3.6 billion GSM subscribers, as reported by Wireless Intelligence as of November 2009, are expected to upgrade to 3G wireless services in order to enjoy the added features and functionality available with 3G systems, among other things. For instance, the estimates from Wireless Intelligence as of November 2009 project that the total number of WCDMA (UMTS) subscribers will grow from 480 million at the end of 2009 to over 1.6 billion by the end of 2013.

Wireless Technologies

The significant growth in the use of wireless devices worldwide and demand for enhanced network functionality requires constant innovation to further improve network reliability, expand capacity and introduce new types of services. To meet these requirements, progressive generations of wireless telecommunications technology standards have evolved. The adoption of wireless standards for mobile communications within individual countries is generally determined by the telecommunication service providers operating in those countries and, in some instances, local government regulations. Such determinations are typically based on economic criteria and the service provider's evaluation of each technology's ability to provide the features and functionality required for its business plan. More than two decades ago, the European Community developed regulations requiring the use of the GSM standard, a TDMA-based, 2G technology. In addition, there are several versions of CDMA technology that have been adopted worldwide as public cellular standards. The first version, known as cdmaOne, is a 2G cellular technology that was first commercially deployed in the mid-1990s. The other subsequent versions of CDMA are popularly referred to as 3G technologies.

Second Generation. Compared to first generation analog systems, 2G digital technology provided for significantly enhanced efficiency within a fixed spectrum resulting in greatly increased voice capacity. 2G technologies also enabled numerous enhanced services, including paging, e-mail, facsimile, connections to computer networks, greater privacy, lower prices, a greater number of service options and greater fraud protection. However, data services (e-mail, fax, computer connections) were generally limited to low speed transmission rates. The main 2G digital cellular technologies are called cdmaOne or IS-95A/B, a technology we developed and patented, North American TDMA, PDC (Personal Digital Cellular, a variant of North American TDMA), and GSM, also a form of TDMA. Sales of North American TDMA and PDC phones have been discontinued with subscribers being moved to GSM or 3G technologies. Wireless operators have shut down, or are planning to shut down, usage of these 2G systems. Similarly, analog systems have been shut down in most places.

Third Generation. As a result of demand for wireless networks that simultaneously carry both high speed data and voice traffic, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), a standards setting organization, adopted the 3G standard known as IMT-2000, which encompasses six terrestrial operating radio interfaces, three of them based on our CDMA intellectual property. One other is OFDMA-based, for which we have substantial intellectual property, and the other two are TDMA-based. The three CDMA-based 3G technologies are known commonly throughout the wireless industry as:

- CDMA2000, including 1X (including revisions A through E), 1xEV-DO (EV-DO, or Evolution Data Optimized), EV-DO Revision A and EV-DO Revision B;
- Wideband CDMA (WCDMA), also known as Universal Mobile Telecommunications Systems (UMTS), including High Speed Download Packet Access (HSDPA), part of 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) Release 5, High Speed Uplink Packet Access (HSUPA), part of 3GPP Release 6, and High Speed Packet Access Plus (HSPA+), part of 3GPP Release 7, 8 and beyond; and
- CDMA Time Division Duplex (TDD), of which there are currently two versions, Time Division Duplex-CDMA (TD-CDMA) and Time Division Synchronous-CDMA (TD-SCDMA).

The three CDMA radio interfaces have recently added OFDMA components. To differentiate them from the 3G CDMA technologies, the OFDMA technologies are often called fourth generation (4G), even though they are part of the IMT-2000 standard.

CDMA2000 and WCDMA are deployed today in wireless networks throughout the world. TD-SCDMA has been deployed in China and is also part of the 3GPP specifications. EV-DO Release B in the CDMA2000 family supports a multicarrier downlink with the peak and attainable data rates depending upon the number of carriers; Release 7 of HSPA+ supports two-antenna Multiple Input, Multiple Output (MIMO) that can double the peak data rates; and

Table of Contents

Release 8 of HSPA+ in the WCDMA family supports a dual-carrier downlink that can double the peak and attainable data rates, or when used in conjunction with MIMO, quadruple the peak and attainable data rates.

Some of the advantages of 3G CDMA technology over both analog and TDMA- and GSM-based technologies include increased network capacity, network flexibility, compatibility with internet protocols, higher capacity for data and faster access to data (Internet) and higher data throughput rates. GSM has the benefit of more widespread roaming availability due to its wider worldwide deployment. Handset selling price was once considered an advantage of GSM, however, low-priced CDMA2000 handsets of \$30 or less (wholesale sales price) are available today, further enabling wireless CDMA growth in developing regions. The price differential between low-end 3G CDMA2000 devices and GSM devices is diminishing.

CDMA2000 (1X, 1xEV-DO, EV-DO Revision A) networks are deployed by operators in several markets that support both voice and a wide range of high-speed wireless data services. Enhancements based upon the CDMA2000 Revision E Standard, sometimes called 1x-Advanced, are being planned for CDMA2000 1X that will further increase voice capacity and data performance. Developments of 1xEV-DO Revision B are expected to increase data rates and capacities. Standardization work is proceeding on what is expected to be 1xEV-DO Revision C, sometimes called DO-Advanced. Enhancements based upon improved implementations have and will continue to be deployed in our products to increase capacity and data rates.

GSM operators around the world, including those in the European Community and AT&T in the United States, have focused primarily on the UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access-Frequency Division Duplexing (UTRA-FDD) radio interface of the IMT-2000 standard, known as WCDMA (standardized as UMTS), which is based on our underlying CDMA technology and incorporates many of our patented inventions (as are all of the CDMA radio interfaces of the IMT-2000 standard). The majority of the world's leading wireless device and infrastructure manufacturers (more than 105) have licensed our technology for use in WCDMA products, enabling them to utilize this WCDMA mode of the 3G technology.

A number of GSM operators deployed second and a half generation (2.5G) mobile packet data technologies, such as General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) and Enhanced Data Rates for Global Evolution (EDGE), in areas serviced by GSM as a bridging technology while they waited for 3G WCDMA devices to become more readily available and affordable so they can justify the expense of upgrading their GSM system to provide WCDMA service. In some regions of the world, regulatory restrictions have prevented deploying WCDMA in the lower frequency bands used by GSM, thus requiring more cell sites for WCDMA to provide coverage. As a result, in less dense areas, some wireless operators have not deployed WCDMA. From a technological perspective, we do not believe that GPRS and EDGE effectively compete with 3G CDMA-based packet data services, either on a cost per bit transmitted or performance basis. The European Union permitted IMT-2000 technologies, which include WCDMA, to be deployed in the lower frequency 900 MHz band. This is called UMTS900.

The three ITU 3G CDMA radio interfaces are all based on the underlying core principles of CDMA technology; however, the CDMA2000 mode enables a direct and more economical conversion for current cdmaOne networks. Most cdmaOne operators have deployed CDMA2000 1X and have augmented their networks with 1xEV-DO. While the WCDMA wireless air interface does use CDMA technology for communications between the wireless device and the network, the core network is an upgraded GSM core network, which is why GSM operators will deploy WCDMA rather than CDMA2000. Our intellectual property rights include a valuable patent portfolio essential to implementation of each of the 3G CDMA alternative standards and patents that are useful for commercially successful product implementations. Generally, we have licensed substantially all of our patents to our CDMA subscriber and infrastructure equipment licensees.

These 3G CDMA versions (CDMA2000, WCDMA, TD-CDMA and TD-SCDMA) from a technological perspective require separate implementations and are not interchangeable. While the fundamental core technologies are derived from CDMA and, in addition to other features and functionality, are covered by our patents, they each require unique infrastructure products, network design and management. However, subscriber roaming amongst systems using different air interfaces is made possible through multimode wireless devices.

The various revisions of the 3G CDMA specifications have significantly increased performance capacity and data speeds. It is expected that future revisions of the 3G CDMA specifications will provide further enhancements. Many

wireless operators are planning to deploy technology based on OFDMA to complement their existing 3G networks to provide additional bandwidth for data communications when they have access to new and wider spectrum resources. 3GPP has specified an OFDMA system called Long Term Evolution (LTE), and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) has specified 802.16 (WiMax). The OFDMA technologies that have been standardized will support high data rates in up to 20 megahertz (MHz) channels. We have been actively

Table of Contents

pursuing research and development of OFDMA-based wireless communication technologies and have over 3,100 United States and 18,400 foreign pending patent applications and granted patents related to these technologies. We believe that each of these standards incorporates our patented technologies. We have nine companies with royalty-bearing licenses under our patent portfolio for use in single-mode OFDMA products (i.e., OFDMA products that do not implement CDMA-based standards). Multimode products that implement both OFDMA and CDMA technologies will in most cases be licensed under our existing CDMA license agreements.

Our Engineering Resources. We have significant engineering resources, including engineers with substantial expertise in CDMA, OFDMA and a broad range of other technologies. Using these engineering resources, we expect to continue to develop new versions of CDMA, OFDMA and other technologies, develop alternative technologies for certain specialized applications (including multicast), participate in the formulation of new wireless telecommunications standards and technologies and assist in deploying wireless voice and data communications networks around the world.

Further Investments in New and Existing Products, Services and Technologies. We continue to invest heavily in research and development in a variety of ways in an effort to extend the market for our products and services.

We continue to develop and commercialize 3G CDMA-based technologies, such as CDMA2000 1X, CDMA2000 1X Revision E, 1xEV-DO, EV-DO Revision A, EV-DO Revision B, WCDMA, HSDPA (3GPP Release 5), HSUPA (3GPP Release 6) and HSPA+ (3GPP Releases 7 and 8) and are working on commercializing the OFDMA-based LTE technology.

We also continue to develop on our own, and with our partners, innovations that are integrated into our product portfolio to further expand the market and enhance the value of our products and services. At the same time, we are active within many industry bodies, including 3GPP, 3rd Generation Partnership Project 2 (3GPP2), Next Generation Mobile Networks (NGMN), LTE SAE Trial Initiative (LSTI), Global Certification Forum (GCF) and Open Mobile Alliance (OMA), to encourage the universal implementation of these innovations to support economies of scale and interoperability of these innovations with existing and future mobile communication services to preserve ongoing investments. These innovations are expected to enable our customers to improve the performance or value of their existing services, offer these services more affordably and introduce revenue-generating broadband data services ahead of their competition. Our patented technologies, resulting from our strong investment in fundamental system research and development, have been and are expected to continue to play a significant role in the future standards of 3GPP and 3GPP2.

In particular, we continue to contribute to the 3GPP and 3GPP2 standards to enable the next level of mobile broadband data services based on OFDMA technologies. 3GPP has specified, as part of Release 8, an OFDMA-based air interface called LTE to deliver higher mobile broadband data rates using channel bandwidths up to 20 MHz. LTE has an FDD version and a TDD version, called TD-LTE. LTE has been accepted to be part of the IMT-2000 specification as part of the normal update process. 3GPP is currently developing Release 9 of LTE and has started working on Release 10. The LTE portion of Release 10, called LTE-Advanced, has been proposed to be part of the IMT-Advanced specifications. Several years ago, the ITU created IMT-Advanced as a follow-on process to IMT-2000 to encourage development of next generation air interfaces. Both IMT-2000 and IMT-Advanced are under the umbrella of IMT. The ITU recognizes any of the IMT technologies as being deployable in any spectrum identified by the ITU in the World Radio Conferences (WRC) for mobile communications. Multiple wireless operators, including AT&T and Verizon Wireless, have communicated their commitment to LTE as their next generation technology path.

Furthermore, the 3G economies of scale greatly improve the availability and cost structure of 3GPP and 3GPP2 evolved technologies. The OFDMA family of standards is expected to be complementary with 3G services, and we expect to provide multimode chipsets capable of operating across multiple CDMA- and OFDMA-based technology deployment scenarios.

We also continue to develop and commercialize multimode, multiband and multinet network products that embody technologies such as GSM, GPRS, EDGE, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, Universal Serial Bus (USB) and FLO. These use the Global System for Mobile Communications-Mobile Application Part (GSM-MAP), American National Standards Institute 41 (ANSI-41) and Internet Protocol (IP)-based core networks, as appropriate.

We continue to invest to provide our integrated circuit customers with chipsets that combine multiple technologies into Single Chip (SC) products, incorporating advanced modems, processors and graphics engines, as well as the tools to connect these diverse pieces of technology. We continue to support multiple mobile client software

Table of Contents

environments in our multimedia and convergence chipsets, such as BREW, Java, Windows Mobile, Palm OS, Linux, Android, Google Chrome and Symbian.

We have developed our MediaFLO MDS and Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM)-based MediaFLO technology to optimize the low cost delivery of multimedia content to multiple wireless subscribers simultaneously, otherwise known as multicasting.

We continue to develop our IMOD display technology based on a micro-electro-mechanical-systems (MEMS) structure combined with thin film optics and sold under the mirasol brand. Early-stage mirasol displays have been incorporated in a limited number of consumer devices. IMOD display technologies may be included in the full range of consumer-targeted mobile products and are expected to provide performance, power consumption and cost benefits as compared to current display technologies. In June 2009, we commenced operations of a dedicated mirasol display fabrication plant in Taiwan. Operation of this plant is outsourced to Cheng Uei Precision Industry Co., Ltd. (also known as Foxlink), a developer and manufacturer of communications devices, computers and consumer electronics.

We intend to continue our active support of CDMA-based technologies, products and network operations to grow our royalty revenues and integrated circuit and software revenues. From time to time, we may also make acquisitions to meet certain technology needs, to obtain development resources or to pursue new business opportunities.

We plan to continue to make strategic investments in early-stage and other companies that we believe open new markets for our technology, support the design and introduction of new products and services and/or possess unique capabilities or technology. To the extent that such investments become liquid and meet our strategic objectives, we intend to make regular periodic sales of our interests in these investments that are recognized in investment income.

Operating Segments

Consolidated revenues from international customers and licensees as a percentage of total revenues were 94%, 91% and 87% in fiscal 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively. During fiscal 2009, 35%, 23% and 11% of our revenues were from customers and licensees based in South Korea, China and Japan, respectively, as compared to 35%, 21% and 14% during fiscal 2008, respectively, and 31%, 21% and 17% during fiscal 2007, respectively. Revenues from two customers, LG Electronics and Samsung Electronics, constituted a significant portion (each more than 10%) of consolidated revenues in fiscal 2009, 2008 and 2007.

Qualcomm CDMA Technologies Segment (QCT). QCT is a leading developer and supplier of CDMA-based integrated circuits and system software for wireless voice and data communications, multimedia functions and global positioning system products. QCT's integrated circuit products and system software are used in wireless devices, particularly mobile phones, laptops, data modules, handheld wireless computers, data cards and infrastructure equipment. These products provide customers with advanced wireless technology, enhanced component integration and interoperability and reduced time-to-market. QCT markets and sells products in the United States and internationally through a sales force based in the United States, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan and the United Kingdom. QCT products are sold to many of the world's leading wireless handset, data card, laptop and infrastructure manufacturers. In fiscal 2009, QCT shipped approximately 317 million MSM integrated circuits for CDMA wireless devices worldwide. QCT revenues comprised 59%, 60% and 59% of total consolidated revenues in fiscal 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

QCT utilizes a fabless production business model, which means that we do not own or operate foundries for the production of silicon wafers from which our integrated circuits are made. Integrated circuits are die cut from silicon wafers that have completed the assembly and final test manufacturing processes. Die cut from silicon wafers are the essential components of all of our integrated circuits and a significant portion of the total integrated circuit cost. We rely on independent third-party suppliers to perform the manufacturing and assembly, and most of the testing, of our integrated circuits. Our suppliers are also responsible for the procurement of most of the raw materials used in the production of our integrated circuits. The majority of our integrated circuits are purchased using a two-stage manufacturing business model, in which we purchase die from semiconductor manufacturing foundries and contract with separate third-party manufacturers for back-end assembly and test services. We refer to this two-stage manufacturing business model as Integrated Fabless Manufacturing (IFM). We also employ a turnkey model in which our foundry suppliers are responsible for delivering fully assembled and tested integrated circuits. Our fabless model

provides us the flexibility to select suppliers that offer advanced process technologies to manufacture, assemble and test our integrated circuits at a competitive price.

IBM, Chartered Semiconductor Manufacturing Ltd., Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Ltd. and United Microelectronics Corporation are the primary foundry suppliers for our

Table of Contents

family of baseband integrated circuits. Chartered Semiconductor Manufacturing Ltd., Freescale Semiconductor, Inc., IBM, Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Ltd. are the primary foundry suppliers for our family of analog, RF and PM integrated circuits. Advanced Semiconductor Engineering Inc., Amkor Technology Inc. and STATSChipPAC Ltd. are the primary back-end semiconductor assembly and test suppliers under our IFM model.

QCT offers a broad portfolio of products, including both wireless device and infrastructure integrated circuits, in support of CDMA2000 1X and 1xEV-DO, as well as the EV-DO Revision A and EV-DO Revision B evolutions of CDMA 2000 technology. Leveraging our expertise in CDMA, we have also developed integrated circuits for manufacturers and wireless operators deploying the WCDMA version of 3G. More than 45 device manufacturers have selected our WCDMA products that support GSM/GPRS, WCDMA, HSDPA, HSUPA and HSPA+ for their devices. We have not commercially sold a CSM integrated circuit product for WCDMA base station equipment.

Our gpsOne position location technology is in more than 500 million gpsOne enabled devices sold worldwide. Compatible with all major air interfaces, our gpsOne technology is the industry's only fully-integrated wireless baseband and assisted GPS product and has enabled CDMA system operators to cost-effectively meet the FCC's E-911 mandate.

Our integrated circuit products span all market tiers, from entry-level solutions for emerging markets up to the very high-end device tier. Our chipsets integrate unique combinations of features such as multi-megapixel cameras, videotelephony, streaming multimedia, audio, interactive 3D graphics, advanced position-location capabilities through integrated gpsOne technology and peripheral connectivity to enable a wide range of devices.

The Snapdragon platform of chipset products is designed to enable computing-centric devices that also offer a full range of wireless connectivity capabilities. Leveraging the Scorpion low-power high-performance microprocessor, the Snapdragon platform expands Qualcomm's reach beyond the traditional wireless market by targeting not only the very high-end smartphone market but also the smartbook category of consumer products.

Multimode Gobi modules are designed to deliver embedded mobile wireless connectivity to notebook and netbook computers. Supporting numerous air interfaces, Gobi modules also feature GPS capabilities to allow notebook manufacturers to more easily offer greater connectivity with their products.

QCT also offers chipsets for WLAN and Bluetooth, complementary connectivity technologies to its core 3G products. For WLAN, QCT offers both the WCN1320 chip that delivers up to four 802.11n spatial streams for high-speed connectivity in residential settings and the WCN1312 chip for handsets and other mobile devices. QCT's Bluetooth chips support Bluetooth connectivity for handsets and headsets.

The market in which our QCT segment operates is intensely competitive. QCT competes worldwide with a number of United States and international designers and manufacturers of semiconductors. As a result of global expansion by foreign and domestic competitors, technological changes and the potential for further industry consolidation, we anticipate the market to remain very competitive. We believe that the principal competitive factors for our products may include performance, level of integration, quality, compliance with industry standards, price, time-to-market, system cost, design and engineering capabilities, new product innovation and customer support. We also compete in both single- and dual-mode environments against alternative wireless communications technologies including, but not limited to, GSM/GPRS/EDGE, TDMA and WiMAX.

QCT's current competitors include, but are not limited to, major companies such as Freescale, Infineon, Marvell, Mediatek, ST-Ericsson, Texas Instruments and VIA Telecom, as well as major telecommunication equipment companies such as Ericsson, Matsushita and Motorola, who design at least some of their own integrated circuits and software for certain products. QCT also faces competition from some early-stage companies. Our competitors may devote significantly greater amounts of their financial, technical and other resources to market competitive telecommunications systems or to develop and adopt competitive digital cellular technologies, and those efforts may materially and adversely affect QCT. Moreover, competitors may offer more attractive product pricing or financing terms than we do as a means of gaining access to the wireless telecommunications market or customers.

Qualcomm Technology Licensing Segment (QTL). QTL grants licenses to use portions of our intellectual property portfolio, which includes certain patent rights essential to and/or useful in the manufacture and sale of certain wireless products, including, without limitation, products implementing cdmaOne, CDMA2000, WCDMA, CDMA

TDD (including TD-SCDMA), GSM/GPRS/EDGE and/or OFDMA standards and their derivatives. QTL receives license fees as well as ongoing royalties based on worldwide sales by licensees of products incorporating or using our intellectual property. License fees are fixed amounts paid in one or more installments. Ongoing royalties are generally based upon a percentage of the wholesale selling price of licensed products, net of certain permissible

Table of Contents

deductions (e.g., certain shipping costs, packing costs, VAT, etc.). Revenues generated from royalties are subject to quarterly and annual fluctuations. QTL revenues comprised 35%, 33% and 31% of total consolidated revenues in fiscal 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

As part of our strategy to expand the marketplace and generate new and ongoing licensing revenues, significant resources are allocated to develop leading-edge technology for the telecommunications industry. In addition to licensing manufacturers of subscriber and network equipment, we have made our essential CDMA patents available to competitors of our QCT segment. We have entered into agreements with certain companies, including but not limited to Broadcom, Fujitsu, Infineon, NEC, Philips, Renesas and Texas Instruments. These agreements permit the manufacture of CDMA-based integrated circuits. In exchange for these rights, we are, in various cases, entitled to receive fees, royalties and/or rights that allow us to use these companies' CDMA and, in some cases, certain non-CDMA intellectual property for specified purposes. In every case, these agreements do not allow such integrated circuit suppliers to pass through rights under Qualcomm's patents to such suppliers' customers, and such customers sales of CDMA-, WCDMA- and OFDMA-based cellular devices into which such suppliers' integrated circuits are incorporated require separate licensing arrangements with us in order to use our patented technologies.

We face competition in the development of intellectual property for future generations of digital wireless communications technology and services. On a worldwide basis, we currently compete primarily with the GSM/GPRS/EDGE digital wireless telecommunications technologies. GSM has been utilized extensively in Europe, much of Asia other than Japan and South Korea, and certain other countries. To date, GSM has been more widely adopted than CDMA, however, CDMA technologies have been adopted for all 3G wireless systems. In addition, most GSM operators have deployed GPRS, a packet data technology, as a 2.5G bridge technology, and a number of GSM operators have deployed or are expected to deploy EDGE, while considering the use of 3G WCDMA for their system. A limited number of wireless operators have commercially deployed and other wireless operators have started testing OFDMA technology, a multi-carrier transmission technique not based on CDMA technology, which divides the available spectrum into many carriers, with each carrier being modulated at a low data rate relative to the combined rate for all carriers. According to Global mobile Suppliers Association, in its October 2009 reports, 42 operators have committed to deploy LTE networks, an OFDMA-based technology. We have invested in both the acquisition and the development of OFDMA technology and intellectual property. We expect that upon the deployment of OFDMA-based networks, the products implementing such technologies will be multimode and will also implement CDMA-based technologies. The licenses granted under our existing CDMA license agreements generally cover multimode CDMA/OFDMA devices, and our licensees are obligated to pay royalties under their agreements for such devices. Further, nine companies have royalty-bearing licenses under our patent portfolio for use in single-mode OFDMA products (i.e., products that implement OFDMA-based standards but do not implement any CDMA-based standards).

Qualcomm Wireless & Internet Segment (QWI). QWI revenues comprised 6%, 7% and 9% of total consolidated revenues in fiscal 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The four divisions aggregated into QWI are:

Qualcomm Internet Services (QIS). The QIS division offers a set of software products and content enablement services to support and accelerate the growth of the wireless data market. QIS offers BREW services for wireless applications development, device configuration, application distribution and billing and payment. BREW services are offered by more than 60 wireless operators in 27 countries, reaching a base of more than 200 million devices. In addition, QIS announced the Plaza suite of products in 2009 to enable wireless operators, device manufacturers and publishers to create rich, mobile content across a wide variety of platforms and devices. Plaza Mobile Internet is an end-to-end widget platform that offers wireless operators and publishers a framework for the development, support and management of Internet-based content on a variety of handsets. In July 2009, QIS announced América Móvil as the first customer for Plaza Mobile Internet. América Móvil will offer this service across its 18 subsidiaries in Latin America, reaching more than 190 million wireless subscribers. Plaza Retail enables application retailers (typically operators) to create and manage a mobile shopping experience across multiple platforms, devices and networks. We also offer Xiam wireless content discovery and recommendation products to help wireless operators improve usage and adoption of digital content and services by presenting relevant and targeted offers to customers across all digital channels. QIS offers this personalization technology as a standalone product, as well as integrating the technology as

part of its core product offerings (BREW and Plaza) to help wireless operators spur wireless data growth. Our QChat product enables one-to-one (private) and one-to-many (group) push-to-talk calls over 3G networks. The technology also allows over-the-air upgrades of mobile device software, management of group membership by subscribers and ad-hoc creation of chat groups. QChat uses Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technologies, thereby sending voice

Table of Contents

information in digital form over IP-based data networks in discrete packets rather than the traditional circuit-switched protocols of the public switched telephone network. Our QPoint product enables wireless operators to offer enhanced 911 (E-911) wireless emergency and other location-based applications and services.

The QIS division develops and sells business-to-business products and services to companies worldwide, through a sales and marketing team headquartered in San Diego, California with offices worldwide. The QIS sales and marketing strategy is to enter into agreements with companies in target markets by providing comprehensive technology and services that combine wireless Internet, data and voice capabilities. We have numerous current and emerging competitors for each of our products and services whose relative degree of success in the markets they serve may adversely impact our margins and market share. Competing offerings to the BREW and Plaza Retail products include device manufacturer-branded vertical application storefronts, such as Apple's App Store for the iPhone platform, operator-focused application retailing and content distribution solutions and direct-to-consumer mobile content storefronts. Additionally, specialized software and service providers may offer key components of a complete mobile content retailing product to operators or device manufacturers seeking to build their own branded offerings internally. Competing offerings to our Plaza Mobile Internet product include both operator-targeted mobile widget distribution and management platforms, as well as direct-to-consumer mobile widget marketplaces that may be offered by specialized providers or certain mobile device manufacturers. Our Xiam content discovery and recommendations product faces competition from a small number of wireless operator-focused product providers and from emerging Web-based content recommendations engines. Additionally, some larger software providers and device manufacturers may attempt to build competing recommendations solutions internally. Our QChat product competes with numerous push-to-talk services including iDEN, which is used principally in the United States and Latin America. The push-to-talk services market is nascent outside of the United States with several competing standards- and non-standards-based technologies.

Qualcomm Enterprise Services (QES). The QES division provides equipment, software and services to enable companies to wirelessly connect with their assets and workforce. QES offers satellite- and terrestrial-based two-way wireless connectivity and position location services to transportation and logistics fleets and other enterprise companies that permit customers to track the location and monitor performance of their assets, communicate with their personnel and collect data. The QES division markets and sells products through a sales force, partnerships and distributors based in the United States, Europe, Latin America, Asia and Canada. Through September 2009, we have shipped approximately 1,344,000 satellite- and terrestrial-based mobile information units. Wireless transmissions and position tracking for satellite-based systems are provided by using leased transponders on commercially available geostationary Earth orbit satellites. The terrestrial-based systems use wireless digital and analog terrestrial networks for messaging transmission and the GPS constellation for position tracking. We generate revenues from sales of network products and terminals, and information and location-based service and license fees.

In the United States and Mexico, we manufacture mobile communications equipment, sell related software packages and provide ongoing messaging and maintenance services. Message transmissions for operations in the United States are formatted and processed at our Network Management and Data Center in San Diego, California, with a fully-redundant backup Network Management and Data Center located in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Existing competitors of our QES division offering alternatives to our products are aggressively pricing their products and services and could continue to do so in the future. In our domestic markets, we face over ten key competitors to our satellite- and terrestrial-based mobile fleet management and asset tracking products and services. Internationally, we face several key competitors in Europe and Mexico. These competitors are offering new value-added products and services similar in many cases to our existing or developing technologies. Emergence of new competitors, particularly those offering low cost terrestrial-based products and current as well as future satellite-based systems, may impact margins and intensify competition in new markets. Similarly, some original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) of trucks and truck components are beginning to offer built-in, on-board communications and position location reporting systems that may impact our margins and intensify competition in our current and new markets. We are currently in discussions with some trucking manufacturers about using our products as their embedded solution.

Qualcomm Government Technologies (QGOV). The QGOV division provides development, hardware and analytical expertise involving wireless communications technologies to United States government (USG) agencies. QGOV adapts, integrates and ships CDMA2000 1X and EV-DO deployable base stations to the USG. QGOV also ships 2G CDMA secure wireless terrestrial phones that operate in enhanced security modes and incorporate end-to-end encryption to the USG. Based on the percentage of QGOV revenues to our total consolidated revenues, the USG is not a major customer.

Table of Contents

Firethorn. Firethorn provides a single, secure, certified application embedded on select wireless devices, which enables financial institutions and merchants to deliver branded services to consumers through the mobile devices. Our application enables wireless operators to deliver consumer-convenient, mass-market applications to subscribers, and mobile device users to access and add multiple financial relationships with one password.

Qualcomm Strategic Initiatives Segment (QSI). QSI manages our strategic investment activities, including FLO TV Incorporated, our wholly-owned wireless multimedia operator subsidiary. As part of our strategic investment activities, we intend to pursue various exit strategies at some point in the future, which may include distribution of our ownership interest in FLO TV to our stockholders in a spin-off transaction.

Strategic Investments. We make strategic investments to promote the worldwide adoption of CDMA-based products and services for wireless voice and internet data communications, including licensed device manufacturers and companies that support the design and introduction of new CDMA-based products or possess unique capabilities or technology. We make strategic investments in early-stage and other companies both directly and, from time to time, through venture funds to support the adoption of CDMA and the use of the wireless Internet.

FLO TV. Our FLO TV subsidiary operates a nationwide multicast network in the United States based on our MDS and MediaFLO technology. FLO TV uses 700 MHz spectrum for which we hold licenses nationwide to deliver high-quality video and audio programming to wireless subscribers. Additionally, FLO TV procures, aggregates and distributes content in service packages, which we make available on a wholesale basis to our wireless operator customers in the United States. FLO TV's Broadcast Operations Center and Network Operations Center are based in San Diego, California.

FLO TV continues to expand the availability of its commercial service. The commercial availability of the FLO TV network and service will continue, in part, to be determined by our wireless operator partners. Verizon Wireless began offering the FLO TV service during fiscal 2007, and AT&T began offering the service in fiscal 2008. In addition, FLO TV is actively engaged in discussions with other domestic wireless operators, consumer electronics and entertainment companies about how they might utilize the FLO TV service. FLO TV is currently available in 85 markets, including the 40 largest markets in the United States. In fiscal 2010, FLO TV expects to offer the FLO TV service on a subscription basis directly to consumers in the United States. FLO TV plans to provide the service for use in personal television devices, automotive devices and other portable device accessories. These devices are expected to be sold through various retail and distribution channels.

We are developing our MediaFLO technology to enable FLO TV and potentially other international wireless operators to optimize the low cost delivery of multimedia content to multiple wireless subscribers simultaneously. Our efforts to sell this technology internationally are being conducted by a nonreportable segment (MFT), and not by QSI, as we do not intend to pursue an exit strategy from the MFT business. Our MediaFLO technology is designed specifically to bring broadcast quality video to mobile devices efficiently and cost effectively. The MediaFLO technology operates on a dedicated broadcast network and is complementary to wireless network operators currently operating on CDMA2000 1xEV-DO, WCDMA or GSM networks.

We face indirect competition to our FLO TV products and services from wireless delivery of streaming and downloadable video content via wireless operators, OEMs and other providers of mobile video content, as well as from internet video content accessed through the mobile web browser.

Other Businesses.

Qualcomm MEMS Technologies (QMT). QMT is developing display technology for the full range of consumer-targeted mobile products. QMT's IMOD display technology, based on a MEMS structure combined with thin film optics and sold under the Mirasol brand, is expected to provide performance, power consumption and cost benefits as compared to current display technologies. With the inclusion of color displays in all types of wireless devices, including models at the low end of the market, the cost of the display has become an even more significant factor in the overall cost of the device. An IMOD display should cost less to manufacture than a comparable liquid crystal display because it requires fewer components and processing steps, thus supporting advanced multimedia capabilities on all tiers of mobile devices.

Qualcomm Flarion Technologies (QFT). QFT is the developer and provider of fast low-latency access with seamless handoff-OFDM (FLASH-OFDM), the wireless industry's first fully mobile OFDMA offering.

FLASH-OFDM is an air interface technology designed for the delivery of advanced internet services in the mobile environment. Through FLASH-OFDM, QFT created an end-to-end network offering for mobile operators, which includes the RadioRouter base station product line, wireless modems, embedded chipsets and system software. The all-IP wireless network supports both broadband data and packetized voice applications. QFT's considerable

Table of Contents

expertise with OFDMA technology is now focused on the development of femtocell chipset products and the creation of next generation air interface technologies.

MediaFLO Technologies (MFT). MFT is developing our MediaFLO technology and marketing it for deployment outside of the United States. Global market awareness of MediaFLO technology has been increasing through a number of successful trials in the United Kingdom, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Malaysia. In addition, we are currently conducting two technology trials in Japan. MediaFLO technology has been officially recognized by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications as one of the candidate technologies for multimedia broadcasting services for mobile terminals in Japan.

In addition, we are pursuing numerous other international opportunities to market and deploy MediaFLO technology worldwide. The FLO air interface is an open, globally-recognized technology standardized by the Telecommunications Industry Association and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute. It is also recommended by the International Telecommunication Union's Radiocommunication Sector for the broadcasting of multimedia and data applications.

Research and Development

The wireless telecommunications industry is characterized by rapid technological change, requiring a continuous effort to enhance existing products and develop new products and technologies. Our research and development team has a demonstrated track record of innovation in wireless communications technologies. Our research and development expenditures in fiscal 2009, 2008 and 2007 totaled approximately \$2.4 billion, \$2.3 billion and \$1.8 billion, respectively. Research and development expenditures were primarily related to the development of integrated circuit products, next generation CDMA and OFDMA technologies, the expansion of our intellectual property portfolio and other initiatives to support the acceleration of advanced wireless products and services, including lower cost devices, the integration of wireless with consumer electronics and computing, the convergence of multiband, multimode, multinet network products and technologies, third-party operating systems and services platforms. The technologies supporting these initiatives may include CDMA2000 1X, 1xEV-DO, EV-DO Revision A, EV-DO Revision B, 1x Advanced, WCDMA, HSDPA, HSUPA, HSPA+ and LTE. Research and development expenditures were also incurred related to the development of our MediaFLO technology, MediaFLO MDS, mirasol display products using MEMS technology, BREW products and mobile commerce applications.

We have research and development centers in various locations throughout the world that support our global development activities and ongoing efforts to advance CDMA, OFDMA and a broad range of other technologies. We continue to use our substantial engineering resources and expertise to develop new technologies, applications and services and make them available to licensees to help grow the wireless telecommunications market and generate new or expanded licensing opportunities. In addition to internally sponsored research and development, we perform contract research and development for various government agencies and commercial contractors.

Sales and Marketing

Sales and marketing activities of our operating segments are discussed under Operating Segments in Item 1. Other marketing activities include public relations, web-marketing, participation in technical conferences and trade shows, development of business cases and white papers, competitive analyses, market intelligence and other marketing programs. Corporate Marketing provides company information on our Internet site and through other media regarding our products, strategies and technology to industry analysts and for publications.

Competition

Competition to our operating segments is discussed under Operating Segments in Item 1. Competition in the wireless industry throughout the world continues to increase at a rapid pace as consumers, businesses and governments realize the market potential of wireless telecommunications products and services. We have facilitated competition in the wireless market by licensing and enabling a large number of manufacturers. Although we have attained a significant position in the industry, many of our current and potential competitors may have advantages over us, including:

- longer operating histories and market presence;
- greater name recognition;

motivation by our customers in certain circumstances to find alternate suppliers or choose alternate technologies;
access to larger customer bases;
economies of scale and cost structure advantages;

Table of Contents

greater sales and marketing, manufacturing, distribution, technical and other resources; and government support of other technologies (e.g., GSM).

Our wireless telecommunications competitors may have more established relationships and greater technical, marketing, sales and distribution capabilities and greater access to channels, including in regions primarily deploying 2G wireless communications technology. These competitors also have established or may establish financial or strategic relationships among themselves or with our existing or potential customers, resellers or other third parties. These relationships may affect customers' decisions to purchase products or license technology from us. Accordingly, new competitors or alliances among competitors could emerge and rapidly acquire significant market share to our detriment. In addition, many of these companies are licensees of our technologies and have established market positions, trade names, trademarks, patents, copyrights, intellectual property rights and substantial technological capabilities. We may face competition throughout the world with new technologies and services introduced in the future as additional competitors enter the marketplace for products based on 3G standards, OFDMA-based technologies or other wireless technologies. Although we intend to continue to develop improvements to existing technologies, as well as potential new technologies, there may be a continuing competitive threat from companies introducing alternative versions of wireless technologies. We also expect that the price we charge for our products and services may continue to decline as competition continues to intensify.

Patents, Trademarks and Trade Secrets

We rely on a combination of patents, copyrights, trade secrets, trademarks and proprietary information to maintain and enhance our competitive position. In the United States, we have approximately 11,600 granted patents and pending patent applications, of which approximately 3,600 patents have been granted. The vast majority of such patents and patent applications relate to digital wireless communications technologies, including patents that are essential or may be relevant to CDMA2000, WCDMA (UMTS), TD-SCDMA, TD-CDMA and OFDMA products. We also have and will continue to actively file for broad patent protection outside the United States. We have approximately 54,100 foreign granted patents and pending patent applications, of which approximately 18,500 patents have been granted, that have broad coverage throughout most of the world, including China, Japan, South Korea, Europe, Brazil, India, Taiwan and elsewhere.

Standards bodies have been informed that we hold patents that might be essential for all 3G standards that are based on CDMA. We have committed to such standards bodies that we will offer to license our essential patents for these CDMA standards on a fair and reasonable basis free from unfair discrimination. We have also informed standards bodies that we may hold essential intellectual property rights for certain standards that are based on OFDMA technology (e.g., 802.16e, 802.16m and LTE).

Since our founding in 1985, we have focused heavily on technology development and innovation. These efforts have resulted in a leading intellectual property portfolio related to wireless technology. Because all commercially deployed forms of CDMA and their derivatives require the use of our patents, our patent portfolio is the most widely and extensively licensed portfolio in the industry with over 175 licensees. Over the years a number of companies have challenged our patent position but at this time most, if not all, companies recognize that any company seeking to develop, manufacture and/or sell products that use CDMA technologies will require a license or other rights to use our patents.

As part of our strategy to generate licensing revenues and support worldwide adoption of our CDMA technology, we license to other companies the rights to design, manufacture and sell products utilizing certain portions of our CDMA intellectual property. Our current publicly announced CDMA licensees are listed on our Internet site (www.qualcomm.com).

In all cases, we have licensed or otherwise provided rights to use our patented technologies to interested companies on terms that are fair, reasonable and free from unfair discrimination. Unlike some other companies in our industry that hold back certain key technologies, we offer interested companies the opportunity to license essentially our entire patent portfolio for use in cellular devices and cell site infrastructure equipment. Our strategy to broadly make available our licensed technologies has been a catalyst for industry growth, helping to enable a wide range of companies offering a broad array of wireless products and features while driving down average and low-end selling prices for 3G handsets and other wireless devices. By licensing or otherwise providing rights to a wide range of

equipment manufacturers, encouraging innovative applications, supporting equipment manufacturers with a total chipset and software solution, and focusing on improving the efficiency of the airlink for wireless operators, we have helped 3G CDMA evolve, grow and reduce device pricing all at a faster pace than the second generation technologies that preceded it (e.g., GSM).

Table of Contents

Under our license agreements, licensees are generally required to pay us a license fee as well as ongoing royalties based on a percentage of the wholesale selling price, net of certain permissible deductions (e.g., certain shipping costs, packing costs, VAT, etc.), of subscriber and infrastructure equipment and/or a fixed per unit amount. License fees are paid in one or more installments, while royalties generally continue throughout the life of the licensed patents. We believe that our licensing terms are reasonable and fair to the companies that benefit from our intellectual property and provide significant incentives for others to invest in CDMA (including WCDMA) applications, as evidenced by the significant growth in the CDMA portion of the wireless industry and the number of CDMA participants. Our license agreements generally provide us rights to use certain of our licensees' technology and intellectual property rights to manufacture and sell certain products (e.g., Application-Specific Integrated Circuits) and related software, subscriber units and/or infrastructure equipment. In most cases, our use of our licensees' technology and intellectual property is royalty free. However, under some of the licenses, if we incorporate certain of the licensed technology or intellectual property into certain products, we are obligated to pay royalties on the sale of such products.

Corporate Responsibility

At Qualcomm, we realize we have a significant role to play as we strive to better both our local and global communities through ethical business practices, socially empowering technology applications, educational and environmental programs and employee diversity and volunteerism.

Community Involvement. We are dedicated to developing and strengthening communities worldwide and believe that involvement with community organizations is an important avenue for our employees to develop as professionals and as citizens.

Diversity. We strongly believe in fostering an inclusive work environment globally and are committed to advancing opportunities for all employees and encouraging diversity through the workforce.

Environmental Health and Safety. We take a proactive approach to programs and techniques that contribute to a better environment for our local communities as well as our employees.

Corporate Sustainability. We are committed to energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable best practices to reduce our carbon footprint.

Wireless Reach. We believe access to advanced wireless voice and data services improves people's lives. Qualcomm's Wireless Reach initiative supports programs and solutions that bring the benefits of connectivity to underserved communities globally. By working with partners, Wireless Reach projects create new ways for people to communicate, learn, access health care, sustain the environment and reach global markets.

Employees

As of September 27, 2009, we employed approximately 16,100 full-time, part-time and temporary employees. During fiscal 2009, the number of employees increased by approximately 700 primarily due to increases in engineering resources.

Available Information

Our Internet address is www.qualcomm.com. There we make available, free of charge, our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to those reports, as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). We also make available on our Internet site public financial information for which a report is not required to be filed with or furnished to the SEC. Our SEC reports and other financial information can be accessed through the investor relations section of our Internet site. The information found on our Internet site is not part of this or any other report we file with or furnish to the SEC.

The public may read and copy any materials that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at (202) 551-8090. The SEC also maintains electronic versions of our reports on its website at www.sec.gov.

Executive Officers

Our executive officers (and their ages as of September 27, 2009) are as follows:

Paul E. Jacobs, age 46, has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors since March 2009, as a director since June 2005, and as Chief Executive Officer since July 2005. He served as Group President of the Qualcomm Wireless

& Internet (QWI) Group from July 2001 to June 2005. In addition, he served as an Executive Vice President from
14

Table of Contents

February 2000 to June 2005. Dr. Jacobs is also a director of A123 Systems, Inc., a lithium-ion battery developer and manufacturer company. Dr. Jacobs holds a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, an M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering and a Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Paul Jacobs is the son of Dr. Irwin Mark Jacobs, a director of the Company.

Steven R. Altman, age 48, has served as President since July 2005. He served as an Executive Vice President from November 1997 to June 2005 and as President of Qualcomm Technology Licensing (QTL) from September 1995 to April 2005. He is also a director of Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Mr. Altman holds a B.S. degree in Political Science and Administration from Northern Arizona University and a J.D. from the University of San Diego.

Derek K. Aberle, age 39, has served as an Executive Vice President and as President of QTL since September 2008. From October 2006 to September 2008, he served as a Senior Vice President and as General Manager of QTL. Mr. Aberle joined the Company in December 2000 and prior to October 2006 held positions ranging from Legal Counsel to Vice President and General Manager of QTL. Mr. Aberle holds a B.A. degree in Business Economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a J.D. from the University of San Diego.

Andrew M. Gilbert, age 46, has served as an Executive Vice President and President of Qualcomm Internet Services (QIS) and Qualcomm Europe since May 2009. He served as an Executive Vice President and President of QIS, MediaFLO Technologies (MFT) and Qualcomm Europe from January 2008 to May 2009. He served as Senior Vice President and President of Qualcomm Europe from November 2006 to January 2008 and as President of Qualcomm Europe from February 2006 to November 2006. Mr. Gilbert joined Qualcomm in January 2006 as Vice President of Qualcomm Europe. Prior to joining Qualcomm, he served as Vice President and General Manager of Flarion Technologies European, Middle Eastern and African regions from May 2002 to January 2006.

Margaret Peggy L. Johnson, age 47, has served as Executive Vice President of the Americas and India since January 2008 and as an Executive Vice President since December 2006. She served as President of MFT from December 2005 to January 2008 and as President of QIS from July 2001 to January 2008. She served as Senior Vice President and General Manager of QIS from September 2000 to July 2001. Ms. Johnson holds a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from San Diego State University.

William E. Keitel, age 56, has served as an Executive Vice President since December 2003 and as Chief Financial Officer since February 2002. He previously served as a Senior Vice President and as Corporate Controller from May 1999 to February 2002. Mr. Keitel holds a B.A. degree in Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin and an M.B.A. from Arizona State University.

Len J. Lauer, age 52, has served as Chief Operating Officer and as an Executive Vice President since August 2008 and has responsibility for QWI, FLO TV, MFT, Qualcomm MEMS Technologies (QMT), Corporate Engineering, Corporate Marketing and Global Business Development. He served as Executive Vice President and Group President from December 2006 to July 2008. He was Chief Operating Officer of Sprint Nextel from August 2005 to December 2006. Mr. Lauer was President and Chief Operating Officer of Sprint Corporation from September 2003 until the Sprint-Nextel merger in August 2005. Prior to that, he was President of Sprint PCS from October 2002 until October 2004 and was President-Long Distance (formerly the Global Markets Group) at Sprint PCS from September 2000 until October 2002. Mr. Lauer also served in several executive positions at Bell Atlantic Corp. from 1992 to 1998. Mr. Lauer is also a director of H&R Block, Inc. Mr. Lauer holds a B.S. degree in Managerial Economics from the University of California, San Diego.

James P. Lederer, age 49, has served as Executive Vice President and General Manager of Qualcomm CDMA Technologies (QCT) since May 2009. He served as Executive Vice President, QCT Business Planning and Finance from May 2008 to May 2009, Senior Vice President, QCT Finance from April 2005 to April 2008, Vice President, Finance from July 2001 to April 2005 and Senior Director, Finance from October 2000 to July 2001. Mr. Lederer joined Qualcomm in 1997 as a Senior Manager in Corporate Finance. Mr. Lederer holds a B.S. degree in Business Administration (Finance/MIS) and an M.B.A. from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Steven M. Mollenkopf, age 40, has served as Executive Vice President and President of QCT since August 2008. He served as Executive Vice President, QCT Product Management from May 2008 to July 2008, as Senior Vice President, Engineering and Product Management from July 2006 to May 2008 and as Vice President, Engineering from April 2002 to July 2006. Mr. Mollenkopf joined Qualcomm in 1994 as an Engineer and throughout his tenure at

Qualcomm held several other technical and leadership roles. Mr. Mollenkopf holds a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from Virginia Tech and an M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan.

Table of Contents

Roberto Padovani, age 55, has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer since November 2001. He previously served as Senior Vice President from July 1996 to July 2001 and as Executive Vice President from July 2001 to November 2001 in Corporate Research and Development. Dr. Padovani holds a Laureate degree from the University of Padova, Italy and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, all in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Donald J. Rosenberg, age 58, has served as Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary since October 2007. He served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for Apple Computer, Inc. from December 2006 to October 2007. From May 1975 to November 2006, Mr. Rosenberg held numerous positions at IBM Corporation, including Senior Vice President and General Counsel. Mr. Rosenberg holds a B.S. degree in Mathematics from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and a J.D. from St. John's University School of Law.

Daniel L. Sullivan, age 58, has served as Executive Vice President of Human Resources since August 2001. He served as Senior Vice President of Human Resources from February 1996 to July 2001. Dr. Sullivan holds a B.S. degree in Communication from Illinois State University, an M.A. degree in Communication from West Virginia University and a Ph.D. in Organization Communication from the University of Nebraska.

Jing Wang, age 47, has served as Executive Vice President of Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa since January 2008. He joined Qualcomm as a Senior Vice President in February 2001. Mr. Wang also served as Chairman, Qualcomm Asia Pacific from August 2006 to January 2008 and as Chairman, Qualcomm Greater China from March 2003 to August 2006. Mr. Wang holds a B.A. degree in Literature from Anhui University, an LL.M from the People's University of China, Department of Law, and an LL.M from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

You should consider each of the following factors as well as the other information in this Annual Report in evaluating our business and our prospects. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently consider immaterial may also impair our business operations. If any of the following risks actually occur, our business and financial results could be harmed. In that case, the trading price of our common stock could decline. You should also refer to the other information set forth in this Annual Report, including our financial statements and the related notes.

Risks Related to Our Businesses

If deployment of our technologies does not expand as expected, our revenues may not grow as anticipated.

We focus our business primarily on developing, patenting and commercializing CDMA technology for wireless telecommunications applications. Other digital wireless communications technologies, particularly GSM technology, have been more widely deployed than CDMA technology. If adoption and use of CDMA-based wireless communications standards do not continue in the countries where our products and those of our customers and licensees are sold, our business and financial results could suffer. If GSM wireless operators do not select CDMA for their networks or upgrade their current networks to any CDMA-based third-generation (3G) technology, our business and financial results could suffer since we have not previously generated significant revenues from sales of single-mode GSM products. In addition to CDMA technology, we continue to invest in developing, patenting and commercializing OFDMA technology, which has not yet been widely adopted and commercially deployed, and our MediaFLO technology, which was commercially deployed in the United States in fiscal 2007. If OFDMA is not widely adopted and commercially deployed and/or MediaFLO technology is not more widely adopted by consumers in the United States or commercially deployed internationally, our investments in OFDMA and MediaFLO technologies may not provide us an adequate return.

Our business and the deployment of our technologies, products and services are dependent on the success of our customers, licensees and CDMA-based wireless operators, as well as the timing of their deployment of new services. Our licensees and CDMA-based wireless operators may incur lower gross margins on products or services based on our technologies than on products using alternative technologies as a result of greater competition or other factors. If CDMA-based wireless operators, wireless device and/or infrastructure manufacturers cease providing CDMA-based products and/or services, the deployment of CDMA technology could be negatively affected, and our business could suffer.

We are dependent on the commercial deployment and upgrades of 3G wireless communications equipment, products and services to increase our revenues, and our business may be harmed if wireless network operators delay or are unsuccessful in the commercial deployment or upgrade of 3G technology or if they deploy other technologies.

Table of Contents

To increase our revenues in future periods, we are dependent upon the commercial deployment and upgrades of 3G wireless communications equipment, products and services based on our CDMA technology. Although wireless network operators have commercially deployed CDMA2000 and WCDMA, we cannot predict the timing or success of further commercial deployments or expansions or upgrades of CDMA2000, WCDMA or other CDMA systems. If existing deployments are not commercially successful or do not continue to grow their subscriber base, or if new commercial deployments of CDMA2000, WCDMA or other CDMA-based systems are delayed or unsuccessful, our business and financial results may be harmed. In addition, our business could be harmed if wireless network operators deploy other technologies or switch existing networks from CDMA to GSM without upgrading to WCDMA or if wireless network operators introduce new technologies. A limited number of wireless operators have started testing OFDMA technology, but the timing and extent of OFDMA deployments is uncertain, and we might not be successful in developing and marketing OFDMA products.

Our patent portfolio may not be as successful in generating licensing income with respect to other technologies as it has been for CDMA-based technologies.

Although we own a very strong portfolio of issued and pending patents related to GSM, GPRS, EDGE, OFDM, OFDMA and/or Multiple Input, Multiple Output (MIMO) technologies, our patent portfolio licensing program in these areas is less established and might not be as successful in generating licensing income as our CDMA portfolio licensing program. Many wireless operators are investigating or have selected LTE (or to a lesser extent WiMAX) as next-generation technologies for deployment in existing or future spectrum bands as complementary to their existing CDMA-based networks. Although we believe that our patented technology is essential and useful to implementation of the LTE and WiMAX standards and have granted royalty-bearing licenses to nine companies to make and sell products implementing those standards (including Nokia and two other major handset OEMs), we might not achieve the same royalty revenues on such LTE or WiMAX deployments as on CDMA-based deployments, and we might not achieve the same level of success in selling LTE or WiMAX products as we have in CDMA-based products.

Our earnings are subject to substantial quarterly and annual fluctuations and to market downturns.

Our revenues and earnings have fluctuated significantly in the past and may fluctuate significantly in the future. General economic or other conditions have caused a downturn in the market for our products or technology. Despite the recent improvements in market conditions, a future downturn in the market for our products or technology could adversely affect our operating results and increase the risk of substantial quarterly and annual fluctuations in our earnings. Any prolonged credit crisis may result in the insolvency of key suppliers resulting in product delays; delays in reporting and/or payments from our licensees; the inability of our customers to obtain credit to finance purchases of our products; customer/licensee insolvencies that impact our customers' /licensees' ability to pay us and/or cause our customers to change delivery schedules, cancel committed purchase orders or reduce purchase order commitment projections; uncertainty in global economies, which could impact demand for CDMA-based products in various regions; counterparty failures negatively impacting our treasury operations; and the inability to utilize federal and/or state capital loss carryovers.

Volatility in financial markets has impacted, and could continue to impact, the value and performance of our marketable securities. Net investment income could vary depending on the gains or losses realized on the sale or exchange of securities, gains or losses from equity method investments, impairment charges related to marketable securities and other investments, changes in interest rates and changes in fair values of derivative instruments. Our cash and marketable securities investments represent significant assets that may be subject to fluctuating or even negative returns depending upon interest rate movements and financial market conditions in fixed income and equity securities.

Our future operating results may be affected by many factors, including, but not limited to: our ability to retain existing or secure anticipated customers or licensees, both domestically and internationally; our ability to develop, introduce and market new technology, products and services on a timely basis; management of inventory by us and our customers and their customers in response to shifts in market demand; changes in the mix of technology and products developed, licensed, produced and sold; seasonal customer demand; disputes with our customers and licensees; and other factors described elsewhere in this Annual Report and in these risk factors.

These factors affecting our future earnings are difficult to forecast and could harm our quarterly and/or annual operating results. If our earnings fail to meet the financial guidance we provide to investors, or the expectations of investment analysts or investors in any period, securities class action litigation could be brought against us and/or the market price of our common stock could decline.

Table of Contents

Global economic conditions that impact the wireless communications industry could negatively affect our revenues and operating results.

Despite the recent improvements in market conditions, a future decline in global economic conditions could have adverse, wide-ranging effects on demand for our products and for the products of our customers, particularly wireless communications equipment manufacturers or other members of the wireless industry, such as wireless network operators. We cannot predict other negative events that may have adverse effects on the economy, on demand for wireless device products or on wireless device inventories at CDMA-based equipment manufacturers and wireless operators. Inflation and/or deflation and economic recessions that adversely affect the global economy and capital markets also adversely affect our customers and our end consumers. For example, our customers' ability to purchase or pay for our products and services, obtain financing and upgrade wireless networks could be adversely affected, leading to cancellation or delay of orders for our products. Also, our end consumers' standards of living could be lowered, and their ability to purchase wireless devices based on our technology could be diminished. Inflation could also increase our costs of raw materials and operating expenses and harm our business in other ways, and deflation could reduce our revenues if product prices fall. Any of these results from worsening global economic conditions could negatively affect our revenues and operating results.

During fiscal 2009, 69% of our revenues were from customers and licensees based in South Korea, China and Japan as compared to 70% and 69% during fiscal 2008 and 2007, respectively. These customers sell their products to markets worldwide, including in Japan, South Korea, China, India, North America, South America and Europe. A significant downturn in the economies of Asian countries where many of our customers and licensees are located, particularly the economies of South Korea, Japan and China, or the economies of the major markets they serve could materially harm our business. In addition, the continued threat of terrorism and heightened security and military action in response to this threat, or any future acts of war or terrorism, may cause disruptions to the global economy and to the wireless communications industry and create uncertainties. Should such negative events occur, subsequent economic recovery might not benefit us in the near term. If it does not, our ability to increase or maintain our revenues and operating results may be impaired. In addition, because we intend to continue to make significant investments in research and development and to maintain extensive ongoing customer service and support capability, any decline in the rate of growth of our revenues will have a significant adverse impact on our operating results.

Our four largest customers accounted for 49% of consolidated revenues in fiscal 2009, 42% in fiscal 2008 and 34% in fiscal 2007. The loss of any one of our major customers or any reduction in the demand for devices utilizing our CDMA technology could reduce our revenues and harm our ability to achieve or sustain desired levels of operating results.

The loss of any one of our QCT segment's significant customers or the delay, even if only temporary, or cancellation of significant orders from any of these customers would reduce our revenues in the period of the cancellation or deferral and harm our ability to achieve or sustain expected levels of operating results. We derive a significant portion of our QCT segment revenues from four major customers. Accordingly, unless and until our QCT segment diversifies and expands its customer base, our future success will significantly depend upon the timing and size of any future purchase orders from these customers. Factors that may impact the size and timing of orders from customers of our QCT segment include, among others, the following:

- the product requirements of our customers and the network operators;
- the level of component integration and interoperability required by operators;
- the financial and operational success of our customers;
- the success of our customers' products that incorporate our products;
- changes in wireless penetration growth rates;
- value added features which drive replacement rates;
- shortages of key products and components;
- fluctuations in channel inventory levels;
- the success of products sold to our customers by competitors;
- the rate of deployment of new technology by the wireless network operators and the rate of adoption of new technology by the end consumers;

Table of Contents

the extent to which certain customers successfully develop and produce CDMA-based integrated circuits and system software to meet their own needs or source such products from other suppliers;
general economic conditions; and
changes in governmental regulations in countries where we or our customers currently operate or plan to operate.

We derive a significant portion of our royalty revenues in our QTL segment from a limited number of licensees and our future success depends on the ability of our licensees to obtain market acceptance for their products.

Our QTL segment today derives royalty revenues primarily from sales of CDMA products by our licensees. Although we have more than 175 licensees, we derive a significant portion of our royalty revenues from a limited number of licensees. Our future success depends upon the ability of our licensees to develop, introduce and deliver high-volume products that achieve and sustain market acceptance. We have little or no control over the sales efforts of our licensees, and our licensees might not be successful. Reductions in the average selling price of wireless communications devices utilizing our CDMA technology, without a comparable increase in the volumes of such devices sold, could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We may not be able to modify some of our license agreements to license later patents without modifying some of the other material terms and conditions of such license agreements, and such modifications may impact our revenues.

The licenses granted to and from us under a number of our license agreements include only patents that are either filed or issued prior to a certain date, and, in a small number of agreements, royalties are payable on those patents for a specified time period. As a result, there are agreements with some licensees where later patents are not licensed by or to us under our license agreements. In order to license any such later patents, we will need to extend or modify our license agreements or enter into new license agreements with such licensees. We might not be able to modify such license agreements in the future to license any such later patents or extend such date(s) to incorporate later patents without affecting the material terms and conditions of our license agreements with such licensees.

Efforts by some telecommunications equipment manufacturers to avoid paying fair and reasonable royalties for the use of our intellectual property may create uncertainty about our future business prospects, may require the investment of substantial management time and financial resources, and may result in legal decisions and/or political actions by foreign governments that harm our business.

A small number of companies have initiated various strategies in an attempt to renegotiate, mitigate and/or eliminate their need to pay royalties to us for the use of our intellectual property in order to negatively affect our business model and that of our other licensees. These strategies have included (i) litigation, often alleging infringement of patents held by such companies, patent misuse, patent exhaustion and patent and license unenforceability, or some form of unfair competition, (ii) taking questionable positions on the interpretation of contracts with us, (iii) appeals to governmental authorities, such as the complaints filed with the European Commission (EC) during the fourth calendar quarter of 2005 and with the Korea Fair Trade Commission (KFTC) and the Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC) during 2006, (iv) collective action, including working with carriers, standards bodies, other like-minded technology companies and other organizations, formal and informal, to adopt intellectual property policies and practices which could have the effect of limiting returns on intellectual property innovations and (v) lobbying with governmental regulators and elected officials for the purpose of seeking the imposition of some form of compulsory licensing and/or to weaken a patent holder's ability to enforce its rights or obtain a fair return for such rights. A number of these strategies are purportedly based on interpretations of the policies of certain standards development organizations concerning the licensing of patents that are or may be essential to industry standards and our alleged failure to abide by these policies. There is a risk that relevant courts or governmental agencies will interpret those policies in a manner adverse to our interests.

Six companies (Nokia, Ericsson, Panasonic, Texas Instruments, Broadcom and NEC) submitted separate formal complaints to the Competition Directorate of the EC accusing our business practices, with respect to licensing of patents and sales of chipsets, to be in violation of Article 82 of the EC treaty. We received the complaints, submitted a response and have cooperated with the EC in its investigation. On October 1, 2007, the EC announced that it had initiated a proceeding. To date, the EC has not announced whether it would issue a Statement of Objections or whether it has made any conclusions as to the merits of the complaints. On July 23, 2008, we entered into an

agreement with Nokia in which Nokia agreed to withdraw its complaint as part of the settlement of disputes between the parties, and on April 26, 2009, we entered into an agreement with Broadcom in which Broadcom agreed to withdraw its complaint as part of the settlement of disputes between the parties; however, although Nokia and

Table of Contents

Broadcom have each withdrawn their complaints, the investigation remains active. While the EC's actions to date do not indicate that the EC has found any evidence of a violation by us and we believe that none of our business practices violate the legal requirements of Article 82 of the EC treaty, if the EC determines liability as to any of the alleged violations, it could impose fines and/or require us to modify our practices. Further, the continuation of this investigation could be expensive and time consuming to address, divert management attention from our business and harm our reputation. Although such potential adverse findings may be appealed within the EC legal system, an adverse final determination could have a significant negative impact on our revenues and/or earnings. Two U.S. companies (Texas Instruments and Broadcom) and two South Korean companies (Nextreaming Corp. and Thin Multimedia, Inc.) filed complaints with the KFTC alleging that certain of our business practices violate South Korean anti-trust regulations. On February 17, 2009, the KFTC issued a Case Examiner's report setting forth allegations with respect to the lawfulness of certain business practices related to our integration of multimedia solutions into our chipsets, rebates and discounts provided to our chipset customers and of certain licensing practices. As a result of its agreement with us, in May 2009 Broadcom withdrew its complaint to the KFTC. Hearings before the KFTC commenced on May 27, 2009, and on July 23, 2009, the KFTC announced its ruling in the case, although the written decision has not yet been issued. The KFTC announced that it found us to be in violation of South Korean law by offering certain discounts and rebates for purchases of our CDMA chips and that it would levy a fine of at least 260 billion Korean won, as well as order us to cease the practices at issue. We intend to appeal the written decision once issued. As a result of this announcement, we recorded a \$230 million charge during fiscal 2009. We do not anticipate that the cease and desist remedies ordered will have a material effect on our operations. In July 2009, the KFTC also announced that it would continue its review of our integration of multimedia functions into our chipsets, but it has not announced any decisions in that regard. The JFTC has also received unspecified complaints alleging that our business practices are, in some way, a violation of Japanese law. We have not received the complaints but we have submitted certain requested information and documents to the JFTC regarding the non-assert, cross-licensing and royalty provisions in our license agreements and BREW agreements. On September 29, 2009, the JFTC issued a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) concluding that our Japanese licensees were forced to cross-license patents to us on a royalty-free basis and were forced to accept a provision under which they agreed not to assert their essential patents against our other licensees who made a similar commitment in their license agreements with us. The CDO seeks to require us to modify our existing license agreements with Japanese companies to eliminate these provisions while preserving the license of our patents to those companies. We disagree with the conclusions that we forced our Japanese licensees to agree to any provision in the parties' agreements and that those provisions violate Japan's Anti-Monopoly Act. We intend to invoke our right under Japanese law to an administrative hearing before the JFTC, request that the JFTC suspend the CDO pending a decision following the hearing, and seek a stay of the CDO from the Japanese courts should the JFTC deny our request to suspend the CDO. Rejection of our requests to suspend or stay the CDO or an adverse final determination following administrative and judicial (if necessary) review of the CDO could have a significant negative impact on our business, including our revenues and/or earnings. We believe that none of our business practices violate the legal requirements of South Korean competition law or Japanese competition law. However, continuation of the KFTC's investigation and administrative and judicial review of the KFTC's written decision and the JFTC's CDO could be expensive and time consuming to address, divert management attention from our business and harm our reputation.

Although we believe that these challenges are without merit, and we will continue to vigorously defend our intellectual property and contract rights and our right to continue to receive a fair return for our innovations, the distractions caused by challenges to our business model and licensing program are undesirable and the legal and other costs associated with defending our position have been and continue to be significant. We assume, as should investors, that such challenges will continue into the foreseeable future and may require the investment of substantial management time and financial resources to explain and defend our position.

The enforcement and protection of our intellectual property rights may be expensive and could divert our valuable resources.

We rely primarily on patent, copyright, trademark and trade secret laws, as well as nondisclosure and confidentiality agreements and other methods, to protect our proprietary information, technologies and processes,

including our patent portfolio. Policing unauthorized use of our products and technologies is difficult and time consuming. We cannot be certain that the steps we have taken will prevent the misappropriation or unauthorized use of our proprietary information and technologies, particularly in foreign countries where the laws may not protect our proprietary intellectual property rights as fully or as readily as United States laws. We cannot be certain that the laws and policies of any country, including the United States, or the practices of any of the standards bodies, foreign or

Table of Contents

domestic, with respect to intellectual property enforcement or licensing, issuance of wireless licenses or the adoption of standards, will not be changed in a way detrimental to our licensing program or to the sale or use of our products or technology.

The vast majority of our patents and patent applications relate to our wireless communications technology and much of the remainder of our patents and patent applications relate to our other technologies and products. We may need to litigate to enforce our intellectual property rights, protect our trade secrets or determine the validity and scope of proprietary rights of others. As a result of any such litigation, we could lose our ability to enforce one or more patents or incur substantial unexpected operating costs. Any action we take to enforce our intellectual property rights could be costly and could absorb significant management time and attention, which, in turn, could negatively impact our operating results. In addition, failure to protect our trademark rights could impair our brand identity.

Claims by other companies that we infringe their intellectual property or that patents on which we rely are invalid could adversely affect our business.

From time to time, companies have asserted, and may again assert, patent, copyright and other intellectual property rights against our products or products using our technologies or other technologies used in our industry. These claims have resulted and may again result in our involvement in litigation. We may not prevail in such litigation given the complex technical issues and inherent uncertainties in intellectual property litigation. If any of our products were found to infringe on another company's intellectual property rights, we could be subject to an injunction or required to redesign our products, which could be costly, or to license such rights and/or pay damages or other compensation to such other company. If we were unable to redesign our products, license such intellectual property rights used in our products or otherwise distribute our products through a licensed supplier, we could be prohibited from making and selling such products.

We expect that we will continue to be involved in litigation and may have to appear in front of administrative bodies (such as the U.S. International Trade Commission) to defend against patent assertions against our products by companies, some of whom are attempting to gain competitive advantage or negotiating leverage in licensing negotiations. We may not be successful and, if we are not, the range of possible outcomes includes everything from a royalty payment to an injunction on the sale of certain of our chipsets (and on the sale of our customers' devices using our chipsets) and the imposition of royalty payments that might make purchases of our chipsets less economical for our customers. A negative outcome in any such litigation could severely disrupt the business of our chipset customers and their wireless customers, which in turn could hurt our relationships with our chipset customers and wireless operators and could result in a decline in our share of worldwide chipset sales and/or a reduction in our licensees' sales to wireless operators, causing a corresponding decline in our chipset and/or licensing revenues.

In addition, as the number of competitors or other patent holders in the market increases and the functionality of our products expands to include additional technologies and features, we may become subject to claims of infringement or misappropriation of the intellectual property rights of others. Any claims, regardless of their merit, could be time consuming to address, result in costly litigation, divert the efforts of our technical and management personnel or cause product release or shipment delays, any of which could have a material adverse effect upon our operating results. In any potential dispute involving other companies' patents or other intellectual property, our chipset suppliers and customers could also become the targets of litigation. We are contingently liable under certain product sales, services, license and other agreements to indemnify certain customers against certain types of liability and/or damages arising from qualifying claims of patent infringement by products or services sold or provided by us. Reimbursements under indemnification arrangements could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations. Furthermore, any such litigation could severely disrupt the supply of our products and the business of our chipset customers and their wireless operator customers, which in turn could hurt our relationships with our chipset customers and wireless operators and could result in a decline in our chipset sales and/or a reduction in our licensees' sales to wireless operators, causing a corresponding decline in our chipset and/or licensing revenues.

A number of other companies have claimed to own patents essential to various CDMA standards, GSM standards and OFDMA standards or implementations of OFDM and OFDMA systems. If we or other product manufacturers are required to obtain additional licenses and/or pay royalties to one or more patent holders, this could have a material adverse effect on the commercial implementation of our CDMA, GSM, OFDMA or multimode products and

technologies, demand for our licensees' products and our profitability.

Other companies or entities also have, and may again, commence actions seeking to establish the invalidity of our patents. In the event that one or more of our patents are challenged, a court may invalidate the patent(s) or determine that the patent(s) is not enforceable, which could harm our competitive position. If our key patents are

Table of Contents

invalidated, or if the scope of the claims in any of these patents is limited by court decision, we could be prevented from licensing the invalidated or limited portion of such patents. Such adverse decisions could negatively impact our revenues. Even if such a patent challenge is not successful, it could be expensive and time consuming to address, divert management attention from our business and harm our reputation.

Our industry is subject to competition that could result in decreased demand for our products and the products of our customers and licensees and/or declining average selling prices for our licensees' products and our products, negatively affecting our revenues and operating results.

We currently face significant competition in our markets and expect that competition will continue. Competition in the telecommunications market is affected by various factors, including:

- comprehensiveness of products and technologies;
- value added features which drive replacement rates and selling prices;
- manufacturing capability;
- scalability and the ability of the system technology to meet customers' immediate and future network requirements;
- product performance and quality;
- design and engineering capabilities;
- compliance with industry standards;
- time-to-market;
- system cost; and
- customer support.

This competition may result in increased development costs and reduced average selling prices for our products and those of our customers and licensees. Reductions in the average selling prices of our licensees' products, unless offset by an increase in volumes, generally result in reduced royalties payable to us. While pricing pressures from competition may, to a large extent, be mitigated by the introduction of new features and functionality in our licensees' products as evidenced by the recent success of smartphones and other feature rich, data capable devices, there is no guarantee that such mitigation will continue to occur. We anticipate that additional competitors will enter our markets as a result of growth opportunities in wireless telecommunications, the trend toward global expansion by foreign and domestic competitors, technological and public policy changes and relatively low barriers to entry in selected segments of the industry.

Companies that promote non-CDMA technologies (e.g., GSM, WiMAX) and companies that design competing CDMA-based integrated circuits are generally included amongst our competitors or potential competitors in the United States or abroad. Examples (some of whom are strategic partners of ours in other areas) include Broadcom, Freescale, Fujitsu, Icera, Infineon, Intel, Mediatek, NEC, nVidia, Renesas, ST-Ericsson (a joint venture between Ericsson Mobile Platforms and ST-NXP Wireless), Texas Instruments and VIA Telecom. With respect to our QES business, our competitors are aggressively pricing products and services and are offering new value-added products and services, which may impact margins, intensify competition in current and new markets and harm our ability to compete in certain markets.

Many of these current and potential competitors have advantages over us, including:

- longer operating histories and market presence;
- greater name recognition;
- motivation by our customers in certain circumstances to find alternate suppliers;
- access to larger customer bases;
- economies of scale and cost structure advantages;
- greater sales and marketing, manufacturing, distribution, technical and other resources; and
- government support of other technologies.

As a result of these and other factors, our competitors may be more successful than us. In addition, we anticipate new competitors, including companies not previously engaged in manufacturing telecommunications chipsets, to

Table of Contents

begin offering and selling products based on 3G standards, LTE and WiMAX. These competitors may have more established relationships and distribution channels in markets not currently deploying CDMA-based wireless communications technology. These competitors also may have established or may establish financial or strategic relationships among themselves or with our existing or potential customers, resellers or other third parties. These relationships may affect our customers' decisions to purchase products or license technology from us or to use alternative technologies. Accordingly, new competitors or alliances among competitors could emerge and rapidly acquire significant market share of sales to our detriment. In addition to the foregoing, we have seen, and believe we will continue to see, an increase in customers requesting that we develop products, including chipsets, that will operate in an open source environment, which offers practical accessibility to a portion of a product's source code. Developing open source compliant products, without imperiling the intellectual property rights upon which our licensing business depends, may prove difficult under certain circumstances, thereby placing us at a competitive disadvantage for new product designs.

We continue to believe our FLO TV service offering provides compelling advantages to consumers. However, we face indirect competition to our FLO TV products and services from wireless delivery of streaming and downloadable video content via wireless operators, OEMs and other providers of mobile video content, as well as from internet video content accessed through the mobile web browser.

While we continue to believe our QMT Division's interferometric modulator (IMOD) displays will offer compelling advantages to users of displays, there can be no assurance that other technologies will not continue to improve in ways that reduce the advantages we anticipate from our IMOD displays. Sales of flat panel displays are currently, and we believe will likely continue to be for some time, dominated by displays based on liquid crystal display (LCD) technology. Numerous companies are making substantial investments in, and conducting research to improve characteristics of, LCDs. Additionally, several other flat panel display technologies have been, or are being, developed, including technologies for the production of organic light-emitting diode (OLED), field emission, inorganic electroluminescence, gas plasma and vacuum fluorescent displays. In each case, advances in LCD or other flat panel display technologies could result in technologies that are more cost effective, have fewer display limitations or can be brought to market faster than our IMOD technology. These advances in competing technologies might cause display manufacturers to avoid entering into commercial relationships with us, or not renew planned or existing relationships with us. Our QMT division had \$389 million in assets (including \$128 million in goodwill) at September 27, 2009. If we do not achieve adequate market penetration with our IMOD display technology, our assets may become impaired, which could negatively impact our operating results.

Attempts by certain companies, if successful, to amend or modify Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) and other industry forums' intellectual property policies could impact our licensing business.

Some companies have proposed significant changes to existing intellectual property policies for implementation by SDOs and other industry organizations, some of which would require a maximum aggregate intellectual property royalty rate for the use of all essential patents owned by all of the member companies to be applied to the selling price of any product implementing the relevant standard. They have further proposed that such maximum aggregate royalty rate be apportioned to each member company with essential patents based upon the number of essential patents held by such company. In May 2007, seven companies (Nokia, Nokia-Siemens, NEC, Ericsson, SonyEricsson, Alcatel-Lucent and NextWave) issued a press release announcing their commitment to the principles described above with respect to the licensing of patents essential to LTE and inviting all other industry participants to join them in adopting such policies. Although the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) IPR Special Committee and the Next Generation Mobile Network industry group have thus far determined that such proposals should not be adopted as amendments to existing ETSI policies or new policies, and no other companies have joined these seven companies, such proposals as described above might be revisited within ETSI and might be adopted by other SDOs or industry groups, formal and/or informal, resulting in a potential disadvantage to our business model either by artificially limiting our return on investment with respect to new technologies or forcing us to work outside of the SDOs or such other industry groups for promoting our new technologies.

We depend upon a limited number of third-party suppliers to manufacture and test component parts, subassemblies and finished goods for our products. If these third-party suppliers do not allocate adequate manufacturing and test

capacity in their facilities to produce products on our behalf, or if there are any disruptions in the operations, or the loss, of any of these third parties, it could harm our ability to meet our delivery obligations to our customers, reduce our revenues, increase our cost of sales and harm our business.

A supplier's ability to meet our product manufacturing demand is limited mainly by its overall capacity and current capacity availability. Our ability to meet customer demand depends, in part, on our ability to obtain timely

Table of Contents

and adequate delivery of parts and components from our suppliers. A reduction or interruption in our product supply source, an inability of our suppliers to react to shifts in product demand or an increase in component prices could have a material adverse effect on our business or profitability. Component shortages could adversely affect our ability and that of our customers to ship products on a timely basis and, as a result, our customers' demand for our products. Any such shipment delays or declines in demand could reduce our revenues and harm our ability to achieve or sustain desired levels of profitability. Additionally, failure to meet customer demand in a timely manner could damage our reputation and harm our customer relationships. Our operations may also be harmed by lengthy or recurring disruptions at any of our suppliers' manufacturing facilities and by disruptions in the distribution channels from our suppliers and to our customers. Any such disruptions could cause significant delays in shipments until we are able to shift the products from an affected manufacturer to another manufacturer. If the affected supplier was a sole-source supplier, we may not be able to obtain the product without significant cost and delay. The loss of a significant third-party supplier or the inability of a third-party supplier to meet performance and quality specifications or delivery schedules could harm our ability to meet our delivery obligations to our customers and negatively impact our revenues and business operations.

QCT Segment. Although we have entered into long-term contracts with our suppliers, most of these contracts do not provide for long-term capacity commitments, except as may be provided in a particular purchase order that has been accepted by our supplier. To the extent that we do not have firm commitments from our suppliers over a specific time period, or in any specific quantity, our suppliers may allocate, and in the past have allocated, capacity to the production and testing of products for their other customers while reducing capacity to manufacture our products. Accordingly, capacity for our products may not be available when we need it or available at reasonable prices. We have experienced capacity limitations from our suppliers, which resulted in supply constraints and our inability to meet certain customer demand. There can be no assurance that we will not experience these or other supply constraints in the future, which could result in our failure to meet customer demand.

While our goal is to establish alternate suppliers for technologies that we consider critical, some of our integrated circuits products are only available from single sources, with which we do not have long-term capacity commitments. Our reliance on sole- or limited-source suppliers involves significant risks including possible shortages of manufacturing capacity, poor product performance and reduced control over delivery schedules, manufacturing capability and yields, quality assurance, quantity and costs. Our arrangements with our suppliers may oblige us to incur costs to manufacture and test our products that do not decrease at the same rate as decreases in pricing to our customers which may result in lowering our operating margins. In addition, the timely readiness of our foundry suppliers to support transitions to smaller geometry process technologies could impact our ability to meet customer demand, revenues and cost expectations. The timing of acceptance of the smaller technology designs by our customers may subject us to the risk of excess inventories of earlier designs.

In the event of a loss of, or a decision to change, a key third-party supplier, qualifying a new foundry supplier and commencing volume production or testing could involve delay and expense, resulting in lost revenues, reduced operating margins and possible loss of customers. We work closely with our customers to expedite their processes for evaluating new integrated circuits from our foundry suppliers; however, in some instances, transition of integrated circuit production to a new foundry supplier may cause a temporary decline in shipments of specific integrated circuits to individual customers.

Under our Integrated Fabless Manufacturing (IFM) model, we purchase die from semiconductor manufacturing foundries, contract with separate third-party manufacturers for back-end assembly and test services and ship the completed integrated circuits to our customers. We are unable to directly control the services provided by our semiconductor assembly and test (SAT) suppliers, including the timely procurement of packaging materials for our products, availability of assembly and test capacity, manufacturing yields, quality assurance and product delivery schedules. We have a limited history of working with the SAT suppliers under the IFM model, and we cannot guarantee that our lack of control will not cause disruptions in our operations that could harm our ability to meet our delivery obligations to our customers, reduce our revenues or increase our cost of sales.

QMT Division. QMT needs to form and maintain reliable business relationships with flat panel display manufacturers or other targeted partners to support the manufacture of IMOD displays in commercial volumes. All of

our current relationships have been for the development and limited production of certain IMOD display panels and/or modules. Some or all of these relationships may not succeed or, even if they are successful, may not result in the display manufacturers entering into material supply relationships with us.

FLO TV Business. FLO TV depends on a limited number of third-party suppliers to manufacture and test component parts, subassemblies and finished goods for products related to our direct-to-consumer FLO TV service

Table of Contents

offering. If these third-party suppliers do not allocate adequate manufacturing and test capacity in their facilities to produce products on our behalf, or if there are any disruptions in the operations, or the loss, of any of these third parties, our ability to meet our delivery obligations to our customers could be harmed, which could negatively impact our operating results. Lack of devices could also delay subscriber adoption of our FLO TV service.

Our suppliers may also be our competitors, putting us at a disadvantage for pricing and capacity allocation.

One or more of our suppliers may obtain licenses from us to manufacture CDMA-based integrated circuits that compete with our products. In this event, the supplier could elect to allocate raw materials and manufacturing capacity to their own products and reduce deliveries to us to our detriment. In addition, we may not receive reasonable pricing, manufacturing or delivery terms. We cannot guarantee that the actions of our suppliers will not cause disruptions in our operations that could harm our ability to meet our delivery obligations to our customers or increase our cost of sales.

We, and our licensees, are subject to the risks of conducting business outside the United States.

A significant part of our strategy involves our continued pursuit of growth opportunities in a number of international market locations. We market, sell and service our products internationally. We have established sales offices around the world. We expect to continue to expand our international sales operations and to sell products in additional countries and locations. This expansion will require significant management attention and financial resources to successfully develop direct and indirect international sales and support channels, and we cannot assure you that we will be successful or that our expenditures in this effort will not exceed the amount of any resulting revenues. If we are not able to maintain or increase international market demand for our products and technologies, we may not be able to maintain a desired rate of growth in our business.

Our international customers sell their products to markets throughout the world, including China, India, Japan, South Korea, North America, South America and Europe. We distinguish revenues from external customers by geographic areas based on the location to which our products, software or services are delivered and, for QTL's licensing and royalty revenue, the invoiced address of our licensees. Consolidated revenues from international customers as a percentage of total revenues were greater than 90% in both fiscal 2009 and 2008 and were 87% in fiscal 2007. In many international markets, barriers to entry are created by long-standing relationships between our potential customers and their local service providers and protective regulations, including local content and service requirements. In addition, our pursuit of international growth opportunities may require significant investments for an extended period before we realize returns, if any, on our investments. Our business could be adversely affected by a variety of uncontrollable and changing factors, including:

- difficulty in protecting or enforcing our intellectual property rights and/or contracts in a particular foreign jurisdiction, including challenges to our licensing practices under such jurisdictions' competition laws; adoption of mandatory licensing provisions by foreign jurisdictions (either with controlled/regulated royalties or royalty free);
- challenges pending before foreign competition agencies to the pricing and integration of additional features and functionality into our wireless chipset products;
- our inability to succeed in significant foreign markets, such as China, India or Europe;
- cultural differences in the conduct of business;
- difficulty in attracting qualified personnel and managing foreign activities;
- longer payment cycles for and greater difficulties collecting accounts receivable;
- export controls, tariffs and other trade protection measures;
- nationalization, expropriation and limitations on repatriation of cash;
- social, economic and political instability;
- natural disasters, acts of terrorism, widespread illness and war;
- taxation;
- variability in the value of the dollar against foreign currency; and
- changes in laws and policies affecting trade, foreign investments, licensing practices, loans and employment.

Table of Contents

We cannot be certain that the laws and policies of any country with respect to intellectual property enforcement or licensing, issuance of wireless licenses or the adoption of standards will not be changed or enforced in a way detrimental to our licensing program or to the sale or use of our products or technology.

The wireless markets in China and India, among others, represent growth opportunities for us. If wireless operators in China or India, or the governments of China or India, make technology deployment or other decisions that result in actions that are adverse to the expansion of CDMA technologies, our business could be harmed.

We are subject to risks in certain global markets in which wireless operators provide subsidies on wireless device sales to their customers. Increases in device prices that negatively impact device sales can result from changes in regulatory policies related to device subsidies. Limitations or changes in policy on device subsidies in South Korea, Japan, China and other countries may have additional negative impacts on our revenues.

Currency fluctuations could negatively affect future product sales or royalty revenues, harm our ability to collect receivables, or increase the U.S. dollar cost of the activities of our foreign subsidiaries and international strategic investments.

We are exposed to risk from fluctuations in currencies, which may change over time as our business practices evolve, that could impact our operating results, liquidity and financial condition. We operate and invest globally. Adverse movements in currency exchange rates may negatively affect our business due to a number of situations, including the following:

If the effective price of products sold by our customers were to increase as a result of fluctuations in the exchange rate of the relevant currencies, demand for the products could fall, which in turn would reduce our royalty and chipset revenues.

Our products and those of our customers and licensees that are sold in U.S. dollars become less price-competitive in international markets if the value of the U.S. dollar increases relative to foreign currencies, and our revenues may not grow as quickly as they otherwise might in response to worldwide growth in wireless products and services.

Declines in currency values in selected regions may adversely affect our operating results because our products and those of our customers and licensees may become more expensive to purchase in the countries of the affected currencies.

Assets or liabilities of our consolidated subsidiaries and our foreign investees that are not denominated in the functional currency of those entities are subject to the effects of currency fluctuations, which may affect our reported earnings. Our exposure to foreign currencies may increase as we increase our presence in existing markets or expand into new markets.

Investments in our consolidated foreign subsidiaries and in other foreign entities that use the local currency as the functional currency may decline in value as a result of declines in local currency values.

Certain of our revenues, such as royalty revenues, are derived from licensee or customer sales that are denominated in foreign currencies. If these revenues are not subject to foreign exchange hedging transactions, weakening of currency values in selected regions could adversely affect our near term revenues and cash flows. In addition, continued weakening of currency values in selected regions over an extended period of time could adversely affect our future revenues and cash flows.

We may engage in foreign exchange hedging transactions that could affect our cash flows and earnings because they may require the payment of structuring fees, they may limit the U.S. dollar value of royalties from licensees' sales that are denominated in foreign currencies, and they expose us to counterparty risk if the counterparty fails to perform.

Our trade receivables are generally U.S. dollar denominated. Any significant increase in the value of the dollar against our customers' or licensees' functional currencies could result in an increase in our customers' or licensees' cash flow requirements and could consequently affect our ability to sell products and collect receivables.

Strengthening currency values in selected regions may adversely affect our operating results because the activities of our foreign subsidiaries, and the costs of procuring component parts and chipsets from foreign vendors, may become more expensive in U.S. dollars.

Table of Contents

Strengthening currency values in selected regions may adversely affect our cash flows and investment results because strategic investment obligations denominated in foreign currencies may become more expensive, and the U.S. dollar cost of equity in losses of foreign investees may increase.

Weakening currency values in selected regions may adversely affect the value of our marketable securities issued in foreign markets.

We may engage in acquisitions or strategic transactions or make investments that could result in significant changes or management disruption and fail to enhance stockholder value.

From time to time, we engage in acquisitions or strategic transactions or make investments with the goal of maximizing stockholder value. We acquire businesses, enter into joint ventures or other strategic transactions and purchase equity and debt securities, including minority interests in publicly-traded and private companies, non-investment-grade debt securities, equity and debt mutual and exchange-traded funds, corporate bonds/notes, auction rate securities and mortgage/asset-backed securities. Many of our strategic investments are in early-stage companies to support our business, including the global adoption of CDMA-based technologies and related services. Most of our strategic investments entail a high degree of risk and will not become liquid until more than one year from the date of investment, if at all. Our acquisitions or strategic investments (either those we have completed or may undertake in the future) may not generate financial returns or result in increased adoption or continued use of our technologies. In addition, our other investments may not generate financial returns or may result in losses due to market volatility, the general level of interest rates and inflation expectations. In some cases, we may be required to consolidate or record our share of the earnings or losses of those companies. Our share of any losses will adversely affect our financial results until we exit from or reduce our exposure to these investments.

Achieving the anticipated benefits of acquisitions depends in part upon our ability to integrate the acquired businesses in an efficient and effective manner. The integration of companies that have previously operated independently may result in significant challenges, and we may be unable to accomplish the integration smoothly or successfully. The difficulties of integrating companies include, among others:

- retaining key employees;
- maintaining important relationships of Qualcomm and the acquired business;
- minimizing the diversion of management's attention from ongoing business matters;
- coordinating geographically separate organizations;
- consolidating research and development operations; and
- consolidating corporate and administrative infrastructures.

We cannot assure you that the integration of acquired businesses with our business will result in the realization of the full benefits anticipated by us to result from the acquisition. We may not derive any commercial value from the acquired technology, products and intellectual property or from future technologies and products based on the acquired technology and/or intellectual property, and we may be subject to liabilities that are not covered by indemnification protection we may obtain.

Defects or errors in our products and services or in products made by our suppliers could harm our relations with our customers and expose us to liability. Similar problems related to the products of our customers or licensees could harm our business. If we experience product liability claims or recalls, we may incur significant expenses and experience decreased demand for our products.

Our products are inherently complex and may contain defects and errors that are detected only when the products are in use. For example, as our chipset product complexities increase, we are required to migrate to integrated circuit technologies with smaller geometric feature sizes. The design process interface issues are more complex as we enter into these new domains of technology, which adds risk to yields and reliability. Because our products and services are responsible for critical functions in our customers' products and/or networks, such defects or errors could have a serious impact on our customers, which could damage our reputation, harm our customer relationships and expose us to liability. Defects or impurities in our components, materials or software or those used by our customers or licensees, equipment failures or other difficulties could adversely affect our ability, and that of our customers and licensees, to ship products on a timely basis as well as customer or licensee demand for our products. Any such shipment delays or declines in demand could reduce our revenues and harm our ability to achieve or sustain desired levels of profitability. We and our customers or licensees may also experience component or software failures or

defects that could require significant product recalls, rework and/or repairs that are not covered by warranty reserves

Table of Contents

and which could consume a substantial portion of the capacity of our third-party manufacturers or those of our customers or licensees. Resolving any defect or failure related issues could consume financial and/or engineering resources that could affect future product release schedules. Additionally, a defect or failure in our products or the products of our customers or licensees could harm our reputation and/or adversely affect the growth of 3G wireless markets.

Testing, manufacturing, marketing and use of our products and those of our licensees and customers entail the risk of product liability. The use of wireless devices containing our products to access untrusted content creates a risk of exposing the system software in those devices to viral or malicious attacks. We continue to expand our focus on this issue and take measures to safeguard the software from this threat. However, this issue carries the risk of general product liability claims along with the associated impacts on reputation and demand. Although we carry product liability insurance to protect against product liability claims, we cannot assure you that our insurance coverage will be sufficient to protect us against losses due to product liability claims, or that we will be able to continue to maintain such insurance at a reasonable cost. Furthermore, not all losses associated with alleged product failure are insurable. Our inability to maintain insurance at an acceptable cost or to protect ourselves in other ways against potential product liability claims could prevent or inhibit the commercialization of our products and those of our licensees and customers and harm our future operating results. In addition, a product liability claim or recall, whether against our licensees, customers or us could harm our reputation and result in decreased demand for our products.

FLO TV does not fully control promotional activities necessary to stimulate demand for our services that are offered through the wireless operator channel.

Our FLO TV business is a wholesale provider of a mobile entertainment and information service to our wireless operator partners. We do not set the retail price of our service when it is provided wholesale, nor do we directly control all of the marketing and promotion of the service to the wireless operator's subscriber base. Therefore, we are dependent upon our wireless operator partners to price, market and otherwise promote our service to their end users. If our wireless operator partners do not effectively price, market and otherwise promote the service offered through the wireless operator channel to their subscriber base, our ability to achieve the subscriber and revenue targets contemplated in our business plan will be negatively impacted.

Consumer acceptance and adoption of our MediaFLO technology and mobile commerce applications will have a considerable impact on the success of our FLO TV and Firethorn businesses, respectively.

Consumer acceptance of our FLO TV and Firethorn service offerings are, and will continue to be, affected by technology-based differences and by the operational performance, quality, reliability and coverage of our wireless network and services platforms. Consumer demand could be impacted by differences in technology, coverage and service areas, network quality, consumer perceptions, program and service offerings and rate plans. Our wireless operator and financial services partners may have difficulty retaining subscribers if we are unable to meet subscriber expectations for network quality and coverage, customer care, content or security. Obtaining content for our FLO TV business that is appealing to subscribers on economically feasible terms may be limited by our content provider partners' inability to obtain the mobile rights to such programming. An inability to address these issues could limit our ability to expand our subscriber base placing us at a competitive disadvantage, which could adversely affect our operating results. Additionally, adoption and deployment of our MediaFLO technology could be adversely impacted by government regulatory practices that support a single standard other than our technology, wireless operator selection of competing technologies or consumer preferences. If MediaFLO technology is not more widely adopted by consumers in the United States or commercially deployed internationally, our investment in MediaFLO technology may not provide us an adequate return.

Our business and operating results will be harmed if we are unable to manage growth in our business.

Certain of our businesses have experienced periods of rapid growth and/or increased their international activities, placing significant demands on our managerial, operational and financial resources. In order to manage growth and geographic expansion, we must continue to improve and develop our management, operational and financial systems and controls, including quality control and delivery and service capabilities. We also need to continue to expand, train and manage our employee base. We must carefully manage research and development capabilities and production and inventory levels to meet product demand, new product introductions and product and technology transitions. We

cannot assure you that we will be able to timely and effectively meet that demand and maintain the quality standards required by our existing and potential customers and licensees.

In addition, inaccuracies in our demand forecasts, or failure of the systems used to develop the forecasts, could quickly result in either insufficient or excessive inventories and disproportionate overhead expenses. If we

Table of Contents

ineffectively manage our growth or are unsuccessful in recruiting and retaining personnel, our business and operating results will be harmed.

Our stock price may be volatile.

The stock market in general, and the stock prices of technology-based and wireless communications companies in particular, have experienced volatility that often has been unrelated to the operating performance of any specific public company. The market price of our common stock has fluctuated in the past and is likely to fluctuate in the future as well. Factors that may have a significant impact on the market price of our stock include:

- announcements concerning us or our competitors, including the selection of wireless communications technology by wireless operators and the timing of the roll-out of those systems;
- court or regulatory body decisions or settlements regarding intellectual property licensing and patent litigation and arbitration;
- receipt of substantial orders or order cancellations for integrated circuits and system software products;
- quality deficiencies in services or products;
- announcements regarding financial developments or technological innovations;
- international developments, such as technology mandates, political developments or changes in economic policies;
- lack of capital to invest in 3G networks;
- new commercial products;
- changes in recommendations of securities analysts;
- general stock market volatility;
- disruption in the U.S. and foreign credit and financial markets affecting both the availability of credit and credit spreads on investment securities;
- government regulations, including tax regulations;
- energy blackouts;
- acts of terrorism and war;
- inflation and deflation;
- concerns regarding global economic conditions that may impact one or more of the countries in which we, our customers or our licensees compete;
- widespread illness;
- proprietary rights or product or patent litigation against us or against our customers or licensees;
- strategic transactions, such as spin-offs, acquisitions and divestitures; or
- rumors or allegations regarding our financial disclosures or practices.

Our future earnings and stock price may be subject to volatility, particularly on a quarterly basis. Shortfalls in our revenues or earnings in any given period relative to the levels expected by securities analysts could immediately, significantly and adversely affect the trading price of our common stock.

In the past, securities class action litigation often has been brought against a company following periods of volatility in the market price of its securities. Due to changes in the potential volatility of our stock price, we may be the target of securities litigation in the future. Securities and patent litigation could result in substantial uninsured costs and divert management's attention and resources. In addition, stock price volatility may be precipitated by failure to meet earnings expectations or other factors, such as the potential uncertainty in future reported earnings created by the assumptions used for share-based compensation and the related valuation models used to determine such expense.

Our industry is subject to rapid technological change, and we must make substantial investments in new products, services and technologies to compete successfully.

New technological innovations generally require a substantial investment before they are commercially viable. We intend to continue to make substantial investments in developing new products and technologies, and it is

Table of Contents

possible that our development efforts will not be successful and that our new technologies will not result in meaningful revenues. In particular, we intend to continue to invest significant resources in developing integrated circuit products to support high-speed wireless internet access and multimode, multiband, multinet network operation and multimedia applications, which encompass development of graphical display, camera and video capabilities, as well as higher computational capability and lower power on-chip computers and signal processors. We also continue to invest in the development of our Plaza and BREW applications development platform, our MediaFLO MDS, MediaFLO technology and FLO TV service offering and our IMOD display technology. Certain of these new products, services and technologies face significant competition, and we cannot assure you that the revenues generated from these products or the timing of the deployment of these products or technologies, which may be dependent on the actions of others, will meet our expectations. We cannot be certain that we will make the additional advances in development that may be essential to commercialize our IMOD technology successfully.

The market for our wireless products, services and technologies is characterized by many factors, including:

- rapid technological advances and evolving industry standards;
- changes in customer requirements and consumer expectations and preferences;
- frequent introductions of new products and enhancements;
- evolving methods for transmission of wireless voice and data communications; and
- intense competition from companies with greater resources, customer relationships and distribution capabilities.

Our future success will depend on our ability to continue to develop and introduce new products, services, technologies and enhancements on a timely basis. Our future success will also depend on our ability to keep pace with technological developments, protect our intellectual property, satisfy customer requirements, meet consumer expectations, price our products and services competitively and achieve market acceptance. The introduction of products embodying new technologies and the emergence of new industry standards could render our existing products and technologies, and products and technologies currently under development, obsolete and unmarketable. If we fail to anticipate or respond adequately to technological developments or customer requirements, or experience any significant delays in development, introduction or shipment of our products and technologies in commercial quantities, demand for our products and our customers' and licensees' products that use our technologies could decrease, and our competitive position could be damaged.

Changes in assumptions used to estimate the values of share-based compensation have a significant effect on our reported results.

We are required to estimate and record compensation expense in the statement of operations for share-based payments, such as employee stock options, using the fair value method. This method has a significant effect on our reported earnings, although it will not affect our cash flows, and could adversely impact our ability to provide accurate guidance on our future reported financial results due to the variability of the factors used to estimate the values of share-based payments. If factors change and/or we employ different assumptions or different valuation methods in future periods, the compensation expense that we record may differ significantly from amounts recorded previously, which could negatively affect our stock price and our stock price volatility.

There are significant differences among valuation models, and there is a possibility that we will adopt different valuation models in the future. This may result in a lack of consistency in future periods and materially affect the fair value estimate of share-based payments. It may also result in a lack of comparability with other companies that use different models, methods and assumptions.

Theoretical valuation models and market-based methods are evolving and may result in lower or higher fair value estimates for share-based compensation. The timing, readiness, adoption, general acceptance, reliability and testing of these methods is uncertain. Sophisticated mathematical models may require voluminous historical information, modeling expertise, financial analyses, correlation analyses, integrated software and databases, consulting fees, customization and testing for adequacy of internal controls. Market-based methods are emerging that, if employed by us, may dilute our earnings per share and involve significant transaction fees and