

ASPYRA INC
Form 10-K
April 10, 2009

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008.

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 0-13268

ASPYRA, INC.
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

California
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

95-3353465
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

26115-A Mureau Road
Calabasas, California
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

91302
(Zip Code)

Registrant's Telephone Number,
Including Area Code:

(818) 880-6700

Securities registered under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act: None

Securities registered under Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act:

Common Stock, no par value
(Title of class)

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is 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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined by Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act) Yes No

As of June 30, 2008, the aggregate market value of the issued and outstanding common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant, based upon the closing price of the common stock as quoted on the NYSE Alternext of \$.70 was approximately \$6,412,221. For purposes of the above statement only, all directors, executive officers and 10% shareholders are assumed to be affiliates. This determination of affiliate status is not necessarily a conclusive determination for any other purpose.

The number of shares of common stock outstanding as of March 30, 2009 were 12,437,150.

Aspyra, Inc.

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Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

The following Annual Report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The SEC encourages companies to disclose forward-looking information so that investors can better understand a company's future prospects and make informed investment decisions.

Words such as "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "may," "plan," "project," "seek," "will" and words and phrases of similar substance used in connection with any discussion of future events, operating or financial performance, financing sources, product development, capital requirements, market growth and the like, identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements include, among others:

- projections of revenues and other financial items;
- statements of strategies and objectives for future operations;
- statements regarding integration plans following the merger with StorCOMM;
- statements concerning proposed applications or services;
- statements regarding future economic conditions, performance or business prospects;
- statements regarding competitors or competitive actions; and
- statements of assumptions underlying any of the foregoing.

All forward-looking statements are present expectations of future events and are subject to a number of factors and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements. The risks related to ASPYRA's business discussed under "Risk Factors" of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, among others, could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements.

The Company makes no representation as to whether any projected or estimated information or results contained in any forward-looking statements will be obtained or achieved. Shareholders are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The Company is under no obligation, and it expressly disclaims any obligation, to update or alter any forward-looking statements after the date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

PART I

Item 1. Business.

Business Description

Aspyra, Inc. formerly known as Creative Computer Applications, Inc. (ASPYRA or the Company) is a healthcare information technology and service provider that specializes in Clinical Information Systems (CIS) and Diagnostic Information Systems (DIS) for healthcare providers. As a result of its merger with StorCOMM, Inc. a private company, on November 22, 2005, ASPYRA broadened its portfolio of products to include the Picture Archive Communication Systems (PACS) products that were developed and sold by StorCOMM. In connection with the

merger, the Company changed its name to Aspyra, Inc. and StorCOMM's name was changed to Aspyra Diagnostic Solutions, Inc. (ADSI).

ASPYRA's software and services for hospitals and clinic-based laboratories, orthopedic centers, and hospital imaging departments are highly scalable and can be used by a broad variety of healthcare providers. Clinical information is data that is gathered concerning each individual patient's health condition, diagnosis, and treatment that are used by doctors, nurses and other healthcare providers. Such data may include laboratory test results, transcribed reports of radiological or imaging procedures, digital diagnostic images, and other clinical and diagnostic data. ASPYRA's products are deployed to provide automation of clinical information and digital diagnostic images that facilitate the operation of clinical departments and allows the rapid recording and processing of information that can be communicated, documented, and delivered to healthcare providers.

Currently, ASPYRA markets a product line that includes a Laboratory Information System (LIS) under the trade name CyberLAB®, a general purpose PACS system under the trade name AccessNET™, a Radiology Information System (RIS) under the trade name CyberRAD®, a RIS/PACS integrated system under the trade name AccessRAD™, a specialty PACS system under the trade name AccessMED™, an Anatomic Pathology System under the trade name of CyberPATH®, a WebGateway™ portal for physician access to its CIS applications, and other related clinical and diagnostic application modules. In February 2008 we notified our customer base that we will discontinue support in February 2009 of our Pharmacy Information System previously marketed under the trade name CyberMED®.

ASPYRA's corporate offices are located at 26115-A Mureau Road, Calabasas, California 91302. The Company's telephone number is (818) 880-6700 and its website address is www.aspyra.com., the contents of this website are not incorporated into this Report. The Company's business consists of three operational areas: (1) Clinical Information System and Diagnostic Information System products, (2) service of its customer's installations, and (3) implementation services. The Company generates revenues from the licensing of application software, the sale of hardware, and the provision of implementation and long-term post implementation services. The Company sells its CIS and DIS systems directly through its own sales force in North America, through channel partners and distributor programs with other companies.

History and Business Development

Since its inception as a California corporation in 1978, ASPYRA has been primarily engaged in the development, marketing, installation, and service of Clinical and Diagnostic Information Systems that automate the collection and management of patient clinical data for healthcare providers.

The percentage of the Company's net sales attributable to the sale, license, and implementation of Clinical and Diagnostic Information Systems, accounted for approximately 21% of total revenues in the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008. ASPYRA expects that its service revenues, which accounted for approximately 79% of total revenues in the current fiscal year, will continue to grow as additional new installations are added to the Company's installed base. As of December 31, 2008, the Company supported approximately 420 active customers using our products in over 600 sites.

By automating the collection and organization of patient clinical data and related diagnostic images, the Company's Clinical and Diagnostic Information Systems reduce operating costs, assist in meeting compliance requirements, address patient care and safety issues, improve the turnaround time of patients' diagnosis and treatment, and increase the efficiency of healthcare providers overall. The healthcare industry continues to operate under increasing pressure from government regulatory agencies and third party payers of medical expense, as well as from increased competition in the healthcare industry, to control costs. The Company's products and services are designed to improve the efficacy and cost-effectiveness with which healthcare providers manage critical information.

As part of its business strategy, the Company has pursued the development of enhancements and new modules to its existing products, as well as the development of entirely new products and services. The Company has developed a web-based clinician portal marketed as the ASPYRA WebGateway, which provides online access to the Company's LIS and RIS products so that physicians, nurses and other caregivers can easily utilize them from virtually anywhere in the world, and the Company is continuing to build upon this technology platform in order to deploy other functionality. ASPYRA's WebGateway provides access to CyberLAB for order placement, patient inquiry, and results, and is compliant with security and privacy issues pertaining to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). WebGateway also provides access to CyberRAD for orders, scheduling, exam inquiry, electronic signature, regulatory compliance, and other functions. ASPYRA's AccessNET family of products is designed to be highly scalable and deployable in small standalone operations up to large enterprise hospitals. Certain application modules can also be deployed in facilities that currently have PACS installations to provide enhanced capabilities for teleradiology using ASPYRA's thin-client technology.

One of the principal reasons for the Company's merger with StorCOMM was to merge clinical systems product technology with a business offering PACS, to better address the changes that were occurring in the healthcare market place.

Integration of the two companies following the merger continued through 2006 and was completed in 2007 and resulted in short-term increases in certain expenses but also allowed for the elimination of redundant personnel and other expenses to attain more efficient business synergies. While some of these expenses were non-recurring, others including the addition of key personnel in product management, regulatory affairs, and product development, were important additions to management in order to assure the success of the Company's integration strategy.

Our first integrated product, AccessRAD, which combines our RIS system and PACS system technologies, is substantially complete and is now being marketed. AccessRAD addresses a growing demand for integrating the clinical work flow and diagnostic activities in acute care hospitals, clinics, and imaging centers. With the completion of the integration, the Company has eliminated remaining redundant personnel to reduce our ongoing cost structure and fully realize the synergies of the merger.

Business Development Strategy

Our strategy since completing the merger is to advance ASPYRA's position to become a leading company in the clinical and diagnostic sector of the healthcare information technology marketplace, which is growing rapidly. We plan to accomplish this goal through increased market penetration, internal product development efforts, and selective product licenses from third parties or acquisitions of additional technologies and/or product lines where feasible. Our goal is to evolve beyond the provision of departmental applications and become an enterprise provider of integrated technologies and services that improve the efficiency, safety, and quality of patient care.

Our business model is to establish long term relationships with our end-user customers that are essential for their operational requirements. Our products are mission critical clinical and diagnostic applications that our customers rely upon to help them manage patient safety, diagnosis, and treatment. Our goal is to generate recurring revenues from the provision of long term services, upgrades, software add-ons and other revenue generating opportunities. Considering the capital budget constraints that are imposed on healthcare providers who use our products, they plan to use them typically for 5 to 10 years. In order to service them we must keep them current for competitive, clinical and diagnostic reasons, and regulatory compliance. Enhancements to our products in the form of software upgrades are an integral part of this business model and are included as a contract obligation in our warranty and extended service agreements. In order to generate such revenue opportunities our investment in software enhancements is significant and is a key component of our ongoing support obligations.

We plan to increase market penetration through the expansion of our direct sales activities domestically as well as selectively seeking new channel partners for some of our products in sectors that are underserved by us, such as orthopedics. We also plan to increase cross selling into our respective installed base of customers.

We plan to create new integrated products from our product portfolio. Our first integrated product, AccessRAD, which combines our RIS system and PACS system technologies, is substantially complete and is now being marketed. AccessRAD addresses a growing demand for integrating the clinical, work flow and diagnostic activities in acute care hospitals and clinics. In the same instance there is a growing demand to integrate PACS technology with anatomic pathology and laboratory systems that we can create from our product portfolio. We also plan to continue to further develop our clinical and diagnostic applications.

We plan on licensing or acquiring software applications that enhance our clinical and diagnostic products and resell them to our end users, which will provide additional capabilities such as multidimensional image visualization in PACS and robotics in the laboratory. In addition, we have formed relationships with companies that offer EMR products that complement our solutions, providing for additional market exposure. Following the recent presidential signing of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), there is industry demand for healthcare technology solutions that create and deliver the electronic health record. Our products provide up to 70% of the information that make up the electronic health record, and therefore, we expect to see an increase in the automation and integration of the clinical and diagnostic information systems. Accordingly we plan on evolving our product offerings into an EMR (Electronic Medical Record) solution by acquiring, developing, or licensing the missing components.

Clinical Information Systems

The Company's Clinical Information Systems are designed to provide cost effective, robust application features to manage comprehensive clinical activities throughout most sectors of the health care provider marketplace. The Company's systems are highly user definable and scalable, enabling a wide range of users and different types of healthcare providers to employ them.

ASPYRA's Clinical Information System applications are designed around a common open systems architecture that is based on either the UNIX or Microsoft® operating system platforms and employs thin-client technology at the point of user interface. ASPYRA's use of this technology allows easy integration into existing networks, as well as seamless integration with other systems. ASPYRA's suite of Clinical Information System applications allows for scalability and flexibility ensuring that as the needs of a healthcare provider change, the systems can easily be adapted. The Company's clinical applications are designed around flexible parameterized software, which enables the end user to tailor the software for its individual needs, adapting to the facility's internal policies and procedures, and allows us to sell across the marketplace into various niches.

For clinical laboratories, the Company has integrated its software applications and data acquisition technology into Laboratory Information Systems (LIS), which are sold under the trade name CyberLAB. Extensive applications for a wide variety of laboratory testing, compliance, and quality control procedures, including hematology, immunology, chemistry, microbiology, drug testing, toxicology, urinalysis, and cytology testing, are available with the Company's systems. Validation and reimbursement, medical error reduction, multi-site reporting and management, database management, bedside specimen collections, point of care testing, auto-verification of results, decision support tools, regulatory adherence tools, remote communications and flexible user defined reporting capabilities are also included. Additional modules are also available for complete microbiology testing and CyberPATH, ASPYRA's anatomic pathology system, can be fully integrated with CyberLAB. The Company's LIS are highly flexible and scalable and are used by laboratories of varying size and complexity.

CyberRAD, the Company's Radiology Information System, is also hybrid in its design, which allows for its deployment in inpatient, outpatient and multi-site settings. Applications include extensive scheduling, reporting, film tracking, transcription, billing, and clinical functionality. In addition, Document Imaging for storage and retrieval of important patient information, such as signed HIPAA Consent and Authorization Notices, Medical Necessity Advanced Beneficiary Notice (ABN), and other patient information is included in CyberRAD. CyberRAD has also been designed with easy to deploy built-in communication interface capabilities for diagnostic modalities and Picture Archive Communication Systems.

Diagnostic Information Systems

ASPYRA's AccessNET PACS and clinical image management systems achieve true enterprise-wide connectivity for all types of images and equipment, while providing leading edge product capabilities, support, and integration. ASPYRA'S customers include hospitals of all sizes with associated remote locations; independent and hospital-managed imaging centers; teaching and children's facilities; and radiology groups serving multiple locations. The scalability of the AccessNET PACS system has enabled it to be deployed into a diverse installed base.

PACS coordinates all aspects of digital imaging in hospitals, clinics, and imaging centers. This includes capturing images from Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) and non-DICOM compliant imaging modalities and video sources, storing this clinical information in a secure environment, and distributing and displaying both clinical images and corresponding diagnostic information throughout hospitals, clinics, and imaging centers. ASPYRA'S PACS can integrate with existing hospital systems to share information as necessary. For example, if a facility has a hospital information system that manages exam appointments, this system can integrate with ASPYRA'S PACS to share information about the scheduled exams. Typically, integration is accomplished using communications standards such as DICOM and Health Level Seven (HL7).

ASPYRA released version 6.4 of its AccessNET PACS software in January 2009. The enhancements for PACS users in version 6.4 include enhanced tools for radiologists reading from local and remote reading locations, improved handling of outside studies, support of encounter based HL7 messaging and IHE cross-enterprise sharing of documents and images (XDS, XDS-I), as well as internal processes for improved IT support and PACS administration tools.

IHE (Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise) is an initiative by healthcare professionals and industry to improve the way computer systems in healthcare share information. IHE promotes the coordinated use of established standards such as DICOM and HL7 to address specific clinical need in support of optimal patient care. According to IHE, systems developed in accordance with IHE communicate with one another better, are easier to implement, and enable care providers to use information more effectively. Aspyra continues to participate with IHE, adding functionality to the AccessNET product that follows the requirements set forth by IHE.

In December 2007, ASPYRA (a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner), announced AccessNET v 6.2.1.61 had been tested and meets the criteria for the Microsoft "Platform Test for ISV Solutions" program: Windows Server and Windows Client. The Company was required to provide a defined number of customer references in order to meet the Customer Reference Requirement for the ISV / Software Solution Competency. Testing was conducted independently by VeriTest, a testing service of Lionbridge Technologies.

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, development continued to provide integration between CyberRAD and AccessNET, for the integrated RIS/PACS product that is sold under the trade name AccessRAD. Specifically developed to enhance workflow and provide instant availability to clinical information, AccessRAD is designed to meet the needs of acute-care hospitals, enterprise-wide delivery networks, and large imaging enterprises. Furthering increasing efficiency, the AccessRAD multisite module enables organizations to manage the workflow and reporting needs at multiple facilities with a single solution. AccessRAD provides radiologists with a central command center to manage RIS and PACS functions. All the tools for reading images, dictating, accessing images and reports, as well as electronically signing reports, are available on the AccessRAD desktop. AccessRAD also helps organizations enhance patient safety by reducing the errors that result from redundant data entry, and the solution improves care delivery by providing clinicians with real-time information. The most current release of AccessRAD includes an order creation feature initiated from the PACS when incoming diagnostic interpretation studies are received from outside referring facilities. These orders are automatically processed by the RIS, thereby optimizing workflow, as well as increasing revenue by preventing lost charges due to missing or incorrect orders.

ASPYRA's AccessMED is a version of AccessNET that was designed for the specialty PACS environment, such as orthopedic group practices. It mirrors the workflow and tools specific to the needs of medical specialists to improve efficiency and care delivery. Work lists of patients and exams can be viewed in multiple ways based on the needs of clinicians or administrative users. In addition, clinicians can bookmark interesting and special cases for quick and easy follow up, or for collaboration with other specialists. AccessMED provides an unlimited configuration of viewing options for images, work lists, reports, prior studies and other clinical information. Content-sensitive help screens and tutorials can be viewed on screen, providing users with a virtual expert at their fingertips while they complete their tasks. Advanced workflow tools, such as embedded dictation and report generation, combine diagnostic and reporting capabilities into a single solution.

Specialized modules within AccessMED offer enhanced image viewing options. The OrthoView™ module (a product of Meridian Technique, Ltd.) is integrated within AccessMED and includes templates from virtually every major prosthetics manufacturer to provide clinicians with digital surgical planning capabilities. In addition, the AccessMED ImageSTITCH module provides the tools needed to combine multiple images into a single image for review, which is especially valuable for long bone and spinal images.

Integration

The Company has designed its products to incorporate open systems architecture and to conform to computer industry standards, which enable them to be more easily integrated with other vendors' products. Healthcare industry standards, including HL7 and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), and DICOM standards are employed throughout the Company's software products and interfaces. Aspyra is an active vendor participant with IHE (Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise). IHE is an initiative by healthcare professionals and industry to improve the way computer systems in healthcare share information. IHE promotes the coordinated use of established standards such as DICOM and HL7 to address specific clinical needs in support of optimal patient care. Systems developed in accordance with IHE communicate with one another better, are easier to implement, and enable care providers to use information more effectively.

The Company's Clinical and Diagnostic Information Systems support extensive communication capabilities to various healthcare information systems including Hospital Information Systems, nursing and practice management systems, EMR Systems, for which the Company has developed over five hundred system-to-system communication interfaces. The Company's Clinical Information Systems are employed in many settings that consist of multiple sites where testing or medical procedures are seamlessly integrated. In addition, different types of enterprises, such as hospital and affiliated outreach clinics, can use the Company's systems to integrate their activities thus enabling the execution of their business strategies. The communication interfaces often support bi-directional data communications, whereby demographic and order requests are transmitted to the Clinical Information Systems and, in turn, billing information and results are transmitted to the host system. The Company's Clinical Information Systems support their own order communications and test subsystems that have been employed in other accounts that have relied on the Clinical Information System's communications capabilities. Management believes that communications to other systems allowing connectivity between its CIS applications and patient care, electronic medical record systems, and other administrative information systems, are very important functional requirements in the marketability of its products. This is especially true with the recent ARRA stimulus plan, which specifically refers to the use of EMRs with a goal of creating a complete electronic health record. The Company has focused considerable attention on the communication, networking, and connectivity capabilities of its products, and plans to further develop these capabilities as opportunities present themselves.

The Company has developed standard seamless integration and network connectivity for all its products through user selected network topologies, network protocols, and network operating systems. Although each application has been configured to operate as a stand-alone product, all can be operated as an integrated package, residing on a shared platform or network, thereby eliminating the need for multiple interfaces, duplicate information handling, and their associated costs. ASPYRA continues the development of enhancements to its software integration and communications module that integrates all of its own clinical applications and provides a single communications gateway to or from other vendors' systems.

Services

The Company provides comprehensive services to its installed base of system customers through its own service organization, and provides extensive training and implementation of its systems to its customers. The Company offers software support services, through a 24-hour “hotline,” and hardware repair under extended service contracts. In most instances, the Company relies on third parties to service the hardware components that it sells but may assume responsibility for first call support. The Company services its own data acquisition products and related software, used as part of its CIS product offerings, under service contracts offered to end users. The Company’s long-term inventory requirements for its service and repair business have historically been significant because it must retain a loaner pool of components used to service its customer base. The Company has changed its data acquisition method to utilize software only solutions. In many instances ASPYRA’s products include the hardware components that comprise a PACS system and in such cases the Company includes a direct multi-year manufacturer’s warranty and service with such hardware components.

The Company’s service revenues for fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 was consistent with the service revenues in the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007. The majority of the Company’s customers are under service contracts. The Company believes that the ability to offer comprehensive services to its customers is a very important facet of its business and solidifies a long-term relationship with its customer accounts. The recurring revenue stream associated with this activity is a significant part of the Company’s business. The ability to offer long-term service often leads to add-on sales opportunities for peripheral components, data acquisition products, and upgrades to newer computers and software applications. In addition, the quality of service is an important aspect of the end users buying decision when making a system selection; therefore the Company is constantly fine-tuning the services it provides and its service organization as part of its marketing strategy.

The Company has deployed technology to automate a company-wide helpdesk system in order to more effectively service its customers and employs a “virtual company” concept by linking outside personnel via the Internet directly into its own internal network. This permits ASPYRA employees who are engaged in technical and service related activities to telecommute through this venue. The Company employs a customer relationship management system (CRM), integrated with its current general accounting system.

The Company believes that the service of its customers is of utmost importance to its long-term success and business strategy. Accordingly, a great deal of emphasis is placed on continuing to upgrade the service organization and on expanding the services that the Company offers towards a goal of establishing a higher degree of customer satisfaction. As part of this effort, the Company routinely surveys its customers in an effort to obtain a “report card” on how the service organization performs. This proactive approach allows the Company to further understand the relationship with the customer. Surveys are based on varying subjects, including sales, implementation or support processes, and corporate communication or product development.

Significant Contracts and Programs

As part of its overall marketing strategy, the Company is also pursuing strategic relationships with organizations that operate multiple entity enterprises where the Company may have the opportunity to offer its array of products and services to the group. The Company has also entered into business agreements to resell products for other companies that provide complimentary offerings to their existing product line including relationships with Allscripts, Inc. and Dell.

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, there were no customers, contracts or programs that generated over 10% of the Company’s net sales.

Product Development

The market for the Company's products is characterized by rapid and significant technological change. The Company's ability to compete in the market, and to operate successfully, depends in part on its ability to react to such change. The Company continues to expend a significant amount of resources for the development of new products, and for the development of additional enhancements to existing products and intends to continue to expend such resources in the future.

The Company's development plans are focused on evolving its clinical and diagnostic application products to a common user interface based on industry standard thin-client technology. Utilization of this common user interface architecture allows for easier deployment in a traditional enterprise environment as well as projecting the applications natively over the Internet. Management believes that the total cost of ownership inherent in thin client architecture is very attractive to both current and future users. As the product suite continues to migrate to a common look and feel, ASPYRA is also migrating its products to an independent operating platform and relational database technology. This architectural approach allows the product suite to take advantage of all current and any potential future relational database technologies. Management's goal is to drive the product suite to a total open systems environment, therefore allowing ASPYRA to take advantage of new technologies as they appear. In addition, ASPYRA has planned product development projects over the next three years that include additional enhancements to all of its products.

Research and development expenditures, net of capitalized software, amounted to approximately \$1,827,000 in fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, and \$2,354,000 in fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 or approximately 21.4% and 22.9% of net sales, respectively. Such expenditures were attributable to systems development, including the development of new Laboratory and Radiology Information Systems applications, and enhancements to those products. The Company's Clinical Information Systems are programmed using an OBJECT COBOL language that provides a standard code structure for the business logic while the graphical presentation is written in JAVA and HTML. By employing run-time modules for UNIX and Windows, the Company has been able to port to a variety of hardware platforms with ease. The Company's Diagnostic Information Systems are built upon the Microsoft.net platform and are programmed using C# and C++. The Company currently supports its software applications on Intel based Hewlett Packard servers, Dell servers and IBM RISC 6000 servers, the most popular computer providers in healthcare. This capability has allowed the Company to become "platform independent" in vending its software products where some customers may be predisposed to certain hardware brands. The Company also takes advantage of using off the shelf software such as Microsoft Word for transcription and document production and delivery. All of the Company's products are open database compliant (ODBC), and the data structures support the use of standard query language (SQL) report generators that allows a wide range of reporting capabilities.

Sales and Marketing

ASPYRA sells its CIS and DIS systems directly through its own sales force in North America, through channel partners and distributor programs with other companies, and has reseller agreements in certain international markets. It also sells directly in the United Kingdom through its office located in East Rickmansworth, Herts. As of the date of this report, the Company's domestic direct field sales force is organized into 5 sales regions which are supported by two clinical software consultants, and managed by a senior vice president of sales.

In addition to direct marketing, the Company promotes its products by attending national industry trade meetings, through media advertising, publishing articles in industry publications, telemarketing campaigns, and through its website. The Company has also formed joint marketing arrangements with other companies that have compatible products and services. The Company publishes newsletters and articles, to expand communications with existing and potential customers, and creates additional customer case studies that spotlight specific business or clinical issues solved with the ASPYRA installed product(s).

The Company has established and supports a periodic user symposium in order to encourage users of its Clinical and Diagnostic Information Systems to participate in helping the Company to better serve its customers. The focus of the symposium is to encourage open group communications with the Company about a range of subjects, including service and support and new product enhancements. Since the Company has experienced success in vending multiple products to its customers, the national symposium proves to be a good forum to discuss general topics, such as the Company's strategy and product direction, and provides an opportunity to focus on specific application issues in breakout sessions, special interest groups (SIGs) and roundtable discussions. The Company also schedules advanced training courses as part of the symposium agenda that have had considerable attendance by its customers.

Competition

The Company has several significant competitors including McKesson, GE Medical Systems, Siemens, Cerner, Amicas, Misys, Philips, and others, in the Clinical and Diagnostic Information Systems business, many of which are much larger companies that may offer a wider array of products and services in addition to competitive clinical applications. These competitors have significantly greater resources than we have, including greater name recognition, larger sales operations, greater ability to finance research and development and proceedings for regulatory approval, and more developed regulatory compliance and quality control systems. Management believes, however, that few competing CIS and DIS products offer the Company's hybrid multisite capabilities, variety of data interfaces, add-on capability, and flexibility that allows the systems to be user definable, so that they can be employed in different types of settings. The multisite and multi-disciplinary or hybrid nature of the Company's products and the responsiveness of its customer service and support are also strong selling points.

The principal competitive factors in the Company's business are technological competence, diversity of product line, price and performance characteristics, product quality, capability and reliability, marketing and distribution networks, service and support, ability to attract and retain trained technical employees and business reputation. The Company believes that it has competitive advantages in many of these areas. ASPYRA has also positioned itself to focus on large multi-specialty clinics, imaging centers, and community based and rural hospitals. Such entities typically have diverse outpatient populations and operate in a number of locations that require special features designed in the Company's products that assist them in maximizing their operating potential.

Manufacturing and Suppliers

The Company has utilized computers manufactured by several suppliers for its Clinical and Diagnostic Information Systems in the past, and primarily uses computers manufactured by Hewlett Packard, Dell, and IBM. Management believes that other computers, which can be used in the Company's systems, are readily available from several suppliers. As part of a strategy to limit the amount of hardware that the Company carries, it employs a "just in time" inventory program whereby it purchases inventory when it has received an order from a customer rather than stocking inventory on a routine basis. The Company still maintains an inventory supply of certain items including spare parts and components for both its CIS product line and for its data acquisition product line. In addition, the Company maintains a long-term inventory pool of components and parts to service customer's hardware pursuant to its long term extended service agreements.

ASPYRA's DIS systems are frequently integrated with a variety of third party specialized hardware and software components, which are readily available from a variety of manufacturers and distributors. To integrate the majority of our system configurations the hardware is shipped to our location in Jacksonville, Florida where it is configured with third party software and then installed with the software manufactured by ASPYRA. Any other ancillary components that do not require additional application software will be shipped direct to an installation. When the DIS system has received all of the required software components, it is then shipped to the customer's site where it is installed, integrated and tested at the customer site.

ASPYRA's vendor relationships are intended to provide affordable hardware, software, and integration solutions that have been successfully tested with the AccessNET system. ASPYRA's vendors include:

- Allscripts. Aspyra has a reciprocal agreement with Allscripts, allowing Aspyra to promote Allscripts' Practice Management (PM), Electronic Medical Record (EMR), Revenue Cycle Management (RCM) and Emergency Department solutions nationally to new and existing Aspyra customers. The reciprocal agreement also allows Allscripts to promote Aspyra's laboratory (LIS) and radiology (RIS) information systems, and Picture Archiving Communication System (PACS) solutions to new and existing Allscripts customers.

- Ciprico. Ciprico provides NAS storage with high redundancy, high speed, and high volume capabilities. Ciprico has been a provider for the entertainment industry and is moving into the healthcare arena. They specialize in handling large volumes of image data.
- IMIX Americas. IMIX is a manufacturer/distributor of Digital Radiography (DR) systems for diagnostic use in hospitals, imaging centers and clinics. Aspyra resells and promotes IMIX's DR systems nationally to new and existing ASPYRA AccessNET and AccessMED PACS customers.
- InSite One. ASPYRA and InSite One, Inc. have formed an alliance to provide ASPYRA's software to InSite One customers and InSite One's remote and on-site archive and disaster recovery capabilities to ASPYRA customers. This partnership offers facilities another method of compliance with HIPAA's requirements for the protection of patient information. It also provides a high level of redundancy and disaster recovery capabilities at an affordable price.
- Konica Minolta Medical Imaging USA. Konica is a manufacturer/distributor of digital and traditional imaging products for diagnostic use by hospitals, imaging centers, clinics and private practice physicians - the same audience Aspyra markets its RIS and PACS product solutions to. Aspyra resells Konica Minolta's Xpress CR product line nationally to new and existing Aspyra PACS customers.
- Meridian Technique. ASPYRA has formed a partner relationship with Meridian Technique to provide customers with their OrthoView® product for orthopedic templating. Meridian's OrthoView provides access to templates from prosthetic manufacturer.
- Microsoft®. As a Microsoft® Certified Partner, the Company reached the highest level within the program by earning the ISV/Software Solutions Competency for its AccessNET PACS, and the Networking Infrastructure Solutions Competency.
- NAI Tech Products. NAI Tech Products provides DICOM connectivity solutions for non-DICOM compliant imaging modalities.
- Barco / Voxar®. Post processing options provide additional methods to review patient information and make a diagnosis. MedVIEW® 5.0 integrates with Voxar's 3D Plug n' View to provide image post-processing options.

Warranties and Product Liability

The Company warrants that its products conform