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ALTAIR NANOTECHNOLOGIES INC
Form 10-Q
May 14, 2004

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

FORM 10-Q

- QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2004
- TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM _____ TO _____

ALTAIR NANOTECHNOLOGIES INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

----- Canada ----- (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	----- 1-12497 ----- (Commission File No.)	----- 33-1084375 ----- (IRS Employer Identification No.)
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204 Edison Way
Reno, Nevada 89502

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (775) 858-3750

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. YES NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). YES NO

As of May 13, 2004 the registrant had 48,757,974 Common Shares outstanding.

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PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

ALTAIR NANOTECHNOLOGIES INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
(A Development Stage Company)
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

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(Expressed in United States Dollars)
(Unaudited)

	March 31, 2004	December 31, 2003
	-----	-----
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 11,490,218	\$ 3,869,669
Accounts receivable, net	91,556	13,324
Other current assets	110,079	79,187
	-----	-----
Total current assets	11,691,853	3,962,180
Property, Plant and Equipment, net	6,454,952	6,618,805
Patents, net	1,039,149	1,060,569
Other Assets	18,200	18,200
	-----	-----
Total Assets	\$ 19,204,154	\$ 11,659,754
	=====	=====
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Trade accounts payable	\$ 222,679	\$ 85,255
Accrued liabilities	359,343	311,886
	-----	-----
Total current liabilities	582,022	397,141
	-----	-----
Note Payable, Long-Term Portion	2,733,412	2,686,130
	-----	-----
Commitments and Contingencies (Note 4)		
Shareholders' Equity		
Common stock, no par value, unlimited shares authorized; 48,672,640 and 43,188,362 shares issued and outstanding at March 31, 2004 and December 31, 2003	63,812,889	54,789,896
Deficit accumulated during the development stage	(47,924,169)	(46,213,413)
	-----	-----
Total Shareholders' Equity	15,888,720	8,576,483
	-----	-----
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	\$ 19,204,154	\$ 11,659,754
	=====	=====

See notes to the consolidated financial statements.

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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS (Expressed in United States Dollars) (Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,		Period April 9, 1973 (date of inception) to March 31,
	2004	2003	2004
Sales	\$ 139,749	\$ 20,277	\$ 508,911
Cost of Sales	110,392	14,950	284,309
Gross Margin	29,357	5,327	224,602
Operating Expenses			
Mineral exploration and development	27,226	28,714	6,700,577
Research and development	255,399	212,793	4,876,952
Professional services	252,594	184,358	4,105,363
General and administrative expenses	955,956	557,838	18,436,771
Depreciation and amortization	221,196	218,625	6,615,075
Asset impairment	--	--	2,759,956
Total operating expenses	1,712,371	1,202,328	43,494,694
Loss from Operations	1,683,014	1,197,001	43,270,092
Other (Income) Expense:			
Interest expense	47,282	120,173	5,037,036
Interest income	(19,938)	(180)	(837,762)
Loss (gain) on foreign exchange	399	--	(557,350)
Loss on extinguishment of debt	--	--	914,667
Gain on forgiveness of debt	--	--	(795,972)
Loss on redemption of convertible debentures	--	--	193,256
Total other expense, net	27,743	119,993	3,953,875
Net Loss	1,710,757	1,316,994	47,223,967
Preferential Warrant Dividend	--	--	693,569
Net Loss Applicable to Shareholders	\$ 1,710,757	\$ 1,316,994	\$ 47,917,536
Loss per Common Share - Basic and Diluted	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.04	\$ 4.78
Weighted Average Shares - Basic and Diluted	47,333,219	30,527,826	10,031,387

See notes to the consolidated financial statements.

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(A Development Stage Company)
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(Expressed in United States Dollars)
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,		Period April 9, 19 (date of inception) March 31, 2004
	2004	2003	2004
Cash flows from development activities:			
Net loss	\$ (1,710,757)	\$ (1,316,994)	\$ (40,986,02
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in development activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	221,196	218,625	5,736,31
Shares issued for services	--	51,150	303,42
Shares issued for interest	--	38,888	1,116,43
Issuance of common stock options to non-employees	118,274	7,192	3,149,41
Issuance of common stock options to employees	--	--	78,22
Variable accounting on stock options	100,584	--	93,95
Issuance of common stock warrants	--	37,368	924,86
Amortization of discount on note payable	47,282	44,095	846,97
Amortization of debt issuance costs	--	--	504,56
Asset impairment	--	--	2,759,95
Loss on extinguishment of debt	--	--	914,66
Loss on redemption of convertible debentures	--	--	193,25
Gain on forgiveness of debt	--	--	(795,97
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	--	--	1,94
Gain on foreign currency translation	--	--	(559,58
Deferred financing costs written off	--	--	515,84
Changes in assets and liabilities (net of effects of acquisition):			
Accounts receivable	(78,232)	131,864	(211,09
Other current assets	(30,892)	(2,356)	1,681,10
Other assets	--	--	(170,72
Trade accounts payable	137,424	84,019	478,17
Accrued liabilities	47,457	44,230	41,99
	(1,147,664)	(661,919)	(23,382,28
Net cash used in development activities			
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Asset acquisition	--	--	(9,625,15
Purchase of property and equipment	(35,922)	(6,619)	(3,697,34
Purchase of patents	--	--	(1,882,18
	(35,922)	(6,619)	(15,204,68
Net cash used in investing activities			

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ALTAIR NANOTECHNOLOGIES INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
(A Development Stage Company)
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(Expressed in United States Dollars)
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,		Period April 9, 197 (date of inception) t March 31, 2004
	2004	2003	
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Issuance of common shares for cash, net of issuance costs	\$ --	\$ 595,000	\$ 22,070,081
Issuance of shares under Employee Stock Purchase Plan	--	125,005	92,183
Issuance of convertible debenture	--	--	5,000,000
Proceeds from exercise of common stock options	705,114	--	3,413,605
Proceeds from exercise of warrants	8,099,021	--	13,016,826
Issuance of related party notes	--	--	174,243
Issuance of notes payable	--	--	19,130,540
Payment of notes payable	--	--	(13,543,579)
Payment of related party notes	--	--	(174,243)
Payment on capital lease	--	--	(27,075)
Purchase of call options	--	--	(449,442)
Redemption of convertible debentures	--	--	(2,250,938)
Net cash provided by financing activities	8,804,135	720,005	46,452,201
Net increase in cash and equivalents	7,620,549	51,467	7,865,230
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	3,869,669	244,681	None
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 11,490,218	\$ 296,148	\$ 7,865,230
Supplemental disclosures:			
Cash paid for interest	\$ --	\$ 37,189	
Cash paid for income taxes	None	None	

Supplemental schedule of non-cash investing and financing activities:

For the three months ended March 31, 2004:

- None

For the three months ended March 31, 2003:

- We issued 250,001 common shares to Doral 18, LLC in payment of \$100,000 of principal on our note payable. The conversion of the note resulted in additional interest expense of \$38,889.

(concluded)

See notes to the consolidated financial statements.

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ALTAIR NANOTECHNOLOGIES INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
(A Development Stage Company)
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(UNAUDITED)

Note 1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

These unaudited interim financial statements of Altair Nanotechnologies Inc. and its subsidiaries (collectively, "Altair", "we" or the "Company") have been prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"). Such rules and regulations allow the omission of certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, so long as the statements are not misleading. In the opinion of Company management, these financial statements and accompanying notes contain all adjustments (consisting of only normal recurring adjustments) necessary to present fairly the financial position and results of operations for the periods shown. These interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and notes thereto contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003, as filed with the Commission on March 26, 2004.

The consolidated financial statements do not include any adjustments relating to the recoverability and classification of recorded asset amounts or the amounts and classification of liabilities that might be necessary should we be unable to continue as a going concern. Our continuation as a going concern is dependent upon our ability to generate sufficient cash flow to meet our obligations on a timely basis, to obtain additional financing or refinancing as may be required, to develop commercially viable products and processes, and ultimately to establish successful operations. We are in the process of developing and commercializing our nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment technology. We have financed operations primarily through the issuance of equity securities (common stock, convertible debentures, stock options and warrants), and by the issuance of debt (term notes). Additional funds will be required to complete development activities. We believe that current working capital, cash receipts from anticipated sales, and funding through sales of common stock will be sufficient to enable us to continue as a going concern through 2006.

The results of operations for the three-month period ended March 31, 2004 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year.

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Net Loss Per Common Share - Basic net loss per common share is calculated by dividing net loss by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. The existence of stock options, warrants, and convertible securities affects the calculation of loss per share on a fully diluted basis. When a net loss is reported, the number of shares used for basic and diluted net loss per share is the same since the effect of including the additional common stock equivalents would be antidilutive.

Long-Lived Assets - We evaluate the carrying value of long-term assets, including intangibles, when events or circumstance indicate the existence of a possible impairment, based on projected undiscounted cash flows, and recognize

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impairment when such cash flows will be less than the carrying values. Measurement of the amounts of impairments, if any, is based upon the difference between carrying value and fair value. Events or circumstances that could indicate the existence of a possible impairment include obsolescence of the technology, an absence of market demand for the product, and/or continuing technology rights protection. Management believes the net carrying amount of long-lived assets will be recovered by future cash flows generated by commercialization of the titanium processing technology.

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Deferred Income Taxes - We use the asset and liability approach for financial accounting and reporting for income taxes. Deferred income taxes are provided for temporary differences in the bases of assets and liabilities as reported for financial statement purposes and income tax purposes. We have recorded a valuation allowance against all net deferred tax assets.

Stock-Based Compensation - Our stock option plans are subject to the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation. Under the provisions of SFAS 123, employee and director stock-based compensation expense is measured using the intrinsic-value method as prescribed by Accounting Principles Board ("APB") Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees, or the fair value method described in SFAS 123. We have elected to follow the accounting provisions of APB 25 for our employee and director stock-based awards and to furnish the pro forma disclosures required under SFAS 123.

We are required to implement the provision of SFAS 123 for stock-based awards to other than employees and directors. We account for stock options and warrants issued to non-employees in accordance with SFAS 123.

To estimate compensation expense that would be recognized under SFAS 123 for all stock-based awards, we have used the modified Black-Scholes option pricing model. If we had accounted for our stock options issued to employees and directors using the accounting method prescribed by SFAS 123, our net loss and loss per share would be as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2004	2003
Net loss applicable to shareholders:		
As reported	\$ 1,710,757	\$ 1,316,994
Deduct: stock-based employee compensation expense included in reported net loss	(100,584)	--
Add: stock-based employee compensation expense determined under value based method for all awards	321,627	--
Pro forma	\$ 1,931,800	\$ 1,316,994
Loss per common share (both basic and diluted):		
As reported	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.04
Pro forma	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.04

We estimated the fair value of options and rights granted under our employee stock-based compensation arrangements at the date of grant using the Black-Scholes model with the following weighted-average assumptions:

Three Months Ended

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	March 31,	
	2004	2003
Dividend yield	None	None
Expected volatility	62%	64%
Risk-free interest rate	3.03%	2.77%
Expected life (years)	5.0	5.0
Weighted average fair value of grants	\$ 1.81	\$ 0.17

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Note 3. Common Stock

Common stock transactions during the three months ended March 31, 2004 were as follows:

	Common Stock	
	Shares	Stated Amount
Balance, December 31, 2003	43,188,362	\$54,789,896
Exercise of warrants	5,082,378	8,099,021
Exercise of common stock options	401,900	705,114
Variable accounting on stock options	--	100,584
Common stock options issued to non-employees	--	118,274
Balance, March 31, 2004	48,672,640	\$63,812,889

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Note 4. Notes Payable

Notes payable consisted of the following at March 31, 2004 and December 31, 2003:

	March 31, 2004	December 31, 2003
Note payable to BHP Minerals International, Inc.	\$2,733,412	\$2,686,130
Less current portion	--	--
Long-term portion of notes payable	\$2,733,412	\$2,686,130

Note 5. Intangible Assets

Our intangible assets consist of patents and related expenditures associated with the nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment technology. In accordance with SFAS No. 142, we are amortizing these assets over their useful lives. The amortized intangible asset balance as of March 31, 2004 was:

Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Amount
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Patents and related expenditures	\$ 1,517,736	\$ (478,587)	\$ 1,039,149
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The weighted average amortization period for intangible assets is approximately 16.5 years. Amortization expense was \$21,421 for the three months ended March 31, 2004, which represented the amortization relating to the identified intangible assets still required to be amortized under SFAS No. 142. For each of the next five years, amortization expense relating to intangibles will be \$85,680 per year. Management believes the net carrying amount of intangible assets will be recovered by future cash flows generated by commercialization of the titanium processing technology.

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

The following discussion summarizes the material changes in our financial condition between December 31, 2003 and March 31, 2004 and the material changes in our results of operations and financial condition between the three-month periods ended March 31, 2003 and March 31, 2004. This discussion should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003.

Overview

In November 1999, we acquired all patent applications and technology related to a hydrometallurgical process developed by BHP Minerals International, Inc. ("BHP") primarily for the production of (1) titanium dioxide ("TiO2") products from titanium bearing ores or concentrates and (2) metal oxide nanoparticles (the "nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment technology") and all tangible equipment and other assets (the "nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment assets") used by BHP to develop and implement the nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment technology. The nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment technology has potential to produce both titanium pigments, which are commercially traded in bulk, and nanoparticles, which are sold on specialty product markets. At the time, the nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment technology was in development stage and not in commercial operation.

When we acquired the nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment technology and related assets, we expected to be able to produce TiO2 nanoparticles for sale in established markets within a short period of time. Our expectation was that revenues from these sales, combined with external financing, would provide adequate cash flow to fund our development activities for the nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment technology, the Tennessee mineral property and the Altair Centrifugal Jig (the "Centrifugal Jig"). We underestimated the difficulty of entering the markets for TiO2 nanoparticles with the result that sales revenues have been below expectations and our external financing needs have been greater than anticipated.

During much of the period from 2001 through 2003, we suffered cash shortages as our share price declined and financing became more difficult. In response to this, we reduced cash expenditures to the extent possible while still continuing to develop the nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment technology. At the same time, we reduced expenditures for the Tennessee mineral property and Altair jig and finally suspended work on these assets during 2003.

We currently have agreements in place to (1) provide research involving

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a technology used in the detection of chemical, biological and radiological agents, (2) provide custom oxide feedstocks for a titanium metal research program funded by the Department of Defense and (3) license and evaluate our pigment production process for the production of TiO₂ pigment and pigment-related products from titanium-bearing oil sands. In addition, we have a pharmaceutical product in the early stages of development. Future revenues will depend on the success of these projects, the results of our other research and development work and the success of our marketing efforts.

Restructuring Plans and Progress

In December 2003, the Board of Directors of Altair (the "Board") approved a plan to restructure the Company in order to concentrate resources on the nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment business. The reorganization is intended to maximize management focus on nanomaterials, nanotechnology and material science in targeted markets for TiO₂ pigment, TiO₂ electrodes for titanium metal, pharmaceutical delivery structures, pharmaceuticals, dental materials and nanostructured materials for lithium ion batteries and fuel cells.

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Life Sciences Division. As part of the restructuring, we are creating a new life sciences division that will focus on the continued development of pharmaceutical delivery structures (TiNano Spheres(TM)), dental materials and new nano-based pharmaceuticals including Altair's lead drug candidate, RenaZorb(TM). We have hired a consultant to assist in establishing the new life sciences division and we expect that he will become the senior vice president of the division if, over the next few months, his performance meets the Board's expectations.

Management Changes. Our former Chief Executive Officer, Dr. William P. Long, resigned as an officer and director of Altair on May 1, 2004. We are presently negotiating an agreement with Dr. Long under which we anticipate that he will oversee the disposition of our Centrifugal Jig, Tennessee Mineral Property and related assets, as further discussed below. Dr. Rudi E. Moerck, our President, is now our senior executive officer and is responsible for our day-to-day operations implementing our strategic plan. Dr. Moerck's education and work experience is in the life sciences area, and his skills align well with our short-term business goals.

We have commenced a search for a new non-executive Chairman of the Board to work with Dr. Moerck and the remainder of the Board in their efforts to focus the resources of Altair on generating revenue and increasing value for shareholders. In the meantime, Jon Bengtson, who has extensive experience as a director of larger corporations and particular expertise in the finance and accounting areas, has assumed the position of Chairman of the Board. Under his leadership, we have formed an executive committee of the Board, including Messrs. Bengtson, Moerck, King and Hartman, which has met on an approximately bi-weekly basis and is actively involved in steering the emerging business plan of the Company.

Resource Allocation. We expect to continue our restructuring efforts during the remainder of fiscal year 2004. We expect that future changes will not be structural, but will relate primarily to decisions regarding allocation of resources among existing or proposed projects as we attempt to evaluate the various projects we are working on or considering, determine which have the best potential for short- and long-term revenue generation and focus most of our resources on such projects.

Disposition of Mineral Business. In March 2004, after our Board received and reviewed various summary presentations about our mineral business and various alternatives for its disposition, we announced our intent to consolidate the

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assets related to the Centrifugal Jig and our Tennessee mineral property into (or under) a single corporation, cause such corporation to become an SEC reporting company and distribute substantially all of the shares of common stock of such corporation to our shareholders (with any non-distributed shares being retained by Altair). At that time, the Board anticipated receipt in early May 2004 of a comprehensive business plan for the spin-off entity that could serve as a basis for the Board's final approval of the spin-off and recommendation of the spin-off to shareholders and a starting point for any registration statement, business plan, sales document, proxy statement or other document deemed necessary and appropriate in connection with the proposed spin-off. The Board did not receive the anticipated business plan in early May 2004, and all personnel responsible for the mineral assets, other than a single engineer performing our contractual obligations with respect to the Centrifugal Jig, have resigned or been terminated. In order to conserve capital, the Board has determined not to hire additional personnel at this time in order to complete the mineral assets business plan and related analysis; however, as part of the agreement we are negotiating with our former Chief Executive Officer, Dr. William P. Long, we anticipate that Dr. Long will undertake to develop a business plan for the mineral assets and that final internal approval, and public presentation, of any plan of disposition with respect to the mineral assets will occur after completion of such business plan. We do not expect the internal version of such business plan to be finalized until mid- to late-summer, if at all.

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Although the Board's initial review of disposition alternatives (including spin-off, sale, abandonment and joint venture) indicated that a spin-off would best effect the Board's desires to dispose of the mineral assets quickly and in a manner that enhances shareholder value (without excessive costs), the Board and those responsible for developing the business plan continue to evaluate the desirability and viability of several alternatives. In the meantime, we have reduced expenditures (net of contract revenues from the Centrifugal Jig) on the mineral assets to approximately \$9,000 per month. We expect to maintain or slightly reduce that cost level during 2004 unless and until we begin incurring expenses related to a disposition transaction, which expenses have not exceeded \$10,000 to date. Although we are committed to disposing of the mineral assets as soon as possible, our management resources are limited. We are in the midst of numerous initiatives essential to the development of our nanomaterials and titanium dioxide business and, to the extent that our human resources are insufficient to address issues related to both our core business and plans to dispose of our mineral assets, we expect to continue to give those business initiatives priority.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

We generated \$139,749 of sales revenues in the first three months of 2004 but incurred a net loss of \$1,710,757, resulting in an accumulated deficit of \$47,924,169 at March 31, 2004.

Our cash and short-term investments increased from \$3,869,669 at December 31, 2003 to \$11,490,218 at March 31, 2004 due primarily to the receipt of \$705,114 from the exercise of stock options and receipt of \$8,099,021 from the exercise of warrants. These increases in cash and short-term investments were partially offset by normal cash operating expenditures.

Current and Expected Liquidity. At March 31, 2004, we had cash and cash equivalents of \$11,490,218, an amount that would be sufficient to fund our basic operations through December 31, 2005 at current working capital expenditure levels. We will, however, increase expenditure levels in 2004 and 2005 as we execute on existing and expected contracts. Accordingly, if we are unable to increase our revenues proportionately, we will require additional financing to

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provide working capital to fund our day-to-day operations.

In 2004, we expect to generate limited revenues from contract services utilizing our nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment technology. In addition, we hope to generate revenues through the licensing of RenaZorb(TM), a potential drug we developed that may be useful in phosphate control in kidney dialysis patients. A drug of similar compounds has been submitted for FDA approval by Shire Pharmaceuticals Group plc which has indicated that it expects the drug to receive FDA approval and be launched in 2004. If this similarly compounded drug is approved, we hope to be able to negotiate a license agreement for RenaZorb(TM) with one or more pharmaceutical companies during 2004. We can provide no assurance that we will enter into such a license agreement or that such license agreement would generate significant revenue in the short term.

We have entered an agreement to license and evaluate our pigment production process for the production of TiO₂ pigment and pigment-related products from titanium-bearing oil sands, and have submitted proposals to five international minerals and energy resources companies to develop and license our titanium pigment production process. We do not know whether such evaluations will be successful or that we will eventually license the technology to additional parties. Should we be successful in obtaining additional licenses for the technology, we would expect to receive development fees and royalties over the long-term, but no significant up-front payments. In the near term, unless we are able to enter into a RenaZorb(TM) license involving significant near term revenue, we expect to continue to finance our operations principally with existing cash and through the issuance of equity securities.

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Although we currently have capital sufficient to fund our operations at current levels, we expect our capital needs to increase during 2004 and 2005. We expect to hire additional personnel in order to satisfy our contractual obligations under existing and anticipated services agreements. In addition, our management is focused on facilitating the commercialization of one or more of its products in the foreseeable future. Substantially all of our products are at a conceptual or development stage and, if we are to commercialize one or more products ourselves (as opposed to licensing it for commercialization by the licensee), we will likely be required to hire additional employees, purchase additional equipment, and engage the research, marketing and other services of third parties. This may require significant additional capital. We believe our ability to find strategic partners would be enhanced if we had a stronger balance sheet.

Accordingly, we may raise additional capital during 2004 or 2005. We would most likely generate such financing through the issuance of equity securities in one or more private placements of common shares (probably with accompanying re-sale registration rights and warrants to purchase common shares) or public offerings of our common shares. We do not expect to, but may also issue debt securities or enter into loan or capital leasing arrangements, with one or more financial institutional investors. Any financing, especially an issuance of equity securities in a public offering or large private placement, may dilute existing shareholders and have an adverse effect on the market price of our common shares. We can provide no assurance that, if we determine to seek additional financing, we will be able to obtain additional financing at a reasonable cost, or at all.

Capital Commitments. The following table discloses aggregate information about our contractual obligations including notes payable, mineral lease payments and contractual service agreements, and the periods in which payments are due as of March 31, 2004:

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Contractual Obligations	Total	Less Than 1 Year	1-3 Years	4-5 Years	After 5 Years
Notes Payable	\$3,000,000*	\$ --	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$ 600,000
Mineral Leases	1,074,349	314,445	339,510	292,657	127,737
Contractual Service Agreements	847,639	747,639	100,000	--	--
Total Contractual Obligations	\$4,921,988	\$1,062,084	\$1,639,510	\$1,492,657	\$ 727,737

* Before discount of \$266,588.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Management based the following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations on our consolidated financial statements. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. On an on-going basis, we evaluate our critical accounting policies and estimates, including those related to long-lived assets and stock-based compensation. 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.

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We believe the following critical accounting policies affect the more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements. These judgments and estimates affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. Changes to these judgments and estimates could adversely affect the Company's future results of operations and cash flows.

- o Long-lived assets. Our long-lived assets consist principally of the nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment assets, the intellectual property (patents and patent applications) associated with them, and a building. At March 31, 2004, the carrying value of these assets was \$7,435,892, or 39% of total assets. We evaluate the carrying value of long-lived assets when events or circumstances indicate that an impairment may exist. In our evaluation, we estimate the net undiscounted cash flows expected to be generated by the assets, and recognize impairment when such cash flows will be less than the carrying values. Events or circumstances that could indicate the existence of a possible impairment include obsolescence of the technology, an absence of market demand for the product, and/or continuing technology rights protection.
- o Stock-Based Compensation. We have two stock option plans which provide for the issuance of stock options to employees and service providers. Although Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 123, Accounting for Stock Based Compensation, encourages entities to adopt a fair-value-based method of

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accounting for stock options and similar equity instruments, it also allows an entity to continue measuring compensation cost for stock-based compensation for employees and directors using the intrinsic-value method of accounting prescribed by Accounting Principles Board ("APB") Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees. We have elected to follow the accounting provisions of APB 25 and to furnish the pro forma disclosures required under SFAS No. 123 for employees and directors, but we also issue warrants and options to non-employees that are recognized as expense when issued in accordance with the provisions of SFAS No. 123. We calculate compensation expense under SFAS No. 123 using a modified Black-Scholes option pricing model. In so doing, we estimate certain key variables used in the model. We believe the estimates we use are appropriate and reasonable.

Results of Operations

Three Months Ended March 31, 2004 Compared to Three Months Ended March 31, 2003

The net loss applicable to shareholders for the quarter ended March 31, 2004, which was the first quarter of our 2004 fiscal year, totaled \$1,710,757 (\$.04 per share) compared to a net loss of \$1,316,994 (\$.04 per share) in the first quarter of 2003. The principal factors contributing to the losses during these periods were the lack of substantial revenue combined with the incurrence of operating expenses.

In the first quarter of 2004, we generated \$138,127 of revenues from contract research work and other contracted services and \$1,622 of revenues from the sale of nanoparticle products. The revenues from contract research work include \$20,456 earned under an agreement with Western Michigan University ("WMU") for research services involving a technology used in the detection of chemical, biological and radiological agents. We expect to generate approximately \$120,000 of revenues in connection with this contract during 2004. Other contracted services revenues includes \$75,000 received from Titanium

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Metals Corporation ("TIMET") under a contract to provide them with custom oxide feedstocks for a four-year, titanium metal research program funded by the Department of Defense, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. We expect to generate approximately \$150,000 of revenues in connection with this contract during 2004. Contracted services revenues also includes \$42,671 received from Western Oil Sands, Inc. in connection with an agreement to license our Altair Hydrochloride Pigment Process (the "AHPP") for its possible use of the AHPP for the production of titanium dioxide pigment and pigment-related products at the Athabasca Oil Sands Project in Alberta, Canada, and elsewhere. Upon execution of the agreement, we granted Western Oil Sands an exclusive, conditional license to use the AHPP on heavy minerals derived from oil sands in Alberta, Canada. The agreement also contemplates a three-phase, five-year program pursuant to which the parties will work together to further evaluate, develop and commercialize the AHPP. We expect to generate approximately \$490,000 of revenues in 2004 in connection with the first phase of this contract. In the first quarter of 2003, we generated sales revenues of \$20,277, which consisted of \$1,581 from sales of titanium dioxide nanoparticles, and \$18,696 from fees earned under a services agreement entered into with a materials company in September 2002.

Our research and development ("R&D") efforts in the first quarter of 2004 were directed principally to contract research, pharmaceuticals and titanium pigment process development. R&D expenses increased by \$42,606 from \$212,793 in the first quarter of 2003 to \$255,399 in the same period of 2004,

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principally as a result of increased labor hours, overheads and temporary employees charged to R&D projects. This increase was partially offset by an increase in contract research R&D expense transferred to cost of sales. Costs for contract research are accumulated in R&D accounts and transferred to cost of sales when the customer is billed for the work and revenue is recorded. We expect our R&D expenses for the remainder of fiscal 2004 to remain at levels higher than those of fiscal 2003.

Professional services, which consist principally of legal, consulting and audit expenses, increased by \$68,236 from \$184,358 during the first quarter of 2003 to \$252,594 in the first quarter of 2004. The increase is attributable to legal expenses for work associated with contract research agreements and the preparation of a shelf registration statement for our common shares.

General and administrative expenses increased by \$398,118 from \$557,838 in first quarter of 2003 to \$955,956 in the same period of 2004. Stock options and warrants expense increased by \$116,349, from \$0 in the first quarter of 2003 to \$116,349 in the first quarter of 2004, as a result of stock options granted to non-employees and a charge of \$100,584 for an increase in the fair value of stock options repriced in prior periods. Salaries and related overheads increased by \$193,899 from \$253,600 in the first quarter of 2003 to \$447,499 in the first quarter of 2004 due to the addition of two new employees, salary increases and bonuses paid in the first quarter of 2004. Investor relations expenses increased by \$112,305 from \$69,947 in the first quarter of 2003 to \$182,252 in 2004 as a result of \$118,273 of non-cash charges for the fair value of stock options granted to service providers. These increases were partially offset by general and administrative overheads allocated to R&D.

Interest expense decreased by \$72,891, from \$120,173 in the first quarter of 2003 to \$47,282 in the first quarter of 2004. The decrease is due to the payoff of our note payable to Doral 18, LLC in September 2003.

Recent Business Developments

TIMET

In January 2004 we became a subcontractor to TIMET for a titanium metal research program funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

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("DARPA"). In connection therewith, we were awarded a \$150,000 contract from TIMET to design and develop a titanium oxide electrode structure and provide TIMET optimized titanium oxide feedstock to produce 50 pounds of titanium metal per day in batch production demonstrations. The program's goal is to lower the cost of titanium metal and titanium metal alloys to enable a broader market use. DARPA is specifically interested in lowering the cost to provide for a broader use in military applications such as aerospace and weapons systems. Our participation in this project is a natural extension of our titanium dioxide processing technology. Key intermediates in the AHPP for making pigment and nano-sized TiO₂ allow the manufacture of porous electrodes that may be highly suitable for use in the titanium metal research program funded by DARPA.

RenaZorb(TM)

RenaZorb(TM) is our drug candidate for use in phosphate control in kidney dialysis patients. In vitro testing and animal testing done to date indicate RenaZorb(TM) may be effective for use with kidney dialysis patients with end-stage renal disease. We have not, however, conducted human trials using

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RenaZorb(TM) or submitted an application to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") seeking approval to market RenaZorb(TM). An alternative lanthanum-based drug candidate, Fosrenol(TM), produced by Shire Pharmaceuticals Group plc, is currently under review for approval by the FDA. We do not expect to be able to enter into a license agreement unless and until Fosrenol(TM) obtains FDA approval. Although we expect the FDA to reach a decision regarding Fosrenol(TM) during 2004, we cannot be certain that approval will be granted. If we are able to enter into a license agreement, we are uncertain what the terms of the license would be, but pharmaceutical license agreements often involve up-front or staged payments in addition to royalties if FDA approval is obtained and the drug is marketed.

AHPP Technology

In January 2004, we entered into a license agreement with Western Oil Sands, Inc. with respect to its possible use of the AHPP for the production of titanium dioxide pigment and pigment-related products at the Athabasca Oil Sands Project in Alberta, Canada, and elsewhere. Upon execution of the agreement, we granted Western Oil Sands an exclusive, conditional license to use the AHPP on heavy minerals derived from oil sands in Alberta, Canada. The agreement also contemplates a three-phase, five-year program pursuant to which the parties will work together to further evaluate, develop and commercialize the AHPP. In the first phase of the program, Western Oil Sands is expected to spend \$650,000 (\$500,000 of which is scheduled to be paid to Altair for work performed) to evaluate the AHPP and confirm that the AHPP will produce pigment from oil sands. Assuming phase one is successful, Western Oil Sands may elect to commence phase two, the construction of a demonstration titanium pigment production facility using the AHPP. If phase two is successful, Western Oil Sands may elect to commence phase three, the construction and operation of a full-scale commercial titanium pigment production facility using the AHPP.

We submitted phased development proposals for the testing and economic evaluation of our titanium pigment production technology to four minerals and energy resources companies during the first three quarters of 2003. We recently entered into a testing and development license with one of these companies, called Avireco, located in Vietnam, and anticipate that we may enter into additional testing agreements during 2004. We were recently informed that \$250,000 in funds have now been authorized by the government of Vietnam to begin the first phase of pilot plant testing in the first quarter of 2004; however, we have not yet been authorized to proceed with the work. If the results of testing by one or more such companies are positive, we hope to enter into a long-term license agreement for regional exclusive use of the pigment technology. If one or more of such minerals and energy resources companies obtains such a license and subsequently constructs a full-scale production plant, we would expect to

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receive development fees and royalties over the long-term, but no significant up-front payments. We can provide no assurance that the results of any testing will be positive, that we will enter into a long-term license or that the licensee will construct a full-scale production plant in order to use our technology.

Nanocheck (TM)

Nanocheck(TM) is a lanthanum-based compound that can be used to treat water for the removal of a wide range of deleterious impurities. It has no reported human health hazards and works effectively in existing filtration units without the need for purchasing additional equipment. We have conducted in-house tests of Nanocheck(TM) for phosphate removal in swimming pool simulations, and a pool and spa chemical company has performed materials testing that shows

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effective phosphate removal and high kinetics. Larger scale swimming pool tests are expected to be performed in the summer months beginning June 2004. We also expect to perform an arsenic removal study during the second quarter of 2004.

Battery Applications

In March 2004, we signed a memorandum of joint development work with Hosokawa Micron International to establish a development program using both companies' combined technologies to develop advanced electrode materials for electrochemical devices, which include batteries, capacitors and supercapacitors, from a variety of nanomaterials. We expect to apply for U.S. government grants for the development and testing of the electrodes.

Forward-Looking Statements

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (this "Report") contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Such statements can be identified by the use of the forward-looking words "anticipate," "estimate," "project," "likely," "believe," "intend," "expect," or similar words. These statements discuss future expectations, contain projections regarding future developments, operations, or financial conditions, or state other forward-looking information. Statements in this report regarding the ability of the Company to raise working capital necessary to fund our operations, development of the nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment processing technology and assets (including for pharmaceutical use), licensing of that technology for pharmaceutical or other uses, and other future activities are forward-looking statements. You should keep in mind that all forward-looking statements are based on management's existing beliefs about present and future events outside of management's control and on assumptions that may prove to be incorrect.

Among the key factors that may have a direct bearing on the Company's operating results are various risks and uncertainties including, but not limited to, the following:

- o To date, we have not generated substantial revenues from operations. As of March 31, 2004, we have generated \$480,641 of revenues from our nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment technology and \$28,270 from the use of our centrifugal jig in consulting contracts. We believe that our nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment technology is the only one of our three lines of business that may generate significant revenues in the foreseeable future. Although we currently have approximately \$985,000 in unfulfilled contractual commitments, such commitments

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primarily relate to our provision of research and development services or to sales of products for experimental purposes. We have no sales or other commitments with respect to on-going revenues from our nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment technology and can provide no assurance that we will ever generate significant revenues.

- o As of May 3, 2004, we had \$10.9 million in cash, an amount sufficient to fund our ongoing operations until December 31, 2005 at current working capital expenditure levels. However, we may use our existing capital sooner than projected in connection with an

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unanticipated transaction, litigation or another unplanned event. We may also use more capital than projected as we expand our research, development and marketing efforts. Unless we experience a significant increase in revenue, we will need to raise significant amounts of additional capital in the future in order to sustain our ongoing operations, continue unfinished testing and additional development work and, if certain of our products have been commercialized, produce and market such products.

- o The market price of our common stock, like that of the securities of other early stage companies, may be highly volatile. Our stock price may change dramatically as the result of announcements of our quarterly results, new products or innovations by us or our competitors, uncertainty regarding the viability of the nanomaterials and titanium dioxide pigment technology, significant customer contracts, significant litigation or other factors or events that could affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and future prospects. In addition, the market price for our common stock may be affected by various factors not directly related to our business or future prospects, including the following:
 - (1) Intentional manipulation of our stock price by existing or future shareholders;
 - (2) A single acquisition or disposition, or several related acquisitions or dispositions, of a large number of our shares;
 - (3) The interest of the market in our business sector, without regard to our financial condition, results of operations or business prospects;
 - (4) Positive or negative statements or projections about our company, or our industry, by analysts, stock gurus and other persons;
 - (5) The adoption of governmental regulations or government grant programs and similar developments in the United States or abroad that may enhance or detract from our ability to offer our products and services or affect our cost structure;
 - (6) Economic and other external market factors, such as a general decline in market prices due to poor economic indicators or investor distrust; and
 - (7) Speculation by short sellers of our common stock or other persons who stand to profit from a rapid increase or decrease in the price of our common stock.

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- o Because of our relatively small size and limited resources, we do not plan to use our titanium processing technology for large-scale production of titanium dioxide pigments. As discussed in "Recent Business Developments--AHPP Technology", we have, however, entered into discussions with various minerals and materials companies about licensing our technology to such entities for large-scale production of titanium dioxide pigments. We have not entered into any long-term licensing agreements with respect to the use of our

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titanium processing technology for large-scale production of titanium dioxide pigments and can provide no assurance that we will be able to enter into any such agreement. Even if we enter into such an agreement, we would not receive significant revenues from such license until feasibility testing is complete and, if the results of feasibility testing were negative, would not receive significant revenues at any time.

- o In the short run, we also plan to use the titanium processing technology to produce TiO₂ nanoparticles and/or to license the technology to others. TiO₂ nanoparticles and other products we intend to initially produce with the titanium processing technology, such as nano-sized lithium titanate for use in batteries or other nanoparticles for use in titanium metals, dental applications or detection of radiological agents, generally must be customized for a specific application working in cooperation with manufacturers of products utilizing the nanoparticles and end users. We are still testing and customizing our TiO₂ nanoparticle products for various applications and have no agreements with research partners, manufacturers, customers or others under which any such person has agreed to purchase, license or otherwise pay significant fees to Altair with respect to a nanoparticle application of our technology. We may never generate significant revenues producing, or licensing our technology for the production of, TiO₂ or other nanoparticles.
- o As described in "Restructuring plans and Progress" above, we have announced, but have made little progress on, a plan to distribute to shareholders the capital stock of our subsidiary, Mineral Recovery Systems, which will hold the rights to the exploration-stage mineral deposit in Camden, Tennessee, the ownership of the Altair centrifugal jig and related intellectual property for agglomeration of titanium dioxide. Because of the recent resignation or termination of all but one of our employees responsible for working on our mineral assets, the scarcity of management resources and our decision to focus our efforts on various initiatives that are essential to the development of our nanomaterials and titanium dioxide processing technology, we may not complete the spin-off in the near future or at all. As part of finalizing our business plan for the spin-off, questions as to its viability may arise, or we may determine that other alternatives for the disposition of the mineral assets are more appropriate. We are uncertain when we will dispose of our mineral assets and what the form of such disposition transaction will be. In any case, we do not expect to receive significant value for such assets, even if they are sold, and believe that costs to Altair associated with the disposition transaction will equal or exceed short-term proceeds to Altair.

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- o We have received a proposal from one of our shareholders, which is included in our proxy statement for our upcoming annual meeting. This same shareholder has taken the unusual step of issuing a press release and has sent numerous facsimiles to management making myriad demands (both personal to the shareholder and relating to the Company in general)

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and referencing the possibility of a proxy contest, litigation or other action. To the extent actions by this shareholder, or other shareholders, merit a response, we may be required to use scarce human and capital resources responding to shareholder actions rather than pursuing our business goals. The diversion of resources would likely be substantial in the case of litigation or a proxy contest. In addition, the market price for our common shares and our ability to enter into significant business transactions may be adversely affected by the existence and content of shareholder action. We can provide no assurance that our shareholders will not take actions and make claims or representations, whether or not true, that will adversely affect our ability to conduct our business and the market price of our common stock.

The foregoing factors represent only a sampling of the most significant of the risks associated with an investment in the Company.

In addition to the foregoing, we have included additional risk factors and other cautionary statements contained in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003. We recommend that you review such documents prior to investing in our common shares.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

We do not have any derivative instruments, commodity instruments, or other financial instruments for trading or speculative purposes, nor are we presently at risk for changes in foreign currency exchange rates.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

(a) Based on the evaluation of our "disclosure controls and procedures" (as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Rules 13a-15(e) or 15d-15(e)) required by paragraph (b) of Rules 13a-15 or 15d-15, our president and our chief financial officer have concluded that, as of March 31, 2004, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

(b) There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the evaluation required by paragraph (d) of Exchange Act Rules 13a-15 or 15d-15 that occurred during our last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K

- a) See Exhibit Index attached hereto.
- b) On February 3, 2004, we filed a Form 8-K to report certain current business developments in order to ensure that the information is incorporated by reference into the Company's various registration statements that incorporate subsequent annual, quarterly and current reports by reference.
- c) On March 25, 2004, we filed a Form 8-K to report a news release

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announcing financial results for 2003 and also announcing the date for a quarterly conference call regarding the financial results.

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SIGNATURES

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

Altair Nanotechnologies Inc.

May 14, 2004

Date

By: /s/ Rudi E. Moerck

Rudi E. Moerck, President

May 14, 2004

Date

By: /s/ Edward H. Dickinson

Edward H. Dickinson,
Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Exhibit	Incorporated by Reference
3.1	Articles of Continuance	Incorporated by reference to Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 18, 2002
4.1	Bylaws	Incorporated by reference to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on August 13, 2002
31.1	Section 302 Certification of Chief Executive Officer	Filed herewith
31.2	Section 302 Certification of Chief Financial Officer	Filed herewith
32.1	Section 906 Certification of Chief Executive Officer	Filed herewith

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32.2

Section 906 Certification of Chief Financial
Officer

Filed herewith

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