

SUNPOWER CORP
Form 10-K
February 25, 2013

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

FORM 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 30, 2012

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 001-34166

SunPower Corporation
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

94-3008969
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

77 Rio Robles, San Jose, California 95134
(Address of Principal Executive Offices and Zip Code)
(408) 240-5500
(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock \$0.001 par value	Nasdaq Global Select Market

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None
(Title of Class)

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 Sections 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Edgar Filing: SUNPOWER CORP - Form 10-K

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) 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
(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 Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant on July 1, 2012 was \$191.5 million. Such aggregate market value was computed by reference to the closing price of the common stock as reported on the Nasdaq Global Select Market on June 29, 2012. For purposes of determining this amount only, the registrant has defined affiliates as including Total Gas & Power USA, SAS and the executive officers and directors of registrant on June 29, 2012.

The total number of outstanding shares of the registrant's common stock as of February 15, 2013 was 119,269,194.
DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Parts of the registrant's definitive proxy statement for the registrant's 2013 annual meeting of stockholders are incorporated by reference in Items 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 of Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

d

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PART 1.	
<u>Item 1. Business</u>	4
<u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u>	17
<u>Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	47
<u>Item 2. Properties</u>	47
<u>Item 3. Legal Proceedings</u>	47
<u>Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	48
PART II	
<u>Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	49
<u>Item 6. Selected Consolidated Financial Data</u>	51
<u>Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	52
<u>Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk</u>	78
<u>Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	80
<u>Item 9. Changes and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosures</u>	143
<u>Item 9A. Controls and Procedures</u>	144
<u>Item 9B. Other Information</u>	145
PART III	
<u>Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	146
<u>Item 11. Executive Compensation</u>	146
<u>Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	146
<u>Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	146

<u>Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	<u>146</u>
--	------------

PART
IV

<u>Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	<u>147</u>
--	------------

<u>Signatures</u>	<u>155</u>
-------------------	------------

<u>Index to Exhibits</u>	<u>156</u>
--------------------------	------------

Table of Contents

Trademarks

The following terms, among others, are our trademarks and may be used in this report: SunPower®, Maxeon®, Oasis®, PowerLight®, and Tenesol®. Other trademarks appearing in this report are the property of their respective owners.

Unit of Power

When referring to our facilities' manufacturing capacity, total sales and components sales, the unit of electricity in watts for kilowatts ("KW"), megawatts ("MW"), and gigawatts ("GW") is direct current ("dc"). When referring to our solar power systems, the unit of electricity in watts for KW, MW, and GW is alternating current ("ac").

Levelized Cost of Energy ("LCOE")

The LCOE equation is an evaluation of the life-cycle energy cost and life-cycle energy production of an energy producing system. It allows alternative technologies to be compared when different scales of operation, investment or operating time periods exist. It captures capital costs and ongoing system-related costs, along with the amount of electricity produced, and converts them into a common metric. Key drivers for LCOE reduction for photovoltaic products include panel efficiency, capacity factors, reliable system performance, and the life of the system.

Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are statements that do not represent historical facts and the assumptions underlying such statements. We use words such as "anticipate," "believe," "continue," "could," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "may," "plan," "predict," "potential," "will," "would," "should," and similar expressions to identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K include, but are not limited to, our plans and expectations regarding future financial results, expected operating results, business strategies, projected costs and cost reduction, products, ability to monetize utility projects, competitive positions, management's plans and objectives for future operations, the sufficiency of our cash and our liquidity, our ability to obtain financing, the availability of credit and liquidity support from Total S.A., the ability to comply with debt covenants or cure any defaults, trends in average selling prices, the success of our joint ventures and acquisitions, expected capital expenditures, warranty matters, outcomes of litigation, our exposure to foreign exchange, interest and credit risk, general business and economic conditions, industry trends, impact of changes in government incentives, expected restructuring charges, and the likelihood of any impairment of project assets and long-lived assets. These forward-looking statements are based on information available to us as of the date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K and current expectations, forecasts and assumptions and involve a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated by these forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include a variety of factors, some of which are beyond our control. Please see "Part I. Item 1A: Risk Factors" herein and our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") for additional information on risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ. These forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as representing our views as of any subsequent date, and we are under no obligation to, and expressly disclaim any responsibility to, update or alter our forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

The following information should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and the accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Our fiscal year ends on the Sunday closest to the end of the applicable calendar year. All references to fiscal periods apply to our fiscal quarter or year which ends on the Sunday closest to the calendar month end.

Table of Contents

PART I

ITEM 1: BUSINESS

Corporate History

We were originally incorporated in California in 1985 and subsequently reincorporated in Delaware during 2005 in connection with our initial public offering. In November 2011, our stockholders approved the reclassification of all outstanding former class A common stock and class B common stock into a single class of common stock listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol "SPWR". In June 2011, we became a subsidiary of Total Gas & Power USA, SAS ("Total"), a subsidiary of Total S.A. ("Total S.A."). Total acquired 60% of our former class A and class B common stock as of June 13, 2011. In January 2012, we entered into an additional agreement with Total to sell shares of our common stock, thereby increasing Total's ownership to approximately 66% of our outstanding common stock.

Company Overview

We are a vertically integrated solar products and solutions company that designs, manufactures and delivers high-performance solar systems worldwide, serving as a one-stop shop for residential, commercial, and utility-scale power plant customers. Of all the solar cells available for the mass market, we believe our solar cells have the highest conversion efficiency, a measurement of the amount of sunlight converted by the solar cell into electricity. These high efficiency cells are then utilized in our array of high reliability SunPower products.

We believe that there are several factors that set us apart when compared with various competitors:

• Go-to-market platform that is broad and deep with our more than eight years in rooftop and ground mount channels, including turn-key systems;

• High performance delivered by enhancing energy delivery and financial return through systems technology design;

• Cutting edge systems designed to meet customer needs and reduce cost, including non-penetrating, fast roof installation technologies; and

• Expanded reach has been enhanced by Total S.A.'s long-established presence in many countries where significant solar goals are being established;

• Technology advantage which includes being the only solar company manufacturing back-contact, back-junction technology. Our modules produce more electricity, last longer and degrade much less;

• Superior performance, including the ability to generate up to 50% more power per unit area than conventional solar cells;

• Superior aesthetics, with our uniformly black surface design that eliminates highly visible reflective grid lines and metal interconnect ribbons;

• Superior reliability, as confirmed by multiple independent reports and internal reliability data;

• Superior energy production per rated watt of power as confirmed by multiple independent reports;

• More KW per pound can be transported using less packaging, resulting in lower distribution costs; and

• More efficient use of silicon, a key raw material used in the manufacture of solar cells;

Costs that are decreasing faster and more steadily with an aggressive but we believe achievable cost reduction plan and value that benefits all customers:

- We offer a significantly lower area-related cost structure for our customers because our solar panels require a substantially smaller roof or land area than conventional solar technology and half or less of the roof or land area of many commercial solar thin film technologies;

4

Table of Contents

• Through our leasing program, customers can get high efficiency solar products for no money down at competitive energy rates; and

• Solar power systems designed to generate electricity over a system life typically exceeding 25 years

• Strong balance sheet backed by Total S.A. that gives us an advantage in today's challenging environment.

Segments Overview

In December 2011, we announced a reorganization to align our business and cost structure to a regional focus in order to support the needs of our customers and improve the speed of decision-making processes. As a result, in the first quarter of fiscal 2012, we changed our segment reporting from our Utility and Power Plant ("UPP") Segment and Residential and Commercial ("R&C") Segment to three regional segments: (i) the Americas Segment, (ii) the EMEA Segment, and (iii) the APAC Segment. The Americas Segment includes both North and South America. The EMEA Segment includes European countries, as well as the Middle East and Africa. The APAC segment includes all Asia-Pacific countries. Historical results have been recast under the new segmentation. For more information about the financial condition and results of operations of each segment, please see Part II - "Item 7: Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Item 8: Financial Statements and Supplementary Data."

Our Products and Services

Products

Solar Cells

Solar cells are semiconductor devices that directly convert sunlight into direct current electricity. Our A-300 solar cell is a silicon solar cell with a specified power value of 3.1 watts and a conversion efficiency averaging between 20.0% and 21.5%. Our A-330 solar cell delivers 3.3 watts with a conversion efficiency of up to 22.7%. During 2012, we commenced commercial production of our next generation solar cells with demonstrated efficiencies exceeding 24%. Our solar cells are designed without highly reflective metal contact grids or current collection ribbons on the front of the solar cells. This feature enables our solar cells to be assembled into solar panels that exhibit a more uniform appearance than conventional solar panels.

Solar Panels

Solar panels are solar cells electrically connected together and encapsulated in a weatherproof panel. We believe solar panels made with our solar cells are the highest efficiency solar panels available for the mass market. Because our solar cells are more efficient relative to conventional solar cells, when our solar cells are assembled into panels, the assembly cost per watt is less because more power can be incorporated into a given size panel. Higher solar panel efficiency allows installers to mount a solar power system with more power within a given roof or site area and can reduce per watt installation costs. During 2012, we commenced production of our next generation solar panels with average module efficiency of greater than 21%. The following SunPower® solar panel series are incorporated into our solar power systems and are available to provide customers with the right solution to fit their needs:

• SunPower® E18 Series Solar Panel ("E18")

Available in a 72-cell configuration, the E18 series panel uses our A-300 all back-contact solar cells and delivers a total panel conversion efficiency of 18.1% to 18.5%. E18 panels feature high transmission tempered front glass and a sturdy anodized frame allowing panels to operate reliably in multiple mounting configurations. The E18 panel's reduced voltage-temperature coefficient and low-light performance attributes provide outstanding energy delivery per peak power watt.

SunPower® E19 Series Solar Panel ("E19")

Available in a 72, 96, and 128-cell configuration, the E19 series panel uses our A-300 all back-contact solar cells and delivers total panel conversion efficiency of 19.3% to 19.7%. The E19 panel features high transmission tempered glass with anti-reflective coating which allows for more diffuse off-angle light to be captured.

Table of Contents

SunPower® E20 Series Solar Panel ("E20")

Available in a 96-cell configuration, the E20 series panel uses our A-330 all back-contact solar cells and delivers total panel conversion efficiency of up to 20.1%. With comprehensive inverter compatibility, E20 panels can be used with both inverters that require transformers as well as the highest performing transformer-less inverters to maximize output. E20 panels are additionally equipped with a positive power tolerance rating which ensures that the power generated by each panel meets or exceeds that panel's rating.

The development of the E20 solar panel series is a direct result of the investment in SunPower by the United States Department of Energy through its Solar America Initiative program. The E20 panel conversion efficiency rating was further confirmed by the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Lab.

Inverters

Every solar power system needs an inverter to transform the direct current electricity collected from the solar panels into utility-grade alternating current power that is ready for household use. We sell a line of SunPower branded inverters manufactured by third parties.

Solar Power Systems

We offer several types of rooftop and ground-mounted solar products. The following tiles and systems are included within our suite of products:

Roof Mounted Products

- SunPower® T-5 Solar Roof Tile System ("T-5")

Tilted at a 5-degree angle, the T-5 roof tile was the industry's first all-in-one non-penetrating photovoltaic rooftop product that combines solar panel, frame, and mounting system into one pre-engineered unit. The all-in-one mounting system and frame is made from an engineered glass-filled polymer that is non-reactive, eliminating the need for electrical grounding of the array. The patented design is adaptable to virtually any flat or low-slope rooftop while providing the roof membrane protection from corrosion. The tiles further interlock for wind resistance and secure installation. Since the T-5 solar roof tile typically weighs less than three pounds per square foot and is stacked for shipping, more KW per pound can be transported using less packaging, resulting in lower distribution costs. These benefits make the T-5 solar roof tile easier and faster to install than other rooftop systems as well as an effective solution for area or weight constrained flat rooftops.

The development of the T-5 solar roof tile is a direct result of the investment in SunPower by the United States Department of Energy through its Solar America Initiative program.

SunPower® T-10 Commercial Solar Roof Tiles ("T-10")

Tilted at a 10-degree angle, the T-10 commercial solar roof tiles can allow for generation of up to 10% more annual energy output than traditional flat roof-mounted systems, depending on geographical location and local climate conditions. These non-penetrating panels interlock for secure, rapid installation without compromising the structural integrity of the roof. Further, the lightweight tile weighs less than four pounds per square foot. Sloped side and rear wind deflectors improve wind performance, allowing T-10 solar arrays to withstand winds up to 120 miles per hour. Performance is optimized for larger roofs with less space constraints as well as underutilized tracks of land, such as

ground reservoirs.

Ground Mounted Products

SunPower® T-0 Tracker ("T-0")

The T-0 tracker is a single-axis tracking systems that automatically pivots solar panels to track the sun's movement throughout the day. This tracking feature increases the amount of sunlight that is captured and converted into energy by up to 30% over flat or fixed-tilt systems, depending on geographic location and local climate conditions. A single motor and drive mechanism can control 10 to 20 rows, or more than 200 KW of solar panels. This multi-row feature represents a cost advantage for our customers over dual axis

6

Table of Contents

tracking systems, as such systems require more motors, drives, land, and power to operate per KW of capacity. The SunPower Tracker system can be assembled onsite, and is easily scalable. The T-0 tracker features our TMAC Advanced Tracker Controller ("TMAC") software, which includes real-time tracker status updates, remote (wireless) monitoring and control, proprietary energy production optimization algorithms, and improved reliability. The T-0 tracker has been installed in a wide range of geographical markets principally in the United States, Germany, Italy, Portugal, South Korea, and Spain.

SunPower® Oasis® Power Plant ("Oasis")

The Oasis is the industry's first modular solar power block that scales from 1.5 MW distributed installations to large central station power plants. Oasis provides a fully integrated, cost-effective way to rapidly deploy utility-scale solar power systems, streamlining the development and construction process while optimizing the use of available land. Each power block integrates the SunPower Oasis tracker, a 425-watt utility solar panel, pre-manufactured cabling, and our TMAC software. The power block kits are shipped pre-assembled to the job site for rapid field installation, and offer a high capacity factor and reliable long-term performance. The Oasis operating system is designed to support future grid interconnection requirements for large-scale solar power plants, such as voltage ride through and power factor control. It features a utility-standard supervisory control and data acquisition operation and analytical tools, which include intelligent sensor and control networks for optimized power plant operation. The Oasis streamlines the entire power plant development process, from permitting through construction and financing.

SunPower® C-7 Tracker ("C-7")

Named for its ability to concentrate the Sun's energy by seven times, we expect C-7 to deliver the lowest levelized cost of electricity for utility scale deployment when fully ramped. The C-7 combines a horizontal single-axis tracker with rows of parabolic mirrors, reflecting light onto linear arrays of our high efficiency solar cells. The SunPower cell is uniquely suited for this application due to its extremely high efficiency under low levels of concentration. This tracker's components come factory preassembled enabling rapid installation using standard tools and requiring no specialized field expertise.

Fixed Tilt SunPower® Parking Structures

SunPower has developed and patented designs for solar power systems for parking structures in multiple configurations. These dual-use systems typically incorporate solar panels into the roof of a carport or similar structure to deliver onsite solar power while providing shade and protection. Aesthetically-pleasing, standardized and scalable, they are well suited for parking lots adjacent to facilities. SunPower Tracker technology can be incorporated for elevated parking structures to provide a differentiated product to our customers.

Other System Offerings

We have other products that leverage our core systems. For example, our metal roof system is designed for sloped-metal roof buildings, which are used in some winery and warehouse applications. This solar power system is designed for rapid installation.

Balance of System Components

"Balance of system components" are components of a solar power system other than the solar panels, and include SunPower branded inverters, mounting structures, charge controllers, grid interconnection equipment, and other devices depending on the specific requirements of a particular system and project.

Services

We provide our solar power plant customers end-to-end management of the project lifecycle, from early stage site assessment, financing support, and project development, including full-scale environmental and construction permitting, through engineering, procurement, construction, and commissioning. Our projects are built incorporating industry-leading standards for safety, quality, performance, and reliability. Once a site is operational, our plant O&M organization provides customers with field-based preventative maintenance services, "utility-quality" data collection, performance monitoring,

7

Table of Contents

diagnostic and performance reporting services, as well as lifecycle asset planning and management with industry leading software applications.

Operations and Maintenance

Our solar power systems are designed to generate electricity over a system life typically exceeding 25 years. We provide commissioning, warranty, administration, operations, maintenance, and performance monitoring services with the objective of optimizing our customers' electrical energy production. Commissioning services include testing to verify that equipment and system performance meet design requirements and specifications. We also pass through to customers long-term warranties from the original equipment manufacturers ("OEMs") of certain system components. We provide warranties of 25 years for our solar panels, which is standard in the solar industry, while our inverters typically carry warranty periods ranging from 5 to 10 years. In addition, we generally warrant our workmanship on installed systems for periods ranging up to 10 years. Systems under warranty and systems under a performance monitoring contract employ our proprietary software and hardware systems to collect and remotely analyze equipment operating and system performance data from all of our sites in our offices located in the United States, Europe, and the Philippines. We offer our commercial customers a comprehensive suite of solar power system maintenance services ranging from system monitoring, to preventive and corrective maintenance, to rapid-response outage restoration and inverter repair. Our Performance Monitoring Service Agreement for commercial and utility systems includes continuous remote monitoring, inverter outage notification, system performance website access, and a 24/7 technical support line. Our Performance Basic Service Agreement adds preventive maintenance to the Standard Monitoring Services Agreement, and our Performance Plus Service Agreement includes all of the Performance Basic Service Agreement features plus on-site troubleshooting and corrective maintenance using regionally-located field service technicians. Residential lease solar system customers are also remotely monitored by SunPower O&M for performance and availability using SunPower's proprietary monitoring software.

Monitoring

Our O&M personnel have access to a powerful set of tools developed on industry leading information technology platforms that facilitate the management of our global fleet of residential, commercial, and utility scale photovoltaic power plants. Real time flow of data from our customers' sites is aggregated centrally where an engine applies advanced solar specific algorithms to detect and report potential performance issues. Our work management system routes any anomalies to the appropriate responders to ensure timely resolution. The enterprise asset management system stores the operational history of thousands of systems and over 1 GW sold and delivered through our regional segments. We have implemented highly automated workflow processes that minimize the time from detection to analysis to dispatch and repair. Our O&M photovoltaic fleet management systems are built on more than a decade of solar services experience, allowing us to provide premier O&M services to our customers worldwide.

We have developed a proprietary set of advanced monitoring applications built upon the leading electric utility real-time monitoring platform (the "SunPower Monitoring System"). The SunPower Monitoring System continuously scans the operational status and performance of the solar power system and automatically identifies system outages and performance deficiencies to our 24/7 monitoring technicians. Customers can access historical or daily system performance data through our customer website (www.sunpowermonitor.com). Some customers choose to install "digital signs" or kiosks to display system performance information from the lobby of their facility. We believe these displays enhance our brand and educate the public and prospective customers about solar power.

In 2008, we released the SunPower Monitoring System, and in 2009, we released the industry's first monitoring application for the Apple iPhone®, iPod touch® and iPad® mobile devices. In 2011, we expanded our monitoring application to Android™ devices as well. With the addition of these applications to the SunPower Monitoring System, residential and commercial customers now have four easy ways to access information about the energy generated by

their SunPower solar power systems. Along with the iPhone, iPod touch, iPad and Android applications, the SunPower Monitoring System offers homeowners the ability to monitor SunPower solar power systems with a wireless, in-home wall-mounted liquid crystal display that provides power production and cumulative energy information. The monitoring system also provides the convenience of Internet access to a solar power system's performance from virtually anywhere. Customers can view a system's energy performance and environmental savings on an hourly, monthly, and annual basis.

Solar Park Project Development

Our power plant development and project teams have established a scalable, fully integrated, vertical approach to developing utility-scale photovoltaic power plants in a sustainable way. Our power plant development and project finance teams evaluate sites for solar developments; obtain land rights through purchase and lease options; conduct environmental and

Table of Contents

grid transmission studies; and obtain building, construction and grid-interconnection permits, licenses, and regulatory approvals.

The plants and project development rights, initially owned by us, are sold to third parties. In the United States, commercial and electric utility customers typically choose to purchase solar electricity under a PPA with an investor or financing company that buys the system from us. In Europe and Israel, the projects are typically purchased by an investor or financing company and operated as central-station solar power plants.

For more information about the costs associated with solar park project development see "Item 1A: Risk Factors" including "We may make significant investments in building solar power plants without first obtaining project financing, and the delayed sale of our projects would adversely affect our business, liquidity, and results of operations" and "Due to the general economic environment, the continued market pressure driving down the average selling prices of our solar power products, and other factors, we may be unable to generate sufficient cash flows or obtain access to external financing necessary to fund our operations and make adequate capital investments as planned."

Residential Leasing Program

Our residential lease program with dealers in the United States, in partnership with third-party financial institutions, allows customers to obtain SunPower systems under lease agreements up to 20 years, subject to financing availability. The program includes system maintenance and warranty coverage as well as an early buy-out option after six years or at any time when the lessees sell their home. Leases are classified as either operating or sales-type leases in accordance with the relevant accounting guidelines.

The program does not yet represent a material portion of our revenue. However, we may face additional material risks as the program expands, including our ability to obtain additional financing partners as well as our ability to collect finance and rent receivables in view of the general challenging credit markets worldwide. We believe that our concentration of credit risk is limited because of our large number of customers, credit quality of the customer base, small account balances for most of these customers, and customer geographic diversification. We have applied and will apply for the §48(c) solar commercial investment tax credit ("ITC") and Treasury Grant payments under Section 1603 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the "Cash Grant"), which is administered by the U.S. Internal Revenue Services ("IRS") and Treasury Department, for residential leases. We have structured the tax incentive applications, both in timing and amount, to be in accordance with the guidance provided by Treasury and IRS. If the amount or timing of the ITC or Cash Grant payments received in connection with the residential lease program varies from what we have projected, this may impact our revenues and margins and we may have to recognize losses, which may adversely impact our results of operations and cash flows. We make certain assumptions in accounting for the residential lease program, including, among others, the residual value of the leased systems. As the residential lease program grows, if the residual value of leased systems does not materialize as assumed, our results of operations would be adversely affected.

For more information about Cash Grant payments received in connection with the residential lease program see "Item 1A: Risk Factors" including "A change in our anticipated 1603 Treasury cash grant proceeds or solar investment tax credits could adversely impact our business, revenues, margins, results of operations and cash flows."

Research and Development

We engage in extensive research and development efforts to improve solar cell efficiency through enhancement of our existing products, development of new techniques such as concentrating photovoltaic power, and reducing manufacturing cost and complexity. Our research and development group works closely with our manufacturing

facilities, our equipment suppliers and our customers to improve our solar cell design and to lower solar cell, solar panel and system product manufacturing and assembly costs. In addition, we have dedicated employees who work closely with our current and potential suppliers of crystalline silicon, a key raw material used in the manufacture of our solar cells, to develop specifications that meet our standards and ensure the high quality we require, while at the same time controlling costs. Under our Research & Collaboration Agreement with Total, our majority stockholder, we have established a joint committee to engage in long-term research and development projects with continued focus on maintaining and expanding our technology position in the crystalline silicon domain and ensuring our industrial competitiveness. See Note 2 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Part II - "Item 8: Financial Statements and Supplemental Data."

For more information about these contracts, including the government's rights to use technology developed as a result of such contracts, please see "Item 1A: Risk Factors" including "Our past reliance on government programs to partially fund our research and development programs could impair our ability to commercialize our solar power products and services."

Table of Contents

Supplier Relationships, Manufacturing, and Module Assembly

We purchase polysilicon, ingots, wafers, solar cells, and balance of system components from various manufacturers, including our joint venture, on both a contracted and a purchase order basis. We have contracted with some of our suppliers for multi-year supply agreements. Under such agreements, we have annual minimum purchase obligations and in certain cases prepayment obligations. We have certain purchase obligations under our material supply agreement with our joint venture AUO SunPower Sdn. Bhd. ("AUOSP"), which is a supplier of our cells. This material supply contract has a remaining term of 5 years and does not contain prepayment obligations. Please see the Contractual Obligations disclosure in "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" for further information regarding the amount of our purchase obligations in 2013 and beyond. Under other supply agreements, we are required to make prepayments to vendors over the terms of the arrangements. As of December 30, 2012, advances to suppliers totaled \$351.4 million. We may be unable to recover such prepayments if the credit conditions of these suppliers materially deteriorate. For further information regarding our future prepayment obligations, please see "Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data - Note 10 - Commitment and Contingencies - Advance to Suppliers." We currently believe our supplier relationships and various short- and long-term contracts will afford us the volume of material and services required to meet our planned output. For more information about risks related to our supply chain, please see "Item 1A: Risk Factors - Risks Related to Our Supply Chain."

We are working with our suppliers and partners along all steps of the value chain to reduce costs by improving manufacturing technologies and expanding economies of scale. Crystalline silicon is the leading commercial material for solar cells and is used in several forms, including single-crystalline, or monocrystalline silicon, multicrystalline, or polycrystalline silicon, ribbon and sheet silicon, and thin-layer silicon. Our solar cell value chain starts with high purity silicon called polysilicon. Polysilicon is created by refining quartz or sand. We have negotiated multiple long-term, fixed price contracts with large polysilicon suppliers.

Polysilicon is melted and grown into crystalline ingots and sawed into wafers by business partners specializing in those processes. The wafers are processed into solar cells in our manufacturing facility located in the Philippines and by our joint venture, AUOSP, located in Malaysia. SPML Land, Inc., owns a 344,000 square foot facility in the Philippines which serves as a solar cell manufacturing facility ("FAB2") and which currently operates twelve lines with a total rated annual solar cell manufacturing capacity of over 700 MW. AUOSP currently operates twelve solar cell manufacturing lines with a total rated annual solar cell manufacturing capacity of over 800 MW.

Using our solar cells, we manufacture our solar panels at our solar panel assembly facilities located in the Philippines and Mexico. In our Philippines facility, we currently operate fourteen solar panel assembly lines with a total rated annual solar panel manufacturing capacity of approximately 600 MW. In our Mexicali, Mexico facility we currently operate ten additional solar panel assembly lines. When fully online, our Mexico facility will house twelve solar panel assembly lines with an expected total rated annual solar panel manufacturing capacity of approximately 500 MW. As a result of our January 2012 acquisition of Tenesol S.A., a global solar provider headquartered in La Tour de Salvagny, France, which operated under the common control of Total, we acquired solar panel assembly facilities in France and South Africa with a combined total rated annual solar cell manufacturing of approximately 170 MW. Our solar panels are also assembled for us by third-party contract manufacturers in California and China.

We source the solar panels and balance of system components based on quality, performance, and cost considerations both internally and from third-party suppliers. We generally assemble proprietary components, such as cementitious coatings and certain adhesive applications, while we purchase generally available components from third-party suppliers. The balance of system components can make up as much as two-thirds of the cost of a solar power system. Therefore, we are focused on standardizing our products with the goal of driving down installation costs, such as with

our SunPower Oasis operating system.

Sales and Marketing

Customers

We sell our products through our regional segments including North America, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Australia. Our customers typically include investors, financial institutions, project developers, electric utilities, and independent power producers, commercial and governmental entities, production home builders, and residential owners and small commercial building owners who are served by our third-party global dealer network.

We work with development, construction, system integration, and financing companies to deliver our solar power systems to wholesale sellers, retail sellers, and retail users of electricity. In the United States, commercial and electric utility

Table of Contents

customers typically choose to purchase solar electricity under a purchase power agreement ("PPA") with an investor or financing company that buys the system from us. End-user customers typically pay the investors and financing companies over an extended period of time based on energy they consume from the solar power systems, rather than paying for the full capital cost of purchasing the solar power systems. In Europe and the United States, our products and systems are typically purchased by an investor or financing company and operated as central-station solar power plants. In addition, our third-party global dealer network and our new homes division have deployed thousands of SunPower rooftop solar power systems to residential customers.

We have offices in markets such as Australia, England, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Africa, Spain, and the United States. We anticipate developing additional customer relationships in other markets and geographic regions as we expand our business. We generally do not have long-term agreements with our customers; see "Item 1A: Risk Factors" including "We often do not have long-term agreements with our customers and accordingly could lose customers without warning, which could cause our operating results to decline."

The table below represents our significant customers which accounted for greater than 10 percent of total revenue during fiscal 2012, 2011, and 2010.

Revenue	Business Segment	Year ended		
		December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012	January 2, 2011
Significant Customers:				
NRG Solar, Inc.	Americas	35	% *	*
Customer B	EMEA	*	*	12 %

* denotes less than 10% during the period

Seasonal Trends

Our business is subject to industry-specific seasonal fluctuations. Sales have historically reflected these seasonal trends with the largest percentage of total revenues realized during the last two calendar quarters of a fiscal year. Lower seasonal demand normally results in reduced shipments and revenues in the first two calendar quarters of a fiscal year. There are various reasons for this seasonality, mostly related to economic incentives and weather patterns. For example, in European countries with feed-in tariffs, the construction of solar power systems may be concentrated during the second half of the calendar year, largely due to the annual reduction of the applicable minimum feed-in tariff and the fact that the coldest winter months in the Northern Hemisphere are January through March. In the United States, customers will sometimes make purchasing decisions towards the end of the year in order to take advantage of tax credits or for other budgetary reasons. In addition, sales in the new home development market are often tied to construction market demands which tend to follow national trends in construction, including declining sales during cold weather months.

Marketing and Sales

We market and sell solar electric power technologies worldwide through a direct sales force and through our third-party global dealer network. We sell products and services to residential, commercial, utility and power plant customers through direct sales personnel and dealer representatives. Our direct sales personnel and dealer representatives are located in Australia, France, Germany, Korea, Italy, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States. Our dealer network in the United States serves over 40 states. We have three dealership tiers in the program: Elite, Premier, and Authorized. Approximately 10% to 15% of the dealers in the United States have earned Elite status and approximately 25% to 35% have earned Premier status. We provide warranty coverage on systems we sell through our direct sales personnel and dealers. To the extent we sell through dealers, we may provide system design and support services while the dealers are responsible for installation, maintenance, and service.

Our overall marketing programs are in place to build awareness for the SunPower brand, to communicate the key messages that differentiate our offerings and to create loyalty with our customers. We participate in conferences, seminars, trade shows as well as communicating via our corporate website, social media, public relations, and advertising. Our marketing group is also responsible for driving demand generation activities that create qualified leads to support our sales teams' efforts. We assist our global dealer network through a marketing resource center and customer support organization. We have marketing personnel in San Jose and Richmond, California, and Austin, Texas, United States, as well as in Paris, France, Frankfurt, Germany, Madrid, Spain and Geneva, Switzerland.

Table of Contents

Backlog

Our solar power system project backlog represents the uncompleted portion of contracted and financed projects. Contingent customer orders that are not yet financed are excluded from backlog. Our solar power system projects are often cancelable by our customers under certain conditions. In addition, revenue and related costs are often subject to delays or scope modifications based on change orders agreed to with our customers, or changes in the estimated construction costs to be incurred in completing the project.

Our residential and light commercial business and the components business include large volume sales of solar panels, mounting systems, and other solar equipment to third parties, which are typically ordered by our third-party global dealer network and customers under standard purchase orders with relatively short delivery lead-times, generally within one to three months. We have entered into multi-year supply agreements with certain customers of our components business that contain minimum firm purchase commitments. However, specific products that are to be delivered and the related delivery schedules under these long-term contracts are often subject to modifications based on change orders and amendments agreed to with our customers. Our backlog represents the uncompleted portion of firm purchase commitments and open purchase orders by our third-party global dealer network.

Management believes that backlog at any particular date is not necessarily a meaningful indicator of future revenue for any particular period of time because our backlog excludes contracts signed and completed in the same quarter and contracts still conditioned upon obtaining financing. Backlog totaled approximately \$1,664.5 million and \$1,688.0 million as of December 30, 2012 and January 1, 2012, respectively. Of the backlog as of December 30, 2012, \$876.6 million is expected to be recognized in fiscal 2013.

Competition

The market for solar electric power technologies is competitive and continually evolving. We expect to face increased competition, which may result in price reductions, reduced margins, or loss of market share. Our solar power products and systems compete with a large number of competitors in the solar power market, including, but not limited to:

Residential and Commercial: Canadian Solar Inc., Hanwha Corporation, JA Solar Holdings Co., Kyocera Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation, Sanyo Corporation (a subsidiary of Panasonic Corporation), Sharp Corporation, SolarCity Corporation, SolarWorld AG, Sungevity, Inc., SunRun, Inc., Suntech Power Holdings Co. Ltd., Trina Solar Ltd., and Yingli Green Energy Holding Co. Ltd.

Utility and Power Plant: Abengoa Solar S.A., Acconia Energia S.A., AES Solar Energy Ltd., Chevron Energy Solutions (a subsidiary of Chevron Corporation), EDF Energy plc, First Solar Inc., NextEra Energy, Inc., NRG Energy, Inc., OPDE Group, Recurrent Energy (a subsidiary of Sharp Corporation), Sempra Energy, Skyline Solar, Inc., Solargen Energy, Inc., Solaria Corporation, SolFocus, Inc., SunEdison (a subsidiary of MEMC Electronic Materials Inc.), and Tenaska, Inc.

We also face competition from resellers that have developed related offerings that compete with our product and service offerings, or have entered into strategic relationships with other existing solar power system providers. We compete for limited government funding for research and development contracts, customer tax rebates and other programs that promote the use of solar, and other renewable forms of energy with other renewable energy providers and customers.

In addition, universities, research institutions, and other companies have brought to market alternative technologies such as thin films and high concentration photovoltaic, which compete with our technology in certain applications. Furthermore, the solar power market in general competes with conventional fossil fuels supplied by utilities and other

sources of renewable energy such as wind, hydro, biomass, solar thermal, and emerging distributed generation technologies such as micro-turbines, sterling engines and fuel cells.

In the large-scale on-grid solar power systems market, we face direct competition from a number of companies, including those that manufacture, distribute, or install solar power systems as well as construction companies that have expanded into the renewable sector. In addition, we will occasionally compete with distributed generation equipment suppliers.

We believe that the key competitive factors in the market for solar panels include:

total system price;

Table of Contents

- LCOE evaluation;
- power efficiency and performance;
- aesthetic appearance of solar panels;
- strength of distribution relationships;
- availability of third-party financing and investments;
- timeliness of new product introductions; and
- warranty protection, quality, and customer service.

The principal elements of competition in the solar power systems market include technical expertise, price, experience, delivery capabilities, diversity of product offerings, financing structures, marketing and sales, product performance, quality, efficiency and reliability, and technical service and support. We believe that we can compete favorably with respect to each of these factors, although we may be at a disadvantage in comparison to larger companies with broader product lines, greater technical service and support capabilities, and financial resources. For more information about risks related to our competition, please see "Item 1A: Risk Factors" including "The increase in the global supply of solar cells and panels, and increasing competition, may cause substantial downward pressure on the prices of our products and cause us to lose sales or market share, resulting in lower revenues, earnings, and cash flow," and "If we fail to successfully execute our cost reduction roadmap, and develop and introduce new and enhanced products and services, we may not be able to compete effectively, and our ability to generate revenues will suffer."

Intellectual Property

We rely on a combination of patent, copyright, trade secret, trademark, and contractual protections to establish and protect our proprietary rights. "SunPower" and the "SunPower" logo are our registered trademarks in countries throughout the world for use with solar cells, solar panels and mounting systems. We also hold registered trademarks for "Connectis", "Fournisseur d'accès au soleil", "Maxeon", "Oasis", "PowerLight", "PowerGuard", "Serengeti", "Smarter Solar", "Solbox", "SunTile", "SuPo Solar", "SunPower Electric", "Tenesol", "Tenesolbox", "Tenesol, sun access provider", "The Planet's Most Powerful Solar", "The World's Standard for Solar", and "Use More Sun" in certain countries. We are seeking and will continue to seek registration of the "SunPower" trademark and other trademarks in additional countries as we believe is appropriate. As of December 30, 2012, we held registrations for 16 trademarks in the United States, and had 2 trademark registration applications pending. We also held 100 trademark registrations and had over 22 trademark applications pending in foreign jurisdictions. We require our business partners to enter into confidentiality and nondisclosure agreements before we disclose any sensitive aspects of our solar cells, technology, or business plans. We typically enter into proprietary information agreements with employees, consultants, vendors, customers, and joint venture partners.

We own multiple patents and patent applications which cover aspects of the technology in the solar cells, mounting products, and electrical and electronic systems that we currently manufacture and market. We continue to file for and receive new patent rights on a regular basis. The lifetime of a utility patent typically extends for 20 years from the date of filing with the relevant government authority. We assess appropriate opportunities for patent protection of those aspects of our technology, designs, methodologies, and processes that we believe provide significant competitive advantages to us, and for licensing opportunities of new technologies relevant to our business. As of December 30, 2012, we held 112 patents in the United States, which will expire at various times between 2013 and 2031, and had

173 patent applications pending. We also held 111 patents and had 384 patent applications pending in foreign jurisdictions. While patents are an important element of our intellectual property strategy, our business as a whole is not dependent on any one patent or any single pending patent application. We additionally rely on trade secret rights to protect our proprietary information and know-how. We employ proprietary processes and customized equipment in our manufacturing facilities. We therefore require employees and consultants to enter into confidentiality agreements to protect them.

We are currently in litigation in Germany against Knubix GmbH related to alleged violations of our patent rights.

For more information about risks related to our intellectual property, please see "Item 1A: Risk Factors" including "We are dependent on our intellectual property, and we may face intellectual property infringement claims that could be time-consuming and costly to defend and could result in the loss of significant rights," and "We rely substantially upon trade secret laws and contractual restrictions to protect our proprietary rights, and, if these rights are not sufficiently protected, our ability

Table of Contents

to compete and generate revenue could suffer," and "We may not obtain sufficient patent protection on the technology embodied in the solar products we currently manufacture and market, which could harm our competitive position and increase our expenses."

Government Regulations

Public Policy Considerations

Different policy mechanisms have been used by governments to accelerate the adoption of solar power. Examples of customer-focused financial mechanisms include capital cost rebates, performance-based incentives, feed-in tariffs, tax credits, and net metering. Some of these government mandates and economic incentives are scheduled to be reduced or to expire, or could be eliminated altogether, including the feed-in tariffs in Germany and Italy. Capital cost rebates provide funds to customers based on the cost and size of a customer's solar power system. Performance-based incentives provide funding to a customer based on the energy produced by their solar power system. Feed-in tariffs pay customers for solar power system generation based on energy produced, at a rate generally guaranteed for a period of time. Tax credits reduce a customer's taxes at the time the taxes are due. In the United States and other countries, net metering has often been used as a supplemental program in conjunction with other policy mechanisms. Under net metering, a customer can generate more energy than used, during which periods the electricity meter will run backwards. During these periods, the customer "lends" electricity to the grid, retrieving an equal amount of power at a later time.

In addition to the mechanisms described above, new market development mechanisms to encourage the use of renewable energy sources continue to emerge. For example, many states in the United States have adopted renewable portfolio standards which mandate that a certain portion of electricity delivered to customers come from eligible renewable energy resources. In certain developing countries, governments are establishing initiatives to expand access to electricity, including initiatives to support off-grid rural electrification using solar power. For more information about risks related to public policies, please see "Item 1A: Risk Factors" including "The reduction, modification or elimination of government and economic incentives could cause our revenue to decline and harm our financial results," and "Existing regulations and policies and changes to these regulations and policies may present technical, regulatory, and economic barriers to the purchase and use of solar power products, which may significantly reduce demand for our products and services."

Environmental Regulations

We use, generate, and discharge toxic, volatile, or otherwise hazardous chemicals and wastes in our research and development, manufacturing, and construction activities. We are subject to a variety of foreign, federal, state, and local governmental laws and regulations related to the purchase, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials.

We believe that we have all environmental permits necessary to conduct our business and expect to obtain all necessary environmental permits for future activities. We believe that we have properly handled our hazardous materials and wastes and have appropriately remediated any contamination at any of our premises. We are not aware of any pending or threatened environmental investigation, proceeding or action by foreign, federal, state or local agencies, or third parties involving our current facilities. Any failure by us to control the use of, or to restrict adequately the discharge of, hazardous substances could subject us to substantial financial liabilities, operational interruptions, and adverse publicity, any of which could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations, and financial condition.

Iran

The Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, signed into law by President Obama on August 10, 2012 (“ITRSHRA”), added a new Section 13(r) to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which requires us to disclose whether Total S.A. (“Total”) or any of its affiliates (collectively, the “Total Group”) has engaged during the 2012 calendar year in certain Iran-related activities. While the Total Group has not engaged in any activity that would be required to be disclosed pursuant to subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D)(i) or (D)(ii) of Section 13(r)(1), affiliates of Total may be deemed to have engaged in a transaction or dealing with the government of Iran pursuant to Section 13(r)(1)(D)(iii), as discussed below. The below information concerning fiscal year 2012 was provided to us by Total and is current as of February 19, 2013. The percentages below indicate ownership interest in the entities named. SunPower and its subsidiaries did not engage in any activities required to be disclosed pursuant to Section 13(r)(1).

The Total Group has no exploration and production activities in Iran. Some payments are yet to be reimbursed to the Total Group with respect to past expenditures and remuneration under buyback contracts entered into between 1997 and 1999 with the National Iranian Oil Company (“NIOC”) for the development of the South Pars 2&3 and Dorood fields. With respect

Table of Contents

to these contracts, development operations have been completed and the Total Group, which is no longer involved in the operation of these fields, has no information on the production from these fields. The Total Group maintains a local office in Iran solely for non-operational functions. In 2012, Total E&P Iran (100%), Elf Petroleum Iran (99.7%) and Total South Pars 2&3 (99.7%) collectively made payments of approximately €1 million to the Iranian administration with respect to certain taxes and social security in relation to payments made in 2012 to the Total Group under the Dorood and South Pars 2&3 buyback contracts and the maintenance of the local office mentioned above and its personnel. Total did not recognize any revenues or profits from the aforementioned in 2012. Payments for taxes and social security are expected to be made in 2013.

In 2012, as part of its ongoing global strategy for the protection of its intellectual property, Total filed two patent applications in Iran that it had filed in many other countries. The filing of an application to obtain a patent in Iran is an activity that the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") licenses, and, although Total is not a U.S. person, it believes its activity is consistent with this license.

Total E&P UK Limited ("TEP UK"), a wholly-owned affiliate of Total, had limited contacts in 2012 with the Iranian Oil Company UK Ltd ("IOC"), a subsidiary of NIOC. These contacts related to agreements governing certain transportation, processing and operation services formerly provided to a joint venture at the Rhum field in the UK, co-owned by BP (50%, operator) and IOC (50%), by a joint venture at the Bruce field between BP (37%, operator), TEP UK (43.25%), BHP Billiton Petroleum Great Britain Ltd (16%) and Marubeni Oil & Gas (North Sea) Limited (3.75%) and by TEP UK's Frigg UK Association pipeline (100%). To the Total Group's knowledge, no services have been provided under the aforementioned agreements since November 2010, when the Rhum field stopped production following the adoption of European Union sanctions, other than critical safety-related services (i.e., monitoring and marine inspection of the Rhum facilities). These agreements led to the signature in 2005 of an agreement by TEP UK and Naftiran Intertrade Co. ("NICO") (IOC's parent company and a subsidiary of NIOC) for the purchase by TEP UK of Rhum field natural gas liquids from NICO. There have been no purchases under this agreement since November 2010. TEP UK's contacts with IOC and NICO in 2012 in regard to the aforementioned agreements were limited to exchanging letters and notifications regarding contract administration and declarations of force majeure. TEP UK may have similar limited contacts with IOC and NICO in 2013. Total did not recognize any revenues or profits from the aforementioned in 2012.

The Total Group does not own or operate any refineries or chemicals plants in Iran. Until December 2012, at which time Total sold its entire interest, it held a 50% interest in the company Beh Total along with Behran Oil (50%), a company controlled by entities with ties to the government of Iran. Beh Total produced and marketed in 2012 small quantities of lubricants (16,885 metric tons) for sale to domestic consumers in Iran. In 2012, revenue generated from Beh Total's activities in Iran was approximately €50 million, net income was approximately €3 million and Beh Total paid approximately €1 million in taxes and approximately €4 million of dividends for fiscal year 2010 (share of Total: approximately €2 million).

In addition, Total holds a 50% interest in, but does not operate, Samsung Total Petrochemicals Co. Ltd ("STC"), a South Korean incorporated joint venture with Samsung General Chemicals Co., Ltd. (50%). During the first six months of 2012 and prior to Executive Order 13622, STC purchased 292,000 metric tons of condensates directly or indirectly from companies affiliated with the Iranian government for approximately €253 million. As such condensates are used by STC as inputs for its manufacturing processes, it is not possible to estimate the revenues from sales or net income attributable to such purchases. In reliance on the exemption provided in Section 1245(d)(4)(D) of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) announced on December 7, 2012, STC contracted to recommence such purchases. However, STC's management has recently stated that STC would no longer take deliveries under such contract arrangement as from March 31, 2013. In addition, STC sold 1,450 metric tons of polymers for approximately €156 million to two Korean traders, Skyplast and Tera Korea, which may have subsequently exported some or all of this product to Iran. Taking into account the uses for such polymers (e.g., food packaging, pipes, car interiors), the

end-customers likely were private companies. STC may make similar sales in the future.

Prior to January 23, 2012, the Total Group's Trading & Shipping ceased its purchase of Iranian hydrocarbons. Before this date, Total International Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Total, purchased in Iran during 2012 pursuant to a mix of spot and term contracts approximately 2 million barrels of hydrocarbons from state-controlled entities for approximately €189 million, which it subsequently resold for approximately €176 million. As Total hedges the risk associated with a fluctuation in hydrocarbon prices during its trading activities, the overall net income before tax attributable to such activity was €3 million. Trading & Shipping owed to state controlled entities in Iran approximately €235 million as of December 31, 2011 and €83 million as of December 31, 2012, which represented the value of the hydrocarbons purchased prior to the cessation of such activity.

Employees

15

Table of Contents

As of December 30, 2012, we had approximately 5,020 employees worldwide, excluding employees of our joint ventures. As of December 30, 2012, approximately 700 employees were located in the United States, 2,880 employees were located in the Philippines and 1,440 employees were located in other countries. Of these employees, approximately 3,440 were engaged in manufacturing, 280 in construction projects, 230 in research and development, 650 in sales and marketing, and 420 in general and administrative services. Although we have works councils and statutory employee representation obligations in certain countries, our employees are not represented by a labor union. We have never experienced a work stoppage, and we believe relations with our employees are good.

Geographic Information

Sales outside the United States represented approximately 30%, 47% and 72% of total revenue for fiscal years 2012, 2011, and 2010, respectively. Information regarding the physical location of our property, plant and equipment and our foreign and domestic operations is contained in Note 7 and Note 18, respectively, of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Part II - "Item 8: Financial Statements and Supplemental Data," which information is incorporated herein by reference. See also "Item 7: Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," for other information about our operations and activities in various geographic regions.

Available Information

We make available our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 free of charge on our website at www.sunpowercorp.com, as soon as reasonably practicable after they are electronically filed or furnished to the SEC. Additionally, copies of materials filed by us with the SEC may be accessed at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street NE, Washington, D.C. or at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. For information about the SEC's Public Reference Room, the public may contact 1-800-SEC-0330. Copies of material filed by us with the SEC may also be obtained by writing to us at our corporate headquarters, SunPower Corporation, Attention: Investor Relations, 77 Rio Robles, San Jose, California 95134, or by calling (408) 240-5500. The contents of our website are not incorporated into, or otherwise to be regarded as a part of, this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Table of Contents

ITEM 1A: RISK FACTORS

Our operations and financial results are subject to various risks and uncertainties, including risks related to our sales channels, liquidity, supply chain, operations, intellectual property, and our debt and equity securities. Although we believe that we have identified and discussed below certain key risk factors affecting our business, there may be additional risks and uncertainties that are not presently known or that are not currently believed to be significant that may also adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations, cash flows, and trading price of our common stock as well as our 4.50% senior convertible debentures, 4.75% senior convertible debentures, and 0.75% senior convertible debentures.

Risks Related to Our Sales Channels

The increase in the global supply of solar cells and panels, and increasing competition, may cause substantial downward pressure on the prices of such products and cause us to lose sales or market share, resulting in lower revenues, earnings, and cash flow.

Global solar cell and panel production capacity has been materially increasing since 2009, and solar cell and solar panel manufacturers continue to have significant excess capacity, particularly in China. Excess capacity and industry competition have resulted, and will continue to result, in substantial downward pressure on the price of solar cells and panels, including SunPower products. Increasing competition could also result in us losing sales or market share. Such price reductions or loss of sales or market share could continue to have a negative impact on our revenue and earnings, and could materially adversely affect our business and financial condition and cash flows. In addition, our internal forecasts of pricing may not be accurate in the current market environment, which could cause our financial results to be different than forecasted. See also "If we fail to successfully execute our cost reduction roadmap, and develop and introduce new and enhanced products and services, we may not be able to compete effectively, and our ability to generate revenues will suffer."

Our operating results will be subject to fluctuations and are inherently unpredictable.

We do not know if our revenue will grow, or if it will grow sufficiently to outpace our expenses. We may not be profitable on a quarterly basis. For example, we experienced net losses in each quarter of 2012. Our quarterly revenue and operating results will be difficult to predict and have in the past fluctuated from quarter to quarter. Revenue from our large commercial and, utilities and power plant customers (for example, our California Valley Solar Ranch ("CVSR") project and our Antelope Valley Solar Projects ("AVSP")) is susceptible to large fluctuations. The amount, timing and mix of sales to our large commercial and utilities and power plant customers, often for a single medium or large-scale project, may cause large fluctuations in our revenue and other financial results as, at any given time, a single large-scale project can account for a material portion of our total revenue in a given quarter. Our inability to monetize our projects as planned, or any delay in obtaining the required government support or initial payments to begin recognizing revenue under the relevant recognition criteria, and the corresponding revenue impact under the percentage-of-completion method of recognizing revenue, may similarly cause large fluctuations in our revenue and other financial results. A delayed disposition of a project could require us to recognize a gain on the sale of assets instead of recognizing revenue. Further, our revenue mix of materials sales versus project sales can fluctuate dramatically from quarter to quarter, which may adversely affect our margins and financial results in any given period. Any decrease in revenue from our large commercial, utilities and power plant customers, whether due to a loss or delay of projects or an inability to collect, could have a significant negative impact on our business. Our agreements with these customers may be canceled if we fail to meet certain product specifications or materially breach the agreement. In the event of a customer bankruptcy, our customers may seek to renegotiate the terms of current agreements or renewals. In addition, the failure by any significant customer to pay for orders, whether due to liquidity issues or otherwise, could materially and adversely affect our results of operations. Sales to our residential and light

commercial customers are similarly susceptible to fluctuations in volumes and revenues. Declining average selling prices immediately impact our residential and light commercial sales volumes, and therefore lead to large fluctuations in revenues. Any of the foregoing may cause us to miss any current and future revenue or earnings guidance and negatively impact liquidity.

We base our planned operating expenses in part on our expectations of future revenue and a significant portion of our expenses is fixed in the short term. If revenue for a particular quarter is lower than we expect, we likely will be unable to proportionately reduce our operating expenses for that quarter, which would harm our operating results for that quarter. This may cause us to miss any earnings guidance announced by us.

The execution of our growth strategy is dependent upon the continued availability of third-party financing arrangements for our solar power plants, our residential lease program and our customers, and is affected by general economic conditions.

Table of Contents

The general economy, the current European debt crisis, and limited availability of credit and liquidity could materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations. We often require project financing for development and construction of our solar power plant projects, which require significant investments before the equity is later sold to investors. Many purchasers of our systems projects have entered into third-party arrangements to finance their systems over an extended period of time, while many end-customers have chosen to purchase solar electricity under a power purchase agreement ("PPA") with an investor or financing company that purchases the system from us or our authorized dealers. In addition, under our power purchase business model, we often execute PPAs directly with the end-user customer purchasing solar electricity, with the expectation that we will later assign the PPA to a financier. Under such arrangements, the financier separately contracts with us to build and acquire the solar power system, and then sells the electricity to the end-user customer under the assigned PPA. When executing PPAs with the end-user customers, we seek to mitigate the risk that a financier will not be available for the project by allowing termination of the PPA in such event without penalty. However, we may not always be successful in negotiating for penalty-free termination rights for failure to obtain financing, and certain end-user customers have required substantial financial penalties in exchange for such rights. These structured finance arrangements are complex and may not be feasible in many situations.

Due to the general challenging credit markets worldwide, we may be unable to obtain project financing for our projects, customers may be unable or unwilling to finance the cost of our products, we may have difficulties in reaching agreements with financiers to finance the construction of our solar power systems, or the parties that have historically provided this financing may cease to do so, or only do so on terms that are substantially less favorable for us or our customers, any of which could materially and adversely affect our revenue and growth in all segments of our business. We are actively arranging additional third-party financing for our residential lease program; however, due to the general challenging credit markets worldwide, we may be unable to arrange additional financing partners for our residential lease program in future periods, which could have a negative impact on our sales. In the event we enter into a material number of additional leases without obtaining corresponding third-party financing, our cash, working capital and financial results could be negatively impacted. In addition, in the United States, with the expiration of the Treasury Grant under Section 1603 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program, we will need to identify, in the near term, interested financiers with sufficient taxable income to monetize the tax incentives created by our solar systems. In the long term, as we look towards incentive-less markets, we will continue to need to identify financiers willing to finance residential solar systems. Our plans to continue to grow our residential lease program may be delayed if credit conditions prevent us from obtaining or maintaining arrangement(s) to finance the program. The lack of project financing could delay the development and construction of our solar power plant projects, thus reducing our revenues from the sale of such projects. Many customers, especially in the United States, choose to purchase solar electricity under a PPA with a financing company that buys the system from us and the lack of availability of such financing could lead to reduced revenues. If economic recovery is slow in the United States or elsewhere, or if the European debt crisis remains unresolved or worsens, we may experience decreases in the demand for our solar power products, which may harm our operating results. We may in some cases seek to pursue partnership arrangements with financing entities to assist residential and other customers to obtain financing for the purchase or lease of our systems, which would expose us to credit or other risks. In addition, a rise in interest rates would likely increase our customers' cost of financing or leasing our products and could reduce their profits and expected returns on investment in our products. The general reduction in available credit to would-be borrowers or lessees, the poor state of economies worldwide, and the condition of housing markets worldwide could delay or reduce our sales of products to new homebuilders and authorized resellers.

The reduction, modification or elimination of government and economic incentives could cause our revenue to decline and harm our financial results.

The market for on-grid applications, where solar power is used to supplement a customer's electricity purchased from the utility network or sold to a utility under tariff, depends in large part on the availability and size of government

mandates and economic incentives because, at present, the cost of solar power generally exceeds retail electric rates in many locations and wholesale peak power rates in some locations. In addition, on-grid applications depend on access to the grid, which is also regulated by government entities. Incentives and mandates vary by geographic market. Various government bodies in most of the countries where we do business have provided incentives in the form of feed-in tariffs, rebates, and tax credits and other incentives and mandates, such as renewable portfolio standards, to end-users, distributors, system integrators and manufacturers of solar power products to promote the use of solar energy in on-grid applications and to reduce dependency on other forms of energy. In 2011, some of these government mandates and economic incentives were reduced or fundamentally restructured, including the feed-in tariffs in Germany and incentives offered by other European countries, which has had a materially negative effect on the market size and price of solar systems in Europe and caused our earnings in 2011 and 2012 to decline in Europe and adversely affected our financial results. Governmental decisions regarding the provision of economic incentives often depend on political and economic factors that are largely beyond our control. Because our sales are into the on-grid market, the reduction, modification or elimination of grid access, government mandates and economic incentives in one or

Table of Contents

more of our customer markets would materially and adversely affect the growth of such markets or result in increased price competition, either of which could cause our revenue to decline and harm our financial results.

Existing regulations and policies and changes to these regulations and policies may present technical, regulatory, and economic barriers to the purchase and use of solar power products, which may significantly reduce demand for our products and services.

The market for electric generation products is heavily influenced by federal, state and local government laws, regulations and policies concerning the electric utility industry in the United States and abroad, as well as policies promulgated by electric utilities. These regulations and policies often relate to electricity pricing and technical interconnection of customer-owned electricity generation, and could deter further investment in the research and development of alternative energy sources as well as customer purchases of solar power technology, which could result in a significant reduction in the potential demand for our solar power products. The market for electric generation equipment is also influenced by trade and local content laws, regulations and policies which can discourage growth and competition in the solar industry, create economic barriers to the purchase of solar power products, thus reducing demand for our solar products. We anticipate that our solar power products and their installation will continue to be subject to oversight and regulation in accordance with federal, state, local and foreign regulations relating to construction, safety, environmental protection, utility interconnection and metering, trade, and related matters. It is difficult to track the requirements of individual states or local jurisdictions and design equipment to comply with the varying standards. In addition, the U.S., European Union and Chinese governments have imposed tariffs or are in the process of evaluating the imposition of tariffs on solar panels, solar cells, polysilicon and potentially other components. These tariffs may increase the price of our solar products and adversely impact our cost reduction roadmap, which could harm our results of operations and financial condition. Any new regulations or policies pertaining to our solar power products may result in significant additional expenses to us, our resellers and our resellers' customers, which could cause a significant reduction in demand for our solar power products.

We may incur unexpected warranty and product liability claims that could materially and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Our current standard product warranty for our solar panels includes a 25-year warranty period for defects in materials and workmanship and a 25-year warranty period for declines in power performance. We believe our warranty offering exceeds industry practice. We perform accelerated lifecycle testing that expose our solar panels to extreme stress and climate conditions in both environmental simulation chambers and in actual field deployments in order to highlight potential failures that would occur over the 25-year warranty period. Due to the long warranty period, we bear the risk of extensive warranty claims long after we have shipped product and recognized revenue. Although we conduct accelerated testing of our solar panels and have several years of experience with our all-back-contact solar cell architecture, our solar panels have not and cannot be tested in an environment that exactly simulates the 25-year warranty period and it is difficult to test for all conditions that may occur in the field. We have sold solar panels since the early 2000's and have therefore not experienced the full warranty cycle.

In our project installations, our current standard warranty for our solar power systems differs by geography and end-customer application and usually includes a limited warranty of 10 years for defects in work and workmanship, after which the customer may typically extend the period covered by its warranty for an additional fee. Due to the long warranty period, we bear the risk of extensive warranty claims long after we have completed a project and recognized revenues. Warranty and product liability claims may also result from defects or quality issues in certain third party technology and components that our business incorporates into its solar power systems, particularly solar cells and panels, over which we have little or no control. While we generally pass through to our customers manufacturer warranties we receive from our suppliers, in some circumstances, we may be responsible for repairing or replacing defective parts during our warranty period, often including those covered by manufacturers' warranties, or incur other

non-warranty costs. If the manufacturer disputes or otherwise fails to honor its warranty obligations, we may be required to incur substantial costs before we are compensated, if at all, by the manufacturer. Furthermore, our warranties may exceed the period of any warranties from our suppliers covering components, such as third party solar cells, third party panels and third party inverters, included in our systems. In addition, manufacturer warranties may not fully compensate us for losses associated with third-party claims caused by defects or quality issues in their products. For example, most manufacturer warranties exclude many losses that may result from a system component's failure or defect, such as the cost of de-installation, re-installation, shipping, lost electricity, lost renewable energy credits or other solar incentives, personal injury, property damage, and other losses. In certain cases our direct warranty coverage provided by SunPower to our customers, and therefore our financial exposure, may exceed our recourse available against cell, panel or other manufacturers for defects in their products. In addition, in the event we seek recourse through warranties, we will also be dependent on the creditworthiness and continued existence of the suppliers to our business. Some of our suppliers have entered bankruptcy and our likelihood of a successful warranty claim against them is minimal.

Table of Contents

Increases in the defect rate of SunPower or third-party products could cause us to increase the amount of warranty reserves and have a corresponding negative impact on our results of operations. Further, potential future product failures could cause us to incur substantial expense to repair or replace defective products, and we have agreed in some circumstances to indemnify our customers and our distributors against liability from some defects in our solar products. A successful indemnification claim against us could require us to make significant damage payments. Repair and replacement costs, as well as successful indemnification claims, could materially and negatively impact our financial condition and results of operations.

Like other retailers, distributors and manufacturers of products that are used by customers, we face an inherent risk of exposure to product liability claims in the event that the use of the solar power products into which solar cells and solar panels are incorporated results in injury, property damage or other damages. We may be subject to warranty and product liability claims in the event that our solar power systems fail to perform as expected or if a failure of our solar power systems results, or is alleged to result, in bodily injury, property damage or other damages. Since our solar power products are electricity producing devices, it is possible that our systems could result in injury, whether by product malfunctions, defects, improper installation or other causes. In addition, since we only began selling our solar cells and solar panels in the early 2000's and the products we are developing incorporate new technologies and use new installation methods, we cannot predict whether or not product liability claims will be brought against us in the future or the effect of any resulting negative publicity on our business. Moreover, we may not have adequate resources in the event of a successful claim against us. We rely on our general liability insurance to cover product liability claims and have not obtained separate product liability insurance. A successful warranty or product liability claim against us that is not covered by insurance or is in excess of our available insurance limits could require us to make significant payments of damages. In addition, quality issues can have various other ramifications, including delays in the recognition of revenue, loss of revenue, loss of future sales opportunities, increased costs associated with repairing or replacing products, and a negative impact on our goodwill and reputation, which could also adversely affect our business and operating results.

If we fail to successfully execute our cost reduction roadmap, and develop and introduce new and enhanced products and services, we may not be able to compete effectively, and our ability to generate revenues will suffer.

Our solar panels are currently competitive in the market compared with lower cost conventional solar cells, such as thin-film, due to their higher efficiency. If our competitors are able to drive down their manufacturing costs faster than us, our products may become less competitive even when adjusted for efficiency. While raw materials costs and other third party component costs have been decreasing, if such costs were to increase, we may not be able to meet our cost reduction targets. If we cannot effectively execute our cost reduction roadmap, our competitive position would suffer, and we could lose market share and our margins would be adversely impacted as we face downward pricing pressure.

The solar power market is characterized by continually changing technology requiring improved features, such as increased efficiency and higher power output and improved aesthetics. Technologies developed by our direct competitors, including thin film solar panels, concentrating solar cells, solar thermal electric and other solar technologies, may provide power at lower costs than our products. We also face competition in some markets from other power generation sources, including conventional fossil fuels, wind, biomass, and hydro. In addition, other companies could potentially develop a highly reliable renewable energy system that mitigates the intermittent power production drawback of many renewable energy systems. Companies could also offer other value-added improvements from the perspective of utilities and other system owners, in which case such companies could compete with us even if the cost of electricity associated with such new system is higher than that of our systems.

Our failure to further refine our technology, reduce cost in our manufacturing process, and develop and introduce new solar power products could cause our products or our manufacturing facilities to become uncompetitive or obsolete, which could reduce our market share, cause our sales to decline, and cause the impairment of our assets. This will

require us to continuously develop new solar power products and enhancements for existing solar power products to keep pace with evolving industry standards, competitive pricing and changing customer requirements. If we cannot continually improve the efficiency of our solar panels as compared to those of our competitors, our pricing will become less competitive, we could lose market share and our margins would be adversely impacted. We have new products such as our C7 Tracker technology, which has not been mass deployed in the market. We need to prove its reliability in the field as well as drive down its cost in order to gain market acceptance. We also compete with traditional utilities that supply energy to our potential customers. Such utilities have greater financial, technical, operational and other resources than we do. If electricity rates decrease and our products become less competitive by comparison, our operating results and financial condition will be adversely affected. As we introduce new or enhanced products or integrate new technology into our products, we will face risks relating to such transitions including, among other things, technical challenges, acceptance of products by our customers, disruption in customers' ordering patterns, insufficient supplies of new products to meet customers' demand, possible product and technology defects arising from the integration of new technology and a potentially different sales and support environment relating to any new technology. Our

Table of Contents

failure to manage the transition to newer products or the integration of newer technology into our products could adversely affect our business's operating results and financial condition.

A limited number of customers and large projects are expected to continue to comprise a significant portion of our revenues and any decrease in revenue from those customers or projects, payment of liquidated damages, or an increase in related expenses, could have a significant adverse effect on us.

Even though we expect our customer base and number of large projects to expand and our revenue streams to diversify, a substantial portion of our revenues could continue to depend on sales to a limited number of customers as well as construction of a limited number of large projects (for example, the AVSP and CVSR projects), and the loss of sales to, or construction of, or inability to collect from those customers or for those projects, or an increase in expenses (such as financing costs) related to any such large projects, would have a significant negative impact on our business. For example, if the notice to proceed for AVSP phase 1 project (309 MW) is delayed or not obtained, it would have a significant adverse impact on our financial results. These larger projects create concentrated operating and financial risks. The effect of recognizing revenue or other financial measures on the sale of a larger project, or the failure to recognize revenue or other financial measures as anticipated in a given reporting period because a project is not yet completed under applicable accounting rules by period end, may materially impact our financial results. In addition, if construction, warranty or operational issues arise on a larger project, or if the timing of such projects unexpectedly shifts for other reasons, such issues could have a material impact on our financial results. Our agreements for such projects may be cancelled or we may incur large liquidated damages if we fail to execute the projects as planned, obtain certain approvals or consents by a specified time, meet certain product and project specifications, materially breach the governing agreements, or in the event of a customer's or project entity's bankruptcy, and our customers may seek to cancel or renegotiate the terms of current agreements or renewals. In addition, the failure by any significant customer to pay for orders and the construction process, whether due to liquidity issues, failure of anticipated government support or otherwise, could materially and negatively affect our results of operations.

We often do not have long-term agreements with our customers and accordingly could lose customers without warning, which could cause our operating results to decline.

Our product sales to residential dealers and components customers are frequently not made under long-term agreements. We also contract to construct or sell large projects with no assurance of repeat business from the same customers in the future. Although we believe that cancellations on our purchase orders to date have been infrequent, our customers may cancel or reschedule purchase orders with us on relatively short notice. Cancellations or rescheduling of customer orders could result in the delay or loss of anticipated sales without allowing us sufficient time to reduce, or delay the incurrence of, our corresponding inventory and operating expenses. In addition, changes in forecasts or the timing of orders from these or other customers expose us to the risks of inventory shortages or excess inventory. These circumstances, in addition to the completion and non-repetition of large projects, declining average selling prices, changes in the relative mix of sales of solar equipment versus solar project installations, and the fact that our supply agreements are generally long-term in nature and many of our other operating costs are fixed, in turn could cause our operating results to fluctuate and may result in a material adverse effect in our business and financial results. In addition, since we rely partly on our network of dealers internationally for marketing and other promotional programs, if our dealers fail to perform up to our standards, our operating results may decline.

Almost all of our engineering, procurement and construction ("EPC") contracts are fixed price contracts which may be insufficient to cover unanticipated or dramatic changes in costs over the life of the project.

Almost all of our EPC contracts are fixed price contracts. All essential costs are estimated at the time of entering into the EPC contract for a particular project, and these are reflected in the overall price that we charge our customers for the project. These cost estimates are preliminary and may or may not be covered by contracts between us or the

subcontractors, suppliers, and any other parties that may become necessary to complete the project. Thus, if the cost of materials were to rise dramatically as a result of sudden increased demand, or if financing costs were to increase due to use of the Liquidity Support Facility (as defined below) or otherwise, these costs may have to be borne by us.

In addition, we require qualified, licensed subcontractors to install most of our systems. Shortages of such skilled labor could significantly delay a project or otherwise increase our costs. In several instances in the past, we have obtained change orders that reimburse us for additional unexpected costs due to various reasons. Should miscalculations in planning a project or delays in execution occur, there can be no guarantee that we would be successful in obtaining reimbursement and we may not achieve our expected margins or we may be required to record a loss in the relevant fiscal period.

Our business could be adversely affected by seasonal trends and construction cycles.

Table of Contents

Our business is subject to significant industry-specific seasonal fluctuations. Sales have historically reflected these seasonal trends with the largest percentage of total revenues being realized during the last two calendar quarters. Low seasonal demand normally results in reduced shipments and revenues in the first two calendar quarters. There are various reasons for this seasonality, mostly related to economic incentives and weather patterns. For example, in European countries with feed-in tariffs, the construction of solar power systems may be concentrated during the second half of the calendar year, largely due to the annual reduction of the applicable minimum feed-in tariff and the fact that the coldest winter months in the Northern Hemisphere are January through March. In the United States, customers will sometimes make purchasing decisions towards the end of the year in order to take advantage of tax credits or for other budgetary reasons. In addition, sales in the new home development market are often tied to construction market demands which tend to follow national trends in construction, including declining sales during cold weather months.

The competitive environment in which we operate often requires us to undertake customer obligations that could materially and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations if our customer obligations are more costly than expected.

We are often required as a condition of financing or at the request of our end customer to undertake certain obligations such as:

System output performance guarantees;

System maintenance;

Penalty payments or customer termination rights if the system we are constructing is not commissioned within specified timeframes or other construction milestones are not achieved;

Guarantees of certain minimum residual value of the system at specified future dates; and

System put-rights whereby we could be required to buy-back a customer's system at fair value on specified future dates if certain minimum performance thresholds are not met.

Such financing arrangements and customer obligations involve complex accounting analyses and judgments regarding the timing of revenue and expense recognition, and in certain situations these factors may require us to defer revenue recognition until projects are completed, which could adversely affect revenue and profits in a particular period.

Risks Related to Our Liquidity

Due to the general economic environment, the continued market pressure driving down the average selling prices of our solar power products, and other factors, we may be unable to generate sufficient cash flows or obtain access to external financing necessary to fund our operations and make adequate capital investments as planned.

We expect total capital expenditures related to purchases of property, plant and equipment in the range of \$70 million to \$90 million in fiscal 2013. To develop new products, support future growth, achieve operating efficiencies, and maintain product quality, we must make significant capital investments in manufacturing technology, facilities and capital equipment, research and development, and product and process technology. We also anticipate increased costs as we make advance payments for raw materials or pay to procure such materials, especially polysilicon, increase our sales and marketing efforts, invest in joint ventures and acquisitions, invest in our residential lease business, and continue our research and development efforts with respect to our products and manufacturing technologies. Our manufacturing and assembly activities have required and will continue to require significant investment of capital and

substantial engineering expenditures. In addition, we expect to invest a significant amount of capital to develop solar power systems and plants for sale to customers. The development and construction of solar power plants can require long periods of time and substantial initial investments. The delayed disposition of such projects could have a negative impact on our liquidity. See "Risk Related to Our Operations-We may make significant investments in building solar power plants without first obtaining project financing, and the delayed sale of our projects would adversely affect our business, liquidity and results of operations." A significant portion of our revenue is generated from a limited number of customers and large projects, and our inability to execute those projects, or to collect from those customers or for those projects, would have a significant negative impact on our business. See "Risk Related to Our Sales Channels-A limited number of customers and large projects are expected to continue to comprise a significant portion of our revenues and any decrease in revenue from those customers or projects, payment of liquidated damages, or an increase in related expenses, could have a significant adverse effect on us."

Table of Contents

Our capital expenditures and use of working capital may be greater than we currently expect if we decide to make additional investments in the development and construction of solar power plants, or if sales of power plants and associated cash proceeds are delayed, or if we decide to accelerate increases in our manufacturing capacity internally or through capital contributions to joint ventures. We require project financing in connection with the construction of solar power plants, which financing may not be available on terms acceptable to us. In addition, we will in the future make additional investments in certain of our joint ventures or could guarantee certain financial obligations of our joint ventures, which could reduce our cash flows, increase our indebtedness and expose us to the credit risk of our joint ventures. In addition, if our financial results or operating plans change from our current assumptions, or if the holders of our outstanding 4.50% convertible debentures due 2015 become entitled, and elect, to convert the debentures into cash, we may not have sufficient resources to support our business plan or pay cash in connection with the redemption of outstanding 4.50% debentures. See "Our substantial indebtedness and other contractual commitments could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations, as well as our ability to meet any of our payment obligations under the 4.50% and 4.75% debentures and our other debt."

Certain of our customers also require performance bonds issued by a bonding agency, or bank guarantees or letters of credit issued by financial institutions, which are returned to SunPower upon satisfaction of contractual requirements. If there is a contractual dispute with the customer, the customer may withhold the security or make a draw under such security, which could have an adverse impact on our liquidity position. As of December 30, 2012 letters of credit issued under the Deutsche Bank Trust facility amounted to \$17.5 million and were fully collateralized with restricted cash. Our uncollateralized letter of credit facility with Deutsche Bank, which as of December 30, 2012 had an outstanding amount of \$725.3 million, is guaranteed by Total S.A. pursuant to the Credit Support Agreement between us and Total S.A. Any draws under this uncollateralized facility would require SunPower to immediately reimburse the bank for the drawn amount. A default under the Credit Support Agreement or the guaranteed letter of credit facility, or if our other indebtedness greater than \$25 million becomes accelerated, could cause Total S.A., subject to its obligations under the Liquidity Support Facility (described below), to declare all amounts due and payable to Total S.A. and direct the bank to cease issuing additional letters of credit on behalf of SunPower, which could have a material adverse effect on our operations.

We believe that our current cash and cash equivalents, cash generated from operations, and funds available under our revolving credit facility with Credit Agricole will be sufficient to meet our working capital requirements and fund our committed capital expenditures over the next 12 months, including the development and construction of solar power plants over the next 12 months. As of December 30, 2012, \$275.0 million was outstanding under our revolving credit facility with Credit Agricole.

We are also party to a Liquidity Support Agreement with Total S.A. and the DOE, and a series of related agreements with Total S.A. or its affiliates, under which Total S.A. has agreed to provide us with a liquidity facility to a maximum amount of \$600 million (the "Liquidity Support Facility"). Total S.A. is required, through its affiliates, to provide liquidity support to us under this facility, and we are required to accept such liquidity support from Total, S.A., if either our actual or projected unrestricted cash, cash equivalents and unused borrowing capacity are reduced below \$100 million, or we fail to satisfy any financial covenant under our indebtedness, including the Credit Agricole facility. In either such event, subject to an \$600 million aggregate limit, Total S.A. is required to provide us with sufficient liquidity support to increase the amount of our unrestricted cash, cash equivalents and unused borrowing capacity to above \$100 million, and to restore our compliance with our financial covenants. In general, our cost of financing under the Liquidity Support Agreement would increase as the aggregate amount of liquidity support we require over time increases. On December 24, 2012, Total S.A. agreed to guarantee our revolving credit facility with Credit Agricole, which reduced the capacity available under the Liquidity Support Facility by \$275 million.

The lenders under our credit facilities and holders of our debentures may also require us to repay our indebtedness to them in the event that our obligations under other indebtedness or contracts in excess of the applicable threshold

amount, such as \$25 million, are accelerated and we fail to discharge such obligations. If our capital resources are insufficient to satisfy our liquidity requirements, for example, due to cross acceleration of indebtedness, we may seek to sell additional equity securities or debt securities or obtain other debt financings, including under the Liquidity Support Facility; although the current economic environment could also limit our ability to raise capital by issuing new equity or debt securities on acceptable terms, and lenders may be unwilling to lend funds on acceptable terms. The sale of additional equity securities or convertible debt securities, including under the Liquidity Support Facility, may result in additional dilution to our stockholders and may not be available on favorable terms or at all. Additional debt would result in increased expenses and could impose new restrictive covenants which may be similar or different than those restrictions contained in the covenants under certain of our current debt agreements and debentures. Financing arrangements, including project financing for our solar power plants and letters of credit facilities, may not be available to us, or may not be available in amounts or on terms acceptable to us. If additional financing is

Table of Contents

not available, we may also seek to sell assets, or reduce or delay capital investments, which could negatively impact our financial results.

Under certain circumstances under the Liquidity Support Facility, we are required to issue to Total S.A. or its affiliates, in exchange for the provision of liquidity support, warrants to purchase our common stock. The number of shares of our common stock covered by these warrants will be equal to an agreed percentage of the amount of support provided at a particular time, divided by the volume-weighted average of our stock price over the 30-day trading period ending on the trading day immediately preceding the date when the support is provided. The exercise price of these warrants is also set by reference to this volume-weighted average price, and therefore may be set at a discount to our stock price currently or at the time the warrants are issued. Any convertible debt we issue to Total S.A. or its affiliates under the Liquidity Support Facility will be convertible into our common stock at its market price at the time of conversion, which may be lower than our current stock price. Finally, any common stock we issue to Total S.A. under the Liquidity Support Facility will be priced at a 17% discount to the volume-weighted average stock price for the 30-day trading period ending on the trading day preceding the date of issuance. For all these reasons, use of the Liquidity Support Facility could be dilutive to the equity interests of our other stockholders, and the degree of dilution will increase if our stock price decreases. Any other equity financing we may seek would also likely be dilutive to our stockholders' equity interests.

In the first half of 2013, \$275 million of Credit Agricole revolver and \$230 million of 4.75% debentures will have a maturity of less than 12 months and be reclassified to short term debt on our consolidated balance sheet. We are evaluating options to repay or refinance such indebtedness during 2013 or 2014, but there are no assurances that we will have sufficient available cash to repay such indebtedness or we will be able to refinance such indebtedness on similar terms to the expiring indebtedness. If we cannot generate sufficient cash flows, find other sources of capital to fund our operations and solar power plant projects, make adequate capital investments to remain technologically and price competitive, or provide bonding or letters of credit required by our projects, we will need to sell additional equity securities or debt securities, or obtain other debt financings. If adequate funds and other resources are not available on acceptable terms, our ability to fund our operations, develop and construct solar power plants, develop and expand our manufacturing operations and distribution network, maintain our research and development efforts, provide collateral for our projects, meet our debt service obligations, or otherwise respond to competitive pressures would be significantly impaired. Our inability to do any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

Our substantial indebtedness and other contractual commitments could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations, as well as our ability to meet any of our payment obligations under the 4.50% and 4.75% debentures and our other debt.

We currently have a significant amount of debt and debt service requirements that could have material consequences on our future operations, including:

making it more difficult for us to meet our payment and other obligations under the 4.50% and 4.75% debentures and our other outstanding debt;

resulting in an event of default if we fail to comply with the financial and other restrictive covenants contained in our debt agreements (with certain covenants becoming more restrictive over time), which event of default could result in all of our debt becoming immediately due and payable if not cured pursuant to the Liquidity Support Facility;

reducing the availability of our cash flow to fund working capital, capital expenditures, project development, acquisitions and other general corporate purposes, and limiting our ability to obtain additional financing for these purposes;

subjecting us to the risk of increased sensitivity to interest rate increases on our indebtedness with variable interest rates;

subjecting us to the risk of currency fluctuations and government-fixed foreign exchange rates and the effects of currency hedging activity or inability to hedge currency fluctuation;

limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, and increasing our vulnerability to, changes in our business, the industry in which we operate and the general economy; and

placing us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors that have less debt or are less leveraged.

Table of Contents

Our indebtedness may increase if we require liquidity support from Total S.A. under the Liquidity Support Facility, and in general the economic cost of such indebtedness will increase, both in absolute dollars and in our cost per dollar borrowed, if the aggregate amount of liquidity support we require increases. In the event our joint ventures are consolidated with our financial statements, such consolidation could significantly increase our indebtedness.

Any of the above-listed factors could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations and our ability to meet our payment obligations under the 4.50% and 4.75% debentures and our other debt. In addition, we also have significant contractual commitments for the purchase of polysilicon, some of which involve prepayments, and we may enter into additional, similar long-term supply agreements in the future. Further, if the holders of our outstanding 4.50% debentures have been entitled to, and do convert their debentures, the principal amount must be settled in cash. Future conversions could materially and adversely affect our liquidity and our ability to meet our payment obligations under our debt.

Our current tax holidays in the Philippines and Switzerland will expire within the next several years.

We currently benefit from income tax holiday incentives in the Philippines in accordance with our subsidiary's registration with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority ("PEZA"), which provide that we pay no income tax in the Philippines for those operations subject to the ruling. Our current income tax holidays were granted as manufacturing lines were placed in service and thereafter expire within this fiscal year, and we are in the process of or have applied for extensions and renewals upon expiration. We currently expect such approvals to be granted. We believe that if our Philippine tax holidays expire, (a) gross income attributable to activities covered by our PEZA registrations will be taxed at a 5% preferential rate, and (b) our Philippine net income attributable to all other activities will be taxed at the statutory Philippine corporate income tax rate, currently 30%. An increase in our tax liability could materially and negatively affect our financial condition and results of operations.

We have an auxiliary company ruling in Switzerland where we sell our solar power products. The auxiliary company ruling results in a reduced effective Swiss tax rate of approximately 11.5%. The current ruling expires in 2015. If the ruling is not renewed in 2015, Swiss income would be taxable at the full Swiss tax rate of approximately 24.2%.

Our joint venture AUOSP benefits from a tax holiday granted by the Malaysian government subject to certain hiring, capital spending, and manufacturing requirements. The joint venture partners of AUOSP have decided to postpone the construction of an additional manufacturing facility ("Fab 3B") due to current solar market conditions, which fails to meet certain conditions required to continue to benefit from the tax ruling. Our joint venture is currently in discussions with the Malaysian government to extend the period by which buildout has to be completed. Should AUOSP be unable to renegotiate the tax ruling, they would be subject to statutory tax rates which could negatively impact our share of equity earnings reported in our Consolidated Statements of Operations.

A change in our effective tax rate can have a significant adverse impact on our business, and an adverse outcome resulting from examination of our income or other tax returns could adversely affect our results.

A number of factors may adversely impact our future effective tax rates, such as the jurisdictions in which our profits are determined to be earned and taxed; changes in the valuation of our deferred tax assets and liabilities; adjustments to estimated taxes upon finalization of various tax returns; adjustments to our interpretation of transfer pricing standards, changes in available tax credits, grants and other incentives; changes in stock-based compensation expense; changes in tax laws or the interpretation of such tax laws (for example, proposals for fundamental U.S. international tax reform); changes in U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; expiration or the inability to renew tax rulings or tax holiday incentives; and the repatriation of non-U.S. earnings for which we have not previously provided for U.S. taxes. A change in our effective tax rate due to any of these factors may adversely impact our future results from operations.

Significant judgment is required to determine the recognition and measurement attribute prescribed in the accounting guidance for uncertainty in income taxes. The accounting guidance for uncertainty in income taxes applies to all income tax positions, including the potential recovery of previously paid taxes, which if settled unfavorably could adversely impact our provision for income taxes. In addition, we are subject to examination of our income tax returns by various tax authorities. We regularly assess the likelihood of adverse outcomes resulting from any examination to determine the adequacy of our provision for income taxes. An adverse determination of an examination could have an adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition. See Note 14 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Part II - "Item 8: Financial Statements and Supplemental Data."

Table of Contents

We have significant balances of refundable value added tax outside the U.S., which we believe are fully recoverable, but if the amounts are determined by tax authorities to be nonrefundable, it could have an adverse impact on our financial condition.

Our insurance for certain indemnities we have made to our officers and directors may be inadequate, and potential claims could materially and negatively impact our financial condition and results of operations.

Our certificate of incorporation, by-laws and indemnification agreements require us to indemnify our officers and directors for certain liabilities that may arise in the course of their service to us. Although we currently maintain directors and officers liability insurance for certain potential third-party claims for which we are legally or financially unable to indemnify them, such insurance may be inadequate for specific claims. In addition, in previous years, we have primarily self-insured with respect to potential third-party claims. If we were required to pay a significant amount on account of these liabilities for which we self-insured, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially harmed. See also "Risks Related to Our Operations -- We and certain of our current and former officers and directors have been named as parties to various lawsuits relating to our past Audit Committee accounting investigation, and may be named in further litigation, including with respect to the restatement of our consolidated financial statements, all of which could require significant management time and attention, result in significant legal expenses or damages, and cause our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows to suffer."

Our credit agreements contain covenant restrictions that may limit our ability to operate our business.

We may be unable to respond to changes in business and economic conditions, engage in transactions that might otherwise be beneficial to us, or obtain additional financing, because our debt agreements, our Credit Support Agreement and our Liquidity Support Agreement with Total S.A., our Affiliation Agreement with Total, foreign exchange hedging agreements and equity derivative agreements contain, and any of our other future similar agreements may contain, covenant restrictions that limit our ability to, among other things:

incur additional debt, assume obligations in connection with letters of credit, or issue guarantees;

create liens;

make certain investments or acquisitions;

enter into transactions with our affiliates;

sell certain assets;

redeem capital stock or make other restricted payments;

declare or pay dividends or make other distributions to stockholders; and

merge or consolidate with any person.

Our ability to comply with these covenants is dependent on our future performance, which will be subject to many factors, some of which are beyond our control, including prevailing economic conditions. In addition, our failure to comply with these covenants could result in a default under the 4.50% and 4.75% debentures and our other debt, which could permit the holders to accelerate such debt if the default is not cured pursuant to the Liquidity Support Facility. If any of our debt is accelerated, we may not have sufficient funds available to repay such debt, which could

materially and negatively affect our financial condition and results of operation.

Risks Related to Our Supply Chain

Limited competition among suppliers has required us in some instances to enter into long-term, firm commitment supply agreements that could result in excess or insufficient inventory, place us at a competitive disadvantage on pricing, or lead to disputes, each of which could impair our ability to meet our cost reduction roadmap.

Due to the industry-wide shortage of polysilicon experienced prior to 2011, we purchased polysilicon that we resold to third-party ingot and wafer manufacturers who deliver wafers to us that we then use in the manufacturing of our solar cells. Without sufficient polysilicon, some of those ingot and wafer manufacturers would not have been able to produce the wafers on

Table of Contents

which we rely. To match our estimated customer demand forecasts and growth strategy for the next several years, we have historically entered into multiple long-term supply agreements. Some agreements have long terms and provide for fixed or inflation-adjusted pricing, substantial prepayment obligations, and firm purchase commitments that require us to pay for the supply whether or not we accept delivery. If any long term and fixed commitment agreements require us to purchase more supplies than required to meet our actual customer demand over time, the resulting excess inventory could materially and negatively impact our results of operations. Prices for raw materials and components have been rapidly declining. If we are unable to access spot market pricing of commodities and decrease our dependency on long term or fixed commitment supply agreements, we would be paying more at unfavorable payment terms for such supplies than the current market prices and payment terms available to our competitors. We would then be placed at a competitive disadvantage against competitors who were able to leverage better pricing, we would be unable to meet our cost reduction roadmap, and our profitability could decline.

Certain of our long-term supply agreements may also contain other provisions, such as termination rights, that enable us to respond to changes in our requirements for, and market conditions in respect of polysilicon, ingots or wafers. However, our exercise of such rights may give rise to disputes. For example, we are currently engaged in arbitration with First Philec Solar Corporation, one of our suppliers, which is also a joint venture in which we have a minority interest. First Philec Solar is claiming damages for our purported failure to fulfill our purchase commitment under a 2007 wafer supply contract that we believe we validly terminated in August 2012. Additionally, First Solar Electric Corporation, our co-venturer in First Philec Solar, has claimed that our failure to fulfill our purchase agreement also obligates us to purchase its interests in the joint venture at a premium. Although we believe we have meritorious defenses to these claims, and that we have made meritorious counterclaims against First Philec Solar and First Solar Electric, the outcome of the arbitration is not certain and an adverse award may adversely affect our financial position, liquidity or results of operations.

If our agreements provide insufficient inventory to meet customer demand, or if our suppliers are unable or unwilling to provide us with the contracted quantities, we could purchase additional supply at available market prices which could be greater than expected and could materially and negatively impact our results of operations. Such market prices could also be greater than prices paid by our competitors, placing us at a competitive disadvantage and leading to a decline in our profitability. Further, we face significant specific counterparty risk under long-term supply agreements when dealing with suppliers without a long, stable production and financial history. In the event any such supplier experiences financial difficulties or goes into bankruptcy, it could be difficult or impossible, or may require substantial time and expense, for us to recover any or all of our prepayments. In the event any such supplier experiences financial difficulties or goes into bankruptcy, we would also be unlikely to collect for warranty claims against such suppliers. Any of the foregoing could materially harm our financial condition and results of operations.

We will continue to be dependent on a limited number of third-party suppliers for certain raw materials and components for our products, which could prevent us from delivering our products to our customers within required timeframes, which in turn could result in sales and installation delays, cancellations, penalty payments and loss of market share.

We rely on a limited number of third-party suppliers, including our joint ventures, for certain raw materials and components for our solar cells, panels and power systems such as polysilicon, inverters and module material. If we fail to maintain our relationships with our suppliers, or if suppliers are unable to meet demand through industry consolidation, we may be unable to manufacture our products or our products may be available only at a higher cost or after a long delay. Such delays could prevent us from delivering our products to our customers within required timeframes and cause order cancellations and loss of market share. To the extent the processes that our suppliers use to manufacture components are proprietary, we may be unable to obtain comparable components from alternative suppliers. In addition, the financial markets could limit our suppliers' ability to raise capital if required to expand their production or satisfy their operating capital requirements. As a result, they could be unable to supply necessary raw

materials, inventory and capital equipment to us which we would require to support our planned sales operations which would in turn negatively impact our sales volumes profitability and cash flows. The failure of a supplier to supply raw materials or components in a timely manner, or to supply raw materials or components that meet our quality, quantity and cost requirements, could impair our ability to manufacture our products or increase the cost of production. If we cannot obtain substitute materials or components on a timely basis or on acceptable terms, we could be prevented from delivering our products to our customers within required timeframes, which could result in sales and installation delays, cancellations, penalty payments or loss of market share, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, and cash flows.

If third-party manufacturers become unable or unwilling to sell their solar cells or panels to us, our business and results of operations may be materially negatively affected.

Table of Contents

In January 2012, we completed the acquisition of Tenesol S.A. ("Tenesol"), a European-based manufacturer and developer of solar projects with module manufacturing operations in France and South Africa which formerly operated under the common control of Total S.A. Through Tenesol, we purchase a portion of our total product mix from third-party manufacturers of solar cells. Such products increase our inventory available for sale to customers in some markets. However, such manufacturers may not be willing to sell solar cells and panels to us at the quantities and on the terms and conditions we require. Such manufacturers may be our direct competitors. If they are unable or unwilling to sell to us, we may not have sufficient products available to sell to customers and satisfy our sales commitments, thereby materially and negatively affecting our business and results of operations. In addition, warranty and product liability claims may result from defects or quality issues in connection with third party solar cells that we incorporate into our solar power products. See also "Risks Related to Our Sales Channels -- We may incur unexpected warranty and product liability claims that could materially and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations."

Risks Related to Our Operations

We may make significant investments in building solar power plants without first obtaining project financing, and the delayed sale of our projects would adversely affect our business, liquidity, and results of operations.

The development and construction of solar power plants require long periods of time and substantial initial investments, which we may make without first obtaining project financing or getting final regulatory clearance. Such costs may never be recovered if the necessary permits and government support and approvals are not obtained, project financing is not obtained, or if a potential project sale cannot be completed on commercially reasonable terms or at all. Our efforts in this area may consist of all stages of development, including land acquisition, permitting, financing, construction, operation, and the eventual sale of the projects. We will often choose to bear the costs of such efforts prior to obtaining project financing, prior to getting final regulatory clearance, and prior to our final sale to a customer, if any. This involves significant upfront investments of resources (including, for example, large transmission deposits or other payments, which may be non-refundable), land acquisition, permitting, legal and other costs, and in some cases the actual costs of constructing a project, in advance of the signing of PPAs and EPC contracts, the sale of equity in the project and the receipt of any cash or revenue, much of which may not be recognized for several additional months or years following contract signing. Our ability to monetize solar power plant projects is dependent on successfully executing and selling large scale projects and often a single project can account for a material portion of our total revenue in a given quarter. We have deferred revenue recognition on certain construction projects until the projects have been financed, constructed, and sold to independent third parties. Alternatively, we may choose to build, own and operate certain solar power plants for a period of time, after which the project assets may be sold to third parties. In such cases, the delayed disposition of projects could require us to recognize a gain on the sale of assets instead of recognizing revenue. Our potential inability to obtain regulatory clearance, required government support, project financing, or enter into sales contracts with customers could adversely affect our business, liquidity and results of operations. Our inability to monetize our projects as planned, or any delay in obtaining the required initial payments to begin recognizing revenue under the relevant recognition criteria, and the corresponding revenue impact under the percentage-of-completion method of recognizing revenue, may cause large fluctuations in our revenue and other financial results. In the event the project is subsequently canceled, abandoned, or is deemed likely to occur, we will charge all prior capital costs as an operating expense in the quarter in which such determination is made, which could materially adversely affect operating results. Our liquidity could also be adversely impacted if we cannot obtain timely project financing or if project sales are delayed.

We have significant international activities and customers, and plan to continue these efforts, which subject us to additional business risks, including logistical complexity and political instability.

A substantial portion of our sales are made to customers outside of the United States, and a substantial portion of our supply agreements are with supply and equipment vendors located outside of the United States. Currently our solar cell and module production lines are located at our manufacturing facilities in the Philippines, Mexico, France and South Africa, and our joint venture's manufacturing facility in Malaysia. In addition, in January 2012, we completed the acquisition of Tenesol, a European-based manufacturer and developer of solar projects with significant international operations.

Risks we face in conducting business internationally include:

multiple, conflicting and changing laws and regulations, export and import restrictions, employment laws, environmental protection, regulatory requirements and other government approvals, permits and licenses;

difficulties and costs in staffing and managing foreign operations as well as cultural differences;

potentially adverse tax consequences associated with our permanent establishment of operations in more countries;

Table of Contents

relatively uncertain legal systems, including potentially limited protection for intellectual property rights, and laws, changes in the governmental incentives we rely on, regulations and policies which impose additional restrictions on the ability of foreign companies to conduct business in certain countries or otherwise place them at a competitive disadvantage in relation to domestic companies;

repatriation of non-U.S. earnings taxed at rates lower than the U.S. statutory effective tax rate;

inadequate local infrastructure and developing telecommunications infrastructures;

financial risks, such as longer sales and payment cycles and greater difficulty collecting accounts receivable;

currency fluctuations and government-fixed foreign exchange rates and the effects of currency hedging activity or inability to hedge currency fluctuations;

political and economic instability, including wars, acts of terrorism, political unrest, boycotts, curtailments of trade and other business restrictions;

trade barriers such as export requirements, tariffs, taxes and other restrictions and expenses, which could increase the prices of our products and make us less competitive in some countries; and

liabilities associated with compliance with laws (for example, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and similar laws outside of the United States).

In addition, we need to manage our international operations with an efficient and scalable organization. If we are unable to effectively manage our international inventory and warehouses, for example, our shipping movements may not map with product demand and flow. If we are unable to successfully manage any such risks, any one or more could materially and negatively affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

If we experience interruptions in the operation of our solar cell production lines, or we are not successful in operating our joint venture AUOSP, our revenue and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected.

If our current or future solar cell or module production lines were to experience any problems or downtime, we would be unable to meet our production targets and our business would suffer. Our manufacturing activities have required and will continue to require significant management attention, a significant investment of capital and substantial engineering expenditures.

Under a joint venture agreement, we and AU Optronics Corporation ("AUO") jointly own and manage a joint venture, AUO SunPower Sdn. Bhd. ("AUOSP"), that has constructed a manufacturing facility in Malaysia. The success of our joint venture is subject to significant risks including:

cost overruns, delays, supply shortages, equipment problems and other operating difficulties;

custom-built equipment may take longer and cost more to engineer than planned and may never operate as designed;

incorporating first-time equipment designs and technology improvements, which we expect to lower unit capital and operating costs, but this new technology may not be successful;

problems managing the joint venture with AUO, whom we do not control and whose business objectives may be different from ours and may be inconsistent with our best interests;

the joint venture's ability to obtain or maintain third party financing to fund its capital requirements;

difficulties in maintaining or improving our historical yields and manufacturing efficiencies;

difficulties in protecting our intellectual property and obtaining rights to intellectual property developed by the joint venture;

difficulties in hiring key technical, management, and other personnel;

Table of Contents

difficulties in integration, implementing IT infrastructure and an effective control environment; and

potential inability to obtain, or obtain in a timely manner, financing, or approvals from governmental authorities for operations.

If we experience any of these or similar difficulties, our supply from the joint venture may be delayed or be more costly than expected, substantially constraining our supply of solar cells. The joint venture partners of AUOSP have decided to postpone the construction of an additional manufacturing facility ("Fab 3B") due to current solar market conditions, and therefore assessed that additional equity need not be provided to AUOSP at this time. As a result, as of December 31, 2012, AUOSP is in technical breach of a covenant in its \$300 million secured loan facility which required the joint venture partners to make equity injections in 2012. AUOSP is currently working with its lenders and will be providing its lenders with 2012 audited financial statements in the second quarter of 2013 to request that the lenders grant a waiver for the technical covenant breach. This default does not create a cross default under SunPower's debt agreements so long as AUOSP remains unconsolidated, is not a "significant subsidiary" as defined by Reg S-X of Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, and SunPower's ownership in AUOSP remains no higher than 50%. However, if the lenders were to accelerate payment on the loan or enforce their security interest, the supply of solar cells to SunPower could be interrupted. If we are unable to utilize our manufacturing capacity at the joint venture as planned, or we experience interruptions in the operation of our existing production lines, our per-unit manufacturing costs would increase, we would be unable to increase sales or gross margins as planned, we may need to increase our supply of third party cells, and our results of operations would likely be materially and adversely affected.

If we do not achieve satisfactory yields or quality in manufacturing our solar products, our sales could decrease and our relationships with our customers and our reputation may be harmed.

The manufacture of solar cells is a highly complex process. Minor deviations in the manufacturing process can cause substantial decreases in yield and in some cases, cause production to be suspended or yield no output. We have from time to time experienced lower than anticipated manufacturing yields. As we expand our manufacturing capacity and qualify additional suppliers, we may initially experience lower yields. If we do not achieve planned yields, our product costs could increase, and product availability would decrease resulting in lower revenues than expected. In addition, in the process of transforming polysilicon into ingots, a significant portion of the polysilicon is removed in the process. In circumstances where we provide the polysilicon, if our suppliers do not have very strong controls in place to ensure maximum recovery and utilization, our economic yield can be less than anticipated, which would increase the cost of raw materials to us.

Additionally, products as complex as ours may contain undetected errors or defects, especially when first introduced. For example, our solar cells or solar panels may contain defects that are not detected until after they are shipped or are installed because we cannot test for all possible scenarios. These defects could cause us to incur significant warranty, non-warranty and re-engineering costs, divert the attention of our engineering personnel from product development efforts and significantly affect our customer relations and business reputation. If we deliver solar products with errors or defects, including cells or panels of third-party manufacturers, or if there is a perception that such solar products contain errors or defects, our credibility and the market acceptance and sales of our products could be harmed. In addition, some of our arrangements with customers include termination or put rights for non-performance. In certain limited cases, we could incur liquidated damages or even be required to buy-back a customer's system at fair value on specified future dates if certain minimum performance thresholds are not met.

A change in our anticipated 1603 Treasury cash grant proceeds or solar investment tax credits could adversely impact our business, revenues, margins, results of operations and cash flows.

We have incorporated into our financial planning and agreements with our customers certain assumptions regarding the future level of U.S. tax incentives, including the §48(c) solar commercial investment tax credit ("ITC") and the Treasury grant under Section 1603 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the "Cash Grant") program, which is administered by the U.S. Treasury Department ("Treasury") and provides Cash Grant payments in lieu of the ITC. The ITC and Cash Grant allow qualified applicants to claim an amount equal to 30% of the eligible cost basis for qualifying solar energy property. We hold projects and have sold projects to certain customers based on certain underlying assumptions regarding the ITC and Cash Grant, including for CVSR and AVSP. We have also accounted for certain projects and programs in our business using the same assumptions.

Owners of our qualifying projects and our residential lease program have applied or will apply for the ITC, and have applied or will apply for the Cash Grant. We have structured the tax incentive applications, both in timing and amount, to be in accordance with the guidance provided by Treasury and Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"). Any changes to the Treasury or IRS

30

Table of Contents

guidance which we relied upon in structuring our projects, failure to comply with the requirements, including the safe harbor protocols, lower levels of incentives granted, or changes in assumptions including the estimated residual values and the estimated fair market value of financed and installed systems for the purposes of Cash Grant and ITC applications, could materially and adversely impact our business and results of operations. While we have received notification that certain of our applications will be fully paid by Treasury in 2013, if the IRS or Treasury disagrees, as a result of any future review or audit, with the fair market value of, or other assumptions concerning, our solar projects or systems that we have constructed or that we construct in the future, including any systems for which tax incentives have already been paid, it could have a material adverse effect on our business and financial condition. We also have obligations to indemnify certain of our customers for the loss of tax incentives to such customers. We may have to recognize impairments or lower margins than initially anticipated for certain of our projects, including AVSP, CVSR and our residential lease program. Additionally, if the amount or timing of the Cash Grant or ITC payments received varies from what we have projected, this will impact our revenues, margins and cash flows and we may have to recognize losses, which will adversely impact our results of operations and cash flows.

Pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011, Cash Grants could be subject to sequestration beginning in 2013. The U.S. federal government's Office of Management and Budget, in a report issued in September 2012, outlined the anticipated sequestration, which would result in approximately a 9% reduction in spending for the Cash Grant, with a resulting decrease in Cash Grant received by us. In addition, applicable authorities may adjust or decrease incentives from time to time or include provisions for minimum domestic content requirements or other requirements to qualify for these incentives. Any such reduction or additional requirements could adversely impact our results of operations.

There are continuing developments in the interpretation and application of how companies should calculate their eligibility and level of Cash Grant and ITC incentives. There have been recent cases in the U.S. district courts which challenge the criteria for a true lease, which could impact whether the structure of our residential lease program qualifies under the Cash Grant and ITC. Additionally, the Office of the Inspector General of the Treasury has issued subpoenas to a number of significant participants in the rooftop solar energy installation industry. The Inspector General is working with the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the administration and implementation of the Cash Grant program, including possible misrepresentations concerning the fair market value of the solar power systems submitted for Cash Grant under that program. While we have not received a subpoena, we could be asked to participate as a part of the information gathering process. The results of the current investigation could impact the underlying assumption used by the solar industry, including us, in our Cash Grant and ITC applications, which could adversely impact our results of operations and cash flows.

We obtain certain of our capital equipment used in our manufacturing process from sole suppliers and if this equipment is damaged or otherwise unavailable, our ability to deliver products on time will suffer, which in turn could result in order cancellations and loss of revenue.

Some of the capital equipment used in the manufacture of our solar power products has been developed and made specifically for us, is not readily available from multiple vendors and would be difficult to repair or replace if it were to become damaged or stop working. If any of these suppliers were to experience financial difficulties or go out of business, or if there were any damage to or a breakdown of our manufacturing equipment, our business would suffer. In addition, a supplier's failure to supply this equipment in a timely manner, with adequate quality and on terms acceptable to us, could delay our future capacity expansion or manufacturing process improvements and otherwise disrupt our production schedule or increase our costs of production.

Project development or construction activities may not be successful, which could increase our costs and impair our ability to recover our investments.

The development and construction of solar power electric generation facilities and other energy infrastructure projects involve numerous risks. We may be required to spend significant sums for preliminary engineering, permitting, legal, and other expenses before we can determine whether a project is feasible, economically attractive or capable of being built. Successful completion of a particular project may be adversely affected by numerous factors, including:

failures or delays in obtaining desired or necessary land rights, including ownership, leases and/or easements;

failures or delays in obtaining necessary permits, licenses or other governmental support or approvals, or in overcoming objections from members of the public or adjoining land owners;

uncertainties relating to land costs for projects;

unforeseen engineering problems;

Table of Contents

access to available transmission for electricity generated by our solar power plants;

construction delays and contractor performance shortfalls;

work stoppages or labor disruptions;

cost over-runs;

availability of products and components from suppliers;

adverse weather conditions;

environmental, archaeological and geological conditions; and

availability of construction and permanent financing.

If we are unable to complete the development of a solar power plant, or fail to meet one or more agreed target construction milestone dates, we may be subject to liquidated damages and/or penalties under the EPC agreement or other agreements relating to the power plant, and we typically will not be able to recover our investment in the project. We expect to invest a significant amount of capital to develop projects initially owned by us or ultimately owned by third parties. If we are unable to complete the development of a solar power project, we may write-down or write-off some or all of these capitalized investments, which would have an adverse impact on our net income in the period in which the loss is recognized.

We may be unable to obtain financing for our residential lease program and we may be unable to extend our third party ownership model to other jurisdictions, which could all have an adverse effect on our growth and financial results.

We offer a residential lease program in partnership with third-party financial institutions, which allows residential customers to obtain our systems under lease agreements for terms of up to 20 years. We are actively arranging additional third-party financing for our residential lease program; however, due to the general challenging credit markets worldwide, we may be unable to arrange additional financing partners for our residential lease program in future periods, which could limit our sales and our plans to grow the residential lease program. If financing costs were to increase, our lease product will be less attractive to our customers. In the event we enter into a material number of additional leases without obtaining corresponding third-party financing, our cash, working capital and financial results could be negatively impacted. Our residential lease program has been and will be eligible for the ITC and Cash Grant. We have relied on, and will continue to rely on, financing structures that monetize a substantial portion of those benefits. If, for any reason, we were unable to continue to monetize the tax benefits in our financing structures, we may be unable to provide financing or pricing that is attractive for our customers. Under current law, the ITC will be reduced from approximately 30% of the cost of the solar systems to approximately 10% for solar systems placed in service after December 31, 2016. In addition, Cash Grants are no longer available for new solar systems. Changes in existing law and interpretations by the IRS, Treasury and the courts could reduce the willingness of fund investors to invest in funds associated with our residential lease program. Additionally, if the amount or timing Cash Grant payments or ITC received in connection with the residential lease program varies from what we have projected, this will impact our revenues, cash flows and margins and we may have to recognize losses, which will adversely impact our results of operations and cash flows. See also “A change in our anticipated 1603 Treasury cash grant proceeds or solar investment tax credit could adversely impact our business, revenues, margins, results of operations and cash flows.”

We have to quickly build infrastructure to support the residential lease program, and any failure or delay in implementing the necessary processes and infrastructure could adversely impact our financial results. We establish credit approval limits based on the credit quality of the customers. We may not be able to collect from rent payments from our residential lease customers in the event they enter into bankruptcy or otherwise fail to make payments when due after the period in which the third-party financial institution has agreed to assume this risk ends. We make certain assumptions in accounting for the solar lease program, including, among others, the residual value of the leased systems. As the residential lease program grows, if the residual value of leased systems does not materialize as assumed, it will adversely impact our results of operations. At the end of the term of the lease, our customers have the option to purchase at fair market value, extend the lease or return the leased systems to us. Should there be a large number of returns, we may incur de-installation costs in excess of amounts reserved.

Our leases are third-party ownership arrangements. Sales of electricity by third parties face regulatory challenges in some states and jurisdictions. Other challenges pertain to whether third-party owned systems qualify for the same levels of rebates or other non-tax incentives available for customer-owned solar energy systems. Reductions in, or eliminations of, this

Table of Contents

treatment of these third-party arrangements could reduce demand for our residential lease program. As we look to extend the third party ownership model outside of the U.S., we will be faced with the same risks and uncertainties we have in the U.S. Our growth outside of the U.S. could depend on our ability to expand the third party ownership model, and our failure to successfully implement a third-party ownership model globally could adversely impact our financial results.

We act as the general contractor for many of our customers in connection with the installations of our solar power systems and are subject to risks associated with construction, cost overruns, delays and other contingencies tied to performance bonds and letters of credit, or other required credit and liquidity support guarantees, which could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

We act as the general contractor for many of our customers in connection with the installation of our solar power systems. Some customers require performance bonds issued by a bonding agency or letters of credit issued by financial institutions, or may require other forms of liquidity support. Due to the general performance risk inherent in construction activities, it has become increasingly difficult recently to attain suitable bonding agencies willing to provide performance bonding. Obtaining letters of credit may require collateral. In the event we are unable to obtain bonding or sufficient letters of credit or other liquidity support, we will be unable to bid on, or enter into, sales contracts requiring such bonding. See also "Risks Related to Our Sales Channels--Almost all of our engineering, procurement and construction ("EPC") contracts are fixed price contracts which may be insufficient to cover unanticipated or dramatic changes in costs over the life of the project."

In addition, the contracts with some of our larger customers require that we would be obligated to pay substantial penalty payments for each day or other period a solar installation for any such customer is not completed beyond an agreed target date, up to and including the return of the entire project sale price. This is particularly true in Europe, where long-term, fixed feed-in tariffs available to investors are typically set during a prescribed period of project completion, but the fixed amount declines over time for projects completed in subsequent periods. We face material financial penalties in the event we fail to meet the completion deadlines, including but not limited a full refund of the contract price paid by the customers. In certain cases we do not control all of the events which could give rise to these penalties, such as reliance on the local utility to timely complete electrical substation construction.

Furthermore, investors often require that the solar power system generate specified levels of electricity in order to maintain their investment returns, allocating substantial risk and financial penalties to us if those levels are not achieved, up to and including the return of the entire project sale price. Also, our customers often require protections in the form of conditional payments, payment retentions or holdbacks, and similar arrangements that condition its future payments on performance. Delays in solar panel or other supply shipments, other construction delays, unexpected performance problems in electricity generation or other events could cause us to fail to meet these performance criteria, resulting in unanticipated and severe revenue and earnings losses and financial penalties. Construction delays are often caused by inclement weather, failure to timely receive necessary approvals and permits, or delays in obtaining necessary solar panels, inverters or other materials. Additionally, we sometimes purchase land in connection with project development and assume the risk of project completion. All such risks could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

Acquisitions of other companies or investments in joint ventures with other companies could materially and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations, and dilute our stockholders' equity.

To increase our business and maintain our competitive position, we have and may continue to acquire other companies or engage in joint ventures in the future. For example, in March 2010, we completed our acquisition of SunRay, in July 2010, we formed AUOSP as a joint venture with AUO, and in January 2012, we acquired Tenesol. In December 2012, we entered into a joint venture agreement with partners in China to manufacture our C-7 Tracker

systems for the Chinese market.

Acquisitions and joint ventures involve a number of risks that could harm our business and result in the acquired business or joint venture not performing as expected, including:

insufficient experience with technologies and markets in which the acquired business or joint venture is involved, which may be necessary to successfully operate and/or integrate the business or the joint venture;

problems integrating the acquired operations, personnel, IT infrastructure, technologies or products with the existing business and products;

diversion of management time and attention from the core business to the acquired business or joint venture;

33

Table of Contents

potential failure to retain or hire key technical, management, sales and other personnel of the acquired business or joint venture;

difficulties in retaining or building relationships with suppliers and customers of the acquired business or joint venture, particularly where such customers or suppliers compete with us;

potential failure of the due diligence processes to identify significant issues with product quality and development or legal and financial liabilities, among other things;

potential inability to obtain, or obtain in a timely manner, approvals from governmental authorities or work councils, which could delay or prevent acquisitions, delay our ability to achieve synergies, or our successful operation of acquired companies or joint ventures;

potential necessity to re-apply for permits of acquired projects;

problems managing joint ventures with our partners, meeting capital requirements for expansion, and reliance upon joint ventures which we do not control; for example, our ability to effectively manage our joint venture with AUO;

subsequent impairment of the acquired assets, including intangible assets; and

assumption of liabilities including, but not limited to, lawsuits, tax examinations, warranty issues, and liabilities associated with compliance with laws (for example, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act).

Additionally, we may decide that it is in our best interests to enter into acquisitions or joint ventures that are dilutive to earnings per share or that negatively impact margins as a whole. In an effort to reduce our cost of goods sold, we have and may continue to enter into acquisitions or joint ventures involving suppliers or manufacturing partners, which would expose us to additional supply chain risks. Acquisitions or joint ventures could also require investment of significant financial resources and require us to obtain additional equity financing, which may dilute our stockholders' equity, or require us to incur additional indebtedness. Such equity or debt financing may not be available on terms acceptable to us. In addition, we could in the future make additional investments in our joint ventures or guarantee certain financial obligations of our joint ventures, which could reduce our cash flows, increase our indebtedness and expose us to the credit risk of our joint ventures.

To the extent that we invest in upstream suppliers or downstream channel capabilities, we may experience competition or channel conflict with certain of our existing and potential suppliers and customers. Specifically, existing and potential suppliers and customers may perceive that we are competing directly with them by virtue of such investments and may decide to reduce or eliminate their supply volume to us or order volume from us. In particular, any supply reductions from our polysilicon, ingot or wafer suppliers could materially reduce manufacturing volume.

Moreover, our joint venture arrangements may lead to disputes with our co-venturers. For example, we are currently engaged in arbitration with First Solar Electric Corporation, our co-venturer in First Philec Solar Corporation, a Philippines wafer manufacturing joint venture in which we hold a minority interest. See also "Risks Related to Our Supply Chain-Limited competition among suppliers has required us in some instances to enter into long-term, firm commitment supply agreements that could result in excess or insufficient inventory, place us at a competitive disadvantage on pricing or lead to disputes, each of which could impair our ability to meet our cost reduction roadmap."

We may not be able to increase or sustain our recent growth rate, and we may not be able to manage our future growth effectively.

We may not be able to continue to expand our business or manage future growth. We plan to continue to improve our manufacturing processes and build additional cell manufacturing production capacity in 2016, which will require successful execution of:

expanding our existing manufacturing facilities and developing new manufacturing facilities, which would increase our fixed costs and, if such facilities are underutilized, would negatively impact our results of operations;

ensuring delivery of adequate polysilicon and ingots;

enhancing our customer resource management and manufacturing management systems;

Table of Contents

implementing and improving additional and existing administrative, financial and operations systems, procedures and controls, including the need to centralize, update and integrate our global financial internal control;

hiring additional employees;

expanding and upgrading our technological capabilities;

managing multiple relationships with our customers, suppliers and other third parties;

maintaining adequate liquidity and financial resources; and

continuing to increase our revenues from operations.

Improving our manufacturing processes, expanding our manufacturing facilities or developing new facilities may be delayed by difficulties such as unavailability of equipment or supplies or equipment malfunction. Ensuring delivery of adequate polysilicon and ingots is subject to many market risks including scarcity, significant price fluctuations and competition. Maintaining adequate liquidity is dependent upon a variety of factors including continued revenues from operations, working capital improvements, and compliance with our indentures and credit agreements. If we are unsuccessful in any of these areas, we may not be able to achieve our growth strategy and increase production capacity as planned during the foreseeable future. In addition, we need to manage our organizational growth, including rationalizing reporting structures, support teams, and enabling efficient decision making. For example, the administration of the residential lease program requires processes and systems to support this new business model. If we are not successful or if we delay our implementation of such systems and processes, we may adversely affect the anticipated volumes in our residential lease business. If we are unable to manage our growth effectively, we may not be able to take advantage of market opportunities, develop new solar cells and other products, satisfy customer requirements, execute our business plan or respond to competitive pressures.

As a result of fluctuations in the demand for our products, our project assets and other long-lived assets may be impaired, or we may write off equipment or inventory, and each of these events would adversely affect our future financial results.

We have tangible project assets on our Consolidated Balance Sheets related to capitalized costs incurred in connection with the development of solar power systems. Project assets consist primarily of capitalized costs relating to solar power system projects in various stages of development that we incur prior to the sale of the solar power system to a third party. These costs include costs for land and costs for developing and constructing a solar power system. These project assets could become impaired if there are changes in the fair value of these capitalized costs. If these project assets become impaired, we may write-off some or all of the capitalized project assets, which would have an adverse impact on our financial results in the period in which the loss is recognized.

In addition, if the demand for our solar products decreases, our manufacturing capacity could be underutilized, and we may be required to record an impairment on our long-lived assets, including facilities and equipment, which would increase our expenses. In improving our manufacturing processes consistent with our cost reduction roadmap, we could write off equipment that is removed from the manufacturing process. In addition, if product demand decreases or we fail to forecast demand accurately, we could be required to write off inventory or record excess capacity charges, which would have a negative impact on our gross margin. Factory-planning decisions may shorten the useful lives of long-lived assets, including facilities and equipment, and cause us to accelerate depreciation. Each of the above events would adversely affect our future financial results.

Fluctuations in Solar Renewable Energy Credit prices may adversely impact our results of operations.

We acquire Solar Renewable Energy Credits ("SRECs") in the ordinary course of business in New Jersey by agreeing in certain cases to purchase SRECs generated by a solar system we install for a specified period at specified pricing. We then sell the SRECs to utilities to help them meet their state renewable energy portfolio requirements, or to other third parties. SREC prices have decreased significantly in recent years as the supply of SRECs has increased. If SREC prices continue to fluctuate or remain lower than our purchase commitment prices, we may have to recognize losses, which will adversely impact our results of operations.

A change in our anticipated foreign exchange transactions could affect the accounting of our foreign currency hedging program and adversely impact our revenues, margins, and results of operations.

Our hedging program is designed to reduce our exposure to movements in foreign currency exchange rates. As a part of this program, we designate certain derivative transactions as effective cash flow hedges of anticipated foreign currency

Table of Contents

revenues and record the effective portion of changes in the fair value of such transactions in "Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets until the anticipated revenues have occurred, at which point the associated income or loss would be recognized in revenue. If we conclude that we have a pattern of determining that hedged forecasted transactions will not occur, we may no longer be able to continue to use hedge accounting in the future to reduce our exposure to movements in foreign exchange rates. Such a conclusion and change in our foreign currency hedge program could adversely impact our revenue, margins and results of operations.

Fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates could adversely impact our business and results of operations.

We have significant sales globally, and we are exposed to movements in foreign exchange rates, primarily related to sales to European customers that are denominated in Euros. A depreciation of the Euro would adversely impact our margins on sales to European customers. When foreign currencies appreciate against the U.S. dollar, inventories and expenses denominated in foreign currencies become more expensive. An increase in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to foreign currencies could make our solar power products more expensive for international customers, thus potentially leading to a reduction in demand, our sales and profitability. As a result, substantial unfavorable changes in foreign currency exchange rates could have a substantial adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Although we seek to reduce our currency exposure by engaging in hedging transactions where we deem it appropriate, we do not know whether our efforts will be successful. Because we hedge some of our expected future foreign exchange exposure, if associated revenues do not materialize, we could experience losses. In the past, we have experienced an adverse impact on our revenue, gross margin, cash position and profitability as a result of foreign currency fluctuations. In addition, any break-up of the Eurozone would disrupt our sales and supply chain, expose us to financial counterparty risk, and materially and adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

We are exposed to interest rate risk because many of our customers depend on debt financing to purchase our solar power systems. An increase in interest rates could make it difficult for our customers to obtain the financing necessary to purchase our solar power systems on favorable terms, or at all, and thus lower demand for our solar power products, reduce revenue and adversely impact our operating results. An increase in interest rates could lower a customer's return on investment in a system or make alternative investments more attractive relative to solar power systems, which, in each case, could cause our customers to seek alternative investments that promise higher returns or demand higher returns from our solar power systems, which could reduce our revenue and gross margin and adversely impact our operating results. Our interest expense would increase to the extent interest rates rise in connection with our variable interest rate borrowings. In addition, lower interest rates have an adverse impact on our interest income. See also Item 7A "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk" and "Risks Related to Our Sales Channels-The execution of our growth strategy is dependent upon the continued availability of third-party financing arrangements for our solar power plants, our residential lease program and our customers, and is affected by general economic conditions."

We are exposed to the credit risk of our financial counterparties, customers and suppliers.

We have certain financial and derivative instruments that subject us to credit risk. These consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, investments, accounts receivable, notes receivable, advances to suppliers, foreign currency option contracts, foreign currency forward contracts, bond hedge and warrant transactions, and purchased options. We are exposed to losses in the event of nonperformance by the counterparties to our financial and derivative instruments.

We enter into agreements with suppliers that specify future quantities and pricing of polysilicon to be supplied for periods up to 10 years. Under certain agreements, we are required to make significant prepayments to the vendors over the terms of the arrangements. We may be unable to recover such prepayments if the credit conditions of these

suppliers materially deteriorate. In addition, we may not be able to collect from our customers in the event of the deterioration of their credit or if they enter into bankruptcy. Any of the preceding could materially and adversely impact our financial conditions, results of operations and liquidity. See also Item 7A “Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.”

We depend on third-party contract manufacturers to assemble a significant portion of our solar cells into solar panels and any failure to obtain sufficient assembly and test capacity could significantly delay our ability to ship our solar panels and damage our customer relationships.

We outsource a portion of module manufacturing to contract manufacturers in the United States and China. As a result of outsourcing this final step in our production, we face several significant risks, including limited control over assembly and testing capacity, delivery schedules, quality assurance, manufacturing yields and production costs. If the operations of our third-

Table of Contents

party contract manufacturers were disrupted or its financial stability impaired, or if they were unable or unwilling to devote capacity to our solar panels in a timely manner, our business could suffer as we might be unable to produce finished solar panels on a timely basis. We also risk customer delays resulting from an inability to move module production to an alternate provider or to complete production internationally, and it may not be possible to obtain sufficient capacity or comparable production costs at another facility in a timely manner. In addition, migrating our design methodology to third-party contract manufacturers or to a captive panel assembly facility could involve increased costs, resources and development time, and utilizing additional third-party contract manufacturers could expose us to further risk of losing control over our intellectual property and the quality of our solar panels. Any reduction in the supply of solar panels could impair our revenue by significantly delaying our ability to ship products and potentially damage our relationships with new and existing customers, any of which could have a material and adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operation.

While we believe we currently have effective internal control over financial reporting, we may identify a material weakness in our internal controls over financial reporting that could cause investors to lose confidence in the reliability of our financial statements and result in a decrease in the value of our common stock.

Our management is responsible for maintaining internal control over financial reporting designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of consolidated financial statements for external purposes in accordance with U.S. GAAP. While the Company had material weaknesses in fiscal 2009, management remediated these material weaknesses, and concluded that as of January 1, 2012 and December 30, 2012, our internal control over financial reporting and our disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

We need to continuously maintain our internal control processes and systems and adapt them as our business grows and changes. This process is expensive, time-consuming and requires significant management attention. We cannot be certain that our internal control measures will continue to provide adequate control over our financial processes and reporting and ensure compliance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Furthermore, as we grow our business or acquire other businesses, our internal controls may become more complex and we may require significantly more resources to ensure they remain effective. Failure to implement required new or improved controls, or difficulties encountered in their implementation, either in our existing business or in businesses that we may acquire, could harm our operating results or cause us to fail to meet our reporting obligations. If we or our independent registered public accounting firm identify material weaknesses in our internal controls, the disclosure of that fact, even if quickly remedied, may cause investors to lose confidence in our financial statements and the trading price of our common stock may decline.

Remediation of a material weakness could require us to incur significant expense and if we fail to remedy any material weakness, our financial statements may be inaccurate, our ability to report our financial results on a timely and accurate basis may be adversely affected, our access to the capital markets may be restricted, the trading price of our common stock may decline, and we may be subject to sanctions or investigation by regulatory authorities, including the SEC or The Nasdaq Global Select Market. We may also be required to restate our financial statements from prior periods.

We and certain of our current and former officers and directors have been named as parties to various lawsuits relating to our past Audit Committee accounting investigation, and may be named in further litigation, including with respect to the restatement of our consolidated financial statements, all of which could require significant management time and attention, result in significant legal expenses or damages, and cause our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows to suffer.

Three securities class action lawsuits were filed against our Company and certain of our current and former officers in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California on behalf of a class consisting of those who acquired our securities from April 17, 2008, through November 16, 2009. The actions arise from our announcement on November 16, 2009, that our Audit Committee commenced an internal investigation regarding certain unsubstantiated accounting entries. The complaints allege that the defendants made material misstatements and omissions concerning our financial results for 2008 and 2009, seek an unspecified amount of damages, and allege violations of sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and sections 11 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933. These cases were consolidated as *In re SunPower Securities Litigation*, Case No. CV-09-5473-RS (N.D. Cal.), and an amended complaint was filed on April 18, 2011. The amended complaint added two former employees as defendants. Defendants moved to dismiss the amended complaint, and on December 19, 2011, the court dismissed the claims brought pursuant to sections 11 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 and the claims brought against the two newly added former employees. In addition, derivative actions purporting to be brought on our behalf have also been filed in state and federal courts against several of our current and former officers and directors based on the same events alleged in the securities class action lawsuits described above. The California state derivative complaints assert state-law claims for breach of fiduciary duty, abuse of control, unjust enrichment, gross mismanagement, and waste of corporate assets. The federal derivative complaints assert state-law claims for breach of fiduciary duty, waste of corporate

Table of Contents

assets, and unjust enrichment. The Delaware state derivative complaint asserts state-law claims for breach of fiduciary duty and contribution and indemnification. The complaints seek an unspecified amount of damages.

On December 14, 2012, we announced that an agreement in principle was reached to settle the consolidated securities class action lawsuit for \$19.7 million. On February 1, 2013, the parties filed a stipulation of settlement and a motion for preliminary approval of the settlement. The motion is noticed to be heard on March 14, 2013. The settlement is subject to certain conditions, including final approval by the court after members of the proposed settlement class receive notice and an opportunity to be heard. Until the conditions to the settlement have been satisfied, there can be no assurance that the settlement will become final. Other risks and uncertainties include the extent to which individual claimants opt out of the settlement class and pursue individual claims; our ability to overcome any objections or appeals regarding the settlement; and our ability to absorb the cost of the settlement and the timing of the impact on financial statements.

We cannot predict the outcome of these lawsuits. The matters which led to our Audit Committee's investigation and the restatement of our consolidated financial statements have exposed us to greater risks associated with litigation, regulatory proceedings and government enforcement actions. We and our current and former officers and directors may, in the future, be subject to additional private and governmental actions relating to such matters. Subject to certain limitations, we are obligated to indemnify our current and former officers and directors in connection with such lawsuits and governmental investigations and any related litigation or settlements amounts. Regardless of the outcome, these lawsuits, and any other litigation that may be brought against us or our current or former officers and directors, could be time-consuming, result in significant expense and divert the attention and resources of our management and other key employees. An unfavorable outcome in any of these matters could exceed coverage provided under potentially applicable insurance policies, which is limited. Any such unfavorable outcome could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Further, we could be required to pay damages or additional penalties or have other remedies imposed against us, or our current or former directors or officers, which could harm our reputation, business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows. In addition, our Company is largely self insured for these claims so that expenses, settlements or damages in excess of \$5 million in these actions will not be recoverable under the primary coverage insurance policies. Moreover, such policies are subject to several terms, conditions and exclusions. See also "Risks Related to Our Liquidity - Because we self-insure for certain indemnities we have made to our officers and directors, potential claims could materially and negatively impact our financial condition and results of operations."

We may not fully realize the anticipated benefits of our relationship with Total.

We and Total S.A., parent of Total Gas & Power USA SAS ("Total"), have entered into a Credit Support Agreement under which Total S.A. has agreed to enter into one or more guarantee agreements with banks providing letter of credit facilities to us in support of certain of our businesses and other permitted purposes. Total S.A. will guarantee the payment to the applicable issuing bank of our obligation to reimburse a draw on a letter of credit and pay interest thereon in accordance with the letter of credit facility between such bank and us. In consideration for the commitments of Total S.A., we are required to pay Total S.A. a guarantee fee for each letter of credit that is the subject of a guaranty, starting at 1% and increasing to 2.35% in the fifth year following the completion of the tender offer. We entered into a letter of credit facility agreement with Deutsche Bank AG New York Branch in August 2011 supported by a Total S.A. guarantee. We have also entered into the Liquidity Support Facility, under which Total S.A. has agreed to provide up to \$600 million of liquidity support in the event that our then-current or projected unrestricted cash, cash equivalents and unused borrowing capacity is reduced below \$100 million or we are not in compliance with any financial covenant contained in our indebtedness.

We and Total have also entered into a Research & Collaboration Agreement that establishes a framework under which we engage in long-term research and development collaboration with Total. The Research & Collaboration Agreement

is expected to encompass a number of different projects, with a focus on advancing technologies in the area of photovoltaics.

We may not realize the expected benefits of these agreements in a timely manner, or at all. The Credit Support Agreement can provide guarantees to our letter of credit facility, but not our other indebtedness. As the guarantee fee goes up over time, it may not be price competitive for us to continue to utilize the guarantee under the Credit Support Agreement and we may choose not to do so, which may cause our lenders to seek cash collateral. If the credit quality of Total S.A. were to deteriorate, then the guarantees would not be as beneficial to our lenders, which could reduce their willingness to lend to us and raise our costs of borrowing. We could incur additional expenses related to the Credit Support Agreement, especially relating to the guarantee fee. The Liquidity Support Facility may cause potential dilution to our other stockholders through the issuance of equity, warrants, and convertible debt securities to Total S.A. and its affiliates. The amount of support Total S.A. must provide under the Liquidity Support Facility is limited to \$600 million. On December 24, 2012, Total S.A. agreed to guarantee our revolving credit facility with Credit Agricole, which reduced the capacity available under the Liquidity Support Facility by \$275 million. Finally, the Liquidity Support Facility will no longer be available, and all outstanding debt under the Liquidity

Table of Contents

Support Facility (excluding the guarantee provided by Total S.A. under the revolving credit facility with Credit Agricole) will become due, upon the completion of CVSR, which we expect to occur before the end of fiscal 2013.

We may have difficulties in fully leveraging the research and development efforts of Total while protecting our intellectual property rights and our long term strategic interests. Further, the collaboration envisioned by the parties from the Research & Collaboration Agreement could be subject to governmental controls that could limit the full set of benefits.

In addition, we are a U.S.-based, high growth, technology and alternative energy company, while Total S.A. is a more mature and much larger French diversified energy company. The resulting differences in our organizational cultures may prevent us from fully realizing the anticipated benefits from our relationship. If we have a potential conflict with Total, the resolution may be less favorable to us than if we were dealing with an unaffiliated party. Such disagreements may relate to any determination with respect to mergers and other business combinations, our acquisition or disposition of assets, our financing activities, allocation of business opportunities, employee retention or recruiting.

Our agreements with Cypress Semiconductor Corporation ("Cypress") require us to indemnify Cypress for certain tax liabilities. These indemnification obligations and related contractual restrictions may limit our ability to pursue certain business initiatives.

On October 6, 2005, while a subsidiary of Cypress, our former parent company, we entered into a tax sharing agreement with Cypress providing for each party's obligations concerning various tax liabilities. The tax sharing agreement is structured such that Cypress would pay all federal, state, local and foreign taxes that are calculated on a consolidated or combined basis while we were a member of Cypress's consolidated or combined group for federal, state, local and foreign tax purposes. Our portion of tax liabilities or benefits was determined based upon our separate return tax liability as defined under the tax sharing agreement. These tax liabilities or benefits were based on a pro forma calculation as if we were filing a separate income tax return in each jurisdiction, rather than on a combined or consolidated basis, subject to adjustments as set forth in the tax sharing agreement.

On June 6, 2006, we ceased to be a member of Cypress's consolidated group for federal income tax purposes and certain state income tax purposes. On September 29, 2008, we ceased to be a member of Cypress's combined group for all state income tax purposes. To the extent that we become entitled to utilize our separate portion of any tax credit or loss carryforwards existing as of such date, we will distribute to Cypress the tax effect, estimated to be 40% for federal and state income tax purposes, of the amount of such tax loss carryforwards so utilized, and the amount of any credit carryforwards so utilized. We will distribute these amounts to Cypress in cash or in our shares, at Cypress's option. As of December 30, 2012, we have a potential future liability of approximately \$2.2 million that may be due under this arrangement. In both fiscal 2012 and 2011, we did not make any cash payments to Cypress related to this arrangement.

We were jointly and severally liable for any tax liability during all periods in which we were deemed to be a member of the Cypress consolidated or combined group. Accordingly, although the tax sharing agreement allocates tax liabilities between Cypress and all its consolidated subsidiaries, for any period in which we were included in Cypress's consolidated or combined group, we could be liable in the event that any federal or state tax liability was incurred, but not discharged, by any other member of the group.

We will continue to be jointly and severally liable to Cypress until the statute of limitations runs or all appeal options are exercised for all years in which we joined in the filing of tax returns with Cypress. If Cypress experiences adjustments to their tax liability pursuant to tax examinations, we may incur an incremental liability.

We would also be liable to Cypress for taxes that might arise from the distribution by Cypress of our former class B common stock to Cypress's stockholders on September 29, 2008, or "spin-off". In connection with Cypress's spin-off of our former class B common stock, we and Cypress, on August 12, 2008, entered into an amendment to our tax sharing agreement ("Amended Tax Sharing Agreement") to address certain transactions that may affect the tax treatment of the spin-off and certain other matters.

Subject to certain caveats, Cypress obtained a ruling from the IRS to the effect that the distribution by Cypress of our former class B common stock to Cypress's stockholders qualified as a tax-free distribution under Section 355 of the Internal Revenue Code ("Code"). Despite such ruling, the distribution may nonetheless be taxable to Cypress under Section 355(e) of the Code if 50% or more of the voting power or value of our stock was or is later acquired as part of a plan or series of related transactions that included the distribution of our stock. The Amended Tax Sharing Agreement requires us to indemnify Cypress for any liability incurred as a result of issuances or dispositions of our stock after the distribution, other than liability

Table of Contents

attributable to certain dispositions of our stock by Cypress, that cause Cypress's distribution of shares of our stock to its stockholders to be taxable to Cypress under Section 355(e) of the Code.

Under the Amended Tax Sharing Agreement, we also agreed that, until October 29, 2010, we would not effect a conversion of any or all of our former class B common stock to former class A common stock or any similar recapitalization transaction or series of related transactions (a "Recapitalization"). On November 16, 2011, we reclassified our former class A common stock and class B common stock into a single class of common stock. In the event this reclassification does result in the spin-off being treated as taxable, we could face substantial liabilities as a result of our obligations under the Amended Tax Sharing Agreement.

Any future agreements with Total S.A. regarding tax indemnification and certain tax liabilities may adversely impact our financial position.

We currently believe that we will not join in tax filings on a consolidated, combined or unitary basis with Total S.A. Accordingly, no tax sharing arrangement is currently in place. If we and Total join in a tax filing in the future, a tax sharing agreement will be required, which would allocate the tax liabilities among the parties and may adversely impact our financial position.

Our headquarters and manufacturing facilities, as well as the facilities of certain subcontractors and suppliers, are located in regions that are subject to earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters, and climate change and climate change regulation could have an adverse effect on our operations.

Our headquarters and research and development operations are located in California, and our manufacturing facilities are located in the Philippines, France, South Africa and Mexico. The facilities of our joint venture for manufacturing is located in Malaysia. Any significant earthquake, tsunami or other natural disaster in these countries or countries where our suppliers are located could materially disrupt our management operations and/or our production capabilities, and could result in our experiencing a significant delay in delivery, or substantial shortage, of our products and services.

In addition, legislators, regulators, and non-governmental organizations, as well as companies in many business sectors, are considering ways to reduce green-house gas emissions. Further regulation could be forthcoming at the federal or state level with respect to green-house gas emissions. Such regulation or similar regulations in other countries could result in regulatory or product standard requirements for our global business, including our manufacturing operations. Furthermore, the potential physical impacts of climate change on our operations may include changes in weather patterns (including floods, tsunamis, drought and rainfall levels), water availability, storm patterns and intensities, and temperature levels. These potential physical effects may adversely impact the cost, production, sales and financial performance of our operations.

We could be adversely affected by any violations of the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act ("FCPA") and foreign anti-bribery laws.

The U.S. FCPA generally prohibits companies and their intermediaries from making improper payments to non-U.S. government officials for the purpose of obtaining or retaining business. Other countries in which we operate also have anti-bribery laws, some of which prohibit improper payments to government and non-government persons and entities. Our policies mandate compliance with these anti-bribery laws. We continue to acquire businesses outside of the United States and operate in many parts of the world that have experienced governmental corruption to some degree and, in certain circumstances, strict compliance with anti-bribery laws may conflict with local customs and practices. In addition, due to the level of regulation in our industry, our entry into new jurisdictions through internal growth or acquisitions requires substantial government contact where norms can differ from U.S. standards. While we

implement policies and procedures and conduct training designed to facilitate compliance with these anti-bribery laws, thereby mitigating the risk of violations of such laws, our employees, subcontractors and agents may take actions in violation of our policies and anti-bribery laws. Any such violation, even if prohibited by our policies, could subject us to criminal or civil penalties or other sanctions, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, cash flows and reputation.

We sell our solar products to agencies of the U.S. government, and as a result, we are subject to a number of procurement rules and regulations, and our business could be adversely affected by an audit by the U.S. government if it were to identify errors or a failure to comply with regulations.

We have sold and continue to sell our solar power systems to various U.S. government agencies. In connection with these contracts, we must comply with and are affected by laws and regulations relating to the award, administration, and performance of U.S. government contracts, which may impose added costs on our business. We are expected to perform in

Table of Contents

compliance with a vast array of federal laws and regulations, including, without limitation, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, the Truth in Negotiations Act, the Federal False Claims Act, the Anti-Kickback Act of 1986, the Trade Agreements Act, the Buy American Act, the Procurement Integrity Act, and the Davis Bacon Act. A violation of specific laws and regulations, even if prohibited by our policies, could result in the imposition of fines and penalties, reductions of the value of our contracts, contract modifications or termination, or suspension or debarment from government contracting for a period of time.

In some instances, these laws and regulations impose terms or rights that are more favorable to the government than those typically available to commercial parties in negotiated transactions. For example, the U.S. government may terminate any of our government contracts either at its convenience or for default based on performance. A termination arising out of our default may expose us to liability and have a material adverse effect on our ability to compete for future contracts.

U.S. government agencies may audit and investigate government contractors. These agencies review a contractor's performance under its contracts, cost structure, and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and standards. If an audit or investigation uncovers improper or illegal activities, we may be subject to civil or criminal penalties and administrative sanctions, including termination of contracts, forfeiture of profits, suspension of payments, fines, and suspension or prohibition from doing business with the U.S. government. In addition, we could suffer reputational harm if allegations of impropriety were made against us.

Compliance with environmental regulations can be expensive, and noncompliance with these regulations may result in adverse publicity and potentially significant monetary damages and fines.

We are required to comply with all foreign, U.S. federal, state and local laws and regulations regarding pollution control and protection of the environment. In addition, under some statutes and regulations, a government agency, or other parties, may seek recovery and response costs from operators of property where releases of hazardous substances have occurred or are ongoing, even if the operator was not responsible for such release or otherwise at fault. We use, generate and discharge toxic, volatile and otherwise hazardous chemicals and wastes in our research and development and manufacturing activities. Any failure by us to control the use of, or to restrict adequately the discharge of, hazardous substances could subject us to potentially significant monetary damages and fines or suspensions in our business operations. In addition, if more stringent laws and regulations are adopted in the future, the costs of compliance with these new laws and regulations could be substantial. To date such laws and regulations have not had a significant impact on our operations, and we believe that we have all necessary permits to conduct operations as they are presently conducted. If we fail to comply with present or future environmental laws and regulations, however, we may be required to pay substantial fines, suspend production or cease operations.

In addition, new U.S. legislation includes disclosure requirements regarding the use of "conflict" minerals mined from the Democratic Republic of Congo and adjoining countries and procedures regarding a manufacturer's efforts to prevent the sourcing of such "conflict" minerals. The implementation of these requirements could affect the sourcing and availability of minerals used in the manufacture of solar products. As a result, there may only be a limited pool of suppliers who provide conflict free minerals, and we cannot be certain that we will be able to obtain products in sufficient quantities or at competitive prices. Also, since our supply chain is complex, we may face reputational challenges with our customers and other stakeholders if we are unable to sufficiently verify the origins for all minerals used in our products.

Our success depends on the continuing contributions of our key personnel.

We rely heavily on the services of our key executive officers and the loss of services of any principal member of our management team could adversely impact our operations. In addition, we anticipate that we will need to hire a number

of highly skilled technical, manufacturing, sales, marketing, administrative and accounting personnel. Due to the current economic environment, we have conducted several restructurings, which may negatively affect our ability to execute our strategy and business model. The competition for qualified personnel is intense in our industry. We may not be successful in attracting and retaining sufficient numbers of qualified personnel to support our anticipated growth. We cannot guarantee that any employee will remain employed with us for any definite period of time since all of our employees, including our key executive officers, serve at-will and may terminate their employment at any time for any reason.

We may in the future be required to consolidate the assets, liabilities and financial results of certain of our existing or future joint ventures, which could have an adverse impact on our financial position, gross margin and operating results.

The Financial Accounting Standards Board has issued accounting guidance regarding variable interest entities ("VIEs") that affects our accounting treatment of our existing and future joint ventures. We have variable interests in AUOSP, our joint venture with AUO. To ascertain if we are required to consolidate these entities, we determine whether these entities are VIEs and if we are the primary beneficiary in accordance with the accounting guidance. Factors we consider in determining whether

Table of Contents

we are the VIE's primary beneficiary include the decision making authority of each partner, which partner manages the day-to-day operations of the joint venture and each partner's obligation to absorb losses or right to receive benefits from the joint venture in relation to that of the other partner. Changes in the financial accounting guidance, or changes in circumstances at each of these joint ventures, could lead us to determine that we have to consolidate the assets, liabilities and financial results of such joint ventures. The consolidation of AUOSP would significantly increase our indebtedness. Consolidation of our VIEs could have a material adverse impact on our financial position, gross margin and operating results. In addition, we may enter into future joint ventures or make other equity investments, which could have an adverse impact on us because of the financial accounting guidance regarding VIEs.

Risks Related to Our Intellectual Property

We are dependent on our intellectual property, and we may face intellectual property infringement claims that could be time-consuming and costly to defend and could result in the loss of significant rights.

From time to time, we, our respective customers, or third parties with whom we work may receive letters, including letters from various industry participants, alleging infringement of their patents. Although we are not currently aware of any parties pursuing or intending to pursue infringement claims against us, we cannot assure investors that we will not be subject to such claims in the future. Additionally, we are required by contract to indemnify some of our customers and our third-party intellectual property providers for certain costs and damages of patent infringement in circumstances where our products are a factor creating the customer's or these third-party providers' infringement liability. This practice may subject us to significant indemnification claims by our customers and our third-party providers. We cannot assure investors that indemnification claims will not be made or that these claims will not harm our business, operating results or financial condition. Intellectual property litigation is very expensive and time-consuming and could divert management's attention from our business and could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results or financial condition. If there is a successful claim of infringement against us, our customers or our third-party intellectual property providers, we may be required to pay substantial damages to the party claiming infringement, stop selling products or using technology that contains the allegedly infringing intellectual property, or enter into royalty or license agreements that may not be available on acceptable terms, if at all. Parties making infringement claims may also be able to bring an action before the International Trade Commission that could result in an order stopping the importation into the United States of our solar products. Any of these judgments could materially damage our business. We may have to develop non-infringing technology, and our failure in doing so or in obtaining licenses to the proprietary rights on a timely basis could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We have filed, and may continue to file, claims against other parties for infringing our intellectual property that may be very costly and may not be resolved in our favor.

To protect our intellectual property rights and to maintain our competitive advantage, we have, and may continue to, file suits against parties who we believe infringe our intellectual property. Intellectual property litigation is expensive and time consuming and could divert management's attention from our business and could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results or financial condition, and our enforcement efforts may not be successful. In addition, the validity of our patents may be challenged in such litigation. Our participation in intellectual property enforcement actions may negatively impact our financial results.

We rely substantially upon trade secret laws and contractual restrictions to protect our proprietary rights, and, if these rights are not sufficiently protected, our ability to compete and generate revenue could suffer.

We seek to protect our proprietary manufacturing processes, documentation and other written materials primarily under trade secret and copyright laws. We also typically require employees, consultants, and third parties such as our

vendors and customers, with access to our proprietary information to execute confidentiality agreements. The steps taken by us to protect our proprietary information may not be adequate to prevent misappropriation of our technology. Our systems may be subject to intrusions, security breaches, or targeted theft of our trade secrets. In addition, our proprietary rights may not be adequately protected because:

people may not be deterred from misappropriating our technologies despite the existence of laws or contracts prohibiting it;

policing unauthorized use of our intellectual property may be difficult, expensive and time-consuming, the remedy obtained may be inadequate to restore protection of our intellectual property, and moreover, we may be unable to determine the extent of any unauthorized use;

Table of Contents

the laws of other countries in which we market our solar products, such as some countries in the Asia/Pacific region, may offer little or no protection for our proprietary technologies; and

reports we file in connection with government-sponsored research contracts are generally available to the public and third parties may obtain some aspects of our sensitive confidential information.

Reverse engineering, unauthorized copying or other misappropriation of our proprietary technologies could enable third parties to benefit from our technologies without compensating us for doing so. We also have formed the joint venture to manufacture our solar cells at AUOSP, and signed a joint venture agreement with partners in China with respect to our C-7 Tracker technology. Our joint venture partners may not be deterred from misappropriating our proprietary technologies despite contractual and other legal restrictions. Legal protection in countries where our joint ventures are located may not be robust and enforcement by us of our intellectual property rights may be difficult. As a result, our joint venture partners could directly compete with our business. Any such activities or any other inability to adequately protect our proprietary rights could harm our ability to compete, to generate revenue and to grow our business.

We may not obtain sufficient patent protection on the technology embodied in the solar products we currently manufacture and market, which could harm our competitive position and increase our expenses.

Although we substantially rely on trade secret laws and contractual restrictions to protect the technology in the solar products we currently manufacture and market, our success and ability to compete in the future may also depend to a significant degree upon obtaining patent protection for our proprietary technology. We currently own multiple patents and patent applications which cover aspects of the technology in the solar cells and mounting systems that we currently manufacture and market. Material patents that relate to our systems products and services primarily relate to our rooftop mounting products and ground-mounted tracking products. We intend to continue to seek patent protection for those aspects of our technology, designs, and methodologies and processes that we believe provide significant competitive advantages.

Our patent applications may not result in issued patents, and even if they result in issued patents, the patents may not have claims of the scope we seek or we may have to refile patent applications due to newly discovered prior art. In addition, any issued patents may be challenged, invalidated, or declared unenforceable, or even if we obtain an award of damages for infringement by a third party, such award could prove insufficient to compensate for all damages incurred as a result of such infringement.

The earliest term of any issued patents would be 20 years from their earliest priority date and if our applications are pending for a long time period, we may have a correspondingly shorter term for any patent that may issue. Our present and future patents may provide only limited protection for our technology and may be insufficient to provide competitive advantages to us. For example, competitors could develop similar or more advantageous technologies on their own or design around our patents. Also, patent protection in certain foreign countries may not be available or may be limited in scope and any patents obtained may not be as readily enforceable as in the United States, making it difficult for us to effectively protect our intellectual property from misuse or infringement by other companies in these countries. Our inability to obtain and enforce our intellectual property rights in some countries may harm our business. In addition, given the costs of obtaining patent protection, we may choose not to protect certain innovations that later turn out to be important.

We may not be able to prevent others from using the term SunPower or similar terms in connection with their solar power products which could adversely affect the market recognition of our name and our revenue.

"SunPower" and the "SunPower" logo are our registered trademark in certain countries, including the United States, for uses that include solar cells and solar panels. We are seeking registration of the "SunPower" trademark in other countries but we may not be successful in some of these jurisdictions. We hold registered trademarks for SunPower®, SunPower Electric®, Maxeon®, Oasis®, PowerGuard®, PowerLight®, Serengeti®, and SunTile®, in certain countries, including the United States. We have not registered, and may not be able to register, these trademarks in other key countries. In the foreign jurisdictions where we are unable to obtain or have not tried to obtain registrations, others may be able to sell their products using trademarks compromising or incorporating "SunPower," or a variation thereof, or our other chosen brands, which could lead to customer confusion. In addition, if there are jurisdictions where another proprietor has already established trademark rights in marks containing "SunPower," or our other chosen brands, we may face trademark disputes and may have to market our products with other trademarks or without our trademarks, which may undermine our marketing efforts. We may encounter trademark disputes with companies using marks which are confusingly similar to the SunPower mark, or our other marks, which if not resolved favorably, could cause our branding efforts to suffer. In addition, we may have difficulty in establishing strong brand recognition with consumers if others use similar marks for similar products.

Table of Contents

Our past reliance on government programs to partially fund our research and development programs could impair our ability to commercialize our solar power products and services.

Government funding of some of our research and development efforts imposed certain restrictions on our ability to commercialize results and could grant commercialization rights to the government. In some funding awards, the government is entitled to intellectual property rights arising from the related research. Such rights include a nonexclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable, paid-up license to practice or have practiced each subject invention developed under an award throughout the world by or on behalf of the government. Other rights include the right to require us to grant a license to the developed technology or products to a third party or, in some cases, if we refuse, the government may grant the license itself, if the government determines that action is necessary because we fail to achieve practical application of the technology, because action is necessary to alleviate health or safety needs, to meet requirements of federal regulations, or to give the United States industry preference. Accepting government funding can also require that manufacturing of products developed with federal funding be conducted in the United States.

We may be subject to information technology system failures or network disruptions that could damage our business operations, financial conditions, or reputation.

We may be subject to information technology system failures and network disruptions. These may be caused by natural disasters, accidents, power disruptions, telecommunications failures, acts of terrorism or war, computer viruses, physical or electronic break-ins, or similar events or disruptions. System redundancy may be ineffective or inadequate, and our disaster recovery planning may not be sufficient for all eventualities. Such failures or disruptions could result in delayed or canceled orders. System failures and disruptions could also impede the manufacturing and shipping of products, delivery of online services, transactions processing, and financial reporting.

We may be subject to breaches of our information technology systems, which could lead to disclosure of our internal information, or could damage our reputation or relationships with dealers and customers, or could disrupt access to our online services. Such breaches could subject us to significant reputational, financial, legal, and operational consequences.

Our business requires us to use and store customer, employee, and business partner personally identifiable information ("PII"). This may include names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, contact preferences, tax identification numbers, and payment account information. Malicious attacks to gain access to PII affect many companies across various industries, including ours.

We use encryption and authentication technologies to secure the transmission and storage of data. These security measures may be compromised as a result of third-party security breaches, employee error, malfeasance, faulty password management, or other irregularity, and result in persons obtaining unauthorized access to our data. Third parties may attempt to fraudulently induce employees or customers into disclosing passwords or other sensitive information, which may in turn be used to access our information technology systems.

We devote resources to network security, data encryption, and other security measures to protect our systems and data, but these security measures cannot provide absolute security. We may experience a breach of our systems and may be unable to protect sensitive data. We could also be exposed to a risk of loss or litigation and possible liability, which could result in a detrimental effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Our business is subject to a variety of U.S. and international laws, rules, policies and other obligations regarding data protection.

We are subject to federal, state and international laws relating to the collection, use, retention, security and transfer of PII. In many cases, these laws apply not only to third-party transactions, but also to transfers of information between one company and its subsidiaries, and among the subsidiaries and other parties with which we have commercial relations. Several jurisdictions have passed new laws in this area, and other jurisdictions are considering imposing additional restrictions. These laws continue to develop and may be inconsistent from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Complying with emerging and changing international requirements may cause us to incur costs or require us to change our business practices. Noncompliance could result in penalties or legal liability.

A failure by us, our suppliers or other parties with whom we do business to comply with a posted privacy policies or with other federal, state or international privacy-related or data protection laws and regulations could result in proceedings against us by governmental entities or others, which could have a detrimental effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Table of Contents

Risks Related to Our Debt and Equity Securities

Total's majority ownership of our common stock may adversely affect the liquidity and value of our common stock.

As of December 30, 2012, Total owned approximately 66% of our outstanding common stock. Pursuant to the Affiliation Agreement between us and Total, the Board of Directors of SunPower includes five designees from Total, giving Total majority control of our Board. As a result, subject to the restrictions in the Affiliation Agreement, Total possesses significant influence and control over our affairs. Our non-Total stockholders have reduced ownership and voting interest in our company and, as a result, have less influence over the management and policies of our company than they exercised prior to Total's tender offer. As long as Total controls us, the ability of our other stockholders to influence matters requiring stockholder approval is limited. Total's stock ownership and relationships with members of our Board of Directors could have the effect of preventing minority stockholders from exercising significant control over our affairs, delaying or preventing a future change in control, impeding a merger, consolidation, takeover or other business combination or discouraging a potential acquirer from making a tender offer or otherwise attempting to obtain control of us, limiting our financing options. These factors in turn could adversely affect the market price of our common stock or prevent our stockholders from realizing a premium over the market price of our common stock. The Affiliation Agreement limits Total and any member of the Total affiliated companies ("Total Group") from effecting, seeking, or entering into discussions with any third party regarding any transaction that would result in the Total Group beneficially owning our shares in excess of certain thresholds during a standstill period. The Affiliation Agreement also imposes certain limitations on the Total Group's ability to seek to affect a tender offer or merger to acquire 100% of our outstanding voting power. Such provisions may not be successful in preventing the Total Group from engaging in transactions which further increase their ownership and negatively impact the price of our common stock. In connection with our acquisition of Tenesol and our entry into the Liquidity Support Facility, we agreed to exempt the shares issued in connection with those transactions from the ownership limitations imposed by the Affiliation Agreement, so that Total may own up to the stated limits plus any such shares. In return for providing certain guarantees or other support, as was the case with the Liquidity Support Agreement, Total may request additional equity to be issued to it or its affiliates, or it may convert previously issued convertible debt into equity or exercise previously granted warrants, potentially at a discount or at a smaller premium than our other stockholders would prefer, which may lead to additional dilution to our stockholders. Due to the pricing of the equity compensation elements of the Liquidity Support Facility, the degree of dilution to our other stockholders will tend to increase to the extent that we require more support and to the extent that our stock price decreases. See also "Risks Related to Our Liquidity--Due to the general economic environment, the continued market pressure driving down the average selling prices of our solar power products, and other factors, we may be unable to generate sufficient cash flows or obtain access to external financing necessary to fund our operations and make adequate capital investments as planned."

Finally, the market for our common stock has become less liquid and more thinly traded as a result of the Total tender offer. The lower number of shares available to be traded could result in greater volatility in the price of our common stock and affect our ability to raise capital on favorable terms in the capital markets.

Conversion of our outstanding 4.75% debentures, our warrants related to our outstanding 4.50% and 4.75% debentures, and future substantial issuances or dispositions of our common stock or other securities, could dilute ownership and earnings per share or cause the market price of our stock to decrease.

To the extent we issue common stock upon conversion of our outstanding 4.75% debentures, the conversion of some or all of such debentures will dilute the ownership interests of existing stockholders, including holders who had previously converted their debentures. Any sales in the public market of the common stock issuable upon such conversion could adversely affect prevailing market prices of our common stock. Sales of our common stock in the public market or sales of any of our other securities could dilute ownership and earnings per share, and even the perception that such sales could occur could cause the market prices of our common stock to decline. In addition, the existence of our outstanding debentures may encourage short selling of our common stock by market participants who

expect that the conversion of the debentures could depress the prices of our common stock.

We issued warrants to affiliates of the underwriters of our 4.50% and 4.75% debentures, which are exercisable for a total of approximately 11.1 million shares and 8.7 million shares of our common stock, respectively. The warrants, together with certain convertible hedge transactions, are meant to reduce our exposure upon potential conversion of our 4.50% and 4.75% debentures. If the market price of our common stock exceeds the respective exercise prices of the warrants, such warrants will have a dilutive effect on our earnings per share, and could dilute the ownership interests for existing stockholders if exercised.

The price of our common stock, and therefore of our outstanding 0.75%, 4.50%, and 4.75% debentures, may fluctuate significantly.

Table of Contents

Our common stock has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations. The trading price of our common stock could be subject to further wide fluctuations due to many factors, including the factors discussed in this risk factors section. In addition, the stock market in general, and the Nasdaq Global Select Market and the securities of technology companies and solar companies in particular, have experienced severe price and volume fluctuations. These trading prices and valuations, including our own market valuation and those of companies in our industry generally, may not be sustainable. These broad market and industry factors may decrease the market price of our common stock, regardless of our actual operating performance. Because the 0.75%, 4.50%, and 4.75% debentures are convertible into our common stock (and/or cash equivalent to the value of our common stock), volatility or depressed prices of our common stock could have a similar effect on the trading price of these debentures.

Delaware law and our certificate of incorporation and by-laws contain anti-takeover provisions, our outstanding 0.75%, 4.50%, and 4.75% debentures provide for a right to convert upon certain events, and our Board of Directors entered into a rights agreement and declared a rights dividend, any of which could delay or discourage takeover attempts that stockholders may consider favorable.

Provisions in our restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws may have the effect of delaying or preventing a change of control or changes in our management. These provisions include the following:

the right of the Board of Directors to elect a director to fill a vacancy created by the expansion of the Board of Directors;

the prohibition of cumulative voting in the election of directors, which would otherwise allow less than a majority of stockholders to elect director candidates;

the requirement for advance notice for nominations for election to the Board of Directors or for proposing matters that can be acted upon at a stockholders' meeting;

the ability of the Board of Directors to issue, without stockholder approval, up to 10.0 million shares of preferred stock with terms set by the Board of Directors, which rights could be senior to those of common stock;

our Board of Directors is divided into three classes of directors, with the classes to be as nearly equal in number as possible;

stockholders may not call special meetings of the stockholders, except by Total under limited circumstances;

our Board of Directors is able to alter our by-laws without obtaining stockholder approval.

Certain provisions of our outstanding debentures could make it more difficult or more expensive for a third party to acquire us. Upon the occurrence of certain transactions constituting a fundamental change, including an entity becoming the beneficial owner of 75% of our voting stock (such as Total), holders of our outstanding debentures will have the right, at their option, to require us to repurchase, at a cash repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest on the debentures, all or a portion of their debentures. We may also be required to issue additional shares of our common stock upon conversion of such debentures in the event of certain fundamental changes. In addition, we entered into a Rights Agreement with Computershare Trust Company, N.A., commonly referred to as a "poison pill," which could delay or discourage takeover attempts that stockholders may consider favorable.

Table of Contents

ITEM 1B: UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2: PROPERTIES

Our corporate headquarters is located in San Jose, California where we occupy approximately 129,000 square feet under a lease that expires in April 2021. In Richmond, California, we occupy approximately 186,000 square feet for office, light industrial and research and development use under a lease that expires in December 2018. In addition to these facilities, we also have our European headquarters located in Geneva, Switzerland where we occupy approximately 4,000 square feet under a lease that expires in September 2017, as well as global sales and support offices including locations in Austin, Texas and La Tour de Salvagny, France.

SPML Land, Inc., owns an approximately 215,000 square foot building in the Philippines, which served as one of our solar cell manufacturing facilities ("FAB1") until the second half of fiscal 2012. The lease for the underlying land expires in May 2048 and is renewable for an additional 25 years. SPML Land, Inc. additionally owns a 344,000 square foot building in the Philippines, which serves as a solar cell manufacturing facility ("FAB2") with twelve solar cell manufacturing lines in operation. Our FAB 2 solar cell manufacturing facility has a total rated annual solar cell manufacturing capacity of over 700 MW.

SPML Land, Inc. owns an approximately 175,000 square foot building in the Philippines which serves as a solar panel assembly facility that currently operates fourteen solar panel assembly lines. We lease an approximately 320,000 square foot building in Mexicali, Mexico which serves as a solar panel assembly facility and support offices, under a lease that expires in August 2021. Our Mexicali facility currently houses ten solar panel assembly lines and will house twelve once fully online in fiscal 2013. We additionally lease facilities in Toulouse, France and Capetown, South Africa which serve as solar panel assembly facilities. Our solar panel assembly facilities have a combined total annual manufacturing capacity of more than 1 GW.

We may require additional space in the future, which may not be available on commercially reasonable terms or in the location we desire. We do not identify or allocate assets by business segment. For more information on property, plant and equipment by country, see Note 7 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Part II - "Item 8: Financial Statements and Supplemental Data."

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Three securities class action lawsuits were filed against the Company and certain of its current and former officers and directors in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California on behalf of a class consisting of those who acquired the Company's securities from April 17, 2008 through November 16, 2009. The cases were consolidated as *In re SunPower Securities Litigation*, Case No. CV-09-5473-RS (N.D. Cal.), and lead plaintiffs and lead counsel were appointed on March 5, 2010. Lead plaintiffs filed a consolidated complaint on May 28, 2010. The actions arise from the Audit Committee's investigation announcement on November 16, 2009 regarding certain unsubstantiated accounting entries. The consolidated complaint alleges that the defendants made material misstatements and omissions concerning the Company's financial results for 2008 and 2009, seeks an unspecified amount of damages, and alleges violations of sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and sections 11 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933. The court held a hearing on the defendants' motions to dismiss the consolidated complaint on November 4, 2010. The court dismissed the consolidated complaint with leave to amend on March 1, 2011. An amended complaint was filed on April 18, 2011. The amended complaint added two former employees as defendants. Defendants filed motions to dismiss the amended complaint on May 23, 2011. The motions

to dismiss the amended complaint were heard by the court on August 11, 2011. On December 19, 2011, the court granted in part and denied in part the motions to dismiss, dismissing the claims brought pursuant to sections 11 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 and the claims brought against the two newly added former employees. On December 14, 2012, the Company announced that it reached an agreement in principle to settle the consolidated securities class action lawsuit for \$19.7 million. The Company recorded a charge in its fiscal fourth quarter of 2012 in the same amount which is further classified within "Accrued liabilities" on the Company's Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 30, 2012. On February 1, 2013, the parties filed a stipulation of settlement and a motion for preliminary approval of the settlement. The motion is noticed to be heard on March 14, 2013. The settlement is subject to certain conditions, including final approval by the court after members of the proposed settlement class receive notice and an opportunity to be heard. Until the conditions to the settlement have been satisfied, there can be no assurance that the settlement will become final. If the settlement does not become final, the Company believes it has meritorious defenses to these allegations and will vigorously defend itself in these matters.

Table of Contents

Derivative actions purporting to be brought on the Company's behalf have also been filed in state and federal courts against several of the Company's current and former officers and directors based on the same events alleged in the securities class action lawsuits described above. The California state derivative cases were consolidated as *In re SunPower Corp. S'holder Derivative Litig.*, Lead Case No. 1-09-CV-158522 (Santa Clara Sup. Ct.), and co-lead counsel for plaintiffs have been appointed. The complaints assert state-law claims for breach of fiduciary duty, abuse of control, unjust enrichment, gross mismanagement, and waste of corporate assets. Plaintiffs are scheduled to file a consolidated complaint on March 5, 2012. The federal derivative complaints were consolidated as *In re SunPower Corp. S'holder Derivative Litig.*, Master File No. CV-09-05731-RS (N.D. Cal.), and lead plaintiffs and co-lead counsel were appointed on January 4, 2010. The federal complaints assert state-law claims for breach of fiduciary duty, waste of corporate assets, and unjust enrichment, and seek an unspecified amount of damages. Plaintiffs filed a consolidated complaint on May 13, 2011, in the Delaware Court of Chancery. A Delaware state derivative case, *Brenner v. Albrecht, et al.*, C.A. No. 6514-VCP (Del Ch.), was filed on May 23, 2011. The complaint asserts state-law claims for breach of fiduciary duty and contribution and indemnification, and seeks an unspecified amount of damages. The Company intends to oppose all the derivative plaintiffs' efforts to pursue this litigation on the Company's behalf. Defendants moved to stay or dismiss the Delaware derivative action on July 5, 2011. The motion to stay was heard by the court on October 27, 2011, and on January 27, 2012 the court granted the Company's motion and stayed the case indefinitely subject to plaintiff seeking to lift the stay under specified conditions. The Company is currently unable to determine if the resolution of these matters will have an adverse effect on the Company's financial position, liquidity or results of operations.

The Company is also a party to various other litigation matters and claims that arise from time to time in the ordinary course of our business. While the Company believes that the ultimate outcome of such matters will not have a material adverse effect on it, their outcomes are not determinable and negative outcomes may adversely affect its financial position, liquidity or results of operations.

ITEM 4: MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

Table of Contents

PART II

ITEM 5: MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Market Information

Prior to November 17, 2011, our former class A and class B common stock was listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the trading symbols "SPWRA" and "SPWRB," respectively. On November 15, 2011, our Stockholders approved reclassification of all outstanding shares of our former class A and class B common stock into a single class of common stock. Therefore, effective November 17, 2011, our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the trading symbol "SPWR".

The high and low trading prices of our common stock during fiscal 2012 and 2011 were as follows:

	SPWR		SPWRA		SPWRB	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Fiscal Year 2012						
Fourth quarter	\$6.00	\$3.90	*	*	*	*
Third quarter	\$5.35	\$3.71	*	*	*	*
Second quarter	\$6.68	\$4.51	*	*	*	*
First quarter	\$9.54	\$6.28	*	*	*	*
Fiscal Year 2011						
Fourth quarter: November 17, 2011 through January 1, 2012	\$8.60	\$4.94	*	*	*	*
Fourth quarter: October 3, 2011 through November 16, 2011	*	*	\$10.88	\$6.61	\$10.12	\$5.99
Third quarter	*	*	\$23.35	\$8.06	\$17.72	\$7.35
Second quarter	*	*	\$22.60	\$14.87	\$22.10	\$14.65
First quarter	*	*	\$19.88	\$12.90	\$19.45	\$12.47

* Not applicable due to class of SunPower stock outstanding and trading during that period.

As of February 15, 2013, there were approximately 1,882 record holders. A substantially greater number of holders are in "street name" or beneficial holders, whose shares are held of record by banks, brokers, and other financial institutions.

Dividends

We have never declared or paid any cash dividend on our common stock, and we do not currently intend to pay any cash dividend on our common stock in the foreseeable future. We intend to retain future earnings, if any, to finance the operation and expansion of our business.

Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities

None.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The following table sets forth all purchases made by or on behalf of us or any "affiliated purchaser," as defined in Rule 10b-18(a)(3) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, of shares of our common stock during each of the indicated periods.

Table of Contents

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased (1)	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Publicly Announced Plans or Programs
October 1, 2012 through October 28, 2012	232	\$4.54	—	—
October 29, 2012 through November 25, 2012	64,032	\$4.06	—	—
November 26, 2012 through December 30, 2012	328	\$4.69	—	—
	64,592	\$4.06	—	—

(1) The shares purchased represent shares surrendered to satisfy tax withholding obligations in connection with the vesting of restricted stock issued to employees.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table provides certain information as of December 30, 2012 with respect to our equity compensation plans under which shares of our common stock are authorized for issuance:

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (in thousands)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in the first column) (in thousands)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	326	\$ 28.27	3,566
Equity compensation shares not approved by security holders	—	\$ —	—
	326	(1)	3,566

(1) Shares associated with our warrants outstanding in connection with our 4.50% debentures and the Liquidity Support Agreement are excluded from the above table as the exercise price exceeded our closing stock as of December 30, 2012. This table additionally excludes options to purchase an aggregate of approximately 68,000 shares of common stock, at a weighted average exercise price of \$21.74 per share, that we assumed in connection with the acquisition of PowerLight Corporation, now known as SunPower Corporation, Systems, in January 2007. Under the terms of our three equity incentive plans, we may issue incentive or non-statutory stock options, restricted stock awards, restricted stock units, or stock purchase rights to directors, employees and consultants to purchase common stock. Our Third Amended and Restated SunPower Corporation 2005 Stock Incentive Plan

includes an automatic share reserve increase feature effective for 2009 through 2015. This share reserve increase feature will cause an annual and automatic increase in the number of shares of our common stock reserved for issuance under the Stock Incentive Plan in an amount each year equal to the least of: 3% of the outstanding shares of all classes of our common stock measured on the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal year; 6,000,000 shares; and such other number of shares as determined by our Board.

Table of Contents

ITEM 6: SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA

The following selected consolidated financial data should be read together with "Item 7: Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Item 8: Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

(In thousands, except per share data)	Year Ended				
	December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012 (1)	January 2, 2011	January 3, 2010	December 28, 2008
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data					
Revenue	\$2,417,501	\$2,374,376	\$2,219,230	\$1,524,283	\$1,437,594
Cost of revenue	2,171,103	2,148,158	1,709,337	1,240,563	1,087,973
Gross margin	246,398	226,218	509,893	283,720	349,621
Operating income (loss)	(287,708)	(534,098)	138,867	61,834	154,407
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in earnings (loss) of unconsolidated investees	(329,663)	(602,532)	183,413	43,620	(97,904)
Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$(352,020)	\$(613,737)	\$166,883	\$32,521	\$(124,445)
Income (loss) from continuing operations per share of common stock:					
Basic	\$(3.01)	\$(6.28)	\$1.74	\$0.36	\$(1.55)
Diluted	\$(3.01)	\$(6.28)	\$1.64	\$0.35	\$(1.55)
Weighted-average shares:					
Basic	117,093	97,724	95,660	91,050	80,522
Diluted	117,093	97,724	105,698	92,746	80,522

As adjusted to reflect the balances of Tenesol S.A. ("Tenesol") beginning October 10, 2011, as required under the (1) accounting guidelines for a transfer of an entity under common control (see Note 3 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements).

(In thousands)	December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012 (1) (2)	January 2, 2011	January 3, 2010	December 28, 2008
Consolidated Balance Sheet Data					
Cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, current portion and short-term investments	\$473,055	\$777,897	\$761,602	\$677,919	\$232,750
Working capital	976,627	1,163,245	1,005,492	747,335	420,067
Total assets	3,340,948	3,519,130	3,379,331	2,696,895	2,084,257
Long-term debt	375,661	364,273	50,000	237,703	54,598
Convertible debt, net of current portion	438,629	423,268	591,923	398,606	357,173
Long-term deferred tax liabilities	—	—	—	6,777	6,493
Customer advances, net of current portion	236,082	181,946	160,485	72,288	91,359
Other long-term liabilities	335,619	166,126	131,132	70,045	44,222

Edgar Filing: SUNPOWER CORP - Form 10-K

Total stockholders' equity	\$993,352	\$1,274,725	\$1,657,434	\$1,376,380	\$1,100,198
----------------------------	-----------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

As adjusted to reflect the balances of Tenesol S.A. ("Tenesol") beginning October 10, 2011, as required under the (1) accounting guidelines for a transfer of an entity under common control (see Note 3 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements).

(2) As adjusted to conform to the current period presentation for solar power systems leased and to be leased (see Note 1 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements).

51

Table of Contents

ITEM 7: MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

General Overview

We are a vertically integrated solar products and solutions company that designs, manufactures, and delivers high-performance solar systems worldwide, servicing as a one-stop shop for residential, commercial and utility-scale power plant customers. Of all the solar cells available for the mass market, we believe our solar cells have the highest conversion efficiency, a measurement of the amount of sunlight converted by the solar cell into electricity. These high efficiency cells are then utilized in our array of high reliability SunPower products.

We were originally incorporated in California in 1985 and subsequently reincorporated in Delaware during 2005 in connection with our initial public offering. In November 2011, our stockholders approved the reclassification of all outstanding former class A common stock and class B common stock into a single class of common stock listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol "SPWR". In June 2011, we became a subsidiary of Total Gas & Power USA, SAS ("Total"), a subsidiary of Total S.A. ("Total S.A."). Total acquired 60% of our former class A and class B common stock as of June 13, 2011. In January 2012, we entered into an additional agreement with Total to sell shares of our common stock, thereby increasing Total's ownership to approximately 66% of our outstanding common stock.

Segments Overview

In December 2011, we announced a reorganization to align our business and cost structure to a regional focus in order to support the needs of our customers and improve the speed of decision-making processes. As a result, in the first quarter of fiscal 2012, we changed our segment reporting from our Utility and Power Plant ("UPP") Segment and Residential and Commercial ("R&C") Segment to three regional segments: (i) the Americas Segment, (ii) the EMEA Segment, and (iii) the APAC Segment. The Americas Segment includes both North and South America. The EMEA Segment includes European countries, as well as the Middle East and Africa. The APAC segment includes all Asia-Pacific countries. Historical results have been recast under the new segmentation.

Seasonal Trends

Our business is subject to industry-specific seasonal fluctuations. Sales have historically reflected these seasonal trends with the largest percentage of total revenues realized during the last two calendar quarters of a fiscal year. Lower seasonal demand normally results in reduced shipments and revenues in the first two calendar quarters of a fiscal year. There are various reasons for this seasonality, mostly related to economic incentives and weather patterns. For example, in European countries with feed-in tariffs, the construction of solar power systems may be concentrated during the second half of the calendar year, largely due to the fact that the coldest winter months in the Northern Hemisphere are January through March. In the United States, customers will sometimes make purchasing decisions towards the end of the year in order to take advantage of tax credits or for other budgetary reasons. In addition, sales in the new home development market are often tied to construction market demands which tend to follow national trends in construction, including declining sales during cold weather months.

Unit of Power

When referring to our facilities' manufacturing capacity, total sales and components sales, the unit of electricity in watts for kilowatts ("KW"), megawatts ("MW") and gigawatts ("GW") is direct current ("dc"). When referring to our solar power systems, the unit of electricity in watts for KW, MW, and GW is alternating current ("ac").

Levelized Cost of Energy ("LCOE")

The LCOE equation is an evaluation of the life-cycle energy cost and life-cycle energy production of an energy producing system. It allows alternative technologies to be compared when different scales of operation, investment, or operating time periods exist. It captures capital costs and ongoing system-related costs, along with the amount of electricity produced, and converts them into a common metric. Key drivers for LCOE reduction for photovoltaic products include panel efficiency, capacity factors, reliable system performance, and the life of the system.

Fiscal Years

Table of Contents

We have a 52-to-53-week fiscal year that ends on the Sunday closest to December 31. Accordingly, every fifth or sixth year will be a 53-week fiscal year. Fiscal years 2012, 2011 and 2010 were 52-week fiscal years. Fiscal year 2012 ended on December 30, 2012, fiscal year 2011 ended on January 1, 2012, and fiscal year 2010 ended on January 2, 2011.

Outlook

During fiscal 2012 we saw a decline in overall demand for solar systems primarily in Europe as a result of the decline in European government incentives. The resulting over-supply environment drove down average selling prices across all product and service lines. Such pricing pressures have continued and are expected to generally continue throughout fiscal 2013.

We continue to be focused on reducing the cost of our solar panels and systems. We continue to emphasize improvement of our solar cell efficiency and LCOE performance through enhancement of our existing products, development of new products and reduction of manufacturing cost and complexity in conjunction with our overall cost-control strategies. We are further working with our suppliers and partners along all steps of the value chain to reduce costs by improving manufacturing technologies and expanding economies of scale.

We plan to continue to expand our business in growing and sustainable markets. We announced the first commercial deployment of our SunPower® C-7 Tracker technology under a power purchase agreement ("PPA") and commenced commercial production of our next generation solar cell with demonstrated efficiencies of up to 24%. Our acquisition of Tenesol S.A. ("Tenesol") in the first quarter of fiscal 2012 has further expanded our European and global customer channels as well as added manufacturing capabilities based in both Europe and South Africa.

Residential Leasing Program

In fiscal 2011, we launched our residential lease program with dealers in the United States, in partnership with a third-party financial institution, which allows customers to obtain SunPower systems under lease agreements up to 20 years, subject to financing availability. In fiscal 2012, we entered into arrangements with two financial institutions that will provide financing to support additional residential solar lease projects. In the first quarter of fiscal 2013, we entered into an arrangement with an additional financial institution. The program includes system maintenance and warranty coverage as well as an early buy-out option after six years or at any time when the lessees sell their home. Leases are classified as either operating or sales-type leases in accordance with the relevant accounting guidelines.

The program does not yet represent a material portion of our revenue. However, we may face additional material risks as the program expands, including our ability to obtain additional financing partners as well as our ability to collect finance and rent receivables in view of the general challenging credit markets worldwide. We believe that our concentration of credit risk is limited because of our large number of customers, credit quality of the customer base, small account balances for most of these customers, and customer geographic diversification. We have applied and will apply for the §48(c) solar commercial investment tax credit ("ITC") and Treasury Grant payments under Section 1603 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the "Cash Grant"), which is administered by the U.S. Internal Revenue Services ("IRS") and Treasury Department, for residential leases. We have structured the tax incentive applications, both in timing and amount, to be in accordance with the guidance provided by Treasury and IRS. If the amount or timing of the ITC or Cash Grant payments received in connection with the residential lease program varies from what we have projected, this may impact our revenues and margins and we may have to recognize losses, which may adversely impact our results of operations and cash flows. We make certain assumptions in accounting for the residential lease program, including, among others, the residual value of the leased systems. As the residential lease program grows, if the residual value of leased systems does not materialize as assumed, our results of operations would be adversely affected.

Financial Operations Overview

The following describes certain line items in our Consolidated Statements of Operations:

Revenue

We recognize revenue on the following types of transactions within our regional segments:

- Power plant project development and projects, turn-key engineering, procurement, and construction ("EPC") services for power plant construction, and power plant operations and maintenance ("O&M") services;

Table of Contents

• Components, including large volume sales of solar panels and mounting systems to third parties, sometimes on a multi-year, firm commitment basis;

• Solar equipment for the residential and small commercial market, sold through our third-party global dealer network; and

• Direct sales and EPC and O&M services for rooftop and ground-mounted solar power systems for new homes, commercial, and public sectors.

In the United States, where customers often utilize rebate and tax credit programs in connection with projects rated one MW or less of capacity, we typically sell solar power systems rated up to one MW of capacity to provide a supplemental, distributed source of electricity for a customer's facility as well as ground mount systems reaching up to hundreds of MWs for regulated utilities. In the United States, many customers choose to purchase solar electricity under a power purchase agreement ("PPA") with an investor or financing company which buys the system from us. In Europe and the United States, our systems are often purchased by third-party investors as central-station solar power plants, typically rated from one to 25 MW, which generate electricity for sale under tariff to regional and public utilities. We additionally have large utility power plants currently under construction which when completed will have total rated capacities greater than 250MW. We also sell our solar panels and balance of systems components under materials-only sales contracts in the United States, Europe and Asia. Our revenue recognition policies are described in more detail under "Critical Accounting Estimates."

Cost of Revenue

Our cost of revenue will fluctuate from period to period due to the mix of projects completed and recognized as revenue, in particular between large utility projects and large commercial installation projects. The cost of solar panels is the single largest cost element in our cost of revenue. Our cost of solar panels consists primarily of: (i) polysilicon, silicon ingots and wafers used in the production of solar cells, along with other materials such as chemicals and gas that are needed to transform silicon wafers into solar cells; (ii) raw materials such as glass, frame, backing and other materials; (iii) solar cells from our AUO SunPower Sdn. Bhd. ("AUOSP") joint venture; as well as (iv) direct labor costs and assembly costs we pay to our third-party contract manufacturers in California and China. Other cost of revenue associated with the construction of solar power systems includes real estate, mounting systems, inverters, third-party contract manufacturer costs, construction subcontract and dealer costs. In addition, other factors contributing to cost of revenue include amortization of other intangible assets, stock-based compensation, depreciation, provisions for estimated warranty claims, salaries, personnel-related costs, freight, royalties, facilities expenses, and manufacturing supplies associated with contracting revenue and solar cell fabrication as well as factory pre-operating costs associated with our manufacturing facilities. Such pre-operating costs included compensation and training costs for factory workers as well as utilities and consumable materials associated with preproduction activities.

We are targeting to improve cost of revenue over time as we implement cost reduction programs, improve our manufacturing processes, and grow our business to attain economies of scale on fixed costs. An expected reduction in cost of revenue based on manufacturing efficiencies, however, could be partially or completely offset by increased raw material costs.

Gross Margin

Our gross margin each quarter is affected by a number of factors, including average selling prices for our solar power products, the types of projects in progress, the gross margins estimated for those projects in progress, our product mix, our actual manufacturing costs, the utilization rate of our solar cell manufacturing facilities, and actual overhead costs.

Historically, revenue from materials-only sales contracts generate a higher gross margin percentage than revenue generated from turn-key solar power system contracts. Turn-key contracts generate higher revenue per watt as a result of the included EPC services, O&M services and power plant project development.

From time to time, we enter into agreements whereby the selling price for certain of our solar power products is fixed over a defined period. In addition, almost all of our construction contracts are fixed price contracts. However, we have in several instances obtained change orders that reimburse us for additional unexpected costs due to various reasons. We also have long-term agreements for polysilicon, ingots, wafers, and solar cells with suppliers, some with take-or-pay arrangements. An increase in our manufacturing costs and other project costs over such a defined period could have a negative impact on our overall gross margin. Our gross margin may also be impacted by fluctuations in manufacturing yield rates and certain adjustments for inventory reserves. Our inventory policy is described in more detail under "Critical Accounting Estimates."

Operating Expenses

Table of Contents

Our operating expenses include research and development ("R&D") expenses and sales, general and administrative ("SG&A") expenses, goodwill and other intangible asset impairment, and restructuring charges.

R&D expenses consist primarily of salaries and related personnel costs, depreciation of equipment and the cost of solar cells, solar panel materials, various prototyping materials, and services used for the development and testing of products. We expect our R&D expense to continually increase in absolute dollars as we continue to develop new processes to further improve the conversion efficiency of our solar cells and reduce their manufacturing cost, and as we develop new products to diversify our product offerings. R&D expense is reported net of any funding received under contracts with governmental agencies because such contracts are considered collaborative arrangements. These awards are typically structured such that only direct costs, R&D overhead, procurement overhead, and general and administrative expenses that satisfy government accounting regulations are reimbursed. In addition, our government awards from state agencies will usually require us to pay to the granting governmental agency certain royalties based on sales of products developed with government funding or economic benefit derived from incremental improvements funded. Royalties paid to governmental agencies are charged to cost of goods sold.

SG&A expense for our business consists primarily of salaries and related personnel costs, professional fees, insurance, and other selling and marketing expenses.

Goodwill and other intangible asset impairment primarily consists of impairment of goodwill as a result of our annual impairment test, performed in the third quarter of both fiscal 2012 and 2011, as we determined the carrying value of certain reporting units exceeded their fair value. Additionally, during the third quarter of both fiscal 2012 and 2011 we determined the carrying value of certain intangible assets in Europe were no longer recoverable. For additional details see Note 6 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Restructuring expense consists of four restructuring plans effected in both fiscal 2012 and 2011 in response to reductions in European government incentives, which had a significant impact on the global solar market, and to accelerate operating cost reduction and improve overall operating efficiency. Charges in connection with these plans relate to employee severance and benefits, lease termination costs, and legal and other related charges. For additional details, see Note 9 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Other Income (Expense), Net

Interest income represents interest income earned on our cash, cash equivalents, restricted cash, restricted cash equivalents, held-to-maturity securities and available-for-sale debt securities. Interest expense primarily relates to: (i) amortization expense recorded for warrants issued to Total in connection with the Liquidity Support Agreement executed in the first quarter of fiscal 2012; (ii) debt under our senior convertible debentures; (iii) fees for our outstanding letters of credit; (iv) outstanding term loans; (v) our revolving credit facilities; (vi) our mortgage loan; and (vii) customer advance payments. For additional details see Notes 8, 10, and 12 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Gain on deconsolidation of consolidated subsidiary is the result of the deconsolidation of AUOSP in the third quarter of fiscal 2010. Net gain on change in equity interest in unconsolidated investee refers to the value of our equity interests in Woongjin Energy Co., Ltd. ("Woongjin Energy") and First Philec Solar Corporation ("First Philec Solar") being adjusted upon dilutive events. Gain on sale of equity interest in unconsolidated investee represents net gains from the sale of our Woongjin Energy shares in the open market during second half of fiscal 2011. For additional details see Note 11 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Gain on mark-to-market derivatives during fiscal 2012, 2011 and 2010 relates to derivative instruments associated with our 4.50% senior cash convertible debentures ("4.50% debentures"): (i) the embedded cash conversion option;

(ii) the over-allotment option; (iii) the bond hedge transaction; and (iv) the warrant transactions. The changes in fair value of these derivatives are reported in our Consolidated Statement of Operations until such transactions settle or expire. The bond hedge and warrant transactions are meant to reduce our exposure to potential cash payments associated with the embedded cash conversion option. For additional details, see Note 12 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Gain on share lending arrangement relates to recovery of claims related to unreturned shares under our former share lending arrangement with Lehman Brothers International (Europe) Limited ("LBIE") following their bankruptcy.

Other, net consists primarily of gains or losses on foreign exchange and derivatives as well as gain on sale and impairment charges for certain available-for-sale securities and other investments.

Table of Contents

Income Taxes

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for temporary differences between financial statement and income tax bases of assets and liabilities. Valuation allowances are provided against deferred tax assets when management cannot conclude that it is more likely than not that some portion or all deferred tax assets will be realized. For additional details see Notes 1 and 14 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

We currently benefit from income tax holiday incentives in the Philippines in accordance with our subsidiary's registration with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority ("PEZA"), which provide that we pay no income tax in the Philippines for those operations subject to the ruling. Our current income tax holidays were granted as manufacturing lines were placed in service and thereafter expire within the current fiscal year, and we are in the process of or have applied for extensions and renewals upon expiration. We expect such approvals to be granted. We believe that if our Philippine tax holidays expire, (a) gross income attributable to activities covered by our PEZA registrations will be taxed at a 5% preferential rate, and (b) our Philippine net income attributable to all other activities will be taxed at the statutory Philippine corporate income tax rate, currently 30%. An increase in our tax liability could materially and negatively affect our financial condition and results of operations.

We have an auxiliary company ruling in Switzerland where we sell our solar power products. The auxiliary company ruling results in a reduced effective Swiss tax rate of approximately 11.5%. The current ruling expires at the end of 2015. If the ruling is not renewed in 2015, Swiss income would be taxable at the full Swiss tax rate of approximately 24.2%.

For financial reporting purposes, during periods when we were a subsidiary of Cypress, income tax expense and deferred income tax balances were calculated as if we were a separate entity and had prepared our own separate tax return. Effective with the closing of our public offering of common stock in June 2006, we were no longer eligible to file federal and most state consolidated tax returns with Cypress. As of September 29, 2008, Cypress completed a spin-off of all of its shares of our former class B common stock to its shareholders, so we are no longer eligible to file any remaining state consolidated tax returns with Cypress. Under our tax sharing agreement with Cypress, we agreed to pay Cypress for any federal and state income tax credit or net operating loss carryforwards utilized in our federal and state tax returns in subsequent periods that originated while our results were included in Cypress's federal tax returns.

Equity in Earnings of Unconsolidated Investees

In fiscal 2006, we entered into an agreement to form Woongjin Energy, a jointly owned entity located in South Korea, to manufacture monocrystalline silicon ingots. In fiscal 2007, we entered into an agreement to form First Philec Solar, a jointly owned entity located in the Philippines, to provide wafer slicing services of silicon ingots. In fiscal 2010, we entered into a joint venture agreement with AU Optronics Singapore Pte. Ltd. ("AUO"), and AU Optronics Corporation, the ultimate parent company of AUO ("AUO Taiwan") to form AUOSP, a joint venture to construct a solar cell manufacturing facility ("FAB3") in Malaysia which manufactures and sells solar cells on a "cost-plus" basis to us and AUO. FAB3 became operational in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010. We account for these investments using the equity method, in which the equity investments are classified as "Other long-term assets" in the Consolidated Balance Sheets and our share of the investees' earnings (loss) is included in "Equity in earnings (loss) of unconsolidated investees" in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. During fiscal 2011, we sold 15.5 million shares of Woongjin Energy on the open market subsequently reducing our percentage equity ownership in Woongjin Energy from 31% to 6%. During the first quarter of fiscal 2012, we sold our remaining shares of Woongjin Energy on the open market and as a result our percentage equity ownership and investment carrying balance was reduced to zero. For additional details see Note 11 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Income from Discontinued Operations, Net of Taxes

In connection with our strategic acquisition of SunRay Malta Holdings Limited ("SunRay") in March 2010, we acquired a project company, Cassiopea PV S.r.l ("Cassiopea"), operating a previously completed 20 MW solar power plant in Montalto di Castro, Italy. In the period in which our asset is classified as held-for-sale, we are required to segregate for all periods presented the related assets, liabilities, and results of operations associated with that asset as discontinued operations. In August 2010, we sold Cassiopea, including all related assets and liabilities. Cassiopea's results of operations for fiscal 2010 are classified as "Income from discontinued operations, net of taxes" in our Consolidated Statement of Operations.

Critical Accounting Estimates

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based on our financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States ("U.S. GAAP").

Table of Contents

The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue, and expenses. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions. In addition to our most critical estimates and judgments as discussed below, we also have other key accounting policies that are less subjective and, therefore, judgments in their application would not have a material impact on our reported results of operations (See Note 1 of Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements).

Revenue Recognition

Solar Power Products

We sell our solar panels and balance of system components primarily to dealers, system integrators and distributors, and recognize revenue, net of accruals for estimated sales returns, when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, delivery of the product has occurred, title and risk of loss has passed to the customer, the sales price is fixed or determinable, collectability of the resulting receivable is reasonably assured and the risks and rewards of ownership have passed to the customer. Other than standard warranty obligations, there are no rights of return and there are no significant post-shipment obligations, including installation, training or customer acceptance clauses with any of our customers that could have an impact on revenue recognition. Our revenue recognition policy is consistent across all geographic areas.

Construction Contracts

Revenue is also comprised of EPC projects which are governed by customer contracts that require us to deliver functioning solar power systems and are generally completed within three to twelve months from commencement of construction. Construction on large projects may be completed within eighteen to thirty six months, depending on the size. We recognize revenue from fixed price construction contracts, that do not include land or land rights, using the percentage-of-completion method of accounting. Under this method, revenue arising from fixed price construction contracts is recognized as work is performed based on the percentage of incurred costs to estimated total forecasted costs.

Incurred costs used in our percentage-of-completion calculation include all direct material, labor, subcontract costs, and those indirect costs related to contract performance, such as indirect labor, supplies, and tools. Project material costs are included in incurred costs when the project materials have been installed by being permanently attached or fitted to the solar power system as required by the project's engineering design.

In addition to an EPC deliverable, a limited number of arrangements also include multiple deliverables such as post-installation systems monitoring and maintenance. For contracts with separately priced monitoring and maintenance, we recognize revenue related to such separately priced elements over the contract period. For contracts including monitoring and maintenance not separately priced, we determined that post-installation systems monitoring and maintenance qualify as separate units of accounting. Such post-installation monitoring and maintenance are deferred at the time the contract is executed based on the best estimate of selling price on a standalone basis and are recognized to revenue over the contractual term. The remaining EPC revenue is recognized on a percentage-of-completion basis.

In addition, when arrangements include contingent revenue clauses such as customer termination or put rights for non-performance, we defer the contingent revenue until such time as the contingencies expire. In certain limited cases, we could be required to buy-back a customer's system at fair value on specified future dates if certain minimum

performance thresholds are not met for periods of up to two years. To date, no such repurchase obligations have been triggered.

Provisions for estimated losses on uncompleted contracts, if any, are recognized in the period in which the loss first becomes probable and reasonably estimable. Contracts may include profit incentives such as milestone bonuses. These profit incentives are included in the contract value when their realization is reasonably assured.

Development Projects

We develop and sell solar power plants which generally include the sale or lease of related real estate. Revenue recognition for these solar power plants require adherence to specific guidance for real estate sales, which provides that if we execute a sale of land in conjunction with an EPC contract requiring the future development of the property, we recognize revenue and the corresponding costs under the full accrual method when all of the following requirements are met: the sale is

Table of Contents

consummated, the buyer's initial and any continuing investments are adequate, the resulting receivables are not subject to subordination, the future costs to develop the property can be reasonably estimated and we have transferred the customary risk and rewards of ownership to the buyer. In general, a sale is consummated upon the execution of an agreement documenting the terms of the sale and a minimum initial payment by the buyer to substantiate the transfer of risk to the buyer. Depending on the value of the initial continuing investment of the buyer, and provided the recovery of the costs of the solar power plant are assured if the buyer defaults, we may defer revenue and profit during construction by aligning our revenue recognition and release of deferred project costs to cost of sales with the receipt of payment from the buyer. At the time we have unconditionally received payment from the buyer, revenue would be recognized and deferred project costs would be release to cost of sales at the same rate of profit estimated throughout the construction of the project. Our revenue recognition methods for solar power plants not involving real estate are accounted for using the percentage-of-completion method.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts and Sales Returns

We maintain allowances for doubtful accounts for estimated losses resulting from the inability of our customers to make required payments. A considerable amount of judgment is required to assess the likelihood of the ultimate realization of accounts receivables. We make our estimates of the collectability of our accounts receivable by analyzing historical bad debts, specific customer creditworthiness and current economic trends.

In addition, at the time revenue is recognized from the sale of solar panels and balance of system components, we record estimates for sales returns which reduce revenue. These estimates are based on historical sales returns, analysis of credit memo data, and other known factors. Actual returns could differ from these estimates.

Warranty Reserves

We generally warrant or guarantee the performance of our solar panels that we manufacture at certain levels of power output for 25 years. In addition, we pass through to customers long-term warranties from the original equipment manufacturers

("OEMs") of certain system components, such as inverters. Warranties of 25 years from solar panel suppliers are standard in the solar industry, while inverters typically carry warranty periods ranging from 5 to 10 years. In addition, we generally warrant our workmanship on installed systems for periods ranging up to 10 years. We maintain reserves to cover the expected costs that could result from these warranties. Our expected costs are generally in the form of product replacement or repair. Warranty reserves are based on our best estimate of such costs and are recognized as a cost of revenue. We continuously monitor product returns for warranty failures and maintain a reserve for the related warranty expenses based on various factors including historical warranty claims, results of accelerated lab testing, field monitoring, vendor reliability estimates, and data on industry averages for similar products. Historically, warranty costs have been within management's expectations. For additional details see Note 10 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Valuation of Inventories

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost or market value. We evaluate the recoverability of our inventories based on assumptions about expected demand and market conditions. Our assumption of expected demand is developed based on our analysis of bookings, sales backlog, sales pipeline, market forecast and competitive intelligence. Our assumption of expected demand is compared to available inventory, production capacity, available third-party inventory and growth plans. Our factory production plans, which drive materials requirement planning, are established based on our assumptions of expected demand. We respond to reductions in expected demand by temporarily reducing manufacturing output and adjusting expected valuation assumptions as necessary. In addition, expected demand by geography has changed historically due to changes in the availability and size of government mandates and economic

incentives.

We evaluate the terms of our long-term agreements with suppliers, including joint ventures, for the procurement of polysilicon, ingots, wafers, and solar cells and establish accruals for estimated losses on adverse purchase commitments as necessary, such as lower of cost of market value adjustments, forfeiture of advanced deposits and liquidated damages.

Other market conditions that could impact the realizable value of our inventories and are periodically evaluated by management include the aging of inventories on hand, historical inventory turnover ratio, anticipated sales price, new product development schedules, the effect new products might have on the sale of existing products, product obsolescence, customer concentrations, product merchantability, and other factors. If we determine that the cost of inventories exceeds its estimated market value based on assumptions about expected demand and market conditions, we record a write-down equal to the difference between the cost of inventories and the estimated market value. If actual market conditions are less favorable than those projected by management, additional inventory write-downs may be required that could negatively impact our gross margin and operating results. If actual market conditions are more favorable, we may have higher gross margin when products

58

Table of Contents

that have been previously written down are sold in the normal course of business. For additional details see Note 7 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Stock-Based Compensation

We provide share-based awards to our employees, executive officers and directors through various equity compensation plans including our employee stock option and restricted stock plans. We measure and record compensation expense for all share-based payment awards based on estimated fair values. The fair value of restricted stock awards and units is based on the market price of our common stock on the date of grant. We have not granted stock options subsequent to fiscal 2008.

We are required under current accounting guidance to estimate forfeitures at the date of grant. Our estimate of forfeitures is based on our historical activity, which we believe is indicative of expected forfeitures. In subsequent periods if the actual rate of forfeitures differs from our estimate, the forfeiture rates may be revised, as necessary. Changes in the estimated forfeiture rates can have a significant effect on share-based compensation expense since the effect of adjusting the rate is recognized in the period the forfeiture estimate is changed.

We also grant performance share units to executive officers and certain employees that require us to estimate expected achievement of performance targets over the performance period. This estimate involves judgment regarding future expectations of various financial performance measures. If there are changes in our estimate of the level of financial performance measures expected to be achieved, the related share-based compensation expense may be significantly increased or reduced in the period that our estimate changes.

Investments in Equity Interests

Investments in entities in which we can exercise significant influence, but do not own a majority equity interest or otherwise control, are accounted for under the equity method. Such investments are classified as "Other long-term assets" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets and our share of the investees' earnings (loss) is included as "Equity in earnings of unconsolidated investees" on the Consolidated Statements of Operations. We record our share of the results of Woongjin Energy and First Philec Solar in the same quarter and the results of AUOSP with a one quarter lag. To calculate our share of the investees' income or loss, we adjust the net income (loss) of each investee to conform to U.S. GAAP and multiply that by our equity investment ownership percentage.

Variable Interest Entities ("VIE")

We regularly evaluate our relationships and involvement with unconsolidated VIEs, including our equity method investments and joint venture with AUOSP, to determine if we have a controlling financial interest or become the primary beneficiary requiring us to consolidate their financial results into our financial statements. We do not consolidate the financial results of our investees as we have concluded that we are not the primary beneficiary. Although we are obligated to absorb losses or have the right to receive benefits from the investees that are significant to the entities, such variable interests held by us do not empower us to direct the activities that most significantly impact their economic performance. For additional details see Note 11 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for discussions of equity method investments.

In connection with the sale of the equity interests in the entities that hold solar power plants, we also consider if we retain a variable interest in the entity sold, either through retaining a financial interest or by contractual means. If we determine that the entity sold is a VIE and that we hold a variable interest, we then evaluate whether we are the primary beneficiary. The entity that is the primary beneficiary consolidates the VIE. The determination of whether we are the primary beneficiary is based upon whether we have the power to direct the activities that most directly impact

the economic performance of the VIE and whether we absorb any losses or benefits that would be potentially significant to the VIE. To date, there have been no sales of entities holding solar power plants in which we have concluded that we are the primary beneficiary after the sale.

Accounting for Business Combinations

We record all acquired assets and liabilities, including goodwill, other intangible assets and in-process research and development, at fair value. The initial recording of goodwill, other intangible assets and in-process research and development requires certain estimates and assumptions concerning the determination of the fair values and useful lives. The judgments made in the context of the purchase price allocation can materially impact our future results of operations. Accordingly, for significant acquisitions, we obtain assistance from third-party valuation specialists. The valuations calculated from estimates are based on information available at the acquisition date. Goodwill is not amortized, but is subject to annual tests for impairment or more often if events or circumstances indicate it may be impaired. Other intangible assets are amortized over

Table of Contents

their estimated useful lives and are subject to impairment if events or circumstances indicate a possible inability to realize the carrying amount. For additional details see Notes 4 and 6 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Valuation of Long-Lived Assets

Our long-lived assets include property, plant and equipment, project assets and other intangible assets with finite lives. We evaluate our long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of such assets may not be recoverable. Factors considered important that could result in an impairment review include significant under-performance relative to expected historical or projected future operating results, significant changes in the manner of use of acquired assets and significant negative industry or economic trends. Our impairment evaluation of long-lived assets includes an analysis of estimated future undiscounted net cash flows expected to be generated by the assets over their remaining estimated useful lives. If our estimate of future undiscounted net cash flows is insufficient to recover the carrying value of the assets over the remaining estimated useful lives, we record an impairment loss in the amount by which the carrying value of the assets exceeds the fair value. Fair value is generally measured based on either quoted market prices, if available, or discounted cash flow analyses.

Goodwill Impairment Testing

Goodwill is tested for impairment at least annually, or more frequently if certain indicators are present. A two-step process is used to test for goodwill impairment. The first step is to determine if there is an indication of impairment by comparing the estimated fair value of each reporting unit to its carrying value, including existing goodwill. Goodwill is considered impaired if the carrying value of a reporting unit exceeds the estimated fair value. Upon an indication of impairment, a second step is performed to determine the amount of the impairment by comparing the implied fair value of the reporting unit's goodwill with its carrying value.

We conduct our annual impairment test of goodwill as of the Sunday closest to the end of the third fiscal quarter of each year. Impairment of goodwill is tested at our reporting unit level. Management determined that the Americas Segment, the EMEA Segment, and the APAC Segment are also the reporting units. In estimating the fair value of the reporting units, we make estimates and judgments about our future cash flows using an income approach defined as Level 3 inputs under fair value measurement standards. The income approach, specifically a discounted cash flow analysis, included assumptions for, among others, forecasted revenue, gross margin, operating income, working capital cash flow, perpetual growth rates and long-term discount rates, all of which require significant judgment by management. The sum of the fair values of our reporting units are also compared to our external market capitalization to determine the appropriateness of its assumptions and adjusted, if appropriate. These assumptions take into account the current industry environment and its impact on our business. In the event that management determines that the value of goodwill has become impaired, we will incur an accounting charge for the amount of the impairment during the fiscal quarter in which the determination is made. For additional details see Note 6 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Certain of our financial assets and financial liabilities, specifically our cash, cash equivalents, restricted cash, restricted cash equivalents, available-for-sale securities, foreign currency derivatives, interest rate swaps derivatives and convertible debenture derivatives are carried at fair value in our Consolidated Financial Statements. Accounting guidance defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. We enter into over-the-counter ("OTC") foreign currency derivatives and use standard valuation techniques to derive the value of option and forward currency contracts. In determining fair value, we use the market and income approaches. Current accounting guidance provides

a hierarchy for inputs used in measuring fair value that maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs by requiring that the observable inputs be used when available. Observable inputs are inputs that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on market data obtained from sources independent of us. Unobservable inputs are inputs that reflect our assumptions about market participants assumptions used in pricing the asset or liability, developed based on the best information available in the circumstances. As such, fair value is a market-based measure considered from the perspective of a market participant who holds the asset or owes the liability rather than an entity specific measure. The hierarchy is broken down into three levels based on the reliability of inputs as follows:

Level 1—Valuations based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that we have the ability to access. Since valuations are based on quoted prices that are readily and regularly available in an active market, valuation of these products does not entail a significant degree of judgment. Financial assets utilizing Level 1 inputs include money market funds.

Table of Contents

Level 2—Valuations based on quoted prices in markets that are not active or for which all significant inputs are observable, directly or indirectly. Financial assets utilizing Level 2 inputs include bank notes, debt securities, foreign currency option contracts, forward exchange contracts, interest rate swaps derivatives and convertible debenture derivatives. The selection of a particular technique to value a derivative depends upon the contractual term of, and specific risks inherent with, the instrument as well as the availability of pricing information in the market. We generally use similar techniques to value similar instruments. Valuation techniques utilize a variety of inputs, including contractual terms, market prices, yield curves, credit curves and measures of volatility. For derivatives that trade in liquid markets, such as generic forward, option and swap contracts, inputs can generally be verified and selections do not involve significant management judgment.

Level 3—Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement. We did not have any assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis requiring Level 3 inputs.

Availability of observable inputs can vary from instrument to instrument and to the extent that valuation is based on inputs that are less observable or unobservable in the market, the determination of fair value requires more judgment. Accordingly, the degree of judgment exercised by our management in determining fair value is greatest for instruments categorized in Level 3. In certain cases, the inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, for disclosure purposes the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement in its entirety falls is determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

Unrealized gains and losses of our available-for-sale securities and the effective portion of foreign currency derivatives are excluded from earnings and reported as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. To the extent our foreign currency derivatives are not effective hedges, unrealized gains or losses are included in earnings. Similarly, the change in fair value of our interest rate swaps derivatives and convertible debenture derivatives are included in earnings. Additionally, we assess whether an other-than-temporary impairment loss on our available-for-sale securities has occurred due to declines in fair value or other market conditions. Declines in fair value that are considered other-than temporary are recorded in "Other, net" in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

In general, investments with original maturities of greater than ninety days and remaining maturities of one year or less are classified as short-term investments. Investments with maturities beyond one year may also be classified as short-term based on their highly liquid nature and because such investments represent the investment of cash that is available for current operations. For additional details see Note 8 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Valuation of Certain Convertible Debt

Convertible debt instruments that may be settled in cash upon conversion require recognition of both the liability and equity components in the Consolidated Financial Statements. The debt component is required to be recognized at the fair value of a similar debt instrument that does not have an associated equity component. The equity component is recognized as the difference between the proceeds from the issuance of the convertible debt and the fair value of the liability, after adjusting for the deferred tax impact. The accounting guidance also requires an accretion of the resulting debt discount over the expected life of the convertible debt.

Accounting for Income Taxes

Our global operations involve manufacturing, R&D, selling and project development activities. Profit from non-U.S. activities is subject to local country taxation, but not subject to United States tax until repatriated to the United States.

It is our intention to indefinitely reinvest these earnings outside the United States. We record a valuation allowance to reduce our U.S. and French deferred tax assets to the amount that is more likely than not to be realized. In assessing the need for a valuation allowance, we consider historical levels of income, expectations and risks associated with the estimates of future taxable income and ongoing prudent and feasible tax planning strategies. In the event we determine that we would be able to realize additional deferred tax assets in the future in excess of the net recorded amount, or if we subsequently determine that realization of an amount previously recorded is unlikely, we would record an adjustment to the deferred tax asset valuation allowance, which would change income tax in the period of adjustment. As of December 30, 2012, we believe there is insufficient evidence to realize additional deferred tax assets, although it is possible that a reversal of the valuation allowance, which could be material, could occur in fiscal 2013.

The calculation of tax liabilities involves dealing with uncertainties in the application of complex global tax regulations. We recognize potential liabilities for anticipated tax audit issues in the United States and other tax jurisdictions based on our

Table of Contents

estimate of whether, and the extent to which, additional taxes will be due. If payment of these amounts ultimately proves to be unnecessary, the reversal of the liabilities would result in tax benefits being recognized in the period in which we determine the liabilities are no longer necessary. If the estimate of tax liabilities proves to be less than the ultimate tax assessment, a further charge to expense would result. We accrue interest and penalties on tax contingencies which are classified as "Provision for income taxes" in the Consolidated Statements of Operations and are not considered material. For additional details see Note 14 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Pursuant to the Tax Sharing Agreement with Cypress, we are obligated to indemnify Cypress upon current utilization of carryforward tax attributes generated while we were part of the Cypress consolidated or combined group. Further, to the extent Cypress experiences any tax examination assessments attributable to our operations while part of the Cypress consolidated or combined group, Cypress will require an indemnification from us for those aspects of the assessment that relate to our operations. See also "Item 1A: Risk Factors" including "Our agreements with Cypress require us to indemnify Cypress for certain tax liabilities. These indemnification obligations and related contractual restrictions may limit our ability to pursue certain business initiatives."

In addition, foreign exchange gains (losses) may result from estimated tax liabilities which are expected to be realized in currencies other than the U.S. dollar.

Results of Operations

Revenue

(In thousands)	Year ended		January 1, 2012	January 2, 2011		
	December 30, 2012	% of total revenue		January 2, 2011	% of total revenue	
Americas	\$1,696,348	70%	\$1,266,347	53%	\$632,053	28%
EMEA	489,484	20%	924,337	39%	1,526,480	69%
APAC	231,669	10%	183,692	8%	60,697	3%
Total revenue	\$2,417,501	100%	\$2,374,376	100%	\$2,219,230	100%

Total Revenue: During fiscal 2012, 2011, and 2010 our total revenue was \$2,417.5 million, \$2,374.4 million, and \$2,219.2 million, respectively. The increase in total revenue of 2% in fiscal 2012 as compared to fiscal 2011 was primarily driven by revenue recognized on large scale utility projects in North America during fiscal 2012 partially offset by a decline in utility-scale solar projects and related revenue within the EMEA region as well as a 10% decrease in overall revenue per watt. In fiscal 2012 we recognized revenue on 862.7 MW as compared to 765.8 MW in fiscal 2011.

The increase in total revenue of 7% in fiscal 2011 as compared to fiscal 2010 was primarily attributable to revenue from the development of several large scale projects in North America and Europe, as well as the continuous growth of our third-party global dealer network in the geographical regions in which we do business. In fiscal 2011 we recognized revenue on 765.8 MW as compared to 558.5 MW in fiscal 2010. The increase in our total revenue was partially offset by a 22% decrease in overall revenue per watt.

Concentrations: Sales outside the Americas Segment represented approximately 30%, 47% and 72% of total revenue for fiscal 2012, 2011, and 2010, respectively. The decrease in the percentage of sales outside of the Americas Segment over all periods was primarily due to slowdown in project development and component shipments in Europe due to reductions in government incentives and decline in overall European economy, coupled with increasing demand in the United States for our solar power products due to additional federal and state initiatives supporting attractive solar incentives within the residential, commercial, and utility sectors.

The table below represents our significant customers which accounted for greater than 10 percent of total revenue during fiscal 2012, 2011, and 2010.

62

Table of Contents

		Year ended			
		December 30,		January 1, 2012	January 2, 2011
Revenue		2012			
Significant Customers:	Business Segment				
NRG Solar, Inc.	Americas	35	% *		*
Customer B	EMEA	*	*	12	%

* denotes less than 10% during the period

Americas Revenue: Americas revenue in fiscal 2012 increased 34% as compared to fiscal 2011 primarily as a result of an increase in the number and size of the various utility-scale solar power systems under construction, which includes the ramp up in construction of the 250 MW California Valley Solar Ranch ("CVSR") project in San Luis Obispo County, California; revenue recognized on the 579 MW Antelope Valley Solar Projects ("AVSP") in California; a 25 MW project in Modesto, California; and 20 MW project in North Carolina during fiscal 2012. The increase in Americas revenue in fiscal 2012 as compared to fiscal 2011 was partially offset by projects which were substantially completed during the interim period as well as a 52% decrease in component sales year over year. In fiscal 2012, we recognized 31.8 MW of component sales as compared to 66.9 MW in fiscal 2011.

Americas revenue in fiscal 2011 increased 100% as compared to fiscal 2010 primarily as a result of an increase in the number of utility-scale solar power systems under construction as well as an increase in component shipments. In fiscal 2011, we recognized revenue on 66.9 MW of components sales as compared to 7.6 MW in fiscal 2010. In fiscal 2011, we additionally recognized revenue under the percentage-of-completion method for several power plants, including three under construction in the United States, totaling 60 MW and the completion of a 20 MW solar plant in Ontario, Canada. Revenue recognition on project under construction in the Americas Segment during fiscal 2010 included a 20 MW solar power plant in Toronto, and a 17 MW solar power plant in Colorado.

EMEA Revenue: EMEA revenue in fiscal 2012 decreased 47% as compared to fiscal 2011 primarily due to the decline in utility-scale solar projects and related revenue as well as a decrease in components sales and average selling prices. In fiscal 2012, we recognized revenue on 24.1 MW of component sales as compared to 112.5 MW in fiscal 2011, which represents a 79% decrease in volume, period over period. The overall decline in our EMEA revenue was partially offset by \$103.9 million in revenue due to Tenesol's results of operations being incorporated into our financial results for year ended December 30, 2012.

EMEA revenue in fiscal 2011 decreased 39% as compared to fiscal 2010 primarily due to the decline in utility-scale solar power projects and related revenue driven by changes in European government incentives which had a materially negative effect on the market within the region. In the second half of fiscal 2010, we completed the sale of 44 MW and 8 MW solar power plants in Montalto di Castro, Italy as well as a 13 MW solar power plant in Anguillara, Italy and further recognized revenue under the percentage-of-completion method for several power plants totaling 28 MW in the Sicily region and Piedmont region of Italy.

APAC Revenue: APAC revenue in fiscal 2012 increased 26% as compared to fiscal 2011, primarily due to an increase in component sales partially offset by a reduction in systems revenue. In fiscal 2012, we recognized revenue on 120.4 MW of component sales as compared to 50 MW in fiscal 2011, which represents a 141% increase in volume year over year. This increase was partially offset by a decrease in systems revenue due to a shift in demand for our solar products in the residential and commercial markets coupled with an overall decrease in revenue per watt in the region.

APAC revenue in fiscal 2011 increased 203% as compared to fiscal 2010 primarily due to an increase in component sales. In fiscal 2011, we recognized revenue on 50.0 MW of component sales as compared to 23.6 MW in fiscal 2010, which represents a 112% increase in volume year over year.

Cost of Revenue

63

Table of Contents

(In thousands)	Year ended			
	December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012	January 2, 2011	
Americas	\$1,415,417	\$1,131,771	\$502,780	
EMEA	559,993	868,330	1,159,115	
APAC	195,693	148,057	47,442	
Total cost of revenue	\$2,171,103	\$2,148,158	\$1,709,337	
Total cost of revenue as a percentage of revenue	90	% 90	% 77	%
Total gross margin percentage	10	% 10	% 23	%

Total Cost of Revenue: During fiscal 2012, 2011, and 2010 total cost of revenue was \$2,171.1 million, \$2,148.2 million, and \$1,709.3 million, respectively. The 1% increase in fiscal 2012 as compared to fiscal 2011 was due to (i) a 13% increase in total MW of solar power products sold; (ii) \$13.9 million of accelerated depreciation of certain previously owned manufacturing equipment implemented as part of a manufacturing step reduction program; and (iii) \$11.9 million of idle equipment impairment resulting from deployment of our next generation of solar cell technology. These increases were partially offset by an overall decrease in material costs as well as \$55.7 million of charges incurred in fiscal 2011 associated with the change in European government incentives, as described below.

The 26% increase in total cost of revenue in fiscal 2011 as compared to fiscal 2010 is primarily due to a 37% increase in total MW of solar power products sold. Additionally contributing to the increase in total cost of revenue is \$55.7 million in charges incurred in fiscal 2011 associated with the change in European government incentives, including (i) a \$16.0 million write-down of project asset costs based on changes in fair value and our ability to develop, commercialize and sell active projects within Europe, and (ii) \$39.7 million related to the write-down of third-party inventory and costs associated with the termination of third-party solar cell supply contracts resulting from lower demand and average selling price in certain areas of Europe. The increase in total cost of revenue is partially offset by lower material costs, higher yields as well as better factory utilization as a result of higher output generated at our manufacturing facilities and our AUOSP joint venture.

Gross Margin

(In thousands)	Year ended		
	December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012	January 2, 2011
Americas	17%	11%	20%
EMEA	(14)%	6%	24%
APAC	16%	19%	22%

Americas Gross Margin: Gross margin for our Americas Segment increased to 17% in fiscal 2012 from 11% in fiscal 2011. The increase in gross margin over the respective period is primarily driven by increased revenue from large utility-scale solar power systems under construction combined with lower material costs, partially offset by industry declines in average selling prices. Gross margin for our Americas Segment decreased to 11% in fiscal 2011 from 20% in fiscal 2010. The decrease in gross margin over the respective period is primarily due to declines in average selling prices as well as \$20.8 million of charges recorded during fiscal 2011 related to the write-down of third-party inventory and costs associated with the termination of above-market third party solar cell supply contracts, partially offset by an increase in component sales, which historically had higher margin percentages than our utility projects.

EMEA Gross Margin: Gross margin for our EMEA Segment decreased over both periods as a result of declines in government incentives resulting in changes in market demand. The changes in demand, general financing constraints experienced in the European economy, and the over-supply environment continued to significantly drive down average selling prices throughout the region in fiscal 2012. In fiscal 2011, the EMEA Segment additionally recorded

\$32.3 million of charges related to write-down of project asset costs to estimated fair value based on changes in our ability to develop, commercialize, and sell active projects, as well as the write-down of third-party inventory and costs associated with the termination of above-market third party solar cell supply contracts.

APAC Gross Margin: Gross margin for our APAC Segment decreased over both periods primarily as a result of declining average selling prices, partially offset by lower material costs and additional volumes of higher margin component sales.

Table of Contents

Research and Development ("R&D")

(In thousands)	Year ended			
	December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012	January 2, 2011	
R&D Expense	\$63,456	\$57,775	\$49,090	
As a percentage of revenue	3	% 2	% 2	%

The overall increase in our investment in R&D over all periods primarily resulted from costs related to the improvement of our current generation solar cell manufacturing technology, development of our next generation of solar cells, solar panels, trackers and rooftop systems, and development of systems performance monitoring products as well as operating expenses related to Tenesol which were incorporated into our financial results for the fiscal period 2012.

R&D expense increased \$5.7 million or 10% in fiscal 2012 as compared to fiscal 2011 primarily due to (i) a \$3.3 million increase in labor costs due to increased headcount and salary related expenses during the year; (ii) a \$2.2 million increase due to an impairment of equipment recorded as a result of changes in the deployment plan for our next generation of solar cell technology in one of our Fabs; (iii) a \$0.8 million decrease in R&D cost reimbursements received from government entities due to phase out of related programs beginning in 2010; and (iv) a \$0.5 million increase in other net expenses. This was partially offset by a \$1.1 million decrease in stock-based compensation due to lower valuation of stock grants as a result of the decline in our share price.

R&D expense increased \$8.7 million or 18% in fiscal 2011 over fiscal 2010 primarily due to (i) a \$5.9 million increase primarily due to additional costs related to the improvement of our current generation solar cell manufacturing technology, development of our next generation of solar cells, solar panels, trackers and rooftop systems, and development of systems performance monitoring products; and (ii) a \$4.1 million decrease in R&D cost reimbursements received from government entities due to phase out of related programs in 2010. This was partially offset by a \$1.4 million decrease in stock-based compensation due to lower valuation of stock grants as a result of the decline in our share price.

Sales, General and Administrative ("SG&A")

(In thousands)	Year ended			
	December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012	January 2, 2011	
Total SG&A	\$310,246	\$331,380	\$321,936	
As a percentage of revenue	13	% 14	% 15	%

During fiscal 2012, 2011 and 2010, SG&A expense was \$310.2 million, \$331.4 million, and \$321.9 million, respectively. SG&A, as a percentage of revenue, decreased over all periods primarily as a result of our cost-control strategy implemented in response to the changes in the European market and resulting restructuring, including the overall reduction of consulting charges in Europe and the United States.

SG&A expense decreased \$21.1 million or 6% in fiscal 2012 as compared to fiscal 2011 primarily due to (i) a \$15.5 million decrease in amortization of intangible assets due to \$40.3 million of impairment of certain assets related to strategic acquisitions of EPC and O&M project pipelines in Europe recorded at the end of the third quarter of fiscal 2011; (ii) an \$8.4 million decrease in acquisition and integration related costs which were primarily incurred in the second quarter of fiscal 2011 as a result of the Total tender offer; (iii) a \$10.0 million decrease in personnel costs as a result of the implementation of approved restructuring plans; (iv) a \$16.6 million reduction in bad debt expense as a result of collection efforts for accounts receivable related to select European customers that were previously reserved

based upon the then market condition in European economy; (v) a \$5.7 million decrease in consulting and outside services due to cost reduction initiatives; and (vi) a \$0.6 million increase in other expenses. The overall decrease was partially offset by (i) a charge of \$19.7 million for the securities class action settlement in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2012 and (ii) a \$16.0 million increase for Tenesol's operating expenses which were incorporated into our financial results for the period.

SG&A expense increased \$9.4 million or 3% in fiscal 2011 as compared to fiscal 2010 and was primarily due to (i) \$11.7 million in operating expenses related to Tenesol which were incorporated into our financial results during fiscal 2011; (ii) transaction expenses of \$13.9 million incurred in connection with the April 2011 Tender Offer Agreement with Total as well as

Table of Contents

related integration costs; (iii) \$11.0 million in additional personnel related expenses as a result of net increase in headcount; (iv) additional bad debt expense of \$9.8 million related to several customers impacted by the recent changing market conditions in Europe; and (v) a \$9.3 million increase in other expenses. This increase was partially offset by (i) a \$11.9 million reduction in consulting charges in Europe and the United States as a result of our cost-control strategy implemented in response to the changes in the European market and the resulting restructuring; (ii) a \$13.2 million reduction in legal and other professional services as significant acquisition and integration related costs which were incurred as part of our acquisition of SunRay in March 2010 as well as with our Audit Committee's independent investigation of certain accounting entries in our Philippines operations; (iii) a \$8.9 million decrease due to amortization of our promissory notes reported in 2010; (iv) a \$6.9 million decrease due to amortization of other intangible assets reported in 2010; and (v) a decrease in stock based compensation due to lower valuation of stock grants as a result of the decline in our share price.

Goodwill and Other Intangible Asset Impairment

(In thousands)	Year ended		
	December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012	January 2, 2011
Goodwill impairment	\$46,734	\$309,457	\$—
Other intangible assets impairment	12,847	40,301	—
	\$59,581	\$349,758	\$—
As a percentage of revenue	2	% 15	% —

Based on the impairment test performed in the third quarter of fiscal 2012, we determined that the carrying value of the Americas and EMEA reporting units exceeded their fair value. We calculated that the implied fair value of goodwill for the two reporting units was zero and therefore recorded a goodwill impairment loss of \$46.7 million, representing all of the goodwill associated with these reporting units. Based on the impairment test performed in the third quarter of 2011, we recorded a goodwill impairment loss of \$309.5 million related to the EMEA segment (see Note 6 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements).

During the third quarter of fiscal 2012, we determined that the carrying value of certain intangible assets in Europe were no longer recoverable and therefore recognized an impairment loss of \$12.8 million. During the first quarter of fiscal 2011, we determined the carrying value of certain intangible assets related to strategic acquisitions of EPC and O&M project pipelines in Europe were no longer recoverable and therefore recognized an impairment loss of \$40.3 million in the year ended January 1, 2012 (see Note 6 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements).

Restructuring Charges

(In thousands)	Year ended		
	December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012	January 2, 2011
October 2012 Plan	\$30,227	\$—	\$—
April 2012 Plan	61,379	—	—
December 2011 Plan	7,946	7,477	—
June 2011 Plan	1,271	13,926	—
Restructuring charges	\$100,823	\$21,403	\$—
As a percentage of revenue	4	% 1	% —

October 2012 Plan: On October 12, 2012, our Board of Directors approved a reorganization (the "October 2012 Plan") to accelerate operating cost reduction and improve overall operating efficiency. In connection with the October 2012 Plan, which is expected to be completed within the twelve months following approval, we expect to eliminate approximately 900 positions primarily in the Philippines, representing approximately 15% of our global workforce.

As a result, we expect to record restructuring charges totaling \$33.0 million to \$40.0 million, related to all segments. Such charges are composed of severance benefits, lease and related termination costs, and other associated costs, \$30.2 million of which were recorded in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2012. We expect greater than 90% of these charges to be cash.

April 2012 Plan: As a result of our continued cost reduction progress at its Fab 2 and our joint venture Fab 3 manufacturing facilities, on April 13, 2012, our Board of Directors approved a restructuring plan (the "April 2012 Plan") to

Table of Contents

consolidate our Philippine manufacturing operations into Fab 2 and begin repurposing Fab 1 in the second quarter of 2012. We expect to recognize restructuring charges up to \$63.0 million, related to all segments, in the twelve months following the approval and implementation of the April 2012 Plan. We expect greater than 80% of these charges to be non-cash.

December 2011 Plan: To accelerate operating cost reduction and improve overall operating efficiency, in December 2011, we implemented a company-wide restructuring program (the "December 2011 Plan"). The December 2011 Plan eliminated approximately 2% of SunPower's global workforce. Restructuring activities associated with the December 2011 Plan were substantially completed as of December 30, 2012.

June 2011 Plan: In response to reductions in European government incentives, which had a significant impact on the global solar market, on June 13, 2011, our Board of Directors approved a restructuring plan (the "June 2011 Plan") to realign our resources. The June 2011 Plan eliminated approximately 2% of SunPower's global workforce, in addition to the consolidation or closure of certain facilities in Europe. Restructuring activities associated with the June 2011 Plan were substantially completed as of December 30, 2012.

See Note 9 of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for further information regarding our restructuring plans.

Other Income (Expense), Net

(In thousands)	Year ended		
	December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012	January 2, 2011
Interest income	\$1,091	\$2,337	1,541
Interest expense	(84,120)	(67,253)	(55,276)
Gain on sale of equity interest in unconsolidated investee	—	5,937	—
Gain on change in equity interest in unconsolidated investee	—	322	28,078
Gain on share lending arrangement	50,645	—	24,000
Gain on deconsolidation of consolidated subsidiary	—	—	36,849
Gain on mark-to-market derivative	4	343	35,764
Other, net	(9,575)	(10,120)	(26,410)
Other income (expense), net	\$(41,955)	\$(68,434)	44,546
As a percentage of revenue	(2)%	(3)%	2%

Other expense, net decreased \$26.5 million, or 39%, in fiscal 2012 as compared to fiscal 2011. The overall decrease was primarily driven by a \$50.6 million gain related to the recovery of claims related to unreturned shares under our former share lending arrangement with LBIE following their bankruptcy. This was partially offset by, (i) a \$16.9 million increase in interest expense primarily due to the non-cash interest expenses as a result of amortization expense recorded for warrants issued to Total in connection with the Liquidity Support Agreement executed in the first quarter of fiscal 2012; (ii) a \$5.9 million cash gain from the sale of 15.5 million shares of Woongjin Energy Co. Ltd., which was recorded in 2011; and (iii) an increase in other net expenses totaling \$1.3 million.

Other expense, net increased \$113.0 million, or 254%, in fiscal 2011 as compared to fiscal 2010. The overall increase was primarily driven by (i) a non-cash gain of \$36.8 million as a result of the deconsolidation of AUOSP recorded in 2010; (ii) a \$35.8 million gain on mark-to-market derivatives during fiscal 2010 related to the change in fair value of the embedded cash conversion option, the over-allotment option, the bond hedge transaction, and the warrant transaction associated with the 4.50% debentures recorded in 2010; (iii) a \$28.1 million non-cash gain due to the dilution of our equity interest of our equity interest in Woongjin Energy as a result of Woongjin Energy's issuance of additional equity to other investor recorded in 2010; (iv) a \$24.0 million gain related to the recovery of claims related

to unreturned shares under our former share lending arrangement with LBIE following their bankruptcy recorded in 2010; (v) a \$12.0 million increase in interest expense due to additional indebtedness related to our 4.50% senior cash convertible debentures, and various borrowings made in 2010 and 2011. This was partially offset by (i) a \$5.9 million cash gain from the sale of 15.5 million shares of Woongjin Energy; (ii) a \$30.2 million favorable change in gain (loss) on derivatives and foreign exchange period over period primarily resulting from expensing the time value of option contracts and forward points on forward exchange contracts of effective cash flow hedges; and (iii) other net favorable changes totaling \$12.8 million including changes in fair value of our investment in unconsolidated investees given the overall economy and solar market conditions.

Table of Contents

Income Taxes

(In thousands)	Year ended		
	December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012	January 2, 2011
Provision for income taxes	\$(21,842)	\$(17,208)	\$(23,375)
As a percentage of revenue	(1)%	(1)%	(1)%

In fiscal 2012, our income tax provision of \$21.8 million, on a loss before income taxes and equity in earnings (losses) of unconsolidated investees of \$329.7 million was due to foreign income in certain jurisdictions where our operations were profitable, adjustments to unrecognized tax benefits, prior year return to provision adjustments and a valuation allowance recorded against a foreign deferred tax asset. In fiscal 2011, our income tax provision of \$17.2 million, on a loss from continuing operations of \$602.5 million, was primarily due to foreign income in certain jurisdictions where our operations were profitable. In fiscal 2010, our income tax provision of \$23.4 million on income from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in earnings of unconsolidated investees of \$183.4 million was primarily due to the mix of income earned in domestic and foreign jurisdictions, nondeductible amortization of purchased other intangible assets, non deductible equity compensation, amortization of debt discount from convertible debentures, gain on change in equity interest in Woongjin Energy, mark-to-market fair value adjustments, changes in the valuation allowance on deferred tax assets, and discrete stock option deductions.

A material amount of our total revenue is generated from customers located outside of the United States, and a substantial portion of our assets and employees are located outside of the United States. United States income taxes and foreign withholding taxes have not been provided on the undistributed earnings of our non-United States subsidiaries as such earnings are intended to be indefinitely reinvested in operations outside the United States to extent that such earnings have not been currently or previously subjected to taxation of the United States.

We record a valuation allowance to reduce our United States and French deferred tax assets to the amount that is more likely than not to be realized. In assessing the need for a valuation allowance, we consider historical levels of income, expectations and risks associated with the estimates of future taxable income and ongoing prudent and feasible tax planning strategies. In the event we determine that we would be able to realize additional deferred tax assets in the future in excess of the net recorded amount, or if we subsequently determine that realization of an amount previously recorded is unlikely, we would record an adjustment to the deferred tax asset valuation allowance, which would change income tax in the period of adjustment. As of December 30, 2012, we believe there is insufficient evidence to realize additional deferred tax assets in fiscal 2012.

Equity in Earnings (Loss) of Unconsolidated Investees

(In thousands)	Year ended		
	December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012	January 2, 2011
Equity in earnings (loss) of unconsolidated investees	\$(515)	\$6,003	6,845
As a percentage of revenue	—	% 0.3	% 0.3

In fiscal 2012, 2011, and 2010, our equity in earnings of unconsolidated investees was a net loss of \$0.5 million, net gains of \$6.0 million, and net gains of \$6.8 million, respectively. The increase in net loss for fiscal 2012 over fiscal 2011 is primarily attributable to the sale of our equity ownership in Woongjin Energy during fiscal 2011 and the first quarter of fiscal 2012. The decrease in net earnings for fiscal 2011 over fiscal 2010 is primarily attributable a decrease in our equity share of Woongjin Energy's earnings, partially offset by a decrease in our share of losses from our AUOSP investment.

Income from Discontinued Operations, Net of Taxes

Edgar Filing: SUNPOWER CORP - Form 10-K

(In thousands)	Year ended		
	December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012	January 2, 2011
Income from discontinued operations, net of taxes	\$—	\$—	\$11,841
As a percentage of revenue	—	% —	% 1

68

Table of Contents

In connection with our acquisition of SunRay on March 26, 2010, we acquired a European project company, Cassiopea PV S.r.l ("Cassiopea"), operating a previously completed 20 MW solar power plant in Montalto di Castro, Italy. In the period in which our asset is classified as held-for-sale, we are required to segregate for all periods presented the related assets, liabilities and results of operations associated with that asset as discontinued operations. On August 5, 2010, we sold the assets and liabilities of Cassiopea. Therefore, results of operations were classified as "Income from discontinued operations, net of taxes" in the Consolidated Statement of Operations in the year ended January 2, 2011.

Net Income (Loss)

(In thousands)	Year ended		
	December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012	January 2, 2011
Net income (loss)	\$ (352,020)	\$ (613,737)	\$ 178,724

Our net loss decreased \$261.7 million, or 42.64%, in fiscal 2012 over fiscal 2011. The decrease in net loss in fiscal 2012 versus 2011 is primarily driven by: (i) a \$290.2 million decrease in goodwill and other intangible asset impairment; (ii) a \$50.6 million gain related to the recovery of claims related to unreturned shares under our former share lending arrangement with LBIE following their bankruptcy; and (iii) a \$15.5 million decrease in other operating expenses attributable to our cost-control strategy implemented in response to the changes in the European market and resulting restructuring. This was partially offset by \$79.4 million of additional charges associated with the implementation of approved restructuring programs and a \$16.9 million increase in interest expense primarily as a result of amortization of warrants, which were issued to Total in connection with the Liquidity Support Agreement executed in the first quarter of fiscal 2012. Information about other significant variances in our results of operations is described above.

Our net loss increased by \$792.5 million, or 443.40%, in fiscal 2011 over fiscal 2010. The increase in net loss in fiscal 2011 is primarily driven by: (i) \$283.7 million decrease in gross profit due to margin erosion associated with the decline in European government incentives and resulting oversupply in the market, (ii) \$349.8 million of goodwill and other intangible asset impairment; (iii) restructuring charges totaling \$21.4 million; and (iv) \$124.7 million of non-cash gains recorded in fiscal 2010.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Cash Flows

A summary of the sources and uses of cash and cash equivalents is as follows:

(In thousands)	Year ended		
	December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012	January 2, 2011
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities of continuing operations	\$ 28,903	\$ (94,304)	\$ 168,402
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities of continuing operations	(220,067)	64,040	(461,360)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities of continuing operations	(75,708)	157,108	244,045

Operating Activities

Net cash provided in operating activities of continuing operations in fiscal 2012 was \$28.9 million and was primarily the result of: (i) a non-cash loss of \$77.8 million on retirement of property, plant and equipment as primarily the result of our restructuring plan regarding Fab 1 consolidation and changes in the deployment plan for our next generation of solar cell technology; (ii) a \$65.7 million increase in customer advance due to additional prepayments received from AUOSP; (iii) non-cash impairment charges totaling \$59.6 million associated with goodwill and other intangible asset impairment in the third quarter of fiscal 2012; (iv) a \$54.7 million increase in billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings related to contractual timing of system project billings; (v) other net changes in operating assets and liabilities of \$126.5 million; and (v) \$207.3 million of other, net non-cash charges primarily attributable to depreciation and amortization, and stock based compensation. This was partially offset by (i) a net loss of \$352.0 million; (ii) increases in prepaid expense and other assets of \$136.1 million primarily related to deferred costs associated with several large utility-scale solar projects under construction in North America

Table of Contents

and deferred costs associated with solar power systems to be leased; (iii) a \$50.6 million gain in connection with our former share lending arrangement with LBIE which was classified as cash from financing activities (see below); and (iv) an increase in project assets of \$23.4 million for construction of future and current projects primarily in North America.

Net cash used in operating activities of continuing operations in fiscal 2011 was \$94.3 million and was primarily the result of: (i) a net loss of \$613.7 million; (ii) increases in prepaid expense and other current assets of \$182.7 million primarily associated with outstanding receivables due and receivable from our joint ventures; (iii) increases in inventories and project assets of \$131.0 million for construction of future and current projects in North America and Europe; and (iv) an increase in advances to suppliers of \$40.5 million associated with prepayments for polysilicon in accordance with our long-term supply contracts. This was partially offset by: (i) non-cash impairment charges totaling \$349.8 million associated with goodwill and other intangible asset impairment in the third quarter of fiscal 2011, as well as inventories and project asset write-downs in fiscal 2011 associated with the change in European government incentives; (ii) other non-cash charges of \$205.8 million primarily related to depreciation and amortization, stock based compensation, and non-cash interest charges; and (iii) a decrease of \$296.8 million in other operating liabilities, net of changes to operating assets.

Net cash provided by operating activities of continuing operations of \$168.4 million in fiscal 2010 was primarily the result of: (i) income from continuing operations of \$166.9 million; (ii) increases in accounts payable and other accrued liabilities of \$158.0 million; and (iii) non-cash charges totaling \$255.1 million for depreciation, amortization, stock-based compensation, debt issuance costs, and non-cash interest expense. This was partially offset by: (i) increases to inventories of \$114.5 million as we continue to grow our business; (ii) increases in accounts receivable of \$132.2 million related to the increase in revenue; (iii) an increase in advance to suppliers of \$96.1 million associated with prepayments for polysilicon in accordance with long-term supply contracts; (iv) an \$0.8 million net gain on investments; (v) a \$24.0 million recovery on a previously recorded loss on a share lending arrangement to LBIE; (vi) net gains of \$35.8 million on mark-to-market derivatives related to the change in fair value of the derivative instruments associated with the 4.50% debentures; (vii) other non-cash income of \$72.0 million primarily related to our equity share in earnings of joint ventures, gain on deconsolidation of AUOSP, net gain on change in our equity interest in joint ventures; and (viii) other changes in operating assets and liabilities of \$27.4 million.

Investing Activities

Net cash used in investing activities of continuing operations in fiscal 2012 was \$220.1 million, which included (i) \$255.2 million related to capital expenditures primarily associated with improvements to our current generation solar cell manufacturing technology, leasehold improvements associated with our San Jose, California office, the build-out of our new solar panel assembly facility in Mexicali, Mexico, and costs associated with solar power systems leased and to be leased; (ii) a \$13.8 million strategic equity investment in unconsolidated investees; and (iii) \$1.4 million in purchases of marketable securities. This was partially offset by (i) \$32.6 million of restricted cash released back to us due to expirations of fully cash-collateralized letter of credits under the September 2011 Letter of Credit Facility with Deutsche Bank Trust and transition of outstanding letter of credits into the August 2011 Deutsche Bank facility under which payment of obligations is guaranteed by Total S.A.; and (ii) \$17.4 million in proceeds from the sale of our equity interest in our Woongjin Energy joint venture on the open market.

Net cash provided by investing activities of continuing operations in fiscal 2011 was \$64.0 million, which included: (i) \$176.7 million of restricted cash released back to us due to transition of outstanding letter of credits in the August 2011 Deutsche Bank facility under which payment of obligations is guaranteed by Total S.A. and the release of deposited funds under our reimbursement agreement with Barclays Capital Inc. upon conversion of the CEDA bonds to a fixed rate instrument; (ii) \$75.3 million in proceeds from the sale of a portion of our equity interest in our Woongjin Energy joint venture on the open market; and (iii) \$43.8 million in proceeds received related to the sale of

debt securities. This was partially offset by: (i) \$131.5 million related to capital expenditures primarily associated with improvements to our current generation solar cell manufacturing technology, leasehold improvements associated with new offices leased in San Jose, California, the build-out of new solar panel assembly facility in Mexicali, Mexico, and other projects; (ii) \$80.0 million related to additional cash investments in our AUOSP joint venture; and (iii) \$9.2 million in purchases of marketable securities.

Net cash used in investing activities of continuing operations in fiscal 2010 was \$461.4 million, made up of: (i) \$119.2 million for capital expenditures primarily associated with the continued construction of FAB3 in Malaysia prior to deconsolidation on July 5, 2010; (ii) \$272.7 million in cash paid for a strategic acquisition completed in March 2010, net of cash acquired; (iii) \$40.1 million for the purchase of debt securities; (iv) \$5.6 million of increases in restricted cash and cash equivalents; (v) \$17.8 million in cash paid for investments in AUOSP and non-public companies; and (vi) \$12.9 million related to cash of AUOSP that was deconsolidated on July 5, 2010. This was partially offset by (i) \$5.3 million in proceeds received

Table of Contents

from the sale of equipment to a third-party contract manufacturer; and (ii) \$1.6 million on proceeds from sale or maturity of money market funds.

Financing Activities

Net cash used in financing activities of continuing operations in fiscal 2012 was \$75.7 million, made up of: (i) \$169.6 million of cash distributions in connection with the transfer of entities under common control; (ii) \$198.6 million paid to fully repurchase the outstanding 1.25% convertible debentures; (iii) repayment of \$154.1 million of our outstanding borrowings primarily under the Credit Agricole revolving credit facility; and (iv) \$5.7 million in purchases of stock for tax withholding obligations on vested restricted stock. This was partially offset by (i) \$163.6 million in proceeds from the sale of 18.6 million shares of our common stock to Total; (ii) drawdowns of \$150.0 million under the Credit Agricole revolving credit facility; (iii) \$50.6 million of proceeds from the recovery of a claim in connection with our former share lending arrangement with LBIE; (iv) \$27.6 million from project loans; and (v) \$60.4 million of financing proceeds associated with our residential lease program.

Net cash provided by financing activities of continuing operations in fiscal 2011 of \$157.1 million reflects cash received of: (i) \$489.2 million in cash proceeds from gross drawdowns under the Union Bank, Société Générale, and Credit Agricole revolving credit facilities, and our IFC mortgage loan agreement; (ii) \$50.4 million in connection with the transfer of entities under common control; (iii) \$4.1 million from stock option exercises; and (iv) \$2.3 million in cash proceeds in conjunction with warrant holders' exercise of their rights to reduce warrant exercise prices (see Note 12 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements). This was partially offset by: (i) \$377.1 million repayment on outstanding balances under the Union Bank and Société Générale revolving credit facilities; and (ii) \$11.7 million in purchases of stock for tax withholding obligations on vested restricted stock.

Net cash provided by financing activities of continuing operations in fiscal 2010 of \$244.0 million reflects cash received of: (i) \$230.5 million in net proceeds from the issuance of \$250.0 million in principal amount of our 4.50% debentures, after reflecting the payment of the net cost of the call spread overlay; (ii) \$214.7 million and \$318.6 million in net proceeds from various bank and project loans, respectively; (iii) \$24.0 million received under the LBIE claim assignment agreement with Deutsche Bank; and (iv) \$0.9 million from stock option exercises. This was partially offset by: (i) \$333.5 million principal amount of project loans assumed by customers with the sale of 44 MW and 8 MW solar power plants in Montalto di Castro, Italy to a consortium of international investors; (ii) cash paid of \$30.0 million to Union Bank to terminate our \$30.0 million term loan; (iii) repayment of \$33.6 million to Piraeus Bank to terminate our current account overdraft agreement in Greece; (iv) repurchase of \$143.8 million in principal amount of our 0.75% debentures; and (v) \$3.7 million for treasury stock purchases that were used to pay withholding taxes on vested restricted stock units.

Debt and Credit Sources

Convertible Debentures

As of both December 30, 2012 and January 1, 2012, an aggregate principal amount of \$250.0 million of the 4.50% debentures remain issued and outstanding. Interest on the 4.50% debentures is payable on March 15 and September 15 of each year. The 4.50% debentures mature on March 15, 2015. The 4.50% debentures are convertible only into cash, and not into shares of our common stock (or any other securities). Prior to December 15, 2014, the 4.50% debentures are convertible only upon specified events and, thereafter, they will be convertible at any time, based on an initial conversion price of \$22.53 per share of our common stock. The conversion price will be subject to adjustment in certain events, such as distributions of dividends or stock splits. Upon conversion, we will deliver an amount of cash calculated by reference to the price of our common stock over the applicable observation period. We may not redeem the 4.50% debentures prior to maturity. Holders may also require us to repurchase all or a portion of their 4.50%

debentures upon a fundamental change, as defined in the debenture agreement, at a cash repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest. In the event of certain events of default, such as our failure to make certain payments or perform or observe certain obligations thereunder, Wells Fargo, the trustee, or holders of a specified amount of then-outstanding 4.50% debentures will have the right to declare all amounts then outstanding due and payable. Concurrent with the issuance of the 4.50% debentures, we entered into privately negotiated convertible debenture hedge transactions and warrant transactions which represent a call spread overlay with respect to the 4.50% debentures (the "CSO2015"), assuming full performance of the counterparties and 4.50% Warrants strike prices in excess of the conversion price of the 4.50% debentures. According to the counterparties to the warrants, the consummation of the Total tender offer triggered their rights to make a downward adjustment to the strike price of the warrants. In the third quarter of fiscal 2011, we and the counterparties to the 4.50% Warrants agreed to reduce the exercise price of the 4.50% Warrants from \$27.03 to \$24.00. Please see "Conversion of our outstanding 4.75% debentures, our warrants related to our outstanding 4.50% and 4.75% debentures, and future substantial issuances or dispositions of our common stock

Table of Contents

or other securities, could dilute ownership and earnings per share or cause the market price of our stock to decrease." in "Part I. Item 1A: Risk Factors".

As of both December 30, 2012 and January 1, 2012, an aggregate principal amount of \$230.0 million of the 4.75% senior convertible debentures ("4.75% debentures") remain issued and outstanding. Interest on the 4.75% debentures is payable on April 15 and October 15 of each year. Holders of the 4.75% debentures are able to exercise their right to convert the debentures at any time into shares of our common stock at a conversion price equal to \$26.40 per share. The applicable conversion rate may adjust in certain circumstances, including upon a fundamental change, as defined in the indenture governing the 4.75% debentures. If not earlier converted, the 4.75% debentures mature on April 15, 2014. Holders may also require us to repurchase all or a portion of their 4.75% debentures upon a fundamental change at a cash repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest. In the event of certain events of default, such as our failure to make certain payments or perform or observe certain obligations thereunder, Wells Fargo, the trustee, or holders of a specified amount of then-outstanding 4.75% debentures will have the right to declare all amounts then outstanding due and payable. Concurrent with the issuance of the 4.75% debentures, we entered into certain convertible debenture hedge transactions (the "4.75% Bond Hedge") and warrant transactions (the "4.75% Warrants") with affiliates of certain of the underwriters of the 4.75% debentures. According to the counterparties to the warrants, the consummation of the Total tender offer triggered their rights to make a downward adjustment to the strike price of the warrants. In the third quarter of fiscal 2011, we and the counterparties to the 4.75% Warrants agreed to reduce the exercise price of the 4.75% Warrants from \$38.50 to \$26.40, which is no longer above the conversion price of the 4.75% debentures. Please see "Conversion of our outstanding and 4.75% debentures, our warrants related to our outstanding 4.50% and 4.75% debentures, and future substantial issuances or dispositions of our common stock or other securities, could dilute ownership and earnings per share or cause the market price of our stock to decrease." in "Part I. Item 1A: Risk Factors".

As of January 1, 2012, an aggregate principal amount of \$198.6 million of the 1.25% senior convertible debentures ("1.25% debentures") remained issued and outstanding. As of January 1, 2012, the 1.25% debentures were classified as short-term liabilities within "Convertible debt, current portion" in the Consolidated Balance Sheet as the holders may require us to repurchase all of their 1.25% debentures on February 15, 2012. On February 16, 2012, we repurchased \$198.6 million in principal amount of the 1.25% debentures at a cash price of \$199.8 million, representing 100% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest. None of the 1.25% debentures remained issued and outstanding after the repurchase.

Mortgage Loan Agreement with IFC

On May 6, 2010, we entered into a mortgage loan agreement with IFC. Under the loan agreement, we may borrow up to \$75.0 million during the first two years, and are required to repay the amount borrowed, starting 2 years after the date of borrowing, in 10 equal semiannual installments over the following 5 years. On October 3, 2012, IFC granted a temporary waiver of a financial covenant for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2012 through the fourth quarter of fiscal 2013. Subsequent to the waiver, we are required to pay interest of LIBOR plus 3% per annum on outstanding borrowings through January 5, 2013; interest of LIBOR plus 4.25% per annum on outstanding borrowings from January 6, 2013 through September 30, 2013; interest of LIBOR plus 5% per annum on outstanding borrowings from October 1, 2013 through January 5, 2014; a front-end fee of 1% on the principal amount of borrowings at the time of borrowing; and a commitment fee of 0.5% per annum on funds available for borrowing and not borrowed. If we utilize the waiver for the fourth quarter of 2013, the 2013 rates would continue to apply in 2014. If we do not need to utilize the waiver, we are required to pay interest of LIBOR plus 3% per annum on outstanding borrowings; a front-end fee of 1% on the principal amount of borrowings at the time of borrowing; and a commitment fee of 0.5% per annum on funds available for borrowing and not borrowed. We may prepay all or a part of the outstanding principal, subject to a 1% prepayment premium. We have pledged certain assets as collateral supporting repayment obligations.

As of both December 30, 2012 and January 1, 2012, we had \$75.0 million outstanding under the mortgage loan agreement. Additionally, in accordance with the terms of the mortgage loan agreement, we are required to establish a debt service reserve account which shall contain the amount, as determined by IFC, equal to the aggregate principal and interest due on the next succeeding interest payment date after such date.

As of December 30, 2012 and January 1, 2012, we had restricted cash and cash equivalents of \$6.4 million and \$1.3 million, respectively, related to the IFC debt service reserve.

Loan Agreement with California Enterprise Development Authority ("CEDA")

On December 29, 2010, we borrowed from CEDA the proceeds of the \$30.0 million aggregate principal amount of CEDA's tax-exempt Recovery Zone Facility Revenue Bonds (SunPower Corporation - Headquarters Project) Series 2010 (the

Table of Contents

"Bonds") maturing April 1, 2031 under a loan agreement with CEDA. Certain of our obligations under the loan agreement were contained in a promissory note dated December 29, 2010 issued by us to CEDA, which assigned the promissory note, along with all right, title and interest in the loan agreement, to Wells Fargo, as trustee, with respect to the Bonds for the benefit of the holders of the Bonds. The Bonds initially bore interest at a variable interest rate (determined weekly), but in June 2011, at our option were converted into fixed-rate bonds at 8.50% per annum (which include covenants of, and other restrictions on, us). Additionally, in accordance with the terms of the loan agreement, we are required to keep all loan proceeds on deposit with Wells Fargo, the trustee, until funds are withdrawn by us for use in relation to the design and leasehold improvements of our new corporate headquarters in San Jose, California. As of December 30, 2012 and January 1, 2012, we had restricted cash and cash equivalents of \$3.0 million and \$10.0 million, respectively, for design and leasehold improvements and debt service reserves under the CEDA loan agreement.

As of both December 30, 2012 and January 1, 2012, the \$30.0 million aggregate principal amount of the Bonds was classified as "Long-term debt" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

September 2011 Revolving Credit Facility with Credit Agricole

On September 27, 2011, we entered into a revolving credit agreement with Credit Agricole, as administrative agent, and certain financial institutions, under which we may borrow up to \$275.0 million until September 27, 2013. On December 24, 2012, we amended the facility to reflect Total S.A.'s guarantee of our obligations under the facility. The facility amendment extended the maturity date to January 31, 2014, reduced interest rates payable and removed certain financial and restrictive covenants. Subsequent to the amendment, we are required to pay interest on outstanding borrowings of (a) with respect to any LIBOR loan, 0.6% plus the LIBOR divided by a percentage equal to one minus the stated maximum rate of all reserves required to be maintained against "Eurocurrency liabilities" as specified in Regulation D; and (b) with respect to any alternative base loan, 0.25% plus the greater of (1) the prime rate, (2) the Federal Funds rate plus 0.5%, and (3) the one month LIBOR plus 1%, and a commitment fee equal to 0.06% per annum on funds available for borrowing and not borrowed.

As of December 30, 2012, we had \$275.0 million outstanding under the revolving credit facility with Credit Agricole which was classified as "Long-term debt" on our Consolidated Balance Sheet.

August 2011 Letter of Credit Facility with Deutsche Bank

On August 9, 2011, we entered into a letter of credit facility agreement with Deutsche Bank, as issuing bank and as administrative agent, and certain financial institutions, and further amended on December 20, 2011. Payment of obligations under the letter of credit facility is guaranteed by Total S.A. pursuant to the Credit Support Agreement between us and Total S.A. The letter of credit facility provides for the issuance, upon our request, of letters of credit by the issuing banks thereunder in order to support certain of our obligations, in an aggregate amount not to exceed (a) \$725.0 million until December 31, 2012; and (b) \$771.0 million for the period from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. Aggregate letter of credit amounts may be increased upon the agreement of the parties, but otherwise may not exceed (i) \$878.0 million for the period from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014; (ii) \$936.0 million for the period from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015; and (iii) \$1.0 billion for the period from January 1, 2016 through June 28, 2016. Each letter of credit issued under the letter of credit facility must have an expiration date no later than the second anniversary of the issuance of that letter of credit, provided that up to 15% of the outstanding value of the letters of credit may have an expiration date of between two and three years from the date of issuance.

As of December 30, 2012, letters of credit issued under the August 2011 letter of credit facility with Deutsche Bank totaled \$725.3 million.

September 2011 Letter of Credit Facility with Deutsche Bank and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas (together, "Deutsche Bank Trust")

On September 27, 2011, we entered into a letter of credit facility with Deutsche Bank Trust which provides for the issuance, upon request by us, letters of credit to support our obligations in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$200.0 million. Each letter of credit issued under the facility is fully cash-collateralized and we have entered into a security agreement with Deutsche Bank Trust, granting them a security interest in a cash collateral account established for this purpose.

As of December 30, 2012 letters of credit issued under the Deutsche Bank Trust facility amounted to \$17.5 million which were fully collateralized with restricted cash on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Liquidity

73

Table of Contents

As of December 30, 2012, we had unrestricted cash and cash equivalents of \$457.5 million as compared to \$725.6 million as of January 1, 2012. Our cash balances are held in numerous locations throughout the world and as of December 30, 2012, we had approximately \$124.3 million held outside of the United States. This offshore cash is used to fund operations of our EMEA and APAC business units as well as non-U.S. manufacturing operations, which requires local payment for product materials and other expenses. The amounts held outside of the United States represents the earnings of our foreign subsidiaries which, if repatriated to the United States under current law, would be subject to United States federal and state tax less applicable foreign tax credits. Repatriation of earnings that have not been subjected to U.S. tax and which have been indefinitely reinvested outside the U.S. could result in additional United States federal income tax payments in future years.

On July 5, 2010, we formed our AUOSP joint venture. Under the terms of the joint venture agreement, our subsidiary SunPower Technology, Ltd. ("SPTL") and AU Optronics Singapore Pte. Ltd. ("AUO") each own 50% of AUOSP. Both SPTL and AUO are obligated to provide additional funding to AUOSP in the future. Under the joint venture agreement, each shareholder agreed to contribute additional amounts to the joint venture through 2014 amounting to \$241.0 million, or such lesser amount as the parties may mutually agree (see the Contractual Obligations table below). In addition, if AUOSP, SPTL, or AUO requests additional equity financing to AUOSP, then SPTL and AUO will each be required to make additional cash contributions of up to \$50.0 million in the aggregate. Further, we could in the future guarantee certain financial obligations of AUOSP.

On January 31, 2012, we completed our acquisition from Total of 100% of the equity of Tenesol, a global solar provider headquartered in La Tour de Salvagny, France, and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Total, for \$165.4 million in cash pursuant to a stock purchase agreement entered into on December 23, 2011. Concurrently with the closing of the acquisition, Total purchased \$18.6 million shares of our common stock in a private placement at \$8.80 per share for total proceeds of \$163.7 million. Tenesol has module manufacturing operations in Toulouse, France and Capetown, South Africa and is in the process of developing a third site near Carling, France. Our manufacturing and assembly activities have required and will continue to require significant investment of capital and substantial engineering expenditures.

Our 4.50% debentures are convertible into cash. Under the terms of the 4.50% Warrants, we sold to affiliates of certain of the initial purchasers of the 4.50% cash convertible debentures warrants to acquire, subject to anti-dilution adjustments, up to 11.1 million shares of our common stock. The bond hedge and warrants described in Note 12 of Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements represent a call spread overlay with respect to the 4.50% debentures. Assuming full performance by the counterparties (and 4.50% Warrants strike prices in excess of the conversion price of the 4.50% debentures), the transactions effectively reduce our potential payout over the principal amount on the 4.50% debentures upon conversion of the 4.50% debentures. In the third quarter of fiscal 2011, we and the counterparties to the 4.50% Warrants agreed to reduce the exercise price of the 4.50% Warrants from \$27.03 to \$24.00.

We expect total capital expenditures related to purchases of property, plant and equipment in the range of \$70 million to \$90 million in fiscal 2013 in order to improve our current and next generation solar cell manufacturing technology and other projects. In addition, we expect to invest a significant amount of capital to develop solar power systems and plants for sale to customers. The development of solar power plants can require long periods of time and substantial initial investments. Our efforts in this area may consist of all stages of development, including land acquisition, permitting, financing, construction, operation and the eventual sale of the projects. We often choose to bear the costs of such efforts prior to the final sale to a customer, which involves significant upfront investments of resources (including, for example, large transmission deposits or other payments, which may be non-refundable), land acquisition, permitting, legal and other costs, and in some cases the actual costs of constructing a project, in advance of the signing of PPAs and EPC contracts and the receipt of any revenue, much of which is not recognized for several

additional months or years following contract signing. Any delays in disposition of one or more projects could have a negative impact on our liquidity.

Certain of our customers also require performance bonds issued by a bonding agency or letters of credit issued by financial institutions, which are returned to us upon satisfaction of contractual requirements. If there is a contractual dispute with the customer, the customer may withhold the security or make a draw under such security, which could have an adverse impact on our liquidity position. Obtaining letters of credit may require adequate collateral. All letters of credit issued under our August 2011 Deutsche Bank facility are guaranteed by Total S.A. pursuant to the Credit Support Agreement. Our letter of credit facility with Deutsche Bank Trust is fully collateralized by restricted cash, which reduces the amount of cash available for operations. As of December 30, 2012 letters of credit issued under the Deutsche Bank Trust facility amounted to \$17.5 million which were fully collateralized with restricted cash on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

In fiscal 2011, we launched our residential lease program with dealers in the United States, in partnership with a third-party financial institution, which allows customers to obtain SunPower systems under lease agreements up to 20 years, subject

Table of Contents

to financing availability. In fiscal 2012, we entered into arrangements with two financial institutions that will provide financing to support additional residential solar lease projects. In the first quarter of fiscal 2013, we entered into an arrangement with an additional financial institution. We receive upfront payments for periods under which the third-party financial institution has agreed to assume collection risk for certain residential leases. Changes in the amount or timing of upfront payments received from the financial institution may have an impact on our cash position within the next twelve months. The normal collection of monthly rent payments for leases placed in service is not expected to have a material impact on our cash position within the next twelve months. We are actively arranging additional third-party financing for our residential lease program; however, due to the general challenging credit markets worldwide, we may be unable to arrange additional financing partners for our residential lease program in future periods, which could have a negative impact on our sales. In the unlikely event that we have entered into a material number of additional leases without promptly obtaining corresponding third-party financing, our cash and working capital could be negatively impacted.

We believe that our current cash, cash equivalents and cash expected to be generated from operations will be sufficient to meet our working capital and fund our committed capital expenditures over the next 12 months, including the development and construction of solar power systems and plants over the next 12 months. In addition, we have the Liquidity Support Facility (described below) with up to \$325 million available from Total S.A. to us under certain specified circumstances. However, there can be no assurance that our liquidity will be adequate over time. A significant portion of our revenue is generated from a limited number of customers and large projects and our inability to execute these projects, or to collect from these customers or for these projects, would have a significant negative impact on our business. Our capital expenditures and use of working capital may be greater than we expect if we decide to make additional investments in the development and construction of solar power plants and sales of power plants and associated cash proceeds are delayed, or if we decide to accelerate increases in our manufacturing capacity internally or through capital contributions to joint ventures. We require project financing in connection with the construction of solar power plants, which financing may not be available on terms acceptable to us. In addition, we could in the future make additional investments in our joint ventures or guarantee certain financial obligations of our joint ventures, which could reduce our cash flows, increase our indebtedness and expose us to the credit risk of our joint ventures. See also "A limited number of customers and large projects are expected to continue to comprise a significant portion of our revenues and any decrease in revenue from these customers or projects, payments of liquidated damages, or an increase in related expenses, could have a significant adverse effect on us," and "Due to the general economic environment, the continued market pressure driving down the average selling prices of our solar power products and other factors, we may be unable to generate sufficient cash flows or obtain access to external financing necessary to fund our operations and make adequate capital investments as planned" in Part I, Item 1A "Risk Factors".

We are party to an agreement with a customer to construct the California Valley Solar Ranch, a solar park. Part of the debt financing necessary for the customer to pay for the construction of this solar park is being provided by the Federal Financing Bank in reliance on a guarantee of repayment provided by the Department of Energy (the "DOE") under a loan guarantee program. On February 28, 2012, we entered into a Liquidity Support Agreement with Total S.A. and the DOE, and a series of related agreements with Total S.A. and Total, under which Total S.A. has agreed to provide us, or cause to be provided, additional liquidity under certain circumstances to a maximum amount of \$600 million (the "Liquidity Support Facility"). Total S.A. is required to provide liquidity support to us under the facility, and we are required to accept such liquidity support from Total S.A., if either our actual or projected unrestricted cash, cash equivalents, and unused borrowing capacity are reduced below \$100 million, or we fail to satisfy any financial covenant under our indebtedness. In either such event, subject to a \$600 million aggregate limit, Total S.A. is required to provide us with sufficient liquidity support to increase the amount of our unrestricted cash, cash equivalents and unused borrowing capacity to above \$100 million, and to restore compliance with our financial covenants. On December 24, 2012, Total S.A. agreed to guarantee our revolving credit facility with Credit Agricole, which reduced the capacity available under the Liquidity Support Facility by \$275 million. The Liquidity Support Facility is available

until the completion of the solar park, expected to be completed before the end of 2013, and, under certain conditions, up to December 31, 2016, at which time all outstanding guarantees will expire and all outstanding debt under the facility will become due (except for the Total S.A. guarantee of our Credit Agricole facility). In return for Total S.A.'s agreement to provide the Liquidity Support Facility, on February 28, 2012, we issued to Total a seven-year warrant to purchase 9,531,677 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$7.8685 per share. During the term of the facility, we must pay Total S.A. a quarterly fee equal to 0.25% of the unused portion of the facility. Liquidity support may be provided by Total S.A. or through its affiliates in the form of revolving non-convertible debt, convertible debt, equity, guarantees of our indebtedness or other forms of liquidity support agreed to by us, depending on the amount outstanding under the facility immediately prior to provision of the applicable support among other factors. We are required to compensate Total S.A. for any liquidity support actually provided, and the form and amount of such compensation depends on the form and amount of support provided, with the amount of compensation generally increasing with the amount of support provided over time. Such compensation is to be provided in a variety of forms including guarantee fees, warrants to purchase common stock, interest on amounts borrowed, and discounts on equity issued. The use of the Liquidity Support Facility is not limited to direct obligations

Table of Contents

related to the solar park, and is available for general corporate purposes, but we have agreed to conduct our operations, and use any proceeds from such facility in ways that minimize the likelihood of Total S.A. being required to provide further support.

In the first half of 2013, \$275 million of Credit Agricole revolver and \$230 million of 4.75% debentures will have a maturity of less than 12 months and become reclassified to short term debt on our consolidated balance sheet. We are evaluating options to repay or refinance such indebtedness during 2013 or 2014, but there are no assurances that we will have sufficient available cash to repay such indebtedness or we will be able to refinance such indebtedness on similar terms to the expiring indebtedness. If our capital resources are insufficient to satisfy our liquidity requirements, we may seek to sell additional equity securities or debt securities or obtain other debt financing, including under the Liquidity Support Facility. The current economic environment, however, could limit our ability to raise capital by issuing new equity or debt securities on acceptable terms, and lenders may be unwilling to lend funds on acceptable terms that would be required to supplement cash flows to support operations. The sale of additional equity securities or convertible debt securities, including under the Liquidity Support Agreement, would result in additional dilution to our stockholders (and potential for further dilution upon the exercise of warrants or the conversion of convertible debt issued under the Liquidity Support Facility) and may not be available on favorable terms or at all, particularly in light of the current conditions in the financial and credit markets. Additional debt would result in increased expenses and would likely impose new restrictive covenants which may be similar or different than those restrictions contained in the covenants under our current loan agreements and debentures. In addition, financing arrangements, including project financing for our solar power plants and letters of credit facilities, may not be available to us, or may not be available in amounts or on terms acceptable to us.

Contractual Obligations

The following summarizes our contractual obligations as of December 30, 2012:

(In thousands)	Total	Payments Due by Period			
		2013	2014-2015	2016-2017	Beyond 2017
Convertible debt, including interest (1)	\$518,943	\$22,176	\$496,767	\$—	\$—
IFC mortgage loan, including interest (2)	82,718	15,866	33,284	31,064	2,504
CEDA loan, including interest (3)	76,538	2,550	5,100	5,100	63,788
Credit Agricole revolving credit facility, including interest (4)	277,515	2,324	275,191	—	—
Future financing commitments (5)	246,978	150,208	96,770	—	—
Operating lease commitments (6)	177,099	24,737	35,032	29,769	87,561
Capital lease commitments (7)	8,993	2,064	2,642	1,896	2,391
Non-cancellable purchase orders (8)	214,194	214,194	—	—	—
Purchase commitments under agreements (9)	2,181,970	407,110	731,342	526,423	517,095
Total	\$3,784,948	\$841,229	\$1,676,128	\$594,252	\$673,339

Convertible debt, including interest, relates to the aggregate of \$480.1 million in outstanding principal amount of our senior convertible debentures on December 30, 2012. For the purpose of the table above, we assume that all holders of the 4.50% debentures and 4.75% debentures will hold the debentures through the date of maturity in fiscal 2015 and 2014, respectively, and all holders of the 0.75% debentures will require us to repurchase the debentures on August 1, 2015, and upon conversion, the values of the senior convertible debentures will be equal to the aggregate principal amount with no premiums.

(2)

IFC mortgage loan, including interest, relates to the \$75.0 million borrowed as of December 30, 2012. Under the loan agreement, we are required to repay the amount borrowed, starting 2 years after the date of borrowing, in 10 equal semiannual installments over the following 5 years. If we utilize a waiver signed with IFC, we are required to pay interest of LIBOR plus 3% per annum on outstanding borrowings through January 5, 2013, LIBOR plus 4.25% per annum on outstanding borrowings from January 6, 2013 through September 30, 2013, LIBOR plus 5% per annum on outstanding borrowings from October 1, 2013 through January 5, 2014, and LIBOR plus 3% per annum on outstanding borrowings from January 6, 2014 through maturity. If we do not need to utilize the waiver, we are required to pay interest of LIBOR plus 3% per annum on outstanding borrowings; a front-end fee of 1% on the principal amount of

Table of Contents

borrowings at the time of borrowing; and a commitment fee of 0.5% per annum on funds available for borrowing and not borrowed.

CEDA loan, including interest, relates to the proceeds of the \$30.0 million aggregate principal amount of the (3) Bonds. The Bonds mature on April 1, 2031. On June 1, 2011 the Bonds were converted to bear interest at a fixed rate of 8.50% through maturity.

Credit Agricole revolving credit facility, with interest, relates to the \$275.0 million borrowed as of December 30, 2012 and maturing on January 31, 2014. We are required to pay interest on outstanding borrowings of (a) with respect to any LIBOR loan, 0.6% plus the LIBOR divided by a percentage equal to one minus the stated maximum (4) rate of all reserves required to be maintained against "Eurocurrency liabilities" as specified in Regulation D; (b) with respect to any alternative base loan, 0.25% plus the greater of (1) the prime rate, (2) the Federal Funds rate plus 0.5%, and (3) the one month LIBOR plus 1%.

We and AUO agreed in the joint venture agreement to contribute additional amounts to AUOSP in fiscal 2012 through 2014 amounting to \$241.0 million by each shareholder, or such lesser amount as the parties may mutually agree. Further, in connection with a purchase agreement with a non-public company we will be required to provide (5) additional financing to such party of up to \$4.9 million, subject to certain conditions. Under our long-term convertible note agreement with Diamond Energy Pty. Ltd., we are additionally required to provide additional funds amounting to AUD 1.0 million during fiscal 2013.

Operating lease commitments primarily relate to certain solar power systems leased from unaffiliated third parties over minimum lease terms of up to 20 years and various lease agreements for our headquarters in San Jose, (6) California, sales and support offices throughout the United States and Europe and a solar module facility in Mexicali, Mexico.

Capital lease commitments primarily relate to certain buildings, manufacturing and equipment under capital leases in Europe for terms of up to 12 years. (7)

Non-cancellable purchase orders relate to purchases of raw materials for inventory and manufacturing equipment from a variety of vendors. (8)

Purchase commitments under agreements relate to arrangements entered into with several suppliers, including joint ventures, for polysilicon, ingots, wafers, solar cells and solar panels as well as agreements to purchase solar (9) renewable energy certificates from solar installation owners in New Jersey. These agreements specify future quantities and pricing of products to be supplied by the vendors for periods up to 10 years and there are certain consequences, such as forfeiture of advanced deposits and liquidated damages relating to previous purchases, in the event that we terminate the arrangements.

Liabilities Associated with Uncertain Tax Positions

Due to the complexity and uncertainty associated with our tax positions, we cannot make a reasonably reliable estimate of the period in which cash settlement will be made for our liabilities associated with uncertain tax positions in other long-term liabilities. Therefore, they have been excluded from the table above. As of December 30, 2012, total liabilities associated with uncertain tax positions were \$35.0 million and are included in "Other long-term liabilities" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets as they are not expected to be paid within the next twelve months.

Off-Balance-Sheet Arrangements

As of December 30, 2012, we did not have any significant off-balance-sheet arrangements, as defined in Item 303(a)(4)(ii) of SEC Regulation S-K.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

See Note 1 "Recent Accounting Pronouncements," to our consolidated financial statements included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for a summary of recent accounting pronouncements.

Table of Contents

ITEM 7A: QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ABOUT MARKET RISK

Foreign Currency Exchange Risk

Our exposure to movements in foreign currency exchange rates is primarily related to sales to European customers that are denominated in Euros. Revenue generated from European customers represented 20%, 39% and 69% of our total revenue in fiscal 2012, 2011, and 2010, respectively. A 10% change in the Euro exchange rate would have impacted our revenue by approximately \$48.9 million, \$92.4 million and \$152.6 million in fiscal 2012, 2011, and 2010, respectively.

In the past, we have experienced an adverse impact on our revenue, gross margin and profitability as a result of foreign currency fluctuations. When foreign currencies appreciate against the U.S. dollar, inventories and expenses denominated in foreign currencies become more expensive. Strengthening of the Malaysian Ringgit against the U.S. dollar would increase AUOSP's liability under the facility agreement with the Malaysian government which in turn would negatively impact our equity in earnings of the unconsolidated investee. An increase in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to foreign currencies could make our solar power products more expensive for international customers, thus potentially leading to a reduction in demand, our sales and profitability. Furthermore, many of our competitors are foreign companies that could benefit from such a currency fluctuation, making it more difficult for us to compete with those companies.

We currently conduct hedging activities which involve the use of option and forward currency contracts to address our exposure to changes in the foreign exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and other currencies. As of December 30, 2012, we had outstanding hedge option currency contracts and forward currency contracts with aggregate notional values of \$71.0 million and \$148.2 million, respectively. As of January 1, 2012, we held option and forward contracts totaling \$130.4 million and \$200.8 million, respectively, in notional value. Because we hedge some of our expected future foreign exchange exposure, if associated revenues do not materialize we could experience a reclassification of ineffective gains or losses into earnings. During fiscal 2011, in connection with the decline in forecasted revenue surrounding the overall change in the solar sector, we concluded that certain previously anticipated transactions were probable not to occur and thus we reclassified the amount held in "Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets for these transactions, which totaled a loss of \$1.6 million, to "Other, net" in our Consolidated Statement of Operations. If we conclude that we have a pattern of determining that hedged forecasted transactions probably will not occur, we may no longer be able to continue to use hedge accounting in the future to reduce our exposure to movements in foreign exchange rates. Such a conclusion and change in our foreign currency hedge program could adversely impact our revenue, margins and results of operations. We cannot predict the impact of future exchange rate fluctuations on our business and operating results.

Credit Risk

We have certain financial and derivative instruments that subject us to credit risk. These consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, investments, accounts receivable, note receivable, advances to suppliers, foreign currency option contracts, foreign currency forward contracts, bond hedge and warrant transactions and a share lending arrangement for our common stock. We are exposed to credit losses in the event of nonperformance by the counterparties to our financial and derivative instruments. Our investment policy requires cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, and investments to be placed with high-quality financial institutions and limits the amount of credit risk from any one issuer. We additionally perform ongoing credit evaluations of our customers' financial condition whenever deemed necessary and generally do not require collateral.

We enter into agreements with vendors that specify future quantities and pricing of polysilicon to be supplied for periods up to 10 years. Under certain agreements, we are required to make prepayments to the vendors over the terms

of the arrangements. As of December 30, 2012 and January 1, 2012, advances to suppliers totaled \$351.4 million and \$327.5 million, respectively. Two suppliers accounted for 76% and 23% of total advances to suppliers as of December 30, 2012, and 74% and 20% of total advances to suppliers as of January 1, 2012. We may be unable to recover such prepayments if the credit conditions of these suppliers materially deteriorate.

We enter into foreign currency derivative contracts and convertible debenture hedge transactions with high-quality financial institutions and limit the amount of credit exposure to any single counterparty. The foreign currency derivative contracts are limited to a time period of less than one year. We regularly evaluate the credit standing of our counterparty financial institutions.

Interest Rate Risk

Table of Contents

We are exposed to interest rate risk because many of our customers depend on debt financing to purchase our solar power systems. An increase in interest rates could make it difficult for our customers to obtain the financing necessary to purchase our solar power systems on favorable terms, or at all, and thus lower demand for our solar power products, reduce revenue and adversely impact our operating results. An increase in interest rates could lower a customer's return on investment in a system or make alternative investments more attractive relative to solar power systems, which, in each case, could cause our customers to seek alternative investments that promise higher returns or demand higher returns from our solar power systems, reduce gross margin and adversely impact our operating results. This risk is significant to our business because our sales model is highly sensitive to interest rate fluctuations and the availability of credit, and would be adversely affected by increases in interest rates or liquidity constraints.

Our interest expense would increase to the extent interest rates rise in connection with our variable interest rate borrowings. As of December 30, 2012, the outstanding principal balance of our variable interest borrowings was \$350.0 million. We do not believe that an immediate 10% increase in interest rates would have a material effect on our financial statements. In addition, lower interest rates have an adverse impact on our interest income. Our investment portfolio primarily consists of \$117.3 million in money market funds as of December 30, 2012, and exposes us to interest rate risk. Due to the relatively short-term nature of our investment portfolio, we do not believe that an immediate 10% increase in interest rates would have a material effect on the fair market value of our money market funds. Since we believe we have the ability to liquidate substantially all of this portfolio, we do not expect our operating results or cash flows to be materially affected to any significant degree by a sudden change in market interest rates on our investment portfolio.

Equity Price Risk Involving Minority Investments in Joint Ventures and Other Non-Public Companies

Our investments held in joint ventures and other non-public companies expose us to equity price risk. As of December 30, 2012 and January 1, 2012, investments of \$111.5 million and \$129.9 million, respectively, are accounted for using the equity method, and \$14.9 million and \$4.9 million, respectively, are accounted for using the cost method. These strategic investments in third parties are subject to risk of changes in market value, which if determined to be other-than-temporary, could result in realized impairment losses. We generally do not attempt to reduce or eliminate our market exposure in equity and cost method investments. We monitor these investments for impairment and record reductions in the carrying values when necessary. Circumstances that indicate an other-than-temporary decline include the valuation ascribed to the issuing company in subsequent financing rounds, decreases in quoted market prices and declines in operations of the issuer. There can be no assurance that our equity and cost method investments will not face risks of loss in the future.

Interest Rate Risk and Market Price Risk Involving Convertible Debt

The fair market value of our 4.75%, 4.50%, and 0.75% convertible debentures is subject to interest rate risk, market price risk and other factors due to the convertible feature of the debentures. The fair market value of the debentures will generally increase as interest rates fall and decrease as interest rates rise. In addition, the fair market value of the debentures will generally increase as the market price of our common stock increases and decrease as the market price of our common stock falls. The interest and market value changes affect the fair market value of the debentures, but do not impact our financial position, cash flows or results of operations due to the fixed nature of the debt obligations, except to the extent increases in the value of our common stock may provide the holders of our 4.50% debentures, and/or 0.75% debentures the right to convert such debentures into cash in certain instances. The aggregate estimated fair value of the 4.75% debentures, 4.50% debentures, and 0.75% debentures was \$447.8 million as of December 30, 2012. The aggregate estimated fair value of the 4.75% debentures, 4.50% debentures, 1.25% debentures and 0.75% debentures was \$604.6 million as of January 1, 2012. Estimated fair values are based on quoted market prices as reported by an independent pricing source. A 10% increase in quoted market prices would increase the estimated fair value of our then-outstanding debentures to \$492.6 million and \$665.0 million as of December 30, 2012 and

January 1, 2012, respectively, and a 10% decrease in the quoted market prices would decrease the estimated fair value of our then-outstanding debentures to \$403.0 million and \$544.1 million as of December 30, 2012 and January 1, 2012, respectively.

Table of Contents

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

SUNPOWER CORPORATION

INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Page
REPORTS OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP, INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM	<u>81</u>
REPORT OF PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP, INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM	<u>83</u>
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS	<u>84</u>
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS	<u>85</u>
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)	<u>86</u>
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	<u>87</u>
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS	<u>88</u>
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	<u>89</u>
SCHEDULE II	<u>147</u>

Table of Contents

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of SunPower Corporation

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheet of SunPower Corporation as of December 30, 2012, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of SunPower Corporation at December 30, 2012, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), SunPower Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of December 30, 2012, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 22, 2013 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

San Jose, California
February 22, 2013

Table of Contents

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of SunPower Corporation

We have audited SunPower Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of December 30, 2012, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (the COSO criteria). SunPower Corporation's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, SunPower Corporation maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 30, 2012, based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the 2012 consolidated financial statements of SunPower Corporation and our report dated February 22, 2013 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

San Jose, California

February 22, 2013

82

Table of Contents

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of SunPower Corporation

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated balance sheet as of January 1, 2012 and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income (loss), stockholders' equity and cash flows for each of two years in the period ended January 1, 2012 present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of SunPower Corporation and its subsidiaries at January 1, 2012, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the two years in the period ended January 1, 2012, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

San Jose, California

February 29, 2012, except for the effects of the change in reporting entity due to the transfer of an entity under common control discussed in Note 3 and the change in composition of reportable segments discussed in Note 18 to the consolidated financial statements, as to which the date is February 22, 2013

Table of Contents

SunPower Corporation
Consolidated Balance Sheets
(In thousands, except share data)

	December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012 (1) (2)
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$457,487	\$725,618
Restricted cash and cash equivalents, current portion	15,568	52,279
Accounts receivable, net	398,150	438,633
Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings	36,395	54,854
Inventories	291,386	445,501
Advances to suppliers, current portion	50,282	43,143
Project assets - plants and land, current portion	75,911	24,243
Prepaid expenses and other current assets (3)	613,053	487,766
Total current assets	1,938,232	2,272,037
Restricted cash and cash equivalents, net of current portion	31,396	27,276
Restricted long-term marketable securities	10,885	9,145
Property, plant and equipment, net	774,909	643,882
Project assets - plants and land, net of current portion	7,596	34,614
Goodwill	—	47,077
Other intangible assets, net	744	23,900
Advances to suppliers, net of current portion	301,123	284,378
Other long-term assets (3)	276,063	176,821
Total assets	\$3,340,948	\$3,519,130
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable (3)	\$414,335	\$441,655
Accrued liabilities	247,372	249,404
Billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings	225,550	170,828
Short-term debt	14,700	2,122
Convertible debt, current portion	—	196,710
Customer advances, current portion (3)	59,648	48,073
Total current liabilities	961,605	1,108,792
Long-term debt	375,661	364,273
Convertible debt, net of current portion	438,629	423,268
Customer advances, net of current portion (3)	236,082	181,946
Other long-term liabilities	335,619	166,126
Total liabilities	2,347,596	2,244,405
Commitments and contingencies (Note 10)		
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, \$0.001 par value; 10,000,000 shares authorized; none issued and outstanding as of both December 30, 2012 and January 1, 2012	—	—
Common stock, \$0.001 par value, 367,500,000 shares authorized; 123,315,990 shares issued, and 119,234,280 outstanding as of December 30, 2012; 101,851,290	119	100

Edgar Filing: SUNPOWER CORP - Form 10-K

shares issued, and 100,475,533 shares outstanding as of January 1, 2012		
Additional paid-in capital	1,931,947	1,845,965
Accumulated deficit	(902,085	) (550,065)
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	(2,521	) 7,142
Treasury stock, at cost; 4,081,710 shares of common stock as of December 30, 2012; 1,375,757 shares of common stock as of January 1, 2012	(34,108	) (28,417)
Total stockholders' equity	993,352	1,274,725
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$3,340,948	\$3,519,130

- (1) As adjusted to reflect the balances of Tenesol S.A. ("Tenesol") beginning October 10, 2011, as required under the accounting guidelines for a transfer of an entity under common control (see Note 3).
- (2) As adjusted to conform to the current period presentation for solar power systems leased and to be leased (see Note 1).

The Company has related party balances in connection with transactions made with unconsolidated entities in which the Company has a direct equity investment. These related party balances are recorded within the "Prepaid (3) expenses and other current assets," "Other long-term assets," "Accounts payable," "Customer advances, current portion," and "Customer advances, net of current portion" financial statement line items in the Consolidated Balance Sheets (see Note 7, Note 10, and Note 11).

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

SunPower Corporation
Consolidated Statements of Operations
(In thousands, except per share data)

	Year ended December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012 (1)	January 2, 2011
Revenue	\$2,417,501	\$2,374,376	\$2,219,230
Cost of revenue	2,171,103	2,148,158	1,709,337
Gross margin	246,398	226,218	509,893
Operating expenses:			
Research and development	63,456	57,775	49,090
Sales, general and administrative	310,246	331,380	321,936
Goodwill impairment	46,734	309,457	—
Other intangible asset impairment	12,847	40,301	—
Restructuring charges	100,823	21,403	—
Total operating expenses	534,106	760,316	371,026
Operating income (loss)	(287,708	) (534,098	) 138,867
Other income (expense), net:			
Interest income	1,091	2,337	1,541
Interest expense	(84,120	) (67,253	) (55,276
Gain on sale of equity interest in unconsolidated investee	—	5,937	—
Gain on change in equity interest in unconsolidated investee	—	322	28,078
Gain on deconsolidation of consolidated subsidiary	—	—	36,849
Gain on share lending arrangement	50,645	—	24,000
Gain on mark-to-market derivatives	4	343	35,764
Other, net	(9,575	) (10,120	) (26,410
Other income (expense), net	(41,955	) (68,434	) 44,546
Income (loss) before income taxes and equity in earnings (loss) of unconsolidated investees	(329,663	) (602,532	) 183,413
Provision for income taxes	(21,842	) (17,208	) (23,375
Equity in earnings (loss) of unconsolidated investees	(515	) 6,003	6,845
Income (loss) from continuing operations	(352,020	) (613,737	) 166,883
Income from discontinued operations, net of taxes	—	—	11,841
Net income (loss)	\$(352,020	) \$(613,737	) \$178,724
Net income (loss) per share of common stock:			
Net income (loss) per share - basic			
Continuing operations	\$(3.01	) \$(6.28	) \$1.74
Discontinued operations	—	—	0.13
Net income (loss) per share - basic	\$(3.01	) \$(6.28	) \$1.87
Net income (loss) per share - diluted			
Continuing operations	\$(3.01	) \$(6.28	) \$1.64
Discontinued operations	—	—	0.11
Net income (loss) per share - diluted	\$(3.01	) \$(6.28	) \$1.75
Weighted-average shares:			
Basic	117,093	97,724	95,660
Diluted	117,093	97,724	105,698

(1) As adjusted to reflect the balances of Tenesol S.A. ("Tenesol") beginning October 10, 2011, as required under the accounting guidelines for a transfer of an entity under common control (see Note 3).

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

85

Table of Contents

SunPower Corporation
 Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)
 (In thousands)

(In thousands)	Year ended December 30, 2012	January 1, 2012 (1)	January 2, 2011
Net income (loss)	\$(352,020	) \$(613,737	) \$178,724
Components of comprehensive income (loss):			
Translation adjustment	(959	) 1,401	1,103
Net unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives (Note 13)	(10,716	) (175	) 23,124
Income taxes	2,012	2,276	(3,230)
Net change in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	(9,663	) 3,502	20,997
Total comprehensive income (loss)	\$(361,683	) \$(610,235	) \$199,721

(1) As adjusted to reflect the balances of Tenesol S.A. ("Tenesol") beginning October 10, 2011, as required under the accounting guidelines for a transfer of an entity under common control (see Note 3).

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

SunPower Corporation
Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity
(In thousands)

	Common Stock		Additional Paid-in Capital	Treasury Stock	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Retained Earnings (Accumulated Deficit)	Total Stockholders' Equity
	Shares	Value					
Balances at January 3, 2010	97,072	\$97	\$1,520,933	\$(12,984)	\$ (17,357)	\$ (114,309)	\$1,376,380
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	178,724	178,724
Other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	20,997	—	20,997
Issuance of common stock upon exercise of options	303	—	867	—	—	—	867
Issuance of restricted stock to employees, net of cancellations	967	1	—	—	—	—	1
Fair value of warrant transactions	—	—	30,218	—	—	—	30,218
Excess tax benefits from stock-based award activity	—	—	237	—	—	—	237
Stock-based compensation expense	—	—	54,442	—	—	—	54,442
Distribution to Cypress under tax sharing agreement	—	—	—	—	—	(743)	(743)
Purchases of treasury stock	(236)	—	—	(3,689)	—	—	(3,689)
Balances at January 2, 2011	198,106	98	1,606,697	(16,673)	3,640	63,672	1,657,434
Net loss	—	—	—	—	—	(613,737)	(613,737)
Other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	3,502	—	3,502
Issuance of common stock upon exercise of options	993	1	4,051	—	—	—	4,052
Issuance of restricted stock to employees, net of cancellations	2,161	2	—	—	—	—	2
Proceeds from warrant transactions	—	—	2,261	—	—	—	2,261
Excess tax benefits from stock-based award activity	—	—	(2,415)	—	—	—	(2,415)
Stock-based compensation expense	—	—	46,880	—	—	—	46,880
Purchases of treasury stock	(784)	(1)	—	(11,744)	—	—	(11,745)
Transfer of entity under common control (Note 3)	—	—	188,491	—	—	—	188,491
Balances at January 1, 2012 (1)	100,476	100	1,845,965	(28,417)	7,142	(550,065)	1,274,725
Net loss	—	—	—	—	—	(352,020)	(352,020)

Edgar Filing: SUNPOWER CORP - Form 10-K

Other comprehensive loss	—	—	—	—	(9,663	)	—	(9,663)
Issuance of common stock upon exercise of options	20	—	52	—	—	—	—	52	
Issuance of restricted stock to employees, net of cancellations	2,844	2	(2)	—	—	—	—	
Private offering of common stock, net of issuance costs (Note 2)	18,600	19	163,596	—	—	—	—	163,615	
Cash distributions to Parent in connection with the transfer of entities under common control (Note 3)	—	—	(169,637	)	—	—	—	(169,637)
Fair value of warrant issued	—	—	50,327	—	—	—	—	50,327	
Returned shares from share lending agreement (Note 12)	(1,800	)	(2	)	—	2	—	—	