

EXELIXIS INC
Form 424B5
February 09, 2012
Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-158792

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement is not an offer to sell nor does it seek an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion. Dated February 9, 2012.

Prospectus Supplement to Prospectus dated May 8, 2009.

10,000,000 Shares

Common Stock

Exelixis, Inc. is offering 10,000,000 shares to be sold in the offering.

The common stock is quoted on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol EXEL. The last reported sale price of the common stock on February 8, 2012 was \$6.14 per share.

See Risk Factors beginning on page S-10 of this prospectus supplement to read about factors you should consider before buying shares of the common stock.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

| | Per Share | Total |
|--|-----------|-------|
| Initial price to public | \$ | \$ |
| Underwriting discount | \$ | \$ |
| Proceeds, before expenses, to Exelixis | \$ | \$ |

To the extent that the underwriters sell more than 10,000,000 shares of common stock, the underwriters have the option to purchase up to an additional 1,500,000 shares from Exelixis at the initial price to public less the underwriting discount.

The underwriters expect to deliver the shares against payment in New York, New York on February , 2012.

Sole Book Running Manager

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Co-Manager

Cowen and Company

Prospectus Supplement dated February , 2012.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Prospectus Supplement

| | Page |
|---|-------------|
| <u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT</u> | S-1 |
| <u>PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY</u> | S-2 |
| <u>RISK FACTORS</u> | S-10 |
| <u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u> | S-31 |
| <u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u> | S-32 |
| <u>PRICE RANGE OF OUR COMMON STOCK</u> | S-32 |
| <u>DIVIDEND POLICY</u> | S-33 |
| <u>DILUTION</u> | S-33 |
| <u>UNDERWRITING</u> | S-35 |
| <u>VALIDITY OF COMMON STOCK</u> | S-38 |
| <u>EXPERTS</u> | S-38 |

Prospectus

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| <u>About This Prospectus</u> | 1 |
| <u>Summary</u> | 2 |
| <u>Risk Factors</u> | 5 |
| <u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u> | 6 |
| <u>Ratio Of Earnings To Fixed Charges and Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends</u> | 7 |
| <u>Use Of Proceeds</u> | 8 |
| <u>Description Of Capital Stock</u> | 9 |
| <u>Description Of Debt Securities</u> | 13 |
| <u>Description Of Warrants</u> | 20 |
| <u>Description Of Units</u> | 22 |
| <u>Legal Ownership Of Securities</u> | 24 |
| <u>Plan Of Distribution</u> | 27 |
| <u>Legal Matters</u> | 29 |
| <u>Experts</u> | 29 |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u> | 29 |

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of the common stock we are offering. The second part, the accompanying prospectus dated May 8, 2009, gives more general information about our common stock. You should read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the information incorporated by reference and any free writing prospectuses we have authorized for use in connection with this offering, in their entirety before making an investment decision.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, along with the information contained in any free writing prospectuses we have authorized for use in connection with this offering. If the description of the offering varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional information. Under no circumstances should the delivery to you of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or any sale made pursuant to this prospectus supplement create any implication that the information contained in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is correct as of any time after the respective dates of such information.

Unless the context requires otherwise, the words Exelixis, we, the company, us and our refer to Exelixis, Inc. and its subsidiaries, and the term you refers to a prospective investor.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, include trademarks, service marks and trade names owned by us or others. Exelixis, Inc., the Exelixis, Inc. logo and all other Exelixis product and service names are trademarks of Exelixis, Inc. in the United States and in other selected countries. All other trademarks, service marks and trade names included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

*This summary highlights selected information appearing elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus and any free-writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering and may not contain all of the information that is important to you. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus include information about the shares we are offering as well as information regarding our business and financial data. You should read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the information incorporated by reference and any free writing prospectuses we have authorized for use in connection with this offering, in their entirety. Investors should carefully consider the information set forth under **Risk Factors** in this prospectus supplement.*

Exelixis, Inc.

We are a biotechnology company committed to developing small molecule therapies for the treatment of cancer. We are focusing our proprietary resources and development efforts exclusively on cabozantinib, or XL184, our most advanced product candidate, in order to maximize the therapeutic and commercial potential of this compound. We believe cabozantinib has the potential to be a high-quality, broadly-active, differentiated pharmaceutical product that can make a meaningful difference in the lives of patients. We have also established a portfolio of other novel compounds that we believe have the potential to address serious unmet medical needs, many of which are being advanced by partners as part of collaborations.

Cabozantinib

Cabozantinib inhibits MET, VEGFR2 and RET, proteins that are key drivers of tumor growth, vascularization and/or metastasis. Cabozantinib has shown novel and differentiated activity in multiple cancer indications. The current clinical program for cabozantinib is focused on the treatment of metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer, or CRPC, and medullary thyroid cancer but also includes the evaluation of other tumor types. Exelixis has implemented a strategy to investigate cabozantinib in a comprehensive development program for CRPC to potentially generate a product that could effectively compete in the CRPC marketplace. Two phase 3 pivotal trials, COMET-1 (formerly known as XL184-307) and COMET-2 (formerly known as XL184-306), were designed to provide an opportunity to commercially differentiate cabozantinib as an oncology agent with a potentially beneficial impact on overall survival, pain palliation and narcotic usage. We expect to initiate the COMET-1 trial with an overall survival endpoint in the first half of 2012. We initiated the COMET-2 trial with a pain palliation endpoint in December 2011. We also initiated a rolling submission of a new drug application, or NDA, for cabozantinib in medullary thyroid cancer in December 2011 following our October 2011 announcement of the top-line results of the primary endpoint of our ongoing phase 3 clinical trial of cabozantinib as a potential treatment for medullary thyroid cancer, known as the EXAM trial.

We expect to expand the cabozantinib development program to other solid tumor indications, based on encouraging interim data that have emerged from the randomized discontinuation trial, or RDT, investigating cabozantinib in nine distinct tumor types, as well as other clinical trials. Objective tumor responses have been observed in patients treated with cabozantinib in 12 of 13 individual tumor types investigated to date, reflecting the broad potential clinical activity and commercial opportunity of this new product candidate. Interim data suggest that cabozantinib has shown novel activity against

Table of Contents

bone and soft tissue lesions in patients with CRPC. We have also observed resolution of metastatic bone lesions on bone scan in patients with metastatic breast cancer, renal cell carcinoma, thyroid cancer and melanoma. Interim data from the CRPC cohort of the RDT reported at the American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting in June 2011 demonstrated that in addition to improvement of bone lesions on bone scan observed in the majority (75%) of patients, 67% of patients with bone metastases and bone pain at baseline also experienced alleviation of pain. This observation has been corroborated in a non-randomized extension cohort of CRPC patients in the RDT, or NRE, which collected prospectively defined patient reported outcomes on pain and narcotic use. Interim data from the NRE reported at the AACR-EORTC-NCI Symposium on Molecular Targets and Cancer Therapeutics in November 2011 demonstrated that 48% of CRPC patients with moderate to severe pain in the NRE experienced durable pain reduction ³30%. The median best pain reduction was 46%. In addition, this interim data indicated that 56% of CRPC patients in the NRE with moderate to severe bone pain and on narcotics at baseline were able to reduce or discontinue narcotic medication. Lower starting doses of cabozantinib are being evaluated through a dose-ranging study in CRPC patients conducted through an investigator sponsored trial, or IST. Preliminary data from the IST demonstrate that a daily dose of 40 mg resulted in a rate of bone scan responses similar to that of a 100 mg daily dose used in the RDT and was associated with improved tolerability compared with the higher dose. In addition, preliminary data from a cohort of CRPC patients in the NRE treated at a daily dose of 40 mg demonstrate pain palliation responses consistent with observations at the 100 mg daily dose.

It is a priority for us to generate additional data from the RDT as well as other ongoing exploratory clinical trials for cabozantinib in a broad range of tumor types, including ovarian cancer, melanoma, breast cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, hepatocellular cancer, renal cell carcinoma and differentiated thyroid cancer, to support further prioritization of our clinical and commercial options. In November 2011, we entered into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement, or CRADA, with the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program, or CTEP, for further evaluation of cabozantinib across multiple tumor types and in combination with other anti-tumor agents in a cost-effective manner for Exelixis. We believe that cabozantinib's clinical profile is compelling and will allow commercial differentiation, assuming regulatory approval

EXAM Phase 3 Clinical Trial in Medullary Thyroid Cancer

Cabozantinib is being studied in an ongoing global phase 3 registration trial in medullary thyroid cancer known as the EXAM trial. In October 2011, we announced the top-line results of the primary endpoint of the EXAM trial. The trial met its primary endpoint of improving progression-free survival compared with placebo and substantially exceeded the threshold of a 75% increase in progression-free survival originally assumed when the trial was designed. Cabozantinib significantly improved median progression-free survival by 7.2 months compared with placebo. The median progression-free survival on the cabozantinib arm was 11.2 months versus 4.0 months on the placebo arm: hazard ratio 0.28 (95% CI 0.19, 0.40), $p < 0.0001$. We intend to report data from the EXAM trial at an upcoming medical conference in 2012. In December 2011, we initiated a rolling submission of an NDA for cabozantinib in medullary thyroid cancer, and we expect to complete the NDA filing in the first half of 2012. Cabozantinib is eligible for a rolling submission as a result of the United States Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, granting cabozantinib in medullary thyroid cancer Fast Track designation, which often results in a drug being considered appropriate to receive a priority review. Assuming priority review, we currently anticipate a potential approval of our NDA by the FDA by the end of 2012.

The EXAM trial was initiated in 2008 following agreement between the FDA and us on the trial design through the FDA's Special Protocol Assessment, or SPA, process. In January 2011, the FDA granted orphan drug designation to cabozantinib for the treatment of follicular, medullary, and anaplastic thyroid carcinoma and metastatic or locally advanced papillary thyroid cancer. Orphan drug

Table of Contents

status is granted to treatments for diseases that affect fewer than 200,000 people in the United States and provides the benefits of potential market exclusivity for the orphan-designated product for the orphan-designated indication for seven years, tax credits of up to 50% of the qualified clinical trial expenses and a waiver of FDA application user fees.

Phase 3 Clinical Trials in Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer

Our comprehensive CRPC development program is centered around our COMET-1 trial, which we plan to initiate in the first half of 2012, and our COMET-2 trial, which was initiated in December 2011, each of which is described below. We are also exploring other potential pivotal trials in the prostate cancer indication.

COMET-1 Trial Design. The primary endpoint of the COMET-1 trial will be overall survival. The trial will be conducted in patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer with bone metastases who have failed prior docetaxel and abiraterone or MDV3100 therapies. Patients will be randomized in a 2:1 ratio to receive cabozantinib at 60 mg daily or prednisone. The trial is expected to be executed globally and at non-overlapping sites with the COMET-2 trial.

COMET-2 Trial Design. The double-blind COMET-2 trial is designed to enroll 246 patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer that is metastatic to the bone, who are suffering from moderate to severe bone pain despite optimized narcotic medication, and who have failed prior docetaxel and abiraterone or MDV3100 therapies. The trial will be conducted in English-speaking regions, including the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. Patients will be randomized 1:1 to receive either cabozantinib or mitoxantrone/prednisone. Alleviation of bone pain will be the primary endpoint and will be measured by comparing the percentage of patients in the two treatment arms who achieve a pain response at Week 6 that is confirmed at Week 12. The trial design assumes that 25% of patients in the cabozantinib arm will have a pain response while 8% of patients in the mitoxantrone/prednisone arm will have a pain response. Prior to randomization, patients will undergo a period during which their pain medication is optimized using one long acting narcotic medication and one immediate release narcotic medication. This optimization follows a standard approach defined in the National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines. Patients in the cabozantinib arm will be dosed at 60 mg per day until the patient no longer receives clinical benefit. The definition of a responder with respect to the bone pain endpoint is a ³30% decrease from baseline in the average of the daily worst pain intensity collected over seven days in Week 6 and confirmed in Week 12, with neither a concomitant increase in average daily dose of any narcotic pain medication, nor addition of any new narcotic pain medication. Overall survival will be a secondary endpoint of the COMET-2 trial. The trial will be deemed successful if the primary endpoint of statistically significant pain improvement is met and the overall survival analysis does not show an adverse impact on overall survival in the cabozantinib arm. We originally submitted the proposed design protocol for the COMET-2 trial to the FDA in June 2011 with a request for a SPA but were not able to reach a timely agreement with the FDA under a SPA on the proposed design and analysis of the COMET-2 trial.

Strategy

Our strategy is to aggressively advance cabozantinib through development toward commercialization. In doing so, we will pursue a pragmatic development plan focused on those cancer indications where we believe cabozantinib has the greatest therapeutic and commercial potential. We are aggressively managing our expenses to preserve our cash resources and ensure we are appropriately dedicating those resources towards successfully executing our strategy.

Table of Contents

Consistent with our decision to focus on cabozantinib and aggressively manage our expenses, we have discontinued development efforts with respect to our remaining unpartnered compounds and programs, and are considering collaborations or other external opportunities for further development of these compounds and programs.

Recent Events

On February 8, 2012, we released our unaudited results for the fourth quarter and year ended December 31, 2011. The results we released included the following:

We reported revenues for the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2011 of \$93.3 million, compared to \$40.8 million for the comparable period in 2010, and revenues for the year ended December 31, 2011 of \$289.6 million compared to \$185.0 million in 2010. The increase for the fourth quarter was primarily due to the recognition of revenue as a result of the acceleration of deferred license revenue and the receipt of a one-time termination fee in connection with the wind-down in December 2011 of our 2009 collaboration with Sanofi for the discovery of inhibitors of Phosphoinositide-3 Kinase, or PI3K. The increase for the year ended December 31, 2011 was primarily due to the revenue recognized as a result of the acceleration of deferred license revenue related to the early termination of our 2008 collaboration agreement with Bristol Myers-Squibb Company, or Bristol Myers Squibb, for XL281 in October 2011 and the wind-down in December 2011 of our Sanofi collaboration agreement.

We reported net income for the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2011 of \$46.3 million, or \$0.35 per share, basic and diluted, compared to net loss of (\$17.9) million, or (\$0.16) per share, basic and diluted, for the comparable period in 2010. For the year ended December 31, 2011, we reported net income of \$75.7 million, or \$0.60 per share, basic, and \$0.58 per share, diluted, compared to a net loss of (\$92.3) million, or (\$0.85) per share, basic and diluted, for 2010. Our net income position for the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2011 and for the year ended December 31, 2011 was primarily due to the recognition of revenue as a result of the acceleration of deferred license revenue, as described above, and a significant reduction in operating expenses, primarily related to our 2010 and 2011 restructurings.

We reported that cash and cash equivalents, marketable securities, long-term investments and restricted cash and investments totaled \$283.7 million at December 31, 2011, compared to \$256.4 million at December 31, 2010. The 2011 year-end cash balance excludes \$27.3 million which we received in January 2012 in connection with the execution of the PI3K license agreement with Merck and the agreement to wind down our discovery collaboration with Sanofi, both of which were signed in December 2011.

The foregoing results of operations for the fourth quarter and year ended December 31, 2011 have not been audited or reviewed by our independent registered public accounting firm. Our final reported results may differ from our unaudited results.

Collaborations

We have established collaborations with leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, including Bristol-Myers Squibb, Sanofi, Genentech, Inc. (a wholly owned member of the Roche Group), GlaxoSmithKline, Merck (known as MSD outside of the United States and Canada) and Daiichi Sankyo Company Limited, or Daiichi Sankyo, for various compounds and programs in our portfolio. Pursuant to these collaborations, we have out-licensed compounds or programs to a partner for further development and commercialization, generally have no further unfunded cost obligations related to such compounds or programs and may be entitled to receive research funding, milestones and

Table of Contents

royalties or a share of profits from commercialization. Several of the out-licensed compounds are in multiple phase 2 studies and could potentially be of significant value to us if their development progresses successfully. With respect to our partnered compounds, we are eligible to receive potential milestone payments under our collaborations totaling approximately \$3.1 billion in the aggregate on a non-risk adjusted basis, of which 10% are related to clinical development milestones, 44% are related to regulatory milestones and 46% are related to commercial milestones.

Corporate Information

We were incorporated in Delaware in November 1994 as Exelixis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and we changed our name to Exelixis, Inc. in February 2000. Our principal executive offices are located at 210 East Grand Ave., South San Francisco, California 94080. Our telephone number is (650) 837-7000 and our website is <http://www.exelixis.com>. We have not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus the information on our website, and you should not consider it to be a part of this prospectus supplement. Our website address is included in this prospectus supplement as an inactive textual reference only.

S-6

Table of Contents

The Offering

| | |
|--|--|
| Common stock offered by Exelixis | 10,000,000 shares |
| Underwriters' option to purchase additional shares | 1,500,000 shares |
| Common stock to be outstanding after the offering | 145,563,735 shares |
| Use of proceeds | We currently expect to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes, including for research and development, capital expenditures and working capital. |
| Risk factors | See Risk Factors beginning on page S-10 for a discussion of factors you should consider before buying shares of our common stock. |
| Nasdaq Global Select Market Symbol | |

EXEL

The number of shares of common stock to be outstanding after the offering is based on the number of shares outstanding as of December 30, 2011. As of that date, we had 135,563,735 shares of common stock outstanding, excluding:

17,436,378 shares of common stock underlying options outstanding as of December 30, 2011 at a weighted average exercise price of \$7.16 per share;

1,441,215 shares of common stock underlying warrants outstanding as of December 30, 2011 at a weighted average exercise price of \$6.99 per share;

1,197,992 unvested restricted stock units as of December 30, 2011; and

188,856 shares reserved for future issuance pursuant to vested restricted stock units; and

9,156,637 shares available for future grant under our 2011 Equity Incentive Plan, 2,685,200 shares available for future grant under our 2000 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, 1,117,656 shares available for future grant under our 2000 Non-Employee Directors' Stock Option Plan, and 649,090 shares available for future grant under our 401(k) Retirement Plan, all as of December 30, 2011.

Unless we specifically state otherwise, the information in this prospectus supplement assumes that the underwriters do not exercise their option to purchase up to 1,500,000 additional shares of our common stock within 30 days after the date of this prospectus supplement.

S-7

Table of Contents**Summary Consolidated Financial Data**

We derived the information presented below as of December 31, 2010 and for each of the three years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010 from our audited consolidated financial statements. We derived the information presented below as of September 30, 2011 and for the each of the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2011 from our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments, consisting of only normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation of the unaudited financial data as of September 30, 2011 and for each of the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2011 have been reflected therein. Operating results for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the full year. The following information should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus from our 2010 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

For more details on how you can obtain our SEC reports and other information, you should read the section of the accompanying prospectus entitled "Where You Can Find More Information."

| | 2008 | Year Ended December 31, 2009 | 2010 | Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010 (unaudited) | 2011 (unaudited) |
|---|--------------|------------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|
| (in thousands, except per share data) | | | | | |
| Consolidated Statement of Operations Data | | | | | |
| Total revenues | \$ 117,859 | \$ 151,759 | \$ 185,045 | \$ 144,269 | \$ 196,328 |
| Total operating expenses | \$ 297,172 | \$ 273,666 | \$ 276,442 | \$ 221,556 | \$ 158,367 |
| Consolidated net (loss) income | \$ (175,570) | \$ (139,557) | \$ (92,330) | \$ (74,465) | \$ 29,401 |
| Loss attributed to noncontrolling interest | \$ 12,716 | \$ 4,337 | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Net (loss) income attributable to Exelixis, Inc. | \$ (162,854) | \$ (135,220) | \$ (92,330) | \$ (74,465) | \$ 29,401 |
| Net (loss) income per share, basic attributable to Exelixis, Inc. | \$ (1.54) | \$ (1.26) | \$ (0.85) | \$ (0.69) | \$ 0.24 |
| Net (loss) income per share, diluted attributable to Exelixis, Inc. | \$ (1.54) | \$ (1.26) | \$ (0.85) | \$ (0.69) | \$ 0.23 |
| Shares used in computing basic net (loss) income per share | 105,498 | 107,073 | 108,522 | 108,373 | 123,426 |
| Shares used in computing diluted net (loss) income per share | 105,498 | 107,073 | 108,522 | 108,373 | 129,430 |

| | As of September 30, 2011 | |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Actual | As Adjusted(1)(2) |
| | (unaudited) | |
| | (in thousands) | |
| Consolidated Balance Sheet Data | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents, marketable securities, restricted cash and investments and long-term investments | \$ 313,144 | \$ 370,614 |
| Working capital | \$ 78,259 | \$ 135,729 |
| Total assets | \$ 411,636 | \$ 469,106 |
| Long-term obligations, less current portion | \$ 175,082 | \$ 175,082 |
| Accumulated deficit | \$ (1,152,653) | \$ (1,152,653) |
| Total stockholders' equity | \$ 3,054 | \$ 60,524 |

- (1) As adjusted to reflect the sale of 10,000,000 shares being offered in this offering and the receipt of the estimated net proceeds of \$57.5 million from the sale of these shares, assuming a public offering price of \$6.14 per share and after deducting the estimated underwriting discounts and estimated offering expenses payable by us.
- (2) Each \$0.50 increase or decrease in the assumed offering price per share would increase or decrease the as adjusted figure shown above for each of cash and cash equivalents, marketable securities, restricted cash and investments and long-term investments, working capital, total assets and total stockholders' equity by approximately \$4.7 million, assuming that the number of shares offered by us, as set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, remains the same and after deducting the estimated underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses payable by us. We may also increase or decrease the number of shares we are offering. An increase or decrease of 500,000 shares in the

Table of Contents

number of shares offered by us at the assumed offering price would increase or decrease the as adjusted figure above for each of cash and cash equivalents, marketable securities, restricted cash and investments and long-term investments, working capital, total assets and total stockholders equity by approximately \$2.9 million, after deducting the estimated underwriting discounts and estimated offering expenses payable by us.

Our Fiscal Year

We have adopted a 52- or 53-week fiscal year that ends on the Friday closest to December 31st. Fiscal year 2008, a 53-week year, ended on January 2, 2009, fiscal year 2009, a 52-week year, ended on January 1, 2010, fiscal year 2010, a 52-week year, ended on December 31, 2010 and fiscal year 2011, a 52-week year, ended on December 30, 2011. For convenience, references in this prospectus supplement as of and for the fiscal years ended January 2, 2009, January 1, 2010, December 31, 2010 and December 30, 2011 and as of and for the fiscal quarters ended October 1, 2010, September 30, 2011 and December 30, 2011 are indicated on a calendar year basis as ended December 31, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 and September 30, 2010 and 2011 and December 31, 2011, respectively.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. Before deciding whether to invest in our common stock, you should consider carefully the risk factors described below and in any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering. If any of these risks actually occur, it may materially harm our business, financial condition, operating results or cash flow. As a result, the market price of our common stock could decline, and you could lose all or part of your investment. Additional risks and uncertainties that are not yet identified or that we think are immaterial may also materially harm our business, operating results and financial condition and could result in a complete loss of your investment.

Risks Related to Our Need for Additional Financing and Our Financial Results

If additional capital is not available to us, we would be forced to delay, reduce or eliminate our product development programs or commercialization efforts and we may breach our financial covenants.

We will need to raise additional capital to:

fund our operations and clinical trials;

continue our research and development efforts; and

commercialize our product candidates, if any such candidates receive regulatory approval for commercial sale.

As of September 30, 2011, we had \$313.1 million in cash and cash equivalents, marketable securities and long-term investments, which included restricted cash and investments of \$4.2 million and approximately \$93.6 million of cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities that we are required to maintain on deposit with Silicon Valley Bank or one of its affiliates pursuant to covenants in our loan and security agreement with Silicon Valley Bank. We anticipate that our current cash and cash equivalents, marketable securities, long-term investments and funding that we expect to receive from existing collaborators, together with the anticipated proceeds from this offering, will enable us to maintain our operations for a period of at least 12 months following the filing date of this prospectus supplement. However, our future capital requirements will be substantial, and we will need to raise additional capital in the future. Our capital requirements will depend on many factors, and we may need to use available capital resources and raise additional capital significantly earlier than we currently anticipate. These factors include:

the cabozantinib development program. We are focusing our proprietary resources and development efforts on cabozantinib, our most advanced product candidate, which is being studied in a variety of tumor types, with the goal of rapidly commercializing the compound. Cabozantinib is being evaluated in a broad development program encompassing multiple cancer indications. The current clinical program for cabozantinib is focused on the treatment of metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer and medullary thyroid cancer and will be expanded to other solid tumor indications, based on encouraging interim data that have emerged from the RDT investigating cabozantinib in nine distinct tumor types and other clinical trials. In October 2011, we announced that our phase 3 clinical trial of cabozantinib in medullary thyroid cancer met its primary endpoint, and, in December 2011, the FDA granted us permission to initiate a rolling submission of an NDA for cabozantinib in medullary thyroid cancer. We initiated the submission in December 2011 by submitting to the FDA key parts of the NDA, including the preclinical information, and we expect to complete the NDA filing in the first half of 2012. Assuming priority review and approval of our NDA by the FDA, we currently anticipate a potential commercial launch of cabozantinib for the treatment of medullary thyroid

Table of Contents

cancer in the second half of 2012. In December 2011, we initiated our first phase 3 pivotal trial of cabozantinib in patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer using an endpoint of pain reduction (COMET-2). We also plan to initiate a phase 3 pivotal trial in metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer patients with an overall survival endpoint (COMET-1) in the first half of 2012 as part of our comprehensive development plan for cabozantinib in castration-resistant prostate cancer. We are also planning other potential pivotal trials in prostate cancer. Our development and commercialization plans for cabozantinib are dependent on the extent of our available financial resources. There can be no assurance that we will have sufficient financial resources independently or through other arrangements to fund the trials that are currently planned or in process, to fund other clinical trials that we may desire to initiate in the future or to fund commercialization efforts. If adequate funds are not available, we may be required to delay, discontinue or elect not to pursue one or more trials or commercialization efforts for cabozantinib;

repayment of the notes under our note purchase agreement with Deerfield On June 2, 2010, we entered into a note purchase agreement with entities affiliated with Deerfield Management Company, L.P., or Deerfield, pursuant to which, on July 1, 2010, we sold to Deerfield an aggregate of \$124.0 million initial principal amount of our secured convertible notes, due June 2015, for an aggregate purchase price of \$80.0 million, less closing fees and expenses. The outstanding principal amount of the notes bears interest in the annual amount of \$6.0 million, payable quarterly in arrears. We will be required to make mandatory prepayments on the notes on an annual basis in 2013, 2014 and 2015 equal to 15% of specified payments from our collaborative arrangements received during the prior fiscal year, subject to a maximum annual prepayment amount of \$27.5 million and, for payments due in January 2013 and 2014, a minimum prepayment amount of \$10.0 million. We may also prepay all or a portion (not less than \$5.0 million) of the principal amount of the notes at an optional prepayment price based on a discounted principal amount (during the first three years of the term, subject to a prepayment premium) determined as of the date of prepayment, plus accrued and unpaid interest, plus in the case of a prepayment of the full principal amount of the notes (other than prepayments upon the occurrence of specified transactions relating to a change of control or a substantial sale of assets), all accrued interest that would have accrued between the date of such prepayment and the next anniversary of the note purchase agreement. In lieu of making any optional or mandatory prepayment in cash, subject to specified limitations, we have the right to convert all or a portion of the principal amount of the notes into, or satisfy all or any portion of the optional prepayment amounts or mandatory prepayment amounts (other than the first \$10.0 million of mandatory prepayments required in 2013 and 2014) with, shares of our common stock. Additionally, in lieu of making any payment of accrued and unpaid interest in respect of the notes in cash, subject to specified limitations, we may elect to satisfy any such payment with shares of our common stock. The number of shares of our common stock issuable upon conversion or in settlement of principal and interest obligations will be based upon the discounted trading price of our common stock over a specified trading period. In the event the market price for our common stock is depressed or we do not have sufficient number of authorized but unissued shares, we may not be able to convert the principal amount of the notes or satisfy our payment obligations in full using shares of our common stock due to restrictions in the agreement on the number of shares we may issue. In addition, the issuance of shares of our common stock to convert the notes or satisfy our payment obligations may result in significant dilution to our stockholders. As a result, we may need to obtain additional funding to satisfy our repayment obligations. There can be no assurance that we will have sufficient funds to repay the notes or satisfy our payment obligations under the note purchase agreement when due or that we will comply with the conditions to our ability to convert the principal amount of the notes into or satisfy our payment obligations with shares of our common stock;

Table of Contents

repayment of our loan from Silicon Valley Bank On June 2, 2010, we amended our loan and security agreement with Silicon Valley Bank to provide for a new seven-year term loan in an amount of \$80.0 million. The principal amount outstanding under the term loan accrues interest at 1.0% per annum, which interest is due and payable monthly. We are required to repay the term loan in one balloon principal payment, representing 100% of the principal balance and accrued and unpaid interest, on May 31, 2017. We have the option to prepay all, but not less than all, of the amounts advanced under the term loan, provided that we pay all unpaid accrued interest thereon that is due through the date of such prepayment and the interest on the entire principal balance of the term loan that would otherwise have been paid after such prepayment date until the maturity date of the term loan. In accordance with the terms of the loan and security agreement, we are also required to maintain on deposit an amount equal to at least 100% of the outstanding principal balance of the term loan at all times as support for our obligations under the loan and security agreement. As a result, the proceeds of the term loan cannot be used to satisfy our other obligations without causing a default under our loan and security agreement with Silicon Valley Bank;

the level of payments received under existing collaboration agreements, licensing agreements and other arrangements;

the degree to which we conduct funded development activity on behalf of partners to whom we have out-licensed compounds;

whether we enter into new collaboration agreements, licensing agreements or other arrangements (including, in particular, with respect to cabozantinib) that provide additional capital;

our ability to control costs;

our ability to remain in compliance with, or amend or cause to be waived, financial covenants contained in agreements with third parties;

the amount of our cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities that serve as collateral for bank lines of credit;

future clinical trial results;

our need to expand our product and clinical development efforts;

our ability to share the costs of our clinical development efforts with third parties;

the cost and timing of regulatory approvals;

the cost of clinical and research supplies of our product candidates;

the effect of competing technological and market developments;

the filing, maintenance, prosecution, defense and enforcement of patent claims and other intellectual property rights; and

the cost of any acquisitions of or investments in businesses, products and technologies.

We may seek to raise funds through the sale of equity or debt securities or through external borrowings. In addition, we may enter into additional strategic partnerships, collaborative arrangements or other strategic transactions. It is unclear whether any such partnership, arrangement or transaction will occur, on satisfactory terms or at all, or what the timing and nature of such a partnership, arrangement or transaction may be. The sale of equity or convertible debt securities in the future may be dilutive to our stockholders, and debt-financing arrangements may require us to pledge certain assets and enter into covenants that would restrict certain business activities or our ability to incur further indebtedness, and may contain other terms that are not favorable to our stockholders or us. If

S-12

Table of Contents

we are unable to obtain adequate funds on reasonable terms, we may be required to curtail operations significantly or obtain funds by entering into financing, supply or collaboration agreements on unattractive terms or we may be required to relinquish rights to technology or product candidates or to grant licenses on terms that are unfavorable to us.

We may need to obtain additional funding in order to stay in compliance with financial covenants contained in agreements with third parties. The terms of our debt owed to Deerfield and Silicon Valley Bank each contain covenants requiring us to maintain specified cash balances or working capital. The failure to comply with these covenants could result in an acceleration of the underlying debt obligations. If we cannot raise additional capital in order to remain in compliance with such covenants or if we are unable to renegotiate such covenants and the lender exercises its remedies under the agreement, we would not be able to operate under our current operating plan.

We have a history of net losses. We expect to continue to incur net losses, and we may not achieve or maintain profitability.

We have incurred net losses since inception through 2010. As of September 30, 2011, we had an accumulated deficit of \$1,152.7 million. For the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2011, we recorded net income of \$77.9 million and \$29.4 million, respectively, primarily due to the revenue recognized as a result of the acceleration of deferred license revenue related to the early termination of our 2008 Agreement with Bristol Myers-Squibb for XL281 in October 2011 and the wind-down in December 2011 of our Sanofi collaboration agreement. Notwithstanding our net income for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2011, and the announcement of our net income for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, we anticipate further net losses and negative operating cash flow for the foreseeable future. We have not yet completed the development, including obtaining regulatory approval, of cabozantinib or any other product candidates and, consequently, have not generated revenues from the sale of pharmaceutical products. We have derived substantially all of our revenues to date from collaborative research and development agreements. Revenues from research and development collaborations depend upon continuation of the collaborations, research funding, the achievement of milestones and royalties we earn from any future products developed from the collaborative research. If we are unable to successfully achieve milestones, our collaborators fail to develop successful products or research funding we receive from collaborators decreases, we will not earn the revenues contemplated under such collaborative agreements. The amount of our net losses will depend, in part, on the rate of growth, if any, in our license and contract revenues and on the level of our expenses. These losses have had and will continue to have an adverse effect on our stockholders' equity and working capital. Our research and development expenditures and general and administrative expenses have exceeded our revenues through 2010, and we expect to spend significant additional amounts to fund the development of cabozantinib. As a result, we expect to continue to incur substantial operating expenses, and, consequently, we will need to generate significant additional revenues to achieve future profitability. Because of the numerous risks and uncertainties associated with developing drugs, we are unable to predict the extent of any future losses or when we will become profitable, if at all.

We may not realize the expected benefits of our initiatives to control costs.

Managing costs is a key element of our business strategy. Consistent with this element of our strategy, during 2010, we implemented two restructuring plans that resulted in an overall reduction in our workforce by 386 employees. In March 2011, we implemented an additional restructuring plan that resulted in further terminations in 2011. Taking into consideration employees who have since been recalled, there has been an aggregate reduction in headcount from the 2010 and 2011 restructuring plans of 402 employees. We anticipate that we will incur additional restructuring charges through the end of 2017 in connection with the implementation of these restructuring plans.

Table of Contents

As part of our restructuring plans, in 2011 we entered into two sublease agreements for portions of one of our buildings in South San Francisco, California. We are still assessing our ability to sublease portions of our facilities in light of the workforce reduction as well as the potential for sublease income. Estimates for sublease income would require significant assumptions regarding the time required to contract with subtenants, the amount of idle space we would be able to sublease and potential future sublease rates. If we are able to vacate portions of our facilities, we would need to continue to update our estimate of the lease exit costs in our financial statements until we were able to negotiate an exit to the lease or negotiate a sublease for the remaining term of the lease.

If we experience excessive unanticipated inefficiencies or incremental costs in connection with restructuring activities, such as unanticipated inefficiencies caused by reducing headcount, we may be unable to meaningfully realize cost savings and we may incur expenses in excess of what we anticipate. Either of these outcomes could prevent us from meeting our strategic objectives and could adversely impact our results of operations and financial condition.

We are exposed to risks related to foreign currency exchange rates.

Most of our foreign expenses incurred are associated with establishing and conducting clinical trials for cabozantinib. The amount of expenses incurred will be impacted by fluctuations in the currencies of those countries in which we conduct clinical trials. Our agreements with the foreign sites that conduct such clinical trials generally provide that payments for the services provided will be calculated in the currency of that country, and converted into U.S. dollars using various exchange rates based upon when services are rendered or the timing of invoices. When the U.S. dollar weakens against foreign currencies, the U.S. dollar value of the foreign-currency denominated expense increases, and when the U.S. dollar strengthens against these currencies, the U.S. dollar value of the foreign-currency denominated expense decreases. Consequently, changes in exchange rates may affect our financial position and results of operations.

Global credit and financial market conditions could negatively impact the value of our current portfolio of cash equivalents, short-term investments or long-term investments and our ability to meet our financing objectives.

Our cash and cash equivalents are maintained in highly liquid investments with remaining maturities of 90 days or less at the time of purchase. Our short-term and long-term investments consist primarily of readily marketable debt securities with remaining maturities of more than 90 days at the time of purchase. While as of the date of this prospectus supplement we are not aware of any downgrades, material losses, or other significant deterioration in the fair value of our cash equivalents, short-term investments or long-term investments since September 30, 2011, no assurance can be given that a deterioration in conditions of the global credit and financial markets would not negatively impact our current portfolio of cash equivalents or investments or our ability to meet our financing objectives.

Risks Related to Development of Cabozantinib

We are dependent on the successful development and commercialization of cabozantinib.

The success of our business is dependent upon the successful development and commercialization of cabozantinib. As part of our strategy, we intend to dedicate all of our proprietary resources to advance cabozantinib as aggressively as feasible. Our ability to realize the value of our investment is contingent on, among other things, successful clinical development, regulatory approval and market acceptance of cabozantinib. If we encounter difficulties in the development of cabozantinib due to any of the factors discussed in this Risk Factors section or otherwise, or we do not receive regulatory approval and are unable to commercialize cabozantinib, we will not have the resources necessary to continue our business in its current form.

Table of Contents

Clinical testing of cabozantinib and other product candidates is a lengthy, costly, complex and uncertain process and may fail to demonstrate safety and efficacy.

Clinical trials are inherently risky and may reveal that our product candidates are ineffective or have unacceptable toxicity or other side effects that may significantly decrease the likelihood of regulatory approval.

The results of preliminary studies do not necessarily predict clinical or commercial success, and later-stage clinical trials may fail to confirm the results observed in earlier-stage trials or preliminary studies. Although we have established timelines for manufacturing and clinical development of cabozantinib based on existing knowledge of our compounds in development and industry metrics, we may not be able to meet those timelines.

We may experience numerous unforeseen events during, or as a result of, clinical testing that could delay or prevent commercialization of cabozantinib, including:

cabozantinib may not prove to be efficacious or may cause, or potentially cause, harmful side effects;

negative or inconclusive clinical trial results may require us to conduct further testing or to abandon projects that we had expected to be promising;

our competitors may discover or commercialize other compounds or therapies that show significantly improved safety or efficacy compared to cabozantinib;

patient registration or enrollment in our clinical testing may be lower than we anticipate, resulting in the delay or cancellation of clinical testing; and

regulators or institutional review boards may withhold authorization of, or delay, suspend or terminate clinical research for various reasons, including noncompliance with regulatory requirements or their determination that participating patients are being exposed to unacceptable health risks.

If we were to have significant delays in or termination of our clinical testing of cabozantinib as a result of any of the events described above or otherwise, our expenses could increase or our ability to generate revenues from cabozantinib could be impaired, either of which could adversely impact our financial results.

We have limited experience in conducting clinical trials and may not be able to rapidly or effectively continue the further development of cabozantinib or meet current or future requirements of the FDA, including those identified based on our discussions with the FDA. Our planned clinical trials may not begin on time, or at all, may not be completed on schedule, or at all, may not be sufficient for registration of cabozantinib or may not result in an approvable product. For example, as discussed in *Risks Related to Regulatory Approval of Cabozantinib* Cabozantinib is subject to a lengthy and uncertain regulatory process that may not result in the necessary regulatory approvals, which could adversely affect our ability to commercialize this product candidate, we were not able to reach a timely agreement with the FDA under a SPA on the proposed design and analyses of the COMET-2 trial.

Completion of clinical trials may take several years or more, but the length of time generally varies substantially according to the type, complexity, novelty and intended use of cabozantinib as a product candidate. The duration and the cost of clinical trials may vary significantly over the life of a project as a result of factors relating to the clinical trial, including, among others:

the number of patients that ultimately participate in the clinical trial;

the duration of patient follow-up that is appropriate in view of the results;

S-15

Table of Contents

the number of clinical sites included in the trials; and

the length of time required to enroll suitable patient subjects.

Any delay could limit our ability to generate revenues, cause us to incur additional expense and cause the market price of our common stock to decline significantly. Our partners under our collaboration agreements may experience similar risks with respect to the compounds we have out-licensed to them. If any of the events described above were to occur with such programs or compounds, the likelihood of receipt of milestones and royalties under such collaboration agreements could decrease.

If third parties upon which we rely do not perform as contractually required or expected, we may not be able to obtain regulatory approval for or commercialize cabozantinib.

We do not have the ability to independently conduct clinical trials for cabozantinib, and we rely on third parties we do not control such as contract research organizations, medical institutions, clinical investigators and contract laboratories to conduct our clinical trials. If these third parties do not successfully carry out their contractual duties or regulatory obligations or meet expected deadlines, if the third parties need to be replaced or if the quality or accuracy of the data they obtain is compromised due to the failure to adhere to our clinical protocols or regulatory requirements or for other reasons, our preclinical development activities or clinical trials may be extended, delayed, suspended or terminated, and we may not be able to obtain regulatory approval for or successfully commercialize cabozantinib.

We lack the capability to manufacture compounds for clinical trials and rely on third parties to manufacture cabozantinib, and we may be unable to obtain required material in a timely manner, at an acceptable cost or at a quality level required to receive regulatory approval.

We do not have the manufacturing capabilities or experience necessary to enable us to produce materials for our clinical trials. We rely on collaborators and third-party contractors to produce cabozantinib for clinical testing. These suppliers must comply with applicable regulatory requirements, including the FDA's current Good Manufacturing Practices, or GMP. Our current and anticipated future dependence upon these third-party manufacturers may adversely affect our future profit margins and our ability to develop and commercialize cabozantinib on a timely and competitive basis. These manufacturers may not be able to produce material on a timely basis or manufacture material at the quality or in the quantity required to meet our development timelines and applicable regulatory requirements. We may not be able to maintain or renew our existing third-party manufacturing arrangements, or enter into new arrangements, on acceptable terms, or at all. Our third-party manufacturers could terminate or decline to renew our manufacturing arrangements based on their own business priorities, at a time that is costly or inconvenient for us. If we are unable to contract for the production of materials in sufficient quantity and of sufficient quality on acceptable terms, our clinical trials may be delayed. Delays in preclinical or clinical testing could delay the initiation of clinical trials.

Our third-party manufacturers may not be able to comply with the GMP regulations, other applicable FDA regulatory requirements or similar regulations applicable outside of the United States. Additionally, if we are required to enter into new supply arrangements, we may not be able to obtain approval from the FDA of any alternate supplier in a timely manner, or at all, which could delay or prevent the clinical development and commercialization of cabozantinib. Failure of our third-party manufacturers or us to obtain approval from the FDA or to comply with applicable regulations could result in sanctions being imposed on us, including fines, civil penalties, delays in or failure to grant marketing approval of cabozantinib, injunctions, delays, suspension or withdrawal of approvals, license revocation, seizures or recalls of products and compounds, operating restrictions and criminal prosecutions, any of which could have a significant adverse affect on our business.

Table of Contents

Materials necessary to manufacture cabozantinib may not be available on commercially reasonable terms, or at all, which may delay its development and commercialization.

Some of the materials necessary for the manufacture of cabozantinib may, from time to time, be available either in limited quantities, or from a limited number of manufacturers, or both. Our contract manufacturers need to obtain these materials for our clinical trials and, potentially, for commercial distribution when and if we obtain marketing approval for cabozantinib. Suppliers may not sell us these materials at the time we need them or on commercially reasonable terms. If we are unable to obtain the materials needed to conduct our clinical trials, product testing and potential regulatory approval could be delayed, adversely affecting our ability to develop cabozantinib. Similarly, if we are unable to obtain critical manufacturing materials after regulatory approval has been obtained, the commercial launch of cabozantinib could be delayed or there could be a shortage in supply, which could materially affect our ability to generate revenues from sales of cabozantinib. If suppliers increase the price of manufacturing materials, the price for cabozantinib may increase, which may make it less competitive in the marketplace. If it becomes necessary to change suppliers for any of these materials or if any of our suppliers experience a shutdown or disruption at the facilities used to produce these materials, due to technical, regulatory or other reasons, it could harm our ability to manufacture cabozantinib.

Risks Related to Our Relationships with Third Parties

We are dependent upon our collaborations with major companies, which subjects us to a number of risks.

We have established collaborations with leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, including Bristol-Myers Squibb, Sanofi, Genentech, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck and Daiichi Sankyo, for the development and ultimate commercialization of a significant number of compounds generated from our research and development efforts. We continue to pursue collaborations for selected unpartnered preclinical and clinical programs and compounds. Our dependence on our relationships with existing collaborators for the development and commercialization of our compounds subjects us to, and our dependence on future collaborators for development and commercialization of additional compounds will subject us to, a number of risks, including:

we are not able to control the amount and timing of resources that our collaborators will devote to the development or commercialization of drug candidates or to their marketing and distribution;

we may not be able to control the amount and timing of resources that our potential future collaborators may devote to the development or commercialization of drug candidates or to their marketing and distribution;

collaborators may delay clinical trials, provide insufficient funding for a clinical trial program, stop a clinical trial or abandon a drug candidate, repeat or conduct new clinical trials or require a new formulation of a drug candidate for clinical testing;

disputes may arise between us and our collaborators that result in the delay or termination of the research, development or commercialization of our drug candidates or that result in costly litigation or arbitration that diverts management's attention and resources;

collaborators may experience financial difficulties;

collaborators may not be successful in their efforts to obtain regulatory approvals in a timely manner, or at all;

collaborators may not properly maintain or defend our intellectual property rights or may use our proprietary information in such a way as to invite litigation that could jeopardize or invalidate our proprietary information or expose us to potential litigation;

Table of Contents

business combinations or significant changes in a collaborator's business strategy may adversely affect a collaborator's willingness or ability to complete its obligations under any arrangement;

a collaborator could independently move forward with a competing drug candidate developed either independently or in collaboration with others, including our competitors;

we may be precluded from entering into additional collaboration arrangements with other parties in an area or field of exclusivity;

future collaborators may require us to relinquish some important rights, such as marketing and distribution rights; and

collaborations may be terminated (as occurred with respect to cabozantinib and XL281, which were previously subject to our 2008 collaboration agreement with Bristol-Myers Squibb, and with respect to our 2009 discovery collaboration with Sanofi, which was terminated in December 2011) or allowed to expire, which would delay, and may increase the cost of, development of our drug candidates.

If any of these risks materialize, our product development efforts could be delayed and otherwise adversely affected, which could adversely impact our business, operating results and financial condition.

If we are unable to continue current collaborations and achieve milestones or royalties, our revenues would suffer.

We have derived substantially all of our revenues to date from collaborative research and development agreements. Revenues from research and development collaborations depend upon continuation of the collaborations, the achievement of milestones and royalties we earn from any future products developed from the collaborative research. If we are unable to successfully achieve milestones or royalties, or our collaborators fail to develop successful products, we will not earn the revenues contemplated under such collaborative agreements.

If any of these agreements is terminated early (as occurred with respect to cabozantinib and XL281, which were previously subject to our 2008 collaboration agreement with Bristol-Myers Squibb, and with respect to our 2009 discovery collaboration with Sanofi, which was terminated in December 2011), whether unilaterally or by mutual agreement, our revenues could suffer. Most of our collaboration agreements contain early termination provisions. In addition, from time to time we review and assess certain aspects of our collaborations, partnerships and agreements and may amend or terminate, either by mutual agreement or pursuant to any applicable early termination provisions, such collaborations, partnerships or agreements if we deem them to be no longer in our economic or strategic interests. We may not be able to enter into new collaboration agreements on similar or superior financial terms to offset the loss of revenues from the termination or expiration of any of our existing or recently terminated arrangements.

We may be unable to establish collaborations for selected preclinical and clinical compounds.

Our strategy includes the pursuit of new collaborations with leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies for the development and ultimate commercialization of selected preclinical and clinical programs and compounds, particularly those drug candidates for which we believe that the capabilities and resources of a partner can accelerate development and help to fully realize their therapeutic and commercial potential. We face significant competition in seeking appropriate collaborators, and these collaborations are complex and time consuming to negotiate and document. We may not be able to negotiate additional collaborations on acceptable terms, or at all. We are unable to predict when, if ever, we will enter into any additional collaborations because of the numerous risks

Table of Contents

and uncertainties associated with establishing additional collaborations. If we are unable to negotiate additional collaborations, we may not be able to realize value from a particular drug candidate, particularly those drug candidates as to which we believe a broad development program is appropriate or for which we have determined not to continue to utilize our own resources to develop. As a result, our revenues, capital resources and product development efforts could be adversely affected.

Risks Related to Regulatory Approval of Cabozantinib

Cabozantinib is subject to a lengthy and uncertain regulatory process that may not result in the necessary regulatory approvals, which could adversely affect our ability to commercialize this product candidate.

Cabozantinib, as well as the activities associated with the research, development and commercialization of the product candidate, are subject to extensive regulation by the FDA and other regulatory agencies in the United States and by comparable authorities in other countries. Failure to obtain regulatory approval for cabozantinib would prevent us from commercializing this product candidate. We have not received regulatory approval to market cabozantinib in any jurisdiction and have only limited experience in preparing and filing the applications necessary to gain regulatory approvals. The process of obtaining regulatory approvals is expensive, and often takes many years, if approval is obtained at all, and can vary substantially based upon the type, complexity and novelty of the product candidates involved. Before an NDA can be submitted to the FDA, the product candidate must undergo extensive clinical trials, which can take many years and require substantial expenditures.

We are conducting our EXAM phase 3 trial of cabozantinib as a potential treatment for medullary thyroid cancer under a SPA with the FDA. A SPA is designed to facilitate the FDA's review and provide feedback on the proposed design and size of clinical trials that are intended to form the primary basis for determining a product candidate's efficacy. If agreement is reached with the FDA, a SPA agreement documents the terms and conditions under which the design of the subject trial will be adequate for submission of the efficacy and human safety portion of an NDA. However, there are circumstances under which we may not receive the benefits of a SPA, notably if the FDA subsequently identifies a substantial scientific issue essential to determining the product candidate's safety or efficacy, and we may be required to conduct significant additional development in order to obtain regulatory approval notwithstanding the SPA. Our rolling NDA based on the EXAM results may not receive priority review and may be subject to delay or lack of approval, including delay or lack of approval based on potential feedback from an FDA Advisory Committee.

In December 2011, we initiated COMET-2, our first phase 3 pivotal trial of cabozantinib in patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer, with pain response as the primary efficacy endpoint for the trial. We were not able to reach a timely agreement with the FDA under a SPA on the proposed design and analysis of the COMET-2 trial. We originally submitted the proposed protocol for this trial using primary endpoints of pain reduction and bone scan response to the FDA in June 2011 with a request for a SPA. The FDA's final response prior to our discontinuation of the SPA process, which we received in October 2011, raised the following concerns regarding the COMET-2 trial design in the context of its consideration of a SPA for the trial, among other comments:

A concern about the ability to maintain blinding of the trial due to differences in toxicity profiles between cabozantinib and mitoxantrone.

A view that the assumed magnitude of pain improvement is modest and could represent a placebo effect or be attained with less toxicity by opioid therapy.

A view that symptomatic improvement should be supported by evidence of anti-tumor activity, an acceptable safety profile and lack of survival decrement. The FDA also expressed the view that if the effect that we believe cabozantinib will have on pain is mediated by anti-tumor activity, that anti-tumor activity should translate into an improvement in overall survival.

Table of Contents

A recommendation that if we use pain response as a primary efficacy endpoint, that we conduct two adequate and well-controlled trials to demonstrate effectiveness as, according to the FDA, a conclusion based on two persuasive studies will always be more secure. The FDA advised that for a single randomized trial to support a new drug application, the trial must be well designed, well conducted, internally consistent and provide statistically persuasive efficacy findings so that a second trial would be ethically or practically impossible to perform.

In the context of its consideration of a SPA for the COMET-2 trial, the FDA also recommended that overall survival be the primary efficacy endpoint. The final FDA response prior to our discontinuation of the SPA process stated that we could choose to conduct the trial in the absence of a SPA agreement. We elected to proceed with initiation of the COMET-2 trial and the planned COMET-1 trial, and to discontinue further attempts to secure a SPA agreement with respect to the COMET-2 trial.

Any clinical trial may fail to produce results satisfactory to the FDA. For example, the FDA could determine that the design of a clinical trial is inadequate to produce reliable results. The regulatory process also requires preclinical testing, and data obtained from preclinical and clinical activities are susceptible to varying interpretations. The FDA has substantial discretion in the approval process and may refuse to approve any NDA (regardless of prior receipt of a SPA) or decide that our data is insufficient for approval and require additional preclinical, clinical or other studies. For example, varying interpretations of the data obtained from preclinical and clinical testing could delay, limit or prevent regulatory approval of cabozantinib.

In addition, delays or rejections may be encountered based upon changes in regulatory policy for product approval during the period of product development and regulatory agency review. Changes in regulatory approval policy, regulations or statutes or the process for regulatory review during the development or approval periods of cabozantinib may cause delays in the approval or rejection of an application.

Even if the FDA or a comparable authority in another country approves cabozantinib, the approval may impose significant restrictions on the indicated uses, conditions for use, labeling, distribution, advertising, promotion, marketing and/or production of cabozantinib and may impose ongoing requirements for post-approval studies, including additional research and development and clinical trials. These agencies also may impose various civil or criminal sanctions for failure to comply with regulatory requirements, including withdrawal of product approval.

Risks Related to Commercialization of Cabozantinib

The commercial success of cabozantinib will depend upon the degree of market acceptance of the product candidate among physicians, patients, health care payors, private health insurers and the medical community.

Our ability to commercialize cabozantinib will be highly dependent upon the extent to which the product candidate gains market acceptance among physicians; patients; health care payors, such as Medicare and Medicaid; private health insurers, including managed care organizations and group purchasing organizations, and the medical community. If cabozantinib does not achieve an adequate level of acceptance, we may not generate adequate product revenues, if at all, and we may not become profitable. The degree of market acceptance of cabozantinib, if approved for commercial sale, will depend upon a number of factors, including:

the effectiveness, or perceived effectiveness, of cabozantinib in comparison to competing products;

the existence of any significant side effects of cabozantinib, as well as their severity in comparison to those of any competing products;

Table of Contents

potential advantages or disadvantages in relation to alternative treatments;

indications for which cabozantinib is approved;

the ability to offer cabozantinib for sale at competitive prices;

relative convenience and ease of administration;

the strength of marketing and distribution support; and

sufficient third-party coverage or reimbursement.

If we are unable to establish sales and marketing capabilities or enter into agreements with third parties to market and sell cabozantinib, we may be unable to generate product revenues.

We have no experience as a company in the sales and distribution of pharmaceutical products and do not have a sales organization. Developing a sales force could be expensive and time-consuming, could delay any product launch, including our potential launch of cabozantinib for the treatment of medullary thyroid cancer, and we may never be able to develop this capacity. To the extent that we enter into arrangements with third parties to provide sales, marketing and distribution services, our product revenues are likely to be lower than if we market and sell cabozantinib ourselves. If we are unable to establish adequate sales, marketing and distribution capabilities, independently or with others, we may not be able to generate product revenues.

If we are unable to obtain adequate coverage and reimbursement from third-party payors for cabozantinib, our revenues and prospects for profitability will suffer.

Our ability to commercialize cabozantinib will be highly dependent on the extent to which coverage and reimbursement for the product candidate will be available from third-party payors, including governmental payors, such as Medicare and Medicaid, and private health insurers. Many patients will not be capable of paying themselves for cabozantinib and will rely on third-party payors to pay for, or subsidize, their medical needs. If third-party payors do not provide coverage or reimbursement for cabozantinib, our revenues and prospects for profitability will suffer. In addition, even if third-party payors provide some coverage or reimbursement for cabozantinib, the availability of such coverage or reimbursement for prescription drugs under private health insurance and managed care plans often varies based on the type of contract or plan purchased.

Another factor that may affect the pricing of drugs is proposed congressional action regarding drug reimportation into the United States. For example, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 gives discretion to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to allow drug reimportation into the United States under some circumstances from foreign countries, including countries where the drugs are sold at a lower price than in the United States. Proponents of drug reimportation may attempt to pass legislation, which would allow direct reimportation under certain circumstances. If legislation or regulations were passed allowing the reimportation of drugs, it could decrease the price we receive for cabozantinib, thereby negatively affecting our revenues and prospects for profitability.

In addition, in some foreign countries, particularly the countries in the European Union, the pricing of prescription pharmaceuticals is subject to governmental control. In these countries, price negotiations with governmental authorities can take six to twelve months or longer after the receipt of regulatory marketing approval for a product. To obtain reimbursement and/or pricing approval in some countries, we may be required to conduct a clinical trial that compares the cost effectiveness of cabozantinib to other available therapies. The conduct of such a clinical trial could be expensive and result in delays in the commercialization of cabozantinib. Third-party payors are challenging the prices charged for medical products and services, and many third-party payors limit reimbursement for newly

Table of Contents

approved health care products. In particular, third-party payors may limit the indications for which they will reimburse patients who use cabozantinib. Cost-control initiatives could decrease the price we might establish for cabozantinib, which would result in lower product revenues to us.

Current healthcare laws and regulations and future legislative or regulatory reforms to the healthcare system may affect our ability to sell cabozantinib profitably.

The U.S. and some foreign jurisdictions are considering or have enacted a number of legislative and regulatory proposals to change the healthcare system in ways that could affect our ability to sell our products profitably. Among policy makers and payors in the U.S. and elsewhere, there is significant interest in promoting changes in healthcare systems with the stated goals of containing healthcare costs, improving quality and/or expanding access. In the U.S., the pharmaceutical industry has been a particular focus of these efforts and has been significantly affected by major legislative initiatives.

In March 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended by the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act, or collectively, PPACA, became law in the U.S. PPACA substantially changes the way healthcare is financed by both governmental and private insurers and significantly affects the pharmaceutical industry. Among the provisions of PPACA of greatest importance to the pharmaceutical industry are the following:

an annual, nondeductible fee on any entity that manufactures or imports certain branded prescription drugs and biologic agents, apportioned among these entities according to their market share in certain government healthcare programs, beginning in 2011;

an increase in the rebates a manufacturer must pay under the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program, retroactive to January 1, 2010, to 23% and 13% of the average manufacturer price for branded and generic drugs, respectively;

a new Medicare Part D coverage gap discount program, in which manufacturers must agree to offer 50% point-of-sale discounts off negotiated prices of applicable brand drugs to eligible beneficiaries during their coverage gap period, as a condition for the manufacturer's outpatient drugs to be covered under Medicare Part D, beginning in 2011;

extension of manufacturers' Medicaid rebate liability to covered drugs dispensed to individuals who are enrolled in Medicaid managed care organizations, effective March 23, 2010;

expansion of eligibility criteria for Medicaid programs by, among other things, allowing states to offer Medicaid coverage to additional individuals beginning in April 2010 and by adding new mandatory eligibility categories for certain individuals with income at or below 133% of the Federal Poverty Level beginning in 2014, thereby potentially increasing manufacturers' Medicaid rebate liability;

expansion of the entities eligible for discounts under the Public Health Service pharmaceutical pricing program, effective in January 2010;

new requirements to report certain financial arrangements with physicians and teaching hospitals, including reporting any transfer of value made or distributed to prescribers and other healthcare providers, effective March 30, 2013, and reporting any investment interests held by physicians and their immediate family members during the preceding calendar year;

a new requirement to annually report drug samples that manufacturers and distributors provide to physicians, effective April 1, 2012;

Edgar Filing: EXELIXIS INC - Form 424B5

expansion of health care fraud and abuse laws, including the False Claims Act and the Anti-Kickback Statute, new government investigative powers, and enhanced penalties for noncompliance;

S-22

Table of Contents

a licensure framework for follow-on biologic products; and

a new Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to oversee, identify priorities in, and conduct comparative clinical effectiveness research, along with funding for such research.

The United States Supreme Court has accepted petitions to hear a constitutional challenge to the PPACA in 2012. If the Supreme Court rules that the PPACA is unconstitutional, our expenditures in preparation for the PPACA could go unused, we could require new expenditures to adjust to the new competitive environment, and new legislation could later become law that could adversely affect the pharmaceutical industry.

We anticipate that the PPACA, as well as other healthcare reform measures that may be adopted in the future, may result in more rigorous coverage criteria and an additional downward pressure on the price that we receive for any approved product, and could seriously harm our business. Any reduction in reimbursement from Medicare or other government programs may result in a similar reduction in payments from private payors.

We also cannot be certain that cabozantinib will successfully be placed on the list of drugs covered by particular health plan formularies, nor can we predict the negotiated price for cabozantinib, which will be determined by market factors. Many states have also created preferred drug lists and include drugs on those lists only when the manufacturers agree to pay a supplemental rebate. If cabozantinib is not included on these preferred drug lists, physicians may not be inclined to prescribe it to their Medicaid patients, thereby diminishing the potential market for cabozantinib.

As a result of the PPACA and the trend towards cost-effectiveness criteria and managed healthcare in the United States, third-party payors are increasingly attempting to contain healthcare costs by limiting both coverage and the level of reimbursement of new drugs. They may use tiered reimbursement and may adversely affect demand for our products by placing them in an expensive tier. They may also refuse to provide any coverage of uses of approved products for medical indications other than those for which the FDA has granted market approvals. As a result, significant uncertainty exists as to whether and how much third-party payors will reimburse for newly-approved drugs, which in turn will put pressure on the pricing of drugs. Further, we do not have experience in ensuring approval by applicable third-party payors outside of the United States for coverage and reimbursement of cabozantinib. We also anticipate pricing pressures in connection with the sale of our products due to the trend toward managed healthcare, the increasing influence of health maintenance organizations and additional legislative proposals.

Our competitors may develop products and technologies that make cabozantinib obsolete.

The biotechnology industry is highly fragmented and is characterized by rapid technological change. In particular, the area of kinase-targeted therapies is a rapidly evolving and competitive field. We face, and will continue to face, intense competition from biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, as well as academic research institutions, clinical reference laboratories and government agencies that are pursuing research activities similar to ours. Some of our competitors have entered into collaborations with leading companies within our target markets, including some of our existing collaborators. Some of our competitors are further along in the development of their products than we are. In addition, delays in the development of cabozantinib could allow our competitors to bring products to market before us, which would impair our ability to commercialize cabozantinib. Our future success will depend upon our ability to maintain a competitive position with respect to technological advances. Any products that are developed through our technologies will compete in highly competitive markets. Further, our competitors may be more effective at using their technologies to develop commercial products. Many of the organizations competing with us have greater capital resources, larger research and development staff and facilities, more experience in obtaining regulatory approvals

Table of Contents

and more extensive product manufacturing and marketing capabilities than we do. As a result, our competitors may be able to more easily develop technologies and products that would render our technologies and products, and those of our collaborators, obsolete and noncompetitive. There may also be drug candidates of which we are not aware at an earlier stage of development that may compete with cabozantinib. In addition, if cabozantinib is successfully developed, it may compete with existing therapies that have long histories of use, such as chemotherapy and radiation treatments in cancer indications. Examples of potential competition for cabozantinib include AstraZeneca's RET, VEGFR and EGFR inhibitor, vandetanib, Algeta's development-stage alpha-pharmaceutical, Alpharadin (Radium-223), other VEGF pathway inhibitors, including Genentech's bevacizumab, and other MET inhibitors, including Pfizer's crizotinib, ArQule's ARQ197, GlaxoSmithKline's foretinib (XL880) and Genentech's Met MAb.

We may not be able to manufacture cabozantinib in commercial quantities, which would prevent us from commercializing the product candidate.

To date, cabozantinib has been manufactured in small quantities for preclinical and clinical trials. If cabozantinib is approved by the FDA or other regulatory agencies for commercial sale, we will need to manufacture it in larger quantities. We may not be able to successfully increase the manufacturing capacity, whether in collaboration with third-party manufacturers or on our own, for cabozantinib in a timely or economic manner, or at all. Significant scale-up of manufacturing may require additional validation studies, which the FDA must review and approve. If we are unable to successfully increase the manufacturing capacity for cabozantinib, the regulatory approval or commercial launch of the product candidate may be delayed or there may be a shortage in supply. Cabozantinib requires precise, high-quality manufacturing. The failure to achieve and maintain these high manufacturing standards, including the incidence of manufacturing errors, could result in patient injury or death, product recalls or withdrawals, delays or failures in product testing or delivery, cost overruns or other problems that could seriously hurt our business.

Risks Related to Our Intellectual Property

If we are unable to adequately protect our intellectual property, third parties may be able to use our technology, which could adversely affect our ability to compete in the market.

Our success will depend in part upon our ability to obtain patents and maintain adequate protection of the intellectual property related to our technologies and products. The patent positions of biotechnology companies, including our patent position, are generally uncertain and involve complex legal and factual questions. We will be able to protect our intellectual property rights from unauthorized use by third parties only to the extent that our technologies are covered by valid and enforceable patents or are effectively maintained as trade secrets. We will continue to apply for patents covering our technologies and products as and when we deem appropriate. However, these applications may be challenged or may fail to result in issued patents. In addition, because patent applications can take many years to issue, there may be pending applications, unknown to us, which may later result in issued patents that cover the production, manufacture, commercialization or use of our product candidates. Our existing patents and any future patents we obtain may not be sufficiently broad to prevent others from practicing our technologies or from developing competing products. Furthermore, others may independently develop similar or alternative technologies or design around our patents. In addition, our patents may be challenged or invalidated or may fail to provide us with any competitive advantages, if, for example, others were the first to invent or to file patent applications for these inventions.

The laws of some foreign countries do not protect intellectual property rights to the same extent as the laws of the United States, and many companies have encountered significant problems in protecting and defending such rights in foreign jurisdictions. Many countries, including certain countries

Table of Contents

in Europe, have compulsory licensing laws under which a patent owner may be compelled to grant licenses to third parties (for example, the patent owner has failed to work the invention in that country or the third party has patented improvements). In addition, many countries limit the enforceability of patents against government agencies or government contractors. In these countries, the patent owner may have limited remedies, which could materially diminish the value of the patent. Compulsory licensing of life-saving drugs is also becoming increasingly popular in developing countries either through direct legislation or international initiatives. Such compulsory licenses could be extended to include some of our product candidates, which could limit our potential revenue opportunities. Moreover, the legal systems of certain countries, particularly certain developing countries, do not favor the aggressive enforcement of patent and other intellectual property protection, which makes it difficult to stop infringement. We rely on trade secret protection for our confidential and proprietary information. We have taken security measures to protect our proprietary information and trade secrets, but these measures may not provide adequate protection. While we seek to protect our proprietary information by entering into confidentiality agreements with employees, collaborators and consultants, we cannot assure you that our proprietary information will not be disclosed, or that we can meaningfully protect our trade secrets. In addition, our competitors may independently develop substantially equivalent proprietary information or may otherwise gain access to our trade secrets.

Litigation or third-party claims of intellectual property infringement could require us to spend substantial time and money and adversely affect our ability to develop and commercialize products.

Our commercial success depends in part upon our ability to avoid infringing patents and proprietary rights of third parties and not to breach any licenses that we have entered into with regard to our technologies. Other parties have filed, and in the future are likely to file, patent applications covering genes and gene fragments, techniques and methodologies relating to model systems and products and technologies that we have developed or intend to develop. If patents covering technologies required by our operations are issued to others, we may have to obtain licenses from third parties, which may not be available on commercially reasonable terms, or at all, and may require us to pay substantial royalties, grant a cross-license to some of our patents to another patent holder or redesign the formulation of a product candidate so that we do not infringe third-party patents, which may be impossible to obtain or could require substantial time and expense.

Third parties may accuse us of employing their proprietary technology without authorization. In addition, third parties may obtain patents that relate to our technologies and claim that use of such technologies infringes on their patents. Regardless of their merit, such claims could require us to incur substantial costs, including the diversion of management and technical personnel, in defending ourselves against any such claims or enforcing our patents. In the event that a successful claim of infringement is brought against us, we may be required to pay damages and obtain one or more licenses from third parties. We may not be able to obtain these licenses at a reasonable cost, or at all. Defense of any lawsuit or failure to obtain any of these licenses could adversely affect our ability to develop and commercialize products.

We may be subject to damages resulting from claims that we, our employees or independent contractors have wrongfully used or disclosed alleged trade secrets of their former employers.

Many of our employees and independent contractors were previously employed at universities, other biotechnology or pharmaceutical companies, including our competitors or potential competitors. We may be subject to claims that these employees, independent contractors or we have inadvertently or otherwise used or disclosed trade secrets or other proprietary information of their former employers. Litigation may be necessary to defend against these claims. Even if we are successful in defending against these claims, litigation could result in substantial costs and divert management's attention. If we fail in defending such claims, in addition to paying money claims, we may lose valuable intellectual

Table of Contents

property rights or personnel. A loss of key research personnel and/or their work product could hamper or prevent our ability to commercialize certain product candidates, which could severely harm our business.

Risks Related to Employees and Location

The loss of key personnel or the inability to retain and, where necessary, attract additional personnel could impair our ability to expand our operations.

We are highly dependent upon the principal members of our management and scientific staff, the loss of whose services might adversely impact the achievement of our objectives and the continuation of existing collaborations. Also, we may not have sufficient personnel to execute our business plan. Retaining and, where necessary, recruiting qualified clinical and scientific personnel will be critical to support activities related to advancing our clinical and preclinical development programs, and supporting our collaborative arrangements and our internal proprietary research and development efforts. The restructuring plans that we implemented in 2010 and 2011 could have an adverse impact on our ability to retain and recruit qualified personnel. Competition is intense for experienced clinical personnel, and we may be unable to retain or recruit clinical personnel with the expertise or experience necessary to allow us to pursue collaborations, develop our products and core technologies or expand our operations to the extent otherwise possible. Further, all of our employees are employed at will and, therefore, may leave our employment at any time.

Our collaborations with outside scientists may be subject to restriction and change.

We work with scientific and clinical advisors and collaborators at academic and other institutions that assist us in our research and development efforts. These advisors and collaborators are not our employees and may have other commitments that limit their availability to us. Although these advisors and collaborators generally agree not to do competing work, if a conflict of interest between their work for us and their work for another entity arises, we may lose their services. In such a circumstance, we may lose work performed by them, and our development efforts with respect to the matters on which they were working may be significantly delayed or otherwise adversely affected. In addition, although our advisors and collaborators sign agreements not to disclose our confidential information, it is possible that valuable proprietary knowledge may become publicly known through them.

Our headquarters are located near known earthquake fault zones, and the occurrence of an earthquake or other disaster could damage our facilities and equipment, which could harm our operations.

Our headquarters are located in South San Francisco, California, and therefore our facilities are vulnerable to damage from earthquakes. We do not carry earthquake insurance. We are also vulnerable to damage from other types of disasters, including fire, floods, power loss, communications failures, terrorism and similar events since any insurance we may maintain may not be adequate to cover our losses. If any disaster were to occur, our ability to operate our business at our facilities could be seriously, or potentially completely, impaired. In addition, the unique nature of our research activities could cause significant delays in our programs and make it difficult for us to recover from a disaster. Accordingly, an earthquake or other disaster could materially and adversely harm our ability to conduct business.

Security breaches may disrupt our operations and harm our operating results.

Our network security and data recovery measures may not be adequate to protect against computer viruses, break-ins, and similar disruptions from unauthorized tampering with our computer systems. The misappropriation, theft, sabotage or any other type of security breach with respect to any

Table of Contents

of our proprietary and confidential information that is electronically stored, including research or clinical data, could have a material adverse impact on our business, operating results and financial condition. Additionally, any break-in or trespass of our facilities that results in the misappropriation, theft, sabotage or any other type of security breach with respect to our proprietary and confidential information, including research or clinical data, or that results in damage to our research and development equipment and assets could have a material adverse impact on our business, operating results and financial condition.

Risks Related to Environmental and Product Liability

We use hazardous chemicals and radioactive and biological materials in our business. Any claims relating to improper handling, storage or disposal of these materials could be time consuming and costly.

Our research and development processes involve the controlled use of hazardous materials, including chemicals and radioactive and biological materials. Our operations produce hazardous waste products. We cannot eliminate the risk of accidental contamination or discharge and any resultant injury from these materials. Federal, state and local laws and regulations govern the use, manufacture, storage, handling and disposal of hazardous materials. We may face liability for any injury or contamination that results from our use or the use by third parties of these materials, and such liability may exceed our insurance coverage and our total assets. Compliance with environmental laws and regulations may be expensive, and current or future environmental regulations may impair our research, development and production efforts.

In addition, our collaborators may use hazardous materials in connection with our collaborative efforts. In the event of a lawsuit or investigation, we could be held responsible for any injury caused to persons or property by exposure to, or release of, these hazardous materials used by these parties. Further, we may be required to indemnify our collaborators against all damages and other liabilities arising out of our development activities or products produced in connection with these collaborations.

We face potential product liability exposure far in excess of our limited insurance coverage.

We may be held liable if any product we or our collaborators develop causes injury or is found otherwise unsuitable during product testing, manufacturing, marketing or sale. Regardless of merit or eventual outcome, product liability claims could result in decreased demand for our product candidates, injury to our reputation, withdrawal of patients from our clinical trials, substantial monetary awards to trial participants and the inability to commercialize any products that we may develop. These claims might be made directly by consumers, health care providers, pharmaceutical companies or others selling or testing our products. We have obtained limited product liability insurance coverage for our clinical trials in the amount of \$10.0 million per occurrence and \$10.0 million in the aggregate. However, our insurance may not reimburse us or may not be sufficient to reimburse us for expenses or losses we may suffer. Moreover, if insurance coverage becomes more expensive, we may not be able to maintain insurance coverage at a reasonable cost or in sufficient amounts to protect us against losses due to liability. If we obtain marketing approval for cabozantinib, we intend to expand our insurance coverage to include the sale of commercial products, but we may be unable to obtain commercially reasonable product liability insurance for any products approved for marketing. On occasion, juries have awarded large judgments in class action lawsuits for claims based on drugs that had unanticipated side effects. In addition, the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, in general, have been subject to significant medical malpractice litigation. A successful product liability claim or series of claims brought against us could harm our reputation and business and would decrease our cash reserves.

Table of Contents

Risks Related to Our Common Stock

We expect that our quarterly results of operations will fluctuate, and this fluctuation could cause our stock price to decline, causing investor losses.

Our quarterly operating results have fluctuated in the past and are likely to fluctuate in the future. A number of factors, many of which we cannot control, could subject our operating results to volatility, including:

the scope of our research and development activities;

recognition of upfront licensing or other fees or revenues;

payments of non-refundable upfront or licensing fees, or payment for cost-sharing expenses, to third parties;

acceptance of our technologies and platforms;

the success rate of our efforts leading to milestone payments and royalties;

the introduction of new technologies or products by our competitors;

the timing and willingness of collaborators to further develop or, if approved, commercialize our product out-licensed to them;

our ability to enter into new collaborative relationships;

the termination or non-renewal of existing collaborations;

the timing and amount of expenses incurred for clinical development and manufacturing cabozantinib;

adjustments to expenses accrued in prior periods based on management's estimates after the actual level of activity relating to such expenses becomes more certain;

the impairment of acquired goodwill and other assets;

the impact of our restructuring plans; and

general and industry-specific economic conditions that may affect our collaborators' research and development expenditures.

Edgar Filing: EXELIXIS INC - Form 424B5

A large portion of our expenses, including expenses for facilities, equipment and personnel, are relatively fixed in the short term. If we fail to achieve anticipated levels of revenues, whether due to the expiration or termination of existing contracts, our failure to obtain new contracts, our inability to meet milestones or for other reasons, we may not be able to correspondingly reduce our operating expenses, which could significantly harm our operating results for a particular fiscal period.

Due to the possibility of fluctuations in our revenues and expenses, we believe that quarter-to-quarter comparisons of our operating results are not a good indication of our future performance. As a result, in some future quarters, our operating results may not meet the expectations of securities analysts and investors, which could result in a decline in the price of our common stock.

Our stock price may be extremely volatile.

The trading price of our common stock has been highly volatile, and we believe the trading price of our common stock will remain highly volatile and may fluctuate substantially due to factors such as the following, many of which we cannot control:

adverse results or delays in our or our collaborators' clinical trials;

S-28

Table of Contents

announcement of FDA approval or non-approval, or delays in the FDA review process, of cabozantinib or our collaborators' product candidates or those of our competitors or actions taken by regulatory agencies with respect to our, our collaborators' or our competitors' clinical trials;

the timing of achievement of our clinical, regulatory, partnering and other milestones, such as the commencement of clinical development, the completion of a clinical trial, the filing for regulatory approval or the establishment of collaborative arrangements for one or more of our out-licensed programs and compounds;

actions taken by regulatory agencies with respect to cabozantinib or our clinical trials for cabozantinib;

the announcement of new products by our competitors;

quarterly variations in our or our competitors' results of operations;

developments in our relationships with our collaborators, including the termination or modification of our agreements;

conflicts or litigation with our collaborators;

litigation, including intellectual property infringement and product liability lawsuits, involving us;

failure to achieve operating results projected by securities analysts;

changes in earnings estimates or recommendations by securities analysts;

financing transactions;

developments in the biotechnology or pharmaceutical industry;

sales of large blocks of our common stock or sales of our common stock by our executive officers, directors and significant stockholders;

departures of key personnel or board members;

developments concerning current or future collaborations;

FDA or international regulatory actions;

third-party reimbursement policies;

disposition of any of our subsidiaries, technologies or compounds; and

general market conditions and other factors, including factors unrelated to our operating performance or the operating performance of our competitors.

These factors, as well as general economic, political and market conditions, may materially adversely affect the market price of our common stock. Excessive volatility may continue for an extended period of time following the date of this prospectus supplement.

In the past, following periods of volatility in the market price of a company's securities, securities class action litigation has often been instituted. A securities class action suit against us could result in substantial costs and divert management's attention and resources, which could have a material and adverse effect on our business.

Future sales of our common stock may depress our stock price.

If our stockholders sell substantial amounts of our common stock (including shares issued upon the exercise of options and warrants or upon vesting of restricted stock units and shares issued under

Table of Contents

our employee stock purchase plan) in the public market, the market price of our common stock could fall. These sales also might make it more difficult for us to sell equity or equity-related securities in the future at a time and price that we deem appropriate.

Some of our existing stockholders can exert control over us, and their interests could conflict with the best interests of our other stockholders.

Due to their combined stock holdings, our officers, directors and principal stockholders (stockholders holding more than 5% of our common stock), acting together, may be able to exert significant influence over all matters requiring stockholder approval, including the election of directors and approval of significant corporate transactions. In addition, this concentration of ownership may delay or prevent a change in control of our company, even when a change may be in the best interests of our stockholders. In addition, the interests of these stockholders may not always coincide with our interests as a company or the interests of other stockholders. Accordingly, these stockholders could cause us to enter into transactions or agreements that would not be widely viewed as beneficial.

Anti-takeover provisions in our charter documents and under Delaware law could make an acquisition of us, which may be beneficial to our stockholders, more difficult and may prevent or deter attempts by our stockholders to replace or remove our current management.

Provisions in our corporate charter and bylaws may discourage, delay or prevent an acquisition of our company, a change in control, or attempts by our stockholders to replace or remove members of our current Board of Directors. Because our Board of Directors is responsible for appointing the members of our management team, these provisions could in turn affect any attempt by our stockholders to replace current members of our management team. These provisions include:

a classified Board of Directors;

a prohibition on actions by our stockholders by written consent;

the inability of our stockholders to call special meetings of stockholders;

the ability of our Board of Directors to issue preferred stock without stockholder approval, which could be used to institute a poison pill that would work to dilute the stock ownership of a potential hostile acquirer, effectively preventing acquisitions that have not been approved by our Board of Directors;

limitations on the removal of directors; and

advance notice requirements for director nominations and stockholder proposals.

Moreover, because we are incorporated in Delaware, we are governed by the provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which prohibits a person who owns in excess of 15% of our outstanding voting stock from merging or combining with us for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person acquired in excess of 15% of our outstanding voting stock, unless the merger or combination is approved in a prescribed manner.

Risks Related to this Offering

If you purchase shares of common stock in this offering, you will experience immediate dilution in your investment. You will experience further dilution if we issue additional equity securities in future fundraising transactions.

Purchasers of common stock in this offering will pay a price per share in this offering that exceeds the net tangible book value per share of our common stock. Assuming that we sell 10,000,000 shares of our common stock in this offering at an assumed public offering price of \$6.14 per share (which was

Table of Contents

the last reported sale price of our common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on February 8, 2012), and after deducting the estimated underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses payable by us, you will experience immediate dilution of \$6.16 per share, representing the difference between our as adjusted net tangible book value per share as of September 30, 2011 after giving effect to this offering and the assumed public offering price. See the section entitled "Dilution" below for a more detailed illustration of the dilution you would incur if you purchase common stock in this offering.

If we issue additional common stock, or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for common stock, our stockholders, including investors who purchase shares of common stock in this offering, will experience additional dilution, and any such issuances may result in downward pressure on the price of our common stock. We also cannot assure you that we will be able to sell shares or other securities in any other offering at a price per share that is equal to or greater than the price per share paid by investors in this offering, and investors purchasing shares or other securities in the future could have rights superior to existing stockholders.

We have broad discretion in the use of the net proceeds from this offering and may not use them effectively.

We will have broad discretion in the application of the net proceeds from this offering. Stockholders may not deem such uses desirable, and our use of the proceeds may not yield a significant return or any return for our stockholders. Because the number and variability of factors that determine our use of the proceeds from this offering, our actual uses of the proceeds of this offering may vary substantially from our current planned uses. Our failure to apply the proceeds effectively could have a material adverse effect on our business, delay the development of cabozantinib and cause the price of our common stock to decline.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference and any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering are 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. These statements include statements related to the continued development and clinical, therapeutic and commercial potential of cabozantinib, the expected timing of various trials, application submission and regulatory approval events and the potential of other of our compounds. These statements are based on our current expectations, assumptions, estimates and projections about our business and our industry and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our company's or our industry's results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied in, or contemplated by, the forward-looking statements. Words such as "believe," "anticipate," "expect," "intend," "plan," "focus," "assume," "goal," "objective," "will," "may," "could," "estimate," "predict," "potential," "continue," "encouraging," or the negative of such terms or other similar expressions, identify forward-looking statements, but the absence of these words does not necessarily mean that a statement is not forward-looking. In addition, any statements that refer to expectations, projections or other characterizations of future events or circumstances are forward-looking statements. Our actual results and the timing of events may differ significantly from the results discussed in the forward-looking statements. Factors that might cause such a difference include those discussed under the caption "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-10 of this prospectus supplement, in the documents incorporated by reference, in any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering or as a result of other circumstances beyond our

Table of Contents

control. The forward-looking statements made in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering speak only as of the date on which the statements are made.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Based upon an assumed public offering price of \$6.14, we estimate that the net proceeds from the sale of the 10,000,000 shares of common stock we are offering will be approximately \$57.5 million, after deducting the estimated underwriting discount and the estimated offering expenses payable by us. If the underwriters exercise in full their option to purchase additional shares, we estimate that the net proceeds to us will be approximately \$66.1 million.

We will retain broad discretion over the use of the net proceeds from this public offering. We currently expect to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes, including for research and development, capital expenditures and working capital.

Pending the use of the net proceeds, we may invest the net proceeds in investment grade, interest-bearing securities.

PRICE RANGE OF OUR COMMON STOCK

Our common stock has traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market (formerly the NASDAQ National Market) under the symbol EXEL since April 11, 2000. The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low intraday sales prices for our common stock as reported by the NASDAQ Global Select Market:

| | Common Stock Price | |
|---|--------------------|---------|
| | High | Low |
| Year Ended December 31, 2010 | | |
| Quarter ended April 2, 2010 | \$ 7.53 | \$ 5.77 |
| Quarter ended July 2, 2010 | \$ 7.00 | \$ 3.11 |
| Quarter ended October 1, 2010 | \$ 4.29 | \$ 2.86 |
| Quarter ended December 31, 2010 | \$ 9.20 | \$ 3.84 |
| Year Ended December 30, 2011 | | |
| Quarter ended April 1, 2011 | \$ 12.82 | \$ 7.10 |
| Quarter ended July 1, 2011 | \$ 12.61 | \$ 8.03 |
| Quarter ended September 30, 2011 | \$ 9.24 | \$ 5.45 |
| Quarter ended December 30, 2011 | \$ 8.25 | \$ 3.94 |
| Year Ended December 28, 2012 | | |
| Quarter ended March 30, 2012 (through February 8, 2012) | \$ 6.57 | \$ 4.47 |

The reported last sale price of our common stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market on February 8, 2012 was \$6.14 per share. As of February 8, 2012, there were approximately 548 stockholders of record of our common stock.

Table of Contents**DIVIDEND POLICY**

Since inception, we have not paid dividends on our common stock. We currently intend to retain all future earnings, if any, for use in our business and currently do not plan to pay any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. Any future determination to pay dividends will be at the discretion of our Board of Directors. Our loan and security agreement with Silicon Valley Bank restricts our ability to pay dividends and make distributions. In addition, our note purchase agreement with Deerfield restricts our ability to make distributions.

DILUTION

Our net tangible book value (deficit) on September 30, 2011 was approximately \$(60.6 million), or approximately \$(0.47) per share. Net tangible book value (deficit) per share is equal to the amount of our total tangible assets, less total liabilities, divided by the aggregate number of shares of common stock outstanding as of September 30, 2011. Dilution in net tangible book value (deficit) per share represents the difference between the amount per share paid by purchasers of shares of common stock in this offering and the net tangible book value (deficit) per share of our common stock immediately after this offering. After giving effect to the purchase from us of 10,000,000 shares of common stock in this offering at an assumed public offering price of \$6.14 per share (which was the last reported sale price of our common stock on February 8, 2012), and after deducting the estimated underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses payable by us, our net tangible book value (deficit) on September 30, 2011 would have been approximately \$(3.2) million, or approximately \$(0.02) per share. This represents an immediate dilution of \$6.16 per share to investors purchasing shares of common stock in this offering. The following table illustrates this dilution:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Assumed public offering price per share | \$ 6.14 |
| Net tangible book value (deficit) as of September 30, 2011 | \$ (0.47) |
| Increase per share attributable to new investors | 0.45 |
| Net tangible book value (deficit) per share as of September 30, 2011 after giving effect to this offering | (0.02) |
| Dilution per share to investors in this offering | \$ 6.16 |

The foregoing discussion and table do not take into account further dilution to new investors that could occur upon the exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase up to an additional 1,500,000 shares within 30 days of the date of this prospectus supplement or the exercise of other outstanding options and warrants having a per share exercise price less than the assumed public offering price per share in this offering. If the underwriters exercise in full their option to purchase 1,500,000 additional shares, our net tangible book value on September 30, 2011 would have been approximately \$5.5 million, or approximately \$0.04 per share, representing an immediate dilution of \$6.10 per share to new investors purchasing shares of common stock in this offering.

Each \$0.50 increase (decrease) in the assumed public offering price of \$6.14 per share would increase (decrease) our as adjusted net tangible book value by \$4.7 million, or \$0.03 per share, and the dilution per share to investors in this offering by \$0.47 per share, assuming that the number of shares offered by us, as set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, remains the same and after deducting the estimated underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses payable by us. We may also increase or decrease the number of shares we are offering. An increase of 500,000 shares in the number of shares offered by us, to a total of 10,500,000 shares, together with a concomitant \$0.50 increase in the assumed public offering price of \$6.14 per share, would increase our as adjusted net tangible book value by \$7.8 million, or \$0.03 per share, and the dilution per share to

Table of Contents

investors in this offering by \$0.50 per share. Similarly, a decrease of 500,000 shares in the number of shares offered by us, to a total of 9,500,000 million shares, together with a concomitant \$0.50 decrease in the assumed public offering price of \$6.14 per share, would decrease our as adjusted net tangible book value by \$7.4 million, or \$0.06 per share, and the dilution per share to investors in this offering by \$0.44 per share. The as adjusted information discussed above is illustrative only and will be adjusted based on the actual public offering price and other terms of this offering determined at pricing.

The foregoing discussion and table are based on 129,680,884 shares of common stock issued and outstanding as of September 30, 2011 and exclude:

18,051,211 shares of common stock underlying options outstanding as of September 30, 2011 at a weighted average exercise price of \$7.38 per share;

1,441,215 shares of common stock underlying warrants outstanding as of September 30, 2011 at a weighted average exercise price of \$6.99 per share;

1,333,065 unvested restricted stock units as of September 30, 2011;

138,390 shares reserved for future issuance pursuant to vested restricted stock units; and

8,564,766 shares available for future grant under our 2011 Equity Incentive Plan, 2,800,805 shares available for future grant under our 2000 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, 1,117,656 shares available for future grant under our 2000 Non-Employee Directors Stock Option Plan, and 671,506 shares available for future grant under our 401(k) Retirement Plan, all as of September 30, 2011.

Table of Contents

UNDERWRITING

The company and the underwriters have entered into an underwriting agreement with respect to the shares being offered. Subject to certain conditions, each underwriter has severally agreed to purchase the number of shares indicated in the following table. Goldman, Sachs & Co. is the representative of the underwriters.

| Underwriters | Number of Shares |
|--|------------------|
| Goldman, Sachs & Co. Cowen and Company, LLC | |
| Total | |

The underwriters are committed to take and pay for all of the shares being offered, if any are taken, other than the shares covered by the option described below unless and until this option is exercised.

If the underwriters sell more shares than the total number set forth in the table above, the underwriters have an option to buy up to an additional 10,000,000 shares from the company. They may exercise that option for 30 days after the date of this prospectus supplement. If any shares are purchased pursuant to this option, the underwriters will severally purchase shares in approximately the same proportion as set forth in the table above.

The following table shows the per share and total underwriting discounts and commissions to be paid to the underwriters by the company. Such amounts are shown assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase 1,500,000 additional shares.

| | No Exercise | Full Exercise |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| Per Share | \$ | \$ |
| Total | \$ | \$ |

Shares sold by the underwriters to the public will initially be offered at the initial public offering price set forth on the cover of this prospectus supplement. Any shares sold by the underwriters to securities dealers may be sold at a discount of up to \$ per share from the initial public offering price. If all the shares are not sold at the initial public offering price, the representative may change the offering price and the other selling terms. The offering of the shares by the underwriters is subject to receipt and acceptance and subject to the underwriters' right to reject any order in whole or in part.

Exelixis and its directors and executive officers have agreed not to dispose of or hedge any shares of the common stock or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of the common stock during the period ending 90 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, subject to certain permitted exceptions (including withholding by, or transfer to, Exelixis of shares vested in respect of previously granted restricted stock unit awards required to cover applicable withholding tax obligations), except with the prior written consent of Goldman, Sachs & Co. However, the agreement with Exelixis does not prohibit the issuance of shares of common stock or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of common stock by Exelixis pursuant to its existing equity incentive plans or 401(k) plan or any future equity incentive plans approved by Exelixis' stockholders, or the issuance by Exelixis following the date 45 days after the date of this prospectus supplement of shares of common stock or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of common stock in an amount up to an aggregate of 10% of Exelixis' outstanding shares of common stock after giving effect to this offering if such shares are issued for cash in connection with a strategic transaction that includes a commercial relationship involving Exelixis; provided that in the case of any issuances in

Table of Contents

connection with a strategic transaction, the recipients of these shares agree to be bound by the lock-up agreement described above. Goldman, Sachs & Co., in its sole discretion, may release any of the securities subject to these lock-up agreements at any time without notice.

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell shares of common stock in the open market. These transactions may include short sales, stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover positions created by short sales. Short sales involve the sale by the underwriters of a greater number of shares than it is required to purchase in the offering. Covered short sales are sales made in an amount not greater than the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares from the company in the offering. The underwriters may close out any covered short position by either exercising their option to purchase additional shares or purchasing shares in the open market. In determining the source of shares to close out the covered short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which they may purchase additional shares pursuant to the option granted to them. Naked short sales are any sales in excess of such option. The underwriters must close out any naked short position by purchasing shares in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the common stock in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering. Stabilizing transactions consist of various bids for or purchases of common stock made by the underwriters in the open market prior to the completion of the offering.

The underwriters may also impose a penalty bid. This occurs when a particular underwriter repays to the underwriters a portion of the underwriting discount received by it because the representative has repurchased shares sold by or for the account of such underwriter in stabilizing or short covering transactions.

Purchases to cover a short position and stabilizing transactions, as well as other purchases by the underwriters for their own accounts, may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the company's stock, and, together with the penalty bid, may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the common stock. As a result, the price of the common stock may be higher than the price that otherwise might exist in the open market. If these activities are commenced, they may be discontinued at any time. These transactions may be effected on NASDAQ, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

- (a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of section 21 of the Financial Service and Markets Act 2000, or the FSMA) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the shares in circumstances in which section 21 of FSMA does not apply to the company; and
- (b) it has complied with, and will comply with all applicable provisions of FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the shares in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), each underwriter has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) it has not made and will not make an offer of shares to the public in that Relevant Member State prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the shares which has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority

Table of Contents

in that Relevant Member State, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of shares to the public in that Relevant Member State at any time:

- (a) to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;
- (b) to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;
- (c) to fewer than 100 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representative for any such offer; or
- (d) in any other circumstances which do not require the publication by the Company of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of shares to the public in relation to any shares in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the shares to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the shares, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

The shares may not be offered or sold by means of any document other than (i) in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong), or (ii) to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap.571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder, or (iii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong), and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the shares may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to shares which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

This prospectus supplement has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the shares may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the shares be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the shares are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 by a relevant person which is: (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose

Table of Contents

is to hold investments and each beneficiary is an accredited investor, shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest in that trust shall not be transferable for 6 months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the shares under Section 275 except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA; (2) where no consideration is given for the transfer; or (3) by operation of law.

The shares have not been and will not be registered under the Securities and Exchange Law of Japan (the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law) and each underwriter has agreed that it will not offer or sell any securities, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Securities and Exchange Law and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

The company estimates that its share of the total expenses of the offering, excluding underwriting discounts, will be approximately \$0.4 million.

The company has agreed to indemnify the several underwriters and their controlling persons against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. Certain of the underwriters and their respective affiliates have, from time to time, performed, and may in the future perform, various financial advisory and investment banking services for the company, for which they received or will receive customary fees and expenses.

In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of the issuer. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

VALIDITY OF COMMON STOCK

The validity of the common stock offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Cooley LLP, San Francisco, California, and for the underwriters by Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, Palo Alto, California.

EXPERTS

Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010, as set forth in their reports, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement. Our financial statements are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's reports, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

\$250,000,000

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Warrants

Units

From time to time, we may offer up to \$250,000,000 of any combination of the securities described in this prospectus, either individually or in units. We may also offer common stock or preferred stock issuable upon conversion of debt securities, common stock issuable upon conversion of preferred stock, or common stock, preferred stock or debt securities issuable upon the exercise of warrants.

This prospectus provides a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide specific terms of the securities offered in a supplement to this prospectus. We may also authorize one or more free writing prospectuses to be provided to you in connection with these offerings. The prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus or in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, as well as any documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, carefully before investing in any of the securities being offered. This prospectus may not be used to consummate a sale of securities unless accompanied by the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol EXEL. On May 7, 2009, the last reported sales price of our common stock was \$4.59 per share. The applicable prospectus supplement will contain information, where applicable, as to any other listing, if any, on The NASDAQ Global Select Market or any securities market or other exchange of the securities covered by the prospectus supplement.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should review carefully the risks and uncertainties described under the heading risk factors contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and under similar headings in the other documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

We will sell these securities directly to investors, through agents designated from time to time or to or through underwriters or dealers, on a continuous or delayed basis. For additional information on the methods of sale, you should refer to the section entitled Plan of Distribution in this prospectus. If any underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities with respect to which this prospectus is being delivered, the names of such underwriters and any applicable commissions or discounts will be set forth in a prospectus supplement. The price to the public of such securities and the net proceeds we expect to receive from such sale will also be set forth in a prospectus supplement.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED IF THIS PROSPECTUS IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

Edgar Filing: EXELIXIS INC - Form 424B5

The date of this prospectus is May 8, 2009

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|--|-------------|
| <u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u> | 1 |
| <u>SUMMARY</u> | 2 |
| <u>RISK FACTORS</u> | 5 |
| <u>SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u> | 6 |
| <u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK</u> | 7 |
| <u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u> | 8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u> | 9 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u> | 13 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u> | 20 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u> | 22 |
| <u>LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES</u> | 24 |
| <u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u> | 27 |
| <u>LEGAL MATTERS</u> | 29 |
| <u>EXPERTS</u> | 29 |
| <u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u> | 29 |

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using the shelf registration process. By using a shelf registration statement, we may offer and sell from time to time in one or more offerings the common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, and units described in this prospectus or a combination of the foregoing up to a total dollar amount of \$250,000,000.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. We may also authorize one or more free writing prospectuses to be provided to you that may contain material information relating to the offerings. The prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you may also add, update or change the information set forth in this prospectus or in any documents that we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus. **This prospectus may not be used to consummate a sale of securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.**

You should rely only on the information that we have provided or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be delivered to you. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be delivered to you. You must not rely on any unauthorized information or representation. This prospectus is an offer to sell only the securities offered hereby, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. You should assume that the information in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front of the document and that any information we have incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus, or any sale of a security.

This prospectus contains summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to herein have been filed, will be filed or will be incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and you may obtain copies of those documents as described below under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

This prospectus and the information incorporated herein by reference includes trademarks, service marks and trade names owned by us or others. All trademarks, service marks and trade names included or incorporated by reference into this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

We urge you to read carefully this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be delivered to you, together with the information incorporated herein by reference as described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**, before deciding whether to invest in any of the securities being offered.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information appearing elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and does not contain all of the information that you need to consider in making your investment decision. You should carefully read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including the information incorporated by reference and any free writing prospectuses we have authorized for use in connection with any offering, as well as the exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, in their entirety. Investors should also carefully consider the information set forth under **Risk Factors** contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus and under similar headings in the other documents that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

References in this prospectus to **Exelixis**, **the Company**, **we**, **us** and **our** refer to Exelixis, Inc., a Delaware corporation.

Our Company

We are committed to developing innovative therapies for cancer and other serious diseases. Through our integrated drug discovery and development activities, we are building a portfolio of novel compounds that we believe have the potential to be high-quality, differentiated pharmaceutical products. Our most advanced pharmaceutical programs focus on discovery and development of small molecule drugs for cancer.

Utilizing our library of more than 4.5 million compounds, we have integrated high-throughput processes, medicinal chemistry, bioinformatics, structural biology and early in vivo testing into a process that allows us to efficiently and rapidly identify highly qualified drug candidates that meet our extensive development criteria.

Since our inception, we have filed 16 investigational new drug applications, or INDs, with the United States Food and Drug Administration, or FDA. As our compounds advance into clinical development, we expect to generate a critical mass of data that will help us to understand the full clinical and commercial potential of our product candidates. In addition to guiding the potential commercialization of our innovative therapies, these data may contribute to the understanding of disease and help improve treatment outcomes.

Based on the strength of our expertise in biology, drug discovery and development, we have established collaborations with leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, including SmithKline Beecham Corporation (which does business as GlaxoSmithKline), Bristol-Myers Squibb Company and Genentech, Inc., that allow us to retain economic participation in compounds and support additional development of our pipeline. Our collaborations generally fall into one of two categories: collaborations in which we co-develop compounds with a partner, share development costs and profits from commercialization and may have the right to co-promote products in the United States, and collaborations in which we out-license compounds to a partner for further development and commercialization, have no further unreimbursed cost obligations and are entitled only to receive milestones and royalties from commercialization. Under either form of collaboration, we may also be entitled to license fees, research funding and milestone payments from research results and subsequent product development activities. We maintain exclusive ownership of those compounds in our pipeline that we are developing ourselves. We are responsible for all development costs for these compounds and are entitled to 100% of profits if the compounds are commercialized.

We were incorporated in Delaware in November 1994 as Exelixis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and we changed our name to Exelixis, Inc. in February 2000. Our principal executive offices are located at 249 East Grand Ave., P.O. Box 511, South San Francisco, CA 94083-0511 and our telephone number is (650) 837-7000. Our web site address is <http://www.exelixis.com>. The information contained in, or that can be accessed through, our web site is not part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

The Securities We May Offer

We may offer shares of our common stock and preferred stock, various series of debt securities and/or warrants to purchase any of such securities, either individually or in units, with a total value of up to \$250,000,000 from time to time under this prospectus, together with any applicable prospectus supplement and related free writing prospectus, at prices and on terms to be determined by market conditions at the time of offering. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer a type or series of securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will describe the specific amounts, prices and other important terms of the securities, including, to the extent applicable:

designation or classification;

aggregate principal amount or aggregate offering price;

maturity, if applicable;

original issue discount, if any;

rates and times of payment of interest or dividends, if any;

redemption, conversion, exercise exchange or sinking fund terms, if any;

conversion or exchange prices or rates, if any, and, if applicable, any provisions for changes to or adjustments in the conversion or exchange prices or rates and in the securities or other property receivable upon conversion or exchange;

ranking;

restrictive covenants, if any;

voting or other rights, if any; and

important United States federal income tax considerations.

A prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus or in documents we have incorporated by reference. However, no prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus will offer a security that is not registered and described in this prospectus at the time of the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

We may sell the securities directly to investors or to or through agents, underwriters or dealers. We, and our agents or underwriters, reserve the right to accept or reject all or part of any proposed purchase of securities. If we do offer securities through agents or underwriters, we will include in the applicable prospectus supplement:

the names of those agents or underwriters;

applicable fees, discounts and commissions to be paid to them;

details regarding over-allotment options, if any; and

the net proceeds to us.

Common Stock. We may issue shares of our common stock from time to time. The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of the stockholders and do not have cumulative voting rights. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any shares of our preferred stock that may become outstanding, the holders of outstanding shares of our common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends as may be declared by the board of directors out of funds legally available therefor. Upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Exelixis, holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities and the liquidation preferences of any shares of

Table of Contents

our preferred stock then outstanding. In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the common stock under **Description of Capital Stock – Common Stock**. We urge you, however, to read the prospectus supplements and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you related to any common stock being offered.

Preferred Stock. We may issue shares of our preferred stock from time to time, in one or more series. Our board of directors will determine the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of the preferred stock, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, liquidation preferences, sinking fund terms and the number of shares constituting any series or the designation of any series. Preferred stock offered under this prospectus may be convertible into our common stock or exchangeable for our other securities. If we sell any series of preferred stock under this prospectus and applicable prospectus supplements, we will fix the rights, preferences, privileges, qualifications and restrictions of the preferred stock of such series in the certificate of designation relating to that series. We will file as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from a current report on Form 8-K that we file with the SEC, the form of any certificate of designation that describes the terms of the series of preferred stock that we are offering before the issuance of the related series of preferred stock. In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the preferred stock under **Description of Capital Stock – Preferred Stock**. We urge you, however, to read the prospectus supplements and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you related to the series of preferred stock being offered, as well as the complete certificate of designation that contains the terms of the applicable series of preferred stock.

Debt Securities. We may issue debt securities from time to time, in one or more series, as either senior or subordinated debt or as senior or subordinated convertible debt. The senior debt securities will rank equally with any other unsubordinated debt that we may have and may be secured or unsecured. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment, to the extent and in the manner described in the instrument governing the debt, to all or some portion of our indebtedness. Any convertible debt securities that we issue will be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock or other securities of ours. Conversion may be mandatory or at the holder's option and would be at prescribed conversion rates. The debt securities will be issued under one or more documents called indentures, which are contracts between us and a trustee for the holders of the debt securities. Forms of indentures have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and supplemental indentures and forms of debt securities containing the terms of debt securities being offered will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will be incorporated by reference from a current report on Form 8-K that we file with the SEC. In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the debt securities under **Description of Debt Securities**. We urge you, however, to read the prospectus supplements and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you related to the series of debt securities being offered, as well as the complete indentures that contain the terms of the series of debt securities.

Warrants. We may issue warrants for the purchase of our common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities in one or more series, from time to time. We may issue warrants independently or together with common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities, and the warrants may be attached to or separate from those securities. The warrants will be evidenced by warrant certificates that may be issued under one or more warrant agreements, which are contracts between us and an agent for the holders of the warrants. Forms of the warrant agreements and forms of warrant certificates containing the terms of the warrants being offered have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and supplemental agreements and forms of warrant certificates will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will be incorporated by reference from a current report on Form 8-K that we file with the SEC. In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the warrants under **Description of Warrants**. We urge you, however, to read the prospectus supplements and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you related to the series of warrants being offered, as well as the complete warrant agreements and warrant certificates that contain the terms of the warrants.

Table of Contents

Units. We may issue units consisting of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities and/or warrants to purchase any of such securities in one or more series. We will evidence each series of units by unit certificates that we may issue under a separate agreement with a unit agent. Any unit agent will be a bank or trust company that we select. We will indicate the name and address of any unit agent in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of units. We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from a current report on Form 8-K that we file with the SEC, the form of unit agreement and any supplemental agreements that describe the terms of the series of units we are offering before the issuance of the related series of units. In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the units under Description of Units. We urge you, however, to read the prospectus supplements and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you related to the series of units being offered, as well as the unit agreements that contain the terms of the units.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate a sale of any securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully review the risks and uncertainties described under the heading Risk Factors contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and under similar headings in the other documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, before deciding to invest in any of the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus. Each of the risk factors could adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition, as well as adversely affect the value of an investment in our securities, and the occurrence of any of these risks might cause you to lose all or part of your investment. Additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently believe are immaterial may also significantly impair our business operations.

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference contain forward-looking statements that are based on our management's beliefs and assumptions and on information currently available to our management. Discussions containing these forward-looking statements may be found, among other places, in Business, Risk Factors and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations incorporated by reference from our most recent annual report on Form 10-K and in our most recent quarterly report on Form 10-Q, as well as any amendments thereto reflected in subsequent filings with the SEC. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements about:

our business strategy and our expectations with respect to the implementation of our business strategy;

our expectations with respect to the potential therapeutic and commercial value of our product candidates;

our expectations with respect to regulatory submissions and approvals and our clinical trials;

our expectations with respect to our intellectual property position; and

our estimates regarding our capital requirements and our need for additional financing.

In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as may, will, should, could, would, expects, intend, plans, believes, estimates, projects, predicts, potential and similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause our actual results, performance time frames or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance, time frames or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. We discuss many of these risks, uncertainties and other factors in greater detail under the heading Risk Factors contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K and in our most recent quarterly report on Form 10-Q, as well as any amendments thereto reflected in subsequent filings with the SEC. Given these risks, uncertainties and other factors, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Also, these forward-looking statements represent our estimates and assumptions only as of the date such forward-looking statements are made. You should read carefully this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, together with the information incorporated herein by reference as described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information, completely and with the understanding that our actual future results may be materially different from what we expect. We hereby qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.

Except as required by law, we assume no duty, obligation or undertaking to update these forward-looking statements publicly, or to update the reasons actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements, even if new information becomes available in the future.

Table of Contents

**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND
COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS**

Our earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges and combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends in each of the years in the years ended December 31, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 and in the three months ended March 31, 2009. Accordingly, the following table sets forth the deficiency of earnings to cover fixed charges and the deficiency of earnings to cover combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for each of the foregoing periods. Because of the deficiency, ratio information is not applicable. Amounts shown are in thousands.

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | | Year Ended December 31, | | | |
|--|---|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
| Deficiency of earnings available to cover fixed charges | \$(38,336) | \$ (175,570) | \$ (111,022) | \$ (123,189) | \$ (94,810) | \$ (137,245) |
| Deficiency of earnings available to cover combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends | \$(38,366) | \$ (175,570) | \$ (111,022) | \$ (123,189) | \$ (94,810) | \$ (137,245) |

For purposes of computing the deficiency of earnings to cover fixed charges and combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, earnings consist of loss from operations before income taxes and fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense and the portion of operating lease expense that represents interest.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as described in any applicable prospectus supplement and in any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be delivered to you in connection with a specific offering, we anticipate using the net proceeds to us from the sale of securities offered hereby for research and development and other general corporate purposes. We may also use a portion of the net proceeds to acquire or invest in businesses, products and technologies that we believe are complementary to our own, although we are not currently planning or negotiating any such transactions. Pending these uses, we intend to invest the net proceeds in investment-grade, interest-bearing securities.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

Our authorized capital stock consists of 200,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.001 par value, and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.001 par value. As of March 31, 2009, there were 106,383,931 shares of our common stock outstanding and no shares of our preferred stock outstanding. We may issue shares of our common stock and/or our preferred stock from time to time in one or more offerings. We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or in any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be delivered to you in connection with a specific offering, a description of the terms of the offering of common stock and/or preferred stock, including the offering price, the net proceeds to us and other material terms relating to such offering.

The following summary description of our capital stock is based on the provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws, and the applicable provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law. This information may not be complete in all respects and is qualified entirely by reference to the provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws, and the Delaware General Corporation Law. For information on how to obtain copies of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws, which are exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, see the section entitled [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

Common Stock

The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of the stockholders and do not have cumulative voting rights. Accordingly, holders of a majority of the shares of our common stock entitled to vote in any election of directors may elect all of the directors standing for election. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any shares of our preferred stock that may become outstanding, the holders of outstanding shares of our common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends as may be declared by the board of directors out of funds legally available therefor. Upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Exelixis, holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities and the liquidation preferences of any shares of our preferred stock then outstanding. Holders of our common stock have no preemptive rights and no right to convert their common stock into any other securities. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to our common stock. If we issue shares of common stock under this prospectus, the shares will be fully paid and non-assessable.

The rights of the holders of our common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of holders of shares of any preferred stock that we may designate and issue in the future.

Preferred Stock

Pursuant to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our board of directors has the authority, without further action by the stockholders (unless such stockholder action is required by applicable law or NASDAQ rules), to issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, in one or more series. Our board of directors is authorized to fix or alter from time to time the designation, powers, preferences and rights of the shares of each series, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, liquidation preferences and sinking fund terms, as well as the qualifications, limitations or restrictions of any unissued series of preferred stock. Our board of directors may also establish from time to time the number of shares constituting any series of preferred stock, and to increase or decrease the number of shares of any series subsequent to the issuance of shares of that series, but not below the number of shares of any series then outstanding.

We will fix the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of the preferred stock of each series in the certificate of designation relating to that series. We will incorporate by reference as an exhibit to the registration

Table of Contents

statement that includes this prospectus or as an exhibit to a current report on Form 8-K, the form of any certificate of designation that describes the terms of the series of preferred stock we are offering before the issuance of the related series of preferred stock. This description will include:

the title and stated value;

the number of shares we are offering;

the liquidation preference per share;

the purchase price;

the dividend rate, period and payment date and method of calculation for dividends;

whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends will accumulate;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any;

the provisions for a sinking fund, if any;

the provisions for redemption or repurchase, if applicable, and any restrictions on our ability to exercise those redemption and repurchase rights;

any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange or market;

whether the preferred stock will be convertible into our common stock, and, if applicable, the conversion price, or how it will be calculated, and the conversion period;

whether the preferred stock will be exchangeable into debt securities, and, if applicable, the exchange price, or how it will be calculated, and the exchange period;

voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock;

preemption rights, if any;

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

whether interests in the preferred stock will be represented by depositary shares;

a discussion of any material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;

the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs;

any limitations on the issuance of any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with the series of preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the preferred stock.

If we issue shares of preferred stock under this prospectus, the shares will be fully paid and non-assessable and will not have, or be subject to, any preemptive or similar rights.

The General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, our state of incorporation, provides that the holders of preferred stock will have the right to vote separately as a class (or, in some cases, as a series) on an amendment to our certificate of incorporation if the amendment would change the par value or, unless the certificate of incorporation provided otherwise, the number of authorized shares of the class or change the powers, preferences or special rights of the class or series so as to adversely affect the class or series, as the case may be. This right is in addition to any voting rights that may be provided for in the applicable certificate of designation.

Table of Contents

Our board of directors may authorize the issuance of preferred stock with voting or conversion rights that could adversely affect the voting power or other rights of the holders of our common stock. Preferred stock could be issued quickly with terms designed to delay or prevent a change in control of our company or make removal of management more difficult. Additionally, the issuance of preferred stock may have the effect of decreasing the market price of our common stock.

Equity Compensation

As of March 31, 2009, there were 39,823,387 shares of our common stock reserved for issuance or future grant under our various equity incentive, stock option and employee stock purchase plans. In addition, 638,085 shares of our common stock were reserved for future issuance under our Amended and Restated Exelixis, Inc. 401(k) Plan as of March 31, 2009.

Warrants

As of March 31, 2009, warrants to purchase an aggregate of 2,500,000 shares of our common stock were outstanding. As of March 31, 2009, we had also reserved an additional 500,000 shares of our common stock for issuance upon the exercise of warrants that may be issued pursuant our June 2005 agreements with Symphony Evolution, Inc. and Symphony Evolution Holdings LLC. Pursuant to our Facility Agreement dated June 4, 2008, or the Facility Agreement, with Deerfield Private Design Fund, L.P., Deerfield Private Design International, L.P., Deerfield Partners, L.P. and Deerfield International Limited, or the Deerfield Entities, we may become obligated to issue warrants to the Deerfield Entities in the event we choose to draw down on the facility. All warrants that have been or that may be issued to the Deerfield Entities in connection with our Facility Agreement are referred to in this prospectus as the Deerfield Warrants.

Registration Rights

As of the date of this prospectus, certain holders of our common stock and certain holders of warrants to purchase our common stock are entitled to rights with respect to the registration of certain shares of our common stock under the Securities Act. These rights are provided under the Fourth Amended and Restated Registration Rights Agreement, dated February 26, 1999, among Exelixis and certain Stockholders of Exelixis, the Registration Rights Agreement, dated June 4, 2008, between Exelixis and the Deerfield Entities, and the Stock Purchase and Stock Issuance Agreement, dated as of October 28, 2002, by and between SmithKlineBeecham Corporation and Exelixis, as amended. These registration rights require, among other things, that if we propose to register any of our securities under the Securities Act, either for our own account or for the account of others, the holders of these shares are entitled to notice of the registration and are entitled to include, at our expense, their shares of common stock in the registration and any related underwriting, provided, among other conditions, that the underwriters may limit the number of shares to be included in the registration and in some cases exclude these shares entirely. In addition, the holders of these shares may require us, at our expense and subject to certain limitations, to file a registration statement under the Securities Act with respect to their shares of our common stock. We have also entered into a Registration Rights Agreement, dated June 9, 2005, with Symphony Evolution Holdings LLC pursuant to which we agreed to register for resale under a resale registration statement shares of our common stock that we may in the future issue pursuant to a Purchase Option Agreement, dated June 9, 2005, that we entered into with Symphony Evolution Holdings LLC and Symphony Evolution, Inc.

Anti-Takeover Effects of Provisions of Delaware Law and Our Charter Documents

Delaware Takeover Statute. We are subject to the provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. In general, the statute prohibits a publicly-held Delaware corporation such as Exelixis from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder, unless the business combination is approved in a prescribed manner. For purposes of Section 203, a business combination includes a merger, asset sale or other

Table of Contents

transaction resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder, and an interested stockholder is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns (or within three years prior, did own) 15% or more of the corporation's voting stock.

Charter Documents. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation requires that any action required or permitted to be taken by our stockholders must be effected at a duly called annual or special meeting of stockholders and may not be effected by a consent in writing. Additionally, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation: does not provide for the use of cumulative voting in the election of directors; provides for a board of directors, classified into three classes of directors; provides that the authorized number of directors may be changed only by resolution of our board of directors; and provides for the authority of our board of directors to issue up to 10,000,000 shares of blank check preferred stock and to determine the price, powers, preferences and rights of these shares, without stockholder approval.

Our amended and restated bylaws provide that candidates for director may be nominated only by our board of directors or by a stockholder who gives written notice to us no later than 60 days prior nor earlier than 90 days prior to the first anniversary of the last annual meeting of stockholders, subject to certain exceptions. The authorized number of directors is fixed in accordance with our amended and restated certificate of incorporation. Our board of directors may appoint new directors to fill vacancies or newly created directorships. Our amended and restated bylaws also limit who may call a special meeting of stockholders.

Delaware law and these and other charter provisions could delay or discourage some types of transactions involving an actual or potential change in our control or change in our management, including transactions in which stockholders might otherwise receive a premium for their shares over then current prices, and may limit the ability of stockholders to remove current management or approve transactions that stockholders may deem to be in their best interests and, therefore, could adversely affect the price of our common stock.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is BNY Mellon Shareowner Services. Its address is 480 Washington Blvd., Jersey City, NJ 07310 and its telephone number is (877) 813-9419.

Listing on the NASDAQ Global Select Market

Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the trading symbol EXEL.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplements or free writing prospectuses, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus. We may issue debt securities, in one or more series, as either senior or subordinated debt or as senior or subordinated convertible debt. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any future debt securities we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus. The terms of any debt securities we offer under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms we describe below. However, no prospectus supplement shall fundamentally change the terms that are set forth in this prospectus or offer a security that is not registered and described in this prospectus at the time of its effectiveness. As of the date of this prospectus, we have no outstanding registered debt securities. Unless the context requires otherwise, whenever we refer to the indentures, we also are referring to any supplemental indentures that specify the terms of a particular series of debt securities.

We will issue any senior debt securities under the senior indenture that we will enter into with the trustee named in the senior indenture. We will issue any subordinated debt securities under the subordinated indenture that we will enter into with the trustee named in the subordinated indenture. We have filed forms of these documents as exhibits to the registration statement, of which this prospectus is a part, and supplemental indentures and forms of debt securities containing the terms of the debt securities being offered will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or will be incorporated by reference from a current report on Form 8-K that we file with the SEC.

The indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, or the Trust Indenture Act. We use the term trustee to refer to either the trustee under the senior indenture or the trustee under the subordinated indenture, as applicable.

The following summaries of material provisions of the senior debt securities, the subordinated debt securities and the indentures are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements and any related free writing prospectuses related to the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus, as well as the complete indentures that contains the terms of the debt securities. Except as we may otherwise indicate, the terms of the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are identical.

General

The terms of each series of debt securities will be established by or pursuant to a resolution of our board of directors and set forth or determined in the manner provided in an officers certificate or by a supplemental indenture. Debt securities may be issued in separate series without limitation as to aggregate principal amount. We may specify a maximum aggregate principal amount for the debt securities of any series. We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the series of debt securities being offered, including:

the title;

the principal amount being offered, and if a series, the total amount authorized and the total amount outstanding;

any limit on the amount that may be issued;

whether or not we will issue the series of debt securities in global form, and, if so, the terms and who the depository will be;

the maturity date;

whether and under what circumstances, if any, we will pay additional amounts on any debt securities held by a person who is not a United States person for tax purposes, and whether we can redeem the debt securities if we have to pay such additional amounts;

Table of Contents

the annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate and the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;

whether or not the debt securities will be secured or unsecured, and the terms of any secured debt;

the terms of the subordination of any series of subordinated debt;

the place where payments will be payable;

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

the date, if any, after which, and the price at which, we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional or provisional redemption provisions and the terms of those redemption provisions;

the date, if any, on which, and the price at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund or analogous fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option, to purchase, the series of debt securities and the currency or currency unit in which the debt securities are payable;

whether the indenture will restrict our ability or the ability of our subsidiaries to:

incur additional indebtedness;

issue additional securities;

create liens;

pay dividends or make distributions in respect of our capital stock or the capital stock of our subsidiaries;

redeem capital stock;

place restrictions on our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends, make distributions or transfer assets;

make investments or other restricted payments;

Edgar Filing: EXELIXIS INC - Form 424B5

sell or otherwise dispose of assets;

enter into sale-leaseback transactions;

engage in transactions with stockholders or affiliates;

issue or sell stock of our subsidiaries; or

effect a consolidation or merger;

whether the indenture will require us to maintain any interest coverage, fixed charge, cash flow-based, asset-based or other financial ratios;

a discussion of any material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;

information describing any book-entry features;

provisions for a sinking fund purchase or other analogous fund, if any;

the applicability of the provisions in the indenture on discharge;

whether the debt securities are to be offered at a price such that they will be deemed to be offered at an original issue discount as defined in paragraph (a) of Section 1273 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

Table of Contents

the denominations in which we will issue the series of debt securities, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

the currency of payment of debt securities if other than U.S. dollars and the manner of determining the equivalent amount in U.S. dollars; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities, including any additional events of default or covenants provided with respect to the debt securities, and any terms that may be required by us or advisable under applicable laws or regulations.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock, our preferred stock or other securities (including securities of a third-party). We will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. We may include provisions pursuant to which the number of shares of our common stock, our preferred stock or other securities (including securities of a third-party) that the holders of the series of debt securities receive would be subject to adjustment.

Consolidation, Merger or Sale

Unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, the indentures will not contain any covenant that restricts our ability to merge or consolidate, or sell, convey, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets. However, any successor to or acquirer of such assets must assume all of our obligations under the indentures or the debt securities, as appropriate. If the debt securities are convertible into or exchangeable for our other securities or securities of other entities, the person with whom we consolidate or merge or to whom we sell all of our property must make provisions for the conversion of the debt securities into securities that the holders of the debt securities would have received if they had converted the debt securities before the consolidation, merger or sale.

Events of Default Under the Indenture

Unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, the following are events of default under the indentures with respect to any series of debt securities that we may issue:

if we fail to pay interest when due and payable and our failure continues for 90 days and the time for payment has not been extended;

if we fail to pay the principal, premium or sinking fund payment, if any, when due and payable at maturity, upon redemption or repurchase or otherwise, and the time for payment has not been extended;

if we fail to observe or perform any other covenant contained in the debt securities or the indentures, other than a covenant specifically relating to another series of debt securities, and our failure continues for 90 days after we receive notice from the trustee or we and the trustee receive notice from the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the applicable series; and

if specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur.

We will describe in each applicable prospectus supplement any additional events of default relating to the relevant series of debt securities.

If an event of default with respect to debt securities of any series occurs and is continuing, other than an event of default specified in the last bullet point above, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate

Table of Contents

principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series, by notice to us in writing, and to the trustee if notice is given by such holders, may declare the unpaid principal, premium, if any, and accrued interest, if any, due and payable immediately. If an event of default specified in the last bullet point above occurs with respect to us, the unpaid principal, premium, if any, and accrued interest, if any, of each issue of debt securities then outstanding shall be due and payable without any notice or other action on the part of the trustee or any holder.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of an affected series may waive any default or event of default with respect to the series and its consequences, except defaults or events of default regarding payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, unless we have cured the default or event of default in accordance with the indenture. Any waiver shall cure the default or event of default.

Subject to the terms of the indentures, if an event of default under an indenture shall occur and be continuing, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under such indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the applicable series of debt securities, unless such holders have offered the trustee indemnity or security satisfactory to it against any loss, liability or expense. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee, with respect to the debt securities of that series, provided that:

the direction so given by the holder is not in conflict with any law or the applicable indenture; and

subject to its duties under the Trust Indenture Act, the trustee need not take any action that might involve it in personal liability or might be unduly prejudicial to the holders not involved in the proceeding.

The indentures provide that if an event of default has occurred and is continuing, the trustee will be required in the exercise of its powers to use the degree of care that a prudent person would use in the conduct of its own affairs. The trustee, however, may refuse to follow any direction that conflicts with law or the indenture, or that the trustee determines is unduly prejudicial to the rights of any other holder of the relevant series of debt securities, or that would involve the trustee in personal liability. Prior to taking any action under the indentures, the trustee will be entitled to indemnification against all costs, expenses and liabilities that would be incurred by taking or not taking such action.

A holder of the debt securities of any series will have the right to institute a proceeding under the indentures or to appoint a receiver or trustee, or to seek other remedies only if:

the holder has given written notice to the trustee of a continuing event of default with respect to that series;

the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made written request, and such holders have offered to the trustee indemnity or security satisfactory to it against any loss, liability or expense or to be incurred in compliance with instituting the proceeding as trustee; and

the trustee does not institute the proceeding, and does not receive from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series other conflicting directions within 90 days after the notice, request and offer.

These limitations do not apply to a suit instituted by a holder of debt securities if we default in the payment of the principal, premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities, or other defaults that may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We will periodically file statements with the trustee regarding our compliance with specified covenants in the indentures.

Table of Contents

The indentures provide that if a default occurs and is continuing and is actually known to a responsible officer of the trustee, the trustee must mail to each holder notice of the default within the earlier of 90 days after it occurs and 30 days after it is known by a responsible officer of the trustee or written notice of it is received by the trustee, unless such default has been cured or waived. Except in the case of a default in the payment of principal or premium of or interest on any debt security or certain other defaults specified in an indenture, the trustee shall be protected in withholding such notice if and so long as the board of directors, the executive committee or a trust committee of directors, or responsible officers of the trustee, in good faith determine that withholding notice is in the best interests of holders of the relevant series of debt securities.

Modification of Indenture; Waiver

Subject to the terms of the indenture for any series of debt securities that we may issue, we and the trustee may change an indenture without the consent of any holders with respect to the following specific matters:

to fix any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the indenture;

to comply with the provisions described above under **Description of Debt Securities – Consolidation, Merger or Sale** ;

to comply with any requirements of the SEC in connection with the qualification of any indenture under the Trust Indenture Act;

to add to, delete from or revise the conditions, limitations, and restrictions on the authorized amount, terms, or purposes of issue, authentication and delivery of debt securities, as set forth in the indenture;

to provide for the issuance of and establish the form and terms and conditions of the debt securities of any series as provided under **Description of Debt Securities – General**, to establish the form of any certifications required to be furnished pursuant to the terms of the indenture or any series of debt securities, or to add to the rights of the holders of any series of debt securities;

to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment hereunder by a successor trustee;

to provide for uncertificated debt securities and to make all appropriate changes for such purpose;

to add to our covenants such new covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions for the benefit of the holders, to make the occurrence, or the occurrence and the continuance, of a default in any such additional covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions an event of default or to surrender any right or power conferred to us in the indenture; or

to change anything that does not adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series in any material respect.

In addition, under the indentures, the rights of holders of a series of debt securities may be changed by us and the trustee with the written consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series that is affected. However, subject to the terms of the indenture for any series of debt securities that we may issue or otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, we and the trustee may only make the following changes with the consent of each holder of any outstanding debt securities affected:

Edgar Filing: EXELIXIS INC - Form 424B5

extending the stated maturity of the series of debt securities;

reducing the principal amount, reducing the rate of or extending the time of payment of interest, or reducing any premium payable upon the redemption or repurchase of any debt securities; or

reducing the percentage of debt securities, the holders of which are required to consent to any amendment, supplement, modification or waiver.

Table of Contents

Discharge

Each indenture provides that, subject to the terms of the indenture and any limitation otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, we can elect to be discharged from our obligations with respect to one or more series of debt securities, except for specified obligations, including obligations to:

register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of the series;

replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of the series;

maintain paying agencies;

hold monies for payment in trust;

recover excess money held by the trustee;

compensate and indemnify the trustee; and

appoint any successor trustee.

In order to exercise our rights to be discharged, we must deposit with the trustee money or government obligations sufficient to pay all the principal of, any premium and interest on, the debt securities of the series on the dates payments are due.

Form, Exchange and Transfer

We will issue the debt securities of each series only in fully registered form without coupons and, unless we otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. The indentures provide that we may issue debt securities of a series in temporary or permanent global form and as book-entry securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company or another depository named by us and identified in a prospectus supplement with respect to that series. See the section entitled *Legal Ownership of Securities* below for a further description of the terms relating to any book-entry securities.

At the option of the holder, subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the holder of the debt securities of any series can exchange the debt securities for other debt securities of the same series, in any authorized denomination and of like tenor and aggregate principal amount.

Subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the debt securities may present the debt securities for exchange or for registration of transfer, duly endorsed or with the form of transfer endorsed thereon duly executed if so required by us or the security registrar, at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us for this purpose. Unless otherwise provided in the debt securities that the holder presents for transfer or exchange, we will make no service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange, but we may require payment of any taxes or other governmental charges.

We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement the security registrar, and any transfer agent in addition to the security registrar, that we initially designate for any debt securities. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of each series.

Edgar Filing: EXELIXIS INC - Form 424B5

If we elect to redeem the debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any debt securities of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any debt

Table of Contents

securities that may be selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or

register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt securities we are redeeming in part.

Information Concerning the Trustee

The trustee, other than during the occurrence and continuance of an event of default under an indenture, undertakes to perform only those duties as are specifically set forth in the applicable indenture and is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers given it by the indentures at the request of any holder of debt securities unless it is offered security and indemnity satisfactory to it against the costs, expenses and liabilities that it might incur. However, upon an event of default under an indenture, the trustee must use the same degree of care as a prudent person would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make payment of the interest on any debt securities on any interest payment date to the person in whose name the debt securities, or one or more predecessor securities, are registered at the close of business on the regular record date for the interest.

We will pay principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities of a particular series at the office of the paying agents designated by us, except that unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make interest payments by check that we will mail to the holder or by wire transfer to certain holders. Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will designate the corporate trust office of the trustee as our sole paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement any other paying agents that we initially designate for the debt securities of a particular series. We will maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All money we pay to a paying agent or the trustee for the payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on any debt securities that remains unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will be repaid to us, and the holder of the debt security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, without regard to conflicts of laws principles thereof, except to the extent that the Trust Indenture Act is applicable.

Ranking of Debt Securities

The subordinated debt securities will be unsecured and will be subordinate and junior in priority of payment to certain of our other indebtedness to the extent described in a prospectus supplement. The subordinated indenture does not limit the amount of subordinated debt securities that we may issue. It also does not limit us from issuing any other secured or unsecured debt.

The senior debt securities will be unsecured and will rank equally in right of payment to all our other senior unsecured debt. The senior indenture does not limit the amount of senior debt securities that we may issue. It also does not limit us from issuing any other secured or unsecured debt.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

The following description, together with the additional information we may include in any applicable prospectus supplements and free writing prospectuses, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the warrants that we may offer under this prospectus, which may consist of warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock or debt securities and may be issued in one or more series. Warrants may be offered independently or together with common stock, preferred stock or debt securities offered by any prospectus supplement, and may be attached to or separate from those securities. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any warrants that we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any series of warrants that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement and any applicable free writing prospectus. The terms of any warrants offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below. However, no prospectus supplement will fundamentally change the terms that are set forth in this prospectus or offer a security that is not registered and described in this prospectus at the time of its effectiveness.

We may issue the warrants under a warrant agreement that we will enter into with a warrant agent to be selected by us. The warrant agent will act solely as an agent of ours in connection with the warrants and will not act as an agent for the holders or beneficial owners of the warrants. We have filed forms of the warrant agreements and forms of warrant certificates containing the terms of the warrants being offered under this prospectus as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from a current report on Form 8-K that we file with the SEC, the form of warrant agreement, including a form of warrant certificate, that describes the terms of the particular series of warrants we are offering before the issuance of the related series of warrants. The following summaries of material provisions of the warrants and the warrant agreements are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the warrant agreement and warrant certificate applicable to a particular series of warrants. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplement and any applicable free writing prospectus related to the particular series of warrants that we sell under this prospectus, as well as the complete warrant agreements and warrant certificates that contain the terms of the warrants.

General

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms relating to a series of warrants, including:

the offering price and aggregate number of warrants offered;

the currency for which the warrants may be purchased;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each such security or each principal amount of such security;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;

in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of one warrant and the price at, and currency in which, this principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon such exercise;

in the case of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, purchasable upon the exercise of one warrant and the price at which these shares may be purchased upon such exercise;

the effect of any merger, consolidation, sale or other disposition of our business on the warrant agreements and the warrants;

Edgar Filing: EXELIXIS INC - Form 424B5

the terms of any rights to redeem or call the warrants;

any provisions for changes to or adjustments in the exercise price or number of securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants;

Table of Contents

the dates on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and expire;

the manner in which the warrant agreements and warrants may be modified;

a discussion of any material United States federal income tax consequences of holding or exercising the warrants;

the terms of the securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of or restrictions on the warrants.

Before exercising their warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise, including:

in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the right to receive payments of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities purchasable upon exercise or to enforce covenants in the applicable indenture; or

in the case of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, the right to receive dividends, if any, or, payments upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up or to exercise voting rights, if any.

Exercise of Warrants

Each warrant will entitle the holder to purchase the securities that we specify in the applicable prospectus supplement at the exercise price that we describe in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless we otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the warrants may exercise the warrants at any time up to the specified time on the expiration date that we set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void.

Holders of the warrants may exercise the warrants by delivering the warrant certificate representing the warrants to be exercised together with specified information, and paying the required amount to the warrant agent in immediately available funds, as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. We will set forth on the reverse side of the warrant certificate and in the applicable prospectus supplement the information that the holder of the warrant will be required to deliver to the warrant agent.

Upon receipt of the required payment and the warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue and deliver the securities purchasable upon such exercise. If fewer than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate are exercised, then we will issue a new warrant certificate for the remaining amount of warrants. If we so indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the warrants may surrender securities as all or part of the exercise price for warrants.

Governing Law

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the warrants and any warrant agreements will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Enforceability of Rights by Holders of Warrants

Each warrant agent will act solely as our agent under the applicable warrant agreement and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with any holder of any warrant. A single bank or trust company may act as warrant agent for more than one issue of warrants. A warrant agent will have no duty or responsibility in case of any default by us under the applicable warrant agreement or warrant, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any proceedings at law or otherwise, or to make any demand upon us. Any holder of a warrant may, without the consent of the related warrant agent or the holder of any other warrant, enforce by appropriate legal action its right to exercise, and receive the

securities purchasable upon exercise of, its warrants.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

The following description, together with the additional information we may include in any applicable prospectus supplements, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the units that we may offer under this prospectus. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any units that we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any series of units in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any units offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below. However, no prospectus supplement will fundamentally change the terms that are set forth in this prospectus or offer a security that is not registered and described in this prospectus at the time of its effectiveness.

We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from a current report on Form 8-K that we file with the SEC, the form of unit agreement that describes the terms of the series of units we are offering, and any supplemental agreements, before the issuance of the related series of units. The following summaries of material terms and provisions of the units are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the unit agreement and any supplemental agreements applicable to a particular series of units. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the particular series of units that we sell under this prospectus, as well as any related free writing prospectuses and the complete unit agreement and any supplemental agreements that contain the terms of the units.

General

We may issue units comprised of one or more debt securities, shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock and warrants in any combination. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The unit agreement under which a unit is issued may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately, at any time or at any time before a specified date.

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the series of units being offered, including:

the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances those securities may be held or transferred separately;

any provisions of the governing unit agreement that differ from those described below; and

any provisions for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities comprising the units. The provisions described in this section, as well as those described under **Description of Capital Stock**, **Description of Debt Securities** and **Description of Warrants** will apply to each unit and to any common stock, preferred stock, debt security or warrant included in each unit, respectively.

Issuance in Series

We may issue units in such amounts and in numerous distinct series as we determine.

Governing Law

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the units and unit agreements will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

Enforceability of Rights by Holders of Units

Each unit agent will act solely as our agent under the applicable unit agreement and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with any holder of any unit. A single bank or trust company may act as unit agent for more than one series of units. A unit agent will have no duty or responsibility in case of any default by us under the applicable unit agreement or unit, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any proceedings at law or otherwise, or to make any demand upon us. Any holder of a unit may, without the consent of the related unit agent or the holder of any other unit, enforce by appropriate legal action its rights as holder under any security included in the unit.

Title

We, and any unit agents and any of their agents, may treat the registered holder of any unit certificate as an absolute owner of the units evidenced by that certificate for any purpose and as the person entitled to exercise the rights attaching to the units so requested, despite any notice to the contrary. See the section entitled Legal Ownership of Securities.

Table of Contents

LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

We can issue securities in registered form or in the form of one or more global securities. We describe global securities in greater detail below. We refer to those persons who have securities registered in their own names on the books that we or any applicable trustee or depository or warrant agent maintain for this purpose as the holders of those securities. These persons are the legal holders of the securities. We refer to those persons who, indirectly through others, own beneficial interests in securities that are not registered in their own names, as indirect holders of those securities. As we discuss below, indirect holders are not legal holders, and investors in securities issued in book-entry form or in street name will be indirect holders.

Book-Entry Holders

We may issue securities in book-entry form only, as we will specify in the applicable prospectus supplement. This means securities may be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a financial institution that holds them as depository on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in the depository's book-entry system. These participating institutions, which are referred to as participants, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the securities on behalf of themselves or their customers.

Only the person in whose name a security is registered is recognized as the holder of that security. Global securities will be registered in the name of the depository or its participants. Consequently, for global securities, we will recognize only the depository as the holder of the securities, and we will make all payments on the securities to the depository. The depository passes along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depository and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the securities.

As a result, investors in a global security will not own securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depository's book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant. As long as the securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect holders, and not legal holders, of the securities.

Street Name Holders

We may terminate a global security or issue securities that are not issued in global form. In these cases, investors may choose to hold their securities in their own names or in street name. Securities held by an investor in street name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution that the investor chooses, and the investor would hold only a beneficial interest in those securities through an account he or she maintains at that institution.

For securities held in street name, we or any applicable trustee or depository will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the securities are registered as the holders of those securities, and we or any such trustee or depository will make all payments on those securities to them. These institutions pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Investors who hold securities in street name will be indirect holders, not holders, of those securities.

Legal Holders

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of any applicable trustee or third party employed by us or a trustee, run only to the legal holders of the securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global securities, in street name or by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect holder of a security or has no choice because we are issuing the securities only in global form.

Table of Contents

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the holder, we have no further responsibility for the payment or notice even if that holder is required, under agreements with its participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect holders but does not do so. Similarly, we may want to obtain the approval of the holders to amend an indenture, to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of an indenture, or for other purposes. In such an event, we would seek approval only from the legal holders, and not the indirect holders, of the securities. Whether and how the holders contact the indirect holders is up to the legal holders.

Special Considerations for Indirect Holders

If you hold securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form because the securities are represented by one or more global securities or in street name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

how it handles securities payments and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

how it would handle a request for the holders' consent, if ever required;

whether and how you can instruct it to send you securities registered in your own name so you can be a holder, if that is permitted in the future;

how it would exercise rights under the securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and

if the securities are in book-entry form, how the depository's rules and procedures will affect these matters.

Global Securities

A global security is a security that represents one or any other number of individual securities held by a depository. Generally, all securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms.

Each security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we issue to, deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution or its nominee that we select. The financial institution that we select for this purpose is called the depository. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, known as DTC, will be the depository for all securities issued in book-entry form.

A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depository, its nominee or a successor depository, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under **Special Situations When A Global Security Will Be Terminated**. As a result of these arrangements, the depository, or its nominee, will be the sole registered owner and legal holder of all securities represented by a global security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depository or with another institution that does. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a legal holder of the security, but only an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

If the prospectus supplement for a particular security indicates that the security will be issued as a global security, then the security will be represented by a global security at all times unless and until the global security is terminated. If termination occurs, we may issue the securities through another book-entry clearing system or decide that the securities may no longer be held through any book-entry clearing system.

Table of Contents

Special Considerations For Global Securities

As an indirect holder, an investor's rights relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor's financial institution and of the depository, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize an indirect holder as a holder of securities and instead deal only with the depository that holds the global security.

If securities are issued only as global securities, an investor should be aware of the following:

an investor cannot cause the securities to be registered in his or her name, and cannot obtain non-global certificates for his or her interest in the securities, except in the special situations we describe below;

an investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the securities, as we describe above;

an investor may not be able to sell interests in the securities to some insurance companies and to other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form;

an investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in the global security in circumstances where certificates representing the securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective;

the depository's policies, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to an investor's interest in the global security. We and any applicable trustee have no responsibility for any aspect of the depository's actions or for its records of ownership interests in the global security. We and the trustee also do not supervise the depository in any way;

the depository may, and we understand that DTC will, require that those who purchase and sell interests in the global security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds, and your broker or bank may require you to do so as well; and

financial institutions that participate in the depository's book-entry system, and through which an investor holds its interest in the global security, may also have their own policies affecting payments, notices and other matters relating to the securities. There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the actions of any of those intermediaries.

Special Situations When A Global Security Will Be Terminated

In a few special situations described below, a global security will terminate and interests in it will be exchanged for physical certificates representing those interests. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in securities transferred to their own names, so that they will be direct holders. We have described the rights of holders and street name investors above.

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, a global security will terminate when the following special situations occur:

Edgar Filing: EXELIXIS INC - Form 424B5

if the depositary notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depositary for that global security and we do not appoint another institution to act as depositary within 90 days;

if we notify any applicable trustee that we wish to terminate that global security; or

if an event of default has occurred with regard to securities represented by that global security and has not been cured or waived.

The applicable prospectus supplement may also list additional situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular series of securities covered by the prospectus supplement. When a global security terminates, the depositary, and neither we nor any applicable trustee, is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions that will be the initial direct holders.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may offer and sell the securities to or through underwriters or dealers, through agents, or directly to one or more purchasers. We may offer and sell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to such prevailing market prices;

in settlement of obligations; or

at negotiated prices.

A prospectus supplement or supplements (and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you) will describe the terms of the offering of the securities, including, to the extent applicable:

the name or names of any underwriters, if any;

the purchase price of the securities or other consideration therefor, and the proceeds, if any, we will receive from the sale;

any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;

any agency fees or underwriting discounts and other items constituting agents' or underwriters' compensation;

any public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchange or market on which the securities may be listed.

Only underwriters named in the prospectus supplement will be underwriters of the securities offered by the prospectus supplement.

If underwriters are used in the sale, they will acquire the securities for their own account and may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. We may offer the securities to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or by underwriters without a syndicate. Subject to certain conditions, the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities offered by the prospectus supplement, other than securities covered by any over-allotment option. Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may change

Edgar Filing: EXELIXIS INC - Form 424B5

from time to time. We may use underwriters with whom we have a material relationship. We will describe in the prospectus supplement, naming the underwriter, the nature of any such relationship.

We may sell securities directly or through agents we designate from time to time. We will name any agent involved in the offering and sale of securities and we will describe any commissions we will pay the agent in the prospectus supplement. Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, our agent will act on a best-efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

We may authorize agents or underwriters to solicit offers by certain types of institutional investors to purchase securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. We will describe the conditions to these contracts and the commissions we must pay for solicitation of these contracts in the prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

We may provide agents and underwriters with indemnification against civil liabilities related to this offering, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribution with respect to payments that the agents or underwriters may make with respect to these liabilities. Agents and underwriters may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business.

All securities we may offer, other than common stock, will be new issues of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters may make a market in these securities, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot guarantee the liquidity of the trading markets for any securities.

Any underwriter may engage in overallocation, stabilizing transactions, short covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Overallocation involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. Short covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution is completed to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of the activities at any time.

Any underwriters that are qualified market makers on the NASDAQ Global Select Market may engage in passive market making transactions in the securities on the NASDAQ Global Select Market in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M under the Exchange Act, during the business day prior to the pricing of the offering, before the commencement of offers or sales of the securities. Passive market makers must comply with applicable volume and price limitations and must be identified as passive market makers. In general, a passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid for such security; if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, however, the passive market maker's bid must then be lowered when certain purchase limits are exceeded. Passive market making may stabilize the market price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

In compliance with guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA, the maximum consideration or discount to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker dealer may not exceed 8% of the aggregate amount of the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement.

We may also offer under this prospectus any Failure Payment Shares (as defined in the Deerfield Warrants) that become issuable pursuant to the Deerfield Warrants. Pursuant to a Registration Rights Agreement we entered into with the Deerfield Entities, we have agreed to indemnify the Deerfield Entities and their permitted transferees and assignees against liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, the Exchange Act and state securities laws, relating to the registration of the Failure Payment Shares covered by this prospectus.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Cooley Godward Kronish LLP, Palo Alto, California will pass for us upon the validity of the securities being offered by this prospectus and applicable prospectus supplement, and counsel named in the applicable prospectus supplement will pass upon legal matters for any underwriters, dealers or agents. As of the date of this prospectus, certain partners and associates of Cooley Godward Kronish LLP own an aggregate of approximately 5,291 shares of our common stock, either individually or through investment partnerships.

EXPERTS

Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 2, 2009, and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of January 2, 2009, as set forth in their reports thereon which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement. Our financial statements and our management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of January 2, 2009 are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's reports, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information about the operation of the public reference room. The SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC, including Exelixis. The SEC's Internet site can be found at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document that we have filed separately with the SEC. You should read the information incorporated by reference because it is an important part of this prospectus. We incorporate by reference the following information or documents that we have filed with the SEC (Commission File No. 000-30235):

Our current report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on March 3, 2009;

Our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 2, 2009, filed with the SEC on March 10, 2009 (the 2008 Form 10-K);

Our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended April 3, 2009, filed with the SEC on May 7, 2009;

The information specifically incorporated by reference into the 2008 Form 10-K from our definitive proxy statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on April 13, 2009; and

The description of our common stock set forth in our registration statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on April 6, 2000, including any amendments thereto or reports filed for the purposes of updating this description.

Any information in any of the foregoing documents will automatically be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent that information in this prospectus or in a later filed document that is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated herein by reference modifies or replaces such information.

Table of Contents

We also incorporate by reference any future filings (other than current reports furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K and exhibits filed on such form that are related to such items) made with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, until we file a post-effective amendment that indicates the termination of the offering of the securities made by this prospectus. Information in such future filings updates and supplements the information provided in this prospectus. Any statements in any such future filings will automatically be deemed to modify and supersede any information in any document we previously filed with the SEC that is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated herein by reference to the extent that statements in the later filed document modify or replace such earlier statements.

We will furnish without charge to you, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents incorporated by reference, including exhibits to these documents. You should direct any requests for documents to Exelixis, Inc., Attention: Corporate Secretary, 249 East Grand Ave, P.O. Box 511, South San Francisco, California 94083-0511. Our telephone number is (650) 837-7000. In addition, all of the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus may be accessed via the Internet at our website: <http://www.exelixis.com>.

Table of Contents

10,000,000 Shares

Exelixis, Inc.

Common Stock

Sole Book Running Manager

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Co-Manager

Cowen and Company