

ELLIE MAE INC  
Form 10-Q  
May 10, 2012  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-Q**

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2012

OR

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

For the transition period from            to

Commission File Number: 001-35140

**ELLIE MAE, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Delaware</b><br>(State or other jurisdiction of<br>incorporation or organization)                                 | <b>94-3288780</b><br>(I.R.S. Employer<br>Identification No.) |
| <b>4155 Hopyard Road, Suite 200</b><br><br><b>Pleasanton, California</b><br>(Address of principal executive offices) | <b>94588</b><br>(Zip Code)                                   |
| <b>(925) 227-7000</b><br>(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)  |  |

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

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

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the registrant's classes of common stock as of the latest practicable date:

As of April 30, 2012:

| Class                            | Number of Shares |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value | 21,598,673       |

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**Table of Contents****PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION****ITEM 1 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Ellie Mae, Inc.

**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****(UNAUDITED)****(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)**

|   | March 31,<br>2012 | December 31,<br>2011 |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>   |                   |                      |
| Current assets  |                   |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents   | \$ 27,507         | \$ 23,732            |
| Short-term investments  | 2,095             | 1,933                |
| Accounts receivable, net of allowances for doubtful accounts of \$60 and \$47, as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively | 7,276             | 6,819                |
| Prepaid expenses and other  | 1,325             | 1,381                |
| Note receivable   | 1,000             | 1,000                |
| Total current assets  | 39,203            | 34,865               |
| Property and equipment, net   | 5,767             | 5,539                |
| Deposits and other assets   | 135               | 135                  |
| Note receivable   | 14                | 15                   |
| Other intangibles, net  | 7,757             | 8,166                |
| Goodwill  | 51,051            | 51,051               |
| Total assets  | \$ 103,927        | \$ 99,771            |
| <b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>   |                   |                      |
| Current liabilities   |                   |                      |
| Accounts payable  | \$ 1,886          | \$ 2,255             |
| Accrued and other current liabilities   | 3,713             | 4,931                |
| Acquisition holdback, net of discount   | 2,969             | 2,948                |
| Deferred revenue  | 4,596             | 4,548                |
| Deferred rent   | 221               | 212                  |
| Leases payable  | 7                 | 6                    |
| Total current liabilities   | 13,392            | 14,900               |
| Deferred revenue, net of current portion  | 90                | 62                   |
| Deferred rent, net of current portion   | 565               | 624                  |
| Acquisition holdback, net of current portion and discount   | 4,758             | 4,725                |
| Other long-term liabilities   | 601               | 598                  |
| Leases payable, net of current portion  | 2                 | 4                    |
| Total liabilities   | 19,408            | 20,913               |
| Commitments and contingencies (Note 6)  |                   |                      |
| Stockholders' equity:   | 2                 | 2                    |

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Common stock, \$0.0001 par value per share; 140,000,000 authorized shares, 21,593,018 and 21,019,590 shares issued and outstanding as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively

|  |            |           |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Additional paid-in capital                 | 118,031    | 116,012   |
| Accumulated deficit                        | (33,514)   | (37,156)  |
| Total stockholders' equity                 | 84,519     | 78,858    |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$ 103,927 | \$ 99,771 |

See accompanying notes to these condensed consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****Ellie Mae, Inc.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)****(UNAUDITED)****(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)**

|   | <b>Three months ended March 31,</b> |             |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2012</b>                         | <b>2011</b> |
| Revenues  | \$ 20,906                           | \$ 10,603   |
| Cost of revenues  | 5,257                               | 3,363       |
| Gross profit  | 15,649                              | 7,240       |
| Operating expenses:   |                                     |             |
| Sales and marketing   | 4,000                               | 2,451       |
| Research and development  | 4,133                               | 2,804       |
| General and administrative  | 3,676                               | 2,805       |
| Total operating expenses  | 11,809                              | 8,060       |
| Income (loss) from operations   | 3,840                               | (820)       |
| Other income (expense), net   | (20)                                | 32          |
| Income (loss) before income taxes   | 3,820                               | (788)       |
| Income tax provision  | 178                                 | 11          |
| Net income (loss)   | \$ 3,642                            | \$ (799)    |
| Net income (loss) per share of common stock:  |                                     |             |
| Basic   | \$ 0.17                             | \$ (0.22)   |
| Diluted   | \$ 0.16                             | \$ (0.22)   |
| Weighted average common shares used in computing net income (loss) per share of common stock: |                                     |             |
| Basic   | 21,404,789                          | 3,641,880   |
| Diluted   | 22,513,854                          | 3,641,880   |
| Comprehensive income (loss)   | \$ 3,642                            | \$ (799)    |

See accompanying notes to these condensed consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****Ellie Mae, Inc.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(UNAUDITED)****(in thousands)**

|  | <b>Three months ended March 31,</b> |                |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|
|  | <b>2012</b>                         | <b>2011</b>    |
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>   |                                     |                |
| Net income (loss)  | \$ 3,642                            | \$ (799)       |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities: |                                     |                |
| Depreciation and amortization  | 611                                 | 377            |
| Provision for uncollectible accounts receivable  | 36                                  | 84             |
| Amortization of intangible assets  | 409                                 | 125            |
| Amortization of discount related to holdback   | 54                                  |                |
| Stock-based compensation   | 517                                 | 363            |
| Excess tax benefit from exercise of stock options  | (55)                                |                |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities:   |                                     |                |
| Accounts receivable  | (493)                               | 318            |
| Prepaid expenses and other   | 56                                  | (49)           |
| Deferred offering costs  |                                     | (145)          |
| Deposits and other assets  |                                     | 525            |
| Accounts payable   | (380)                               | 151            |
| Accrued and other liabilities  | (1,160)                             | (796)          |
| Deferred revenue   | 76                                  | (61)           |
| Deferred rent  | (50)                                | (47)           |
| <b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>   | <b>3,263</b>                        | <b>46</b>      |
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>   |                                     |                |
| Acquisition of property and equipment  | (828)                               | (784)          |
| Purchase of short-term investments   | (1,112)                             | (2,072)        |
| Acquisitions, net of cash acquired   |                                     | (1,000)        |
| Maturities of short-term investments   | 950                                 | 1,080          |
| Other investing activities, net  | 1                                   | (19)           |
| <b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>   | <b>(989)</b>                        | <b>(2,795)</b> |
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>   |                                     |                |
| Payment of capital lease obligations   | (1)                                 | (63)           |
| Proceeds from issuance of common stock under employee stock plans                        | 1,447                               | 210            |
| Excess tax benefit from exercise of stock options  | 55                                  |                |
| <b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>   | <b>1,501</b>                        | <b>147</b>     |
| NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS                                     | 3,775                               | (2,602)        |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, Beginning of period   | 23,732                              | 14,349         |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, End of period   | \$ 27,507                           | \$ 11,747      |

See accompanying notes to these condensed consolidated financial statements.



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**Ellie Mae, Inc.**

**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 1 Description of Business**

Ellie Mae, Inc. (the Company or Ellie Mae ) was originally incorporated in California in August 1997 and reincorporated in Delaware in November 2009. The Company provides business automation software for a large segment of the mortgage industry in the United States. Its on-demand, technology-enabled software solutions help streamline and automate the process of originating and funding new mortgage loans, thereby increasing efficiency, facilitating regulatory compliance and reducing documentation errors.

**NOTE 2 Basis of Presentation and Significant Accounting Policies**

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with general accepted accounting principles in the United States ( GAAP ) and applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) regarding interim financial reporting. Certain information and note disclosures normally included in the financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP have been condensed or omitted pursuant to such rules and regulations. Therefore, these condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes included in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K, which was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 28, 2012 ( 2011 Form 10-K ).

The condensed consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2011, included herein, was derived from the audited financial statements as of that date but does not include all disclosures, including notes required by GAAP.

In the opinion of management, the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements reflect all normal recurring adjustments necessary to present fairly the financial positions, results of operations and cash flows for the interim periods, but are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations to be anticipated for the full year 2012 or any future period.

***Principles of Consolidation***

The condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Ellie Mae, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated.

***Use of Estimates***

The preparation of condensed consolidated financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

***Significant Accounting Policies***

The Company s significant accounting policies are described in Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in its 2011 Form 10-K. There have been no significant changes to these policies. With the exception of goodwill, revenue recognition and comprehensive income (loss) discussed below, there have been no recently adopted accounting pronouncements or changes in accounting pronouncements during the three months ended March 31, 2012 that are of significance or potential significance to the Company.

***Goodwill***

Goodwill is evaluated for impairment annually in the fourth quarter of the Company s fiscal year and whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value of goodwill may not be recoverable. Triggering events that may indicate possible impairment include, but are not limited to, a significant adverse change in customer demand or business climate that could affect the value of goodwill or significant decrease in expected cash flows.

Pursuant to recent authoritative accounting guidance, the Company elects to assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount as a basis for determining whether it is necessary to perform the two-step goodwill impairment test. If the Company determines that it is



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more likely than not that a reporting unit's fair value is less than its carrying amount, then the two-step assessment is performed. The first step, identifying a potential impairment, compares the fair value of the reporting unit with its carrying amount. If the carrying value exceeds its fair value, the second step would need to be conducted; otherwise, no further steps are necessary as no potential impairment exists. The second step, measuring the impairment loss, compares the implied fair value of the goodwill with the carrying amount of that goodwill. Any excess of the goodwill carrying value over the respective implied fair value is recognized as an impairment loss, and the carrying value of goodwill is written down to fair value. Through March 31, 2012, no impairment of goodwill has been identified.

### ***Revenue Recognition***

The Company generates revenue primarily from on-demand and on-premise fees for software and related services. The Company re-categorized its revenues beginning with the first quarter of 2012 to on-demand revenues and on-premise revenues to better align with the Company's strategic plan (see Note 10). On-demand revenues are revenues generated from software subscriptions the Company hosts that customers access through the Internet, software services that are sold transactionally and Ellie Mae Network transaction fees. On-premise revenues are revenues generated from customer-hosted software licenses and related implementation, training and maintenance services. Sales taxes assessed by a governmental authority are excluded from revenue.

### **On-Demand Revenues**

*Subscription Services and Usage-Based Fee Arrangements.* Subscription services and usage-based fee arrangements generally include a combination of the Company's products delivered as software-as-a-service, or SaaS, product updates and support services. These revenues generally include the following:

*SaaS Encompass Revenues.* The Company offers web-based access to its Encompass software for a monthly recurring fee. The Company provides the right to access its loan origination software and handles the responsibility of managing the servers, providing robust security, backing up the data and applying updates; however, customers under these arrangements may not take possession of the software at any time during the term of the agreement. Associated set-up fees are recognized ratably over the life of the relationship with its customers, which is generally the life of the contract. Contracts generally range from one to three years. Alternatively, customers can elect to pay on a per closed loan, or success, basis subject to monthly base fees. The success basis contracts generally have a term of two to three years. Monthly base fees are recognized as the service is performed and additional amounts arising from closed loans are recognized when the loans close. This offering also includes CenterWise for Encompass as an integrated component, which is a combined element of the arrangement that is delivered in conjunction with the SaaS Encompass offering and therefore is not accounted for separately.

*CenterWise for Encompass Licensees.* The Company provides a bundled offering of electronic document management and websites used for customer relationship management. Generally, the Company recognizes revenue for CenterWise as the service is performed, except when CenterWise is automatically included as an integrated component of the SaaS Encompass offering, in which case the associated revenue is recognized as described above.

*Services Revenues.* The Company has entered into agreements with customers that provide mortgage related and other business services, including automated documentation preparation and compliance reports. Revenue is recognized only when the price is fixed or determinable, persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, the service is performed and collectability of the resulting receivable is reasonably assured.

*Transaction Revenues.* The Company has entered into agreements with various lenders, service providers and certain government agencies participating in the mortgage origination process that provides them access to, and interoperability with, mortgage originators on the Ellie Mae Network. Under these agreements, the Company has the opportunity to earn transaction fees when transactions are processed through the Company's Ellie Mae Network. Transaction revenues are recognized when there is evidence that the qualifying transactions have occurred on the Ellie Mae Network and collection of the resulting receivable is reasonably assured. Associated set-up fees are recognized ratably, beginning upon completion of the integration and continuing over the remaining estimated life of the relationship with its customer, which generally is the remaining life of the contract.

### **On-Premise Revenues**

Revenue from the sale of software licenses is recognized in the month in which the required revenue recognition criteria are met, generally in the month in which the software is delivered. Revenue is recognized when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, which is evidenced by a signed agreement, the product has been downloaded or delivered freight on board shipping point, the fee is fixed or determinable and collection of the resulting receivable is reasonably assured.



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For arrangements with multiple elements (e.g., undelivered maintenance and support contracts bundled with licenses), the Company, when vendor specific objective evidence ( VSOE ) is determinable, allocates revenue to the delivered elements of the arrangement using the residual value method based on objective evidence of the fair value of the undelivered elements, which is specific to the Company. When VSOE is not determinable, the Company allocates all revenue to the undelivered elements and the entire arrangement is recognized ratably over the term of the contract. The Company recognizes revenue under this model upon receipt of cash payment from the customer, if collectability is not reasonably assured. The VSOE of fair value for maintenance and support obligations related to licenses is based upon the prices paid for the separate renewal of these services by the customer. Maintenance revenues are recognized ratably over the period of the contract. License revenues include the nominal shipping and handling charges associated with most license orders. Actual shipping costs incurred by the Company are included in cost of revenues.

When subscription services and usage-based fee arrangements involve multiple elements that qualify as separate units of accounting, the Company allocates arrangement consideration in multiple-deliverable revenue arrangements at the inception of an arrangement to all deliverables based on the relative selling price method in accordance with the selling price hierarchy, which includes: (i) VSOE if available; (ii) third-party evidence ( TPE ) if VSOE is not available; and (iii) the best estimate of selling price ( BESP ) if neither VSOE nor TPE is available.

*VSOE.* The Company determines VSOE based on its historical pricing and discounting practices for the specific product or service when sold separately. In determining VSOE, the Company requires that a substantial majority of the selling prices for these services fall within a reasonably narrow pricing range.

*TPE.* When VSOE cannot be established for deliverables in multiple element arrangements, the Company applies judgment with respect to whether it can establish a selling price based on TPE. TPE is determined based on competitor prices for similar deliverables when sold separately. Generally, the Company's go-to-market strategy differs from that of its peers and its offerings contain a significant level of differentiation such that the comparable pricing of services with similar functionality cannot be obtained. Furthermore, the Company is unable to reliably determine what similar competitor services' selling prices are on a standalone basis. As a result, the Company has not been able to establish selling prices based on TPE.

*BESP.* When it is unable to establish a selling price using VSOE or TPE, the Company uses BESP in its allocation of arrangement consideration. The objective of BESP is to determine the price at which the Company would transact a sale if the service was sold on a standalone basis. The Company determines BESP for deliverables by considering multiple factors including, but not limited to, prices it charges for similar offerings, market conditions, competitive landscape and pricing practices.

Arrangement consideration is allocated using the relative selling price method. The Company has not historically priced its subscription services and usage-based fee arrangements within a narrow range and has limited standalone sales or renewals for these arrangements. As a result, the Company has determined that neither VSOE nor TPE are available and uses BESP to allocate the selling price to subscription services and usage-based fee deliverables.

In general, the Company recognizes revenue for monthly fees, including monthly base fees, on a straight-line basis over the contractual subscription period commencing on the date the services are made available to the customer. Usage-based fees, that are determined monthly based on closed loans or other metrics, are recognized in the month following when the loans close. In general, upfront non-refundable fees received at the inception of an arrangement are deferred and recognized over the longer of the contractual term or the estimated customer relationship period.

***Comprehensive Income (Loss)***

Comprehensive income (loss) consists of net income (loss) and other comprehensive income (loss). Other comprehensive income (loss) includes certain changes in equity that are excluded from net income (loss), specifically unrealized gains (losses) on short-term investments, which were insignificant for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011. As a result, comprehensive income (loss) is equivalent to net income (loss) for all periods presented.

**NOTE 3 Net Income (Loss) Per Share of Common Stock**

Net income (loss) per share of common stock is calculated by dividing net income (loss) by the weighted average shares of common stock outstanding during the period. Diluted net income (loss) per share of common stock is calculated by



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dividing net income (loss) by the weighted average shares of common stock outstanding and potential shares of common stock during the period. Potential shares of common stock include dilutive shares attributable to the assumed exercise of stock options, warrants and employee stock purchase plan shares using the treasury stock method and contingent issuances of common stock related to redeemable convertible preferred stock, if dilutive.

The components of net income (loss) per share of common stock were as follows:

|   | <b>Three months ended March 31,</b>                       |             |
|---|---|-------------|
|   | <b>2012</b>   | <b>2011</b> |
|   | <b>(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)</b> |             |
| Net income (loss)   | \$ 3,642  | \$ (799)    |
| Basic shares:   |   |             |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding  | 21,404,789  | 3,641,880   |
| Diluted shares:   |   |             |
| Weighted average shares used to compute basic net income (loss) per share                 | 21,404,789  | 3,641,880   |
| Effect of potentially dilutive securities:  |   |             |
| Warrants to purchase common stock, employee stock options and convertible preferred stock | 1,109,065   |             |
| Weighted average shares used to compute diluted net income (loss) per share               | 22,513,854  | 3,641,880   |
| Net income (loss) per share:  |   |             |
| Basic   | \$ 0.17   | \$ (0.22)   |
| Diluted   | \$ 0.16   | \$ (0.22)   |

The following potential common shares were excluded from the computation of diluted net income (loss) per share, as their effect would have been anti-dilutive:

|                                   | <b>Three months ended March 31,</b> |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
|                                   | <b>2012</b>                         | <b>2011</b> |
| Warrants to purchase common stock |                                     | 310,781     |
| Employee stock options and awards | 1,475,217                           | 3,210,280   |
| Convertible preferred stock       |                                     | 11,770,472  |
|                                   | 1,475,217                           | 15,291,533  |

Performance-based awards are included in the diluted shares outstanding for each period if the established performance criteria have been met at the end of the respective periods. However, if none of the required performance criteria have been met for such awards, the Company excludes the shares of such awards from its diluted shares outstanding. Accordingly, weighted average shares of 583,333 have also been excluded from the dilutive shares outstanding for each of the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

All of the redeemable convertible preferred stock automatically converted to common stock on a 1-for-1 basis in connection with the consummation of the Company's initial public offering (the "IPO"). For the three months ended March 31, 2011, the amount presented in the table above was the weighted average shares of common stock underlying outstanding shares of redeemable convertible preferred stock.

**NOTE 4 Financial Instruments and Fair Value Measurements**

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Fair value is defined as the price that would be received from selling an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value measurements are classified and disclosed in one of the following three categories:

Level 1 Valuations based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

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Level 2 Valuations based on other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets, or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.

Level 3 Valuations based on inputs that are generally unobservable and typically reflect management's estimates of assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability.

The following tables set forth by level within the fair value hierarchy the Company's financial assets that were accounted for at fair value on a recurring basis at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, according to the valuation techniques the Company used to determine their values:

|                                    | Fair<br>value at<br>March 31, 2012 | Fair value measurements<br>using inputs considered as |          |         |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|----------|---------|
|                                    |                                    | Level 1<br>(in thousands)                             | Level 2  | Level 3 |
| Money market funds                 | \$ 21,034                          | \$ 21,034   | \$       | \$      |
| U.S. government agency obligations | 2,196                              |   | 2,196    |         |
|                                    | \$ 23,230                          | \$ 21,034   | \$ 2,196 | \$      |

|                                    | Fair<br>value at<br>December 31, 2011 | Fair value measurements<br>using inputs considered as |          |         |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|----------|---------|
|                                    |                                       | Level 1<br>(in thousands)                             | Level 2  | Level 3 |
| Money market funds                 | \$ 16,926                             | \$ 16,926   | \$       | \$      |
| U.S. government agency obligations | 3,297                                 |   | 3,297    |         |
|                                    | \$ 20,223                             | \$ 16,926   | \$ 3,297 | \$      |

As of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the Company did not have any assets or liabilities that were valued using Level 3 inputs.

**Money Market Funds**

Money market funds are open-ended mutual funds that typically invest in short-term debt securities. Money market funds are classified as cash and cash equivalents on the Company's consolidated balance sheets. The Company classified these funds that are specifically backed by debt securities as Level 1 instruments due to its usage of unadjusted quoted prices that are available in active markets for the identical assets or liabilities at the measurement date.

**U.S. Government and Governmental Agency Obligations**

U.S. government and governmental agency obligations are issued by U.S. federal, state and local governments, government-sponsored enterprises and other governmental entities such as authorities or special districts that generally mature within two years. These are classified as cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments on the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheets. The market approach was used to value the Company's treasury U.S. government and governmental agency obligations. The Company classified these securities as Level 2 instruments due to either its usage of observable market prices in less active markets or, when observable market prices were not available, its use of non-binding market prices that are corroborated by observable market data or quoted market prices for similar instruments.

**NOTE 5 Goodwill and Other Intangibles**

There were no changes in the carrying value of goodwill during the three months ended March 31, 2012.

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As of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, other intangibles, net, consisted of the following:

|                              | Gross carrying<br>amount | March 31, 2012<br>Accumulated<br>amortization<br>(in thousands) | Net intangibles |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Developed technology         | \$ 4,252                 | \$ (3,174)  | \$ 1,078        |
| Tradenames                   | 1,606                    | (1,411)   | 195             |
| Customer lists and contracts | 10,502                   | (4,018)   | 6,484           |
|                              | \$ 16,360                | \$ (8,603)  | \$ 7,757        |

  

|                              | Gross<br>carrying<br>amount | December 31, 2011<br>Accumulated<br>amortization<br>(in thousands) | Net<br>intangibles |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Developed technology         | \$ 4,252                    | \$ (3,047)   | \$ 1,205           |
| Tradenames                   | 1,606                       | (1,391)  | 215                |
| Customer lists and contracts | 10,502                      | (3,756)  | 6,746              |
|                              | \$ 16,360                   | \$ (8,194)   | \$ 8,166           |

During the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company recorded amortization of other intangible assets of \$409,000 and \$125,000, respectively, which is included as a component of cost of revenues for developed technology and tradenames and sales and marketing expenses for customer lists and contracts.

Minimum future amortization expense for other intangible assets at March 31, 2012 was as follows:

|                          | Amortization<br>(in thousands) |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Remainder of fiscal 2012 | \$ 1,226                       |
| 2013                     | 1,441                          |
| 2014                     | 1,405                          |
| 2015                     | 1,033                          |
| 2016                     | 928                            |
| Thereafter               | 1,724                          |
|                          | \$ 7,757                       |

**NOTE 6 Commitments and Contingencies****Leases**

As of March 31, 2012, the Company leased four facilities under operating lease arrangements. The lease expiration dates range from May 2014 to April 2015. Certain leases contain escalation clauses calling for increased rents. The Company recognizes rent expense on a straight-line basis over the lease period and has recorded deferred rent for the difference between rent payments and rent expense recognized. An additional facility is leased on a month-to-month basis. Rent expense was \$289,000 and \$209,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

**Legal Proceedings**

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On August 28, 2009, DocMagic Inc., ( DocMagic ), filed a lawsuit against the Company in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California (*DocMagic, Inc. v. Ellie Mae, Inc.*, Case No. 3:09-CV-4017), which is referred to in this report as the Federal Action, alleging that the Company had engaged in monopolization and/or attempted monopolization of an alleged product market composed of internet portal[s] providing electronic linkages for mortgage loan closing document preparation services, and that it is subject to liability for related state court claims for intentional interference with

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contractual relationship, interference with prospective economic advantage and unfair competition. DocMagic's claims relate to the August 2009 expiration of a September 2006 Electronic Bridge Agreement pursuant to which DocMagic had been a vendor on the Ellie Mae Network. In addition, DocMagic filed a separate lawsuit against Ellie Mae in the Superior Court of California for the City and County of San Francisco (*DocMagic, Inc. v. Ellie Mae, Inc.*, Case No. CGC-09-491986), which is referred to in this report as the State Action, wherein it alleged a related claim of breach of a September 2006 reseller agreement between the parties and also alleged unfair competition. The State Action was later dismissed without prejudice pursuant to an agreement between the parties so that the parties could re-file their state law claims in the Federal Action. DocMagic amended its complaint to include the state claims and also Lanham Act and Copyright Act claims.

In response to DocMagic's federal claim, the Company filed an answer and counterclaim, denying all material allegations. In the counterclaim, the Company raised various affirmative claims against DocMagic for copyright infringement, violation of the federal Computer Fraud and Abuse Act and violation of state law claims for breach of the Electronic Bridge Agreement inducing its customers to breach contracts and engaging in unfair competition. Subsequent to the State Action being dismissed, the Company filed an amended counterclaim in the Federal Action, adding an additional state claim for violation of California's Comprehensive Computer Data Access and Fraud Act.

The initial complaint was dismissed with leave to amend as to certain claims and DocMagic's claims for attempted monopolization and false advertising were dismissed with prejudice. DocMagic then filed a second amended complaint, re-alleging claims that were dismissed with leave to amend. The Company answered the second amended complaint, denying all material allegations, and filed its second amended counterclaim. DocMagic answered the second amended counterclaim, denying all material allegations. Pursuant to the second amended complaint and the second amended counterclaim, each of the parties is seeking unspecified damages and injunctive relief. Discovery is proceeding. On May 16, 2011, the Court ordered the parties to mediation, which the parties attended on August 24, 2011. The case is ongoing.

On March 25, 2011, Industry Access Incorporated filed a patent infringement lawsuit against the Company and another defendant in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. The complaint alleges, among other things, that certain aspects of the Company's Encompass 360 loan management software system and related operations infringe a single patent, and seeks declaratory relief and unspecified damages from the defendants, including enhanced damages for willful infringement and reasonable attorneys' fees. On June 24, 2011, the Court issued an order requiring plaintiff to serve the complaint on all defendants within three days of the order. On June 28, 2011, plaintiff served the Company with the complaint and the Company filed its answer on August 5, 2011 denying all material allegations of the complaint. On November 18, 2011 the other defendant filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (the PTO) a request for ex parte reexamination of Industry Access' US Patent No 7,769,681, which the PTO granted on February 14, 2012. On December 15, 2011, the Company filed a motion to stay the litigation pending the reexamination, which the court granted on February 28, 2012. The Company intends to defend this claim vigorously.

Although the Company believes that it has substantial and meritorious defenses in each of these cases, neither the outcomes of the litigation nor the amount and range of potential damages associated with the litigation can be estimated.

The Company is also subject to various other legal proceedings and claims arising in the ordinary course of business. The Company cannot predict the ultimate outcome of these other legal proceedings and the amounts and ranges of potential damages associated with such proceedings cannot be estimated. An unfavorable outcome of these litigations could materially adversely affect the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations.

**NOTE 7 Common Stock**

On April 20, 2011, the Company sold 5,000,000 newly issued shares of common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share, at a price of \$6.00 per share in its IPO. The Company received net proceeds from the IPO of approximately \$21.3 million after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions of \$2.1 million and offering expenses of \$6.6 million. In connection with the IPO, on April 14, 2011, the Company effected a 1-for-3 reverse stock split of all of its outstanding capital stock. Immediately prior to the consummation of the IPO on April 20, 2011, the Company effected the conversion of all of its 11,770,472 shares of outstanding redeemable convertible preferred stock into shares of common stock on a 1-for-1 basis. The post-IPO amended and restated certificate of incorporation of the Company authorizes 140,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.0001 par value per share and 10,000,000 shares of undesignated preferred stock, \$0.0001 par value per share.

**Table of Contents****NOTE 8 Stock Incentive Plans****2011 Equity Incentive Award Plan**

On March 7, 2011, the Company adopted the 2011 Equity Incentive Award Plan (the "2011 Plan"). The Company's stockholders approved the 2011 Plan on March 24, 2011. Under the 2011 Plan, 2,666,666 shares of its common stock have been initially reserved, plus any shares of common stock that are available for issuance under the prior plans, pursuant to a variety of stock-based compensation awards, including stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock unit ("RSU") awards, deferred stock awards, dividend equivalent awards, stock payment awards and performance awards and other stock-based awards. The number of common shares reserved for issuance under the 2011 Plan will increase automatically in January of each year by the least of (a) 1,666,666 shares, (b) five percent (5%) of the shares of common stock outstanding on the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal year and (c) such smaller number of shares of common stock as determined by the Company's board of directors; provided, however, that no more than 23,333,333 shares of common stock may be issued upon the exercise of incentive stock options.

*Stock Options*

The following table summarizes the Company's stock option activities for the three months ended March 31, 2012:

|  | Number of<br>Shares | Weighted<br>Average<br>Exercise<br>Price | Weighted<br>Average<br>Remaining<br>Contractual<br>Term<br>(in years) | Aggregate<br>Intrinsic<br>Value<br>(in thousands) |
|--|---------------------|--|---|---|
| Outstanding at December 31, 2011                     | 4,246,285           | \$ 3.97                                  |   |   |
| Granted  | 390,500             | \$ 8.90                                  |   |   |
| Exercised  | (513,174)           | \$ 2.26                                  |   |   |
| Forfeited or expired                                 | (96,111)            | \$ 6.13                                  |   |   |
| Outstanding at March 31, 2012                        | 4,027,500           | \$ 4.62                                  | 7.06  | \$ 26,346   |
| Ending vested and expected to vest at March 31, 2012 | 3,903,407           | \$ 4.57                                  | 7.00  | \$ 25,717   |
| Exercisable at March 31, 2012                        | 1,750,633           | \$ 3.21                                  | 5.18  | \$ 13,912   |

Intrinsic value of an option is the difference between the fair value of the Company's common stock at the time of exercise and the exercise price paid. The aggregate intrinsic value for options outstanding at March 31, 2012 in the table above represents the total intrinsic value, based on the Company's closing stock price of \$11.16 as of March 31, 2012, which would have been received by option holders had all option holders exercised their in-the-money options as of that date.





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common stock on the first day of an offering or on the date of purchase. The ESPP offers a six month look-back feature. Participants may end their participation at any time during an offering and will be paid their accrued contributions that have not yet been used to purchase shares. Participation ends automatically upon termination of employment.

Employee participation in the ESPP did not begin until the second quarter of 2011. Following is information pertaining to the ESPP for the three months ended March 31, 2012:

|   | <b>Three months ended<br/>March 31, 2012</b> |
|---|--|
| Weighted average fair value per share granted | \$ 2.32                                      |
| Shares issued under the ESPP                  | 60,254                                       |
| Weighted average price per share issued       | \$ 4.68                                      |

Total stock-based compensation expense recognized by the Company for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011 consisted of:

|   | <b>Three months ended March 31,<br/>2012</b> | <b>2011</b>   |
|---|--|---------------|
|   | <b>(in thousands)</b>                        |               |
| <b>Stock-based compensation by type of award:</b>       |  |               |
| Stock options   | \$ 484                                       | \$ 363        |
| ESPP(1)   | 23   |               |
| RSUs(2)   | 10   |               |
|   | <b>\$ 517</b>                                | <b>\$ 363</b> |
| <b>Stock-based compensation by category of expense:</b> |  |               |
| Cost of revenues  | \$ 31  | \$ 17         |
| Sales and marketing                                     | 70   | 67            |
| Research and development                                | 132  | 94            |
| General and administrative                              | 284  | 185           |
|   | <b>\$ 517</b>                                | <b>\$ 363</b> |

(1) Employee participation in the ESPP began in the second quarter of 2011.

(2) There were no outstanding RSUs during 2011.

The Company did not capitalize any stock-based compensation for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011 as such amounts were not material.

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During the three months ended March 31, 2011, the Company did not grant any stock options and participation in the ESPP did not begin until the second quarter of 2011. The fair value of stock options and stock purchase rights granted under the 2011 Plan and the ESPP were estimated at the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option valuation model with the following weighted average assumptions during the three months ended March 31, 2012:

|                                      | <b>Three months ended<br/>March 31, 2012</b> |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Stock option plans:</b>           |  |
| Risk-free interest rate              | 1.10%  |
| Expected life of options (in years)  | 6.08   |
| Expected dividend yield              | 0%   |
| Volatility                           | 55%  |
| <b>Employee Stock Purchase Plan:</b> |  |
| Risk-free interest rate              | 0.13%  |
| Expected life of options (in years)  | 0.50   |
| Expected dividend yield              | 0%   |
| Volatility                           | 47%  |

In December 2010, the Company accepted promissory notes receivable from non-officer employees in consideration for the exercise of 36,400 fully vested stock options that were subject to variable accounting. The promissory notes are secured by the underlying shares of common stock. The notes receivable, totaling \$137,000, bear interest at 0.32% per annum and are due upon the first to occur of (a) December 17, 2012, (b) two hundred ten (210) days following an initial public offering of the Company's capital stock, (c) immediately prior to the dissolution or liquidation of the Company or upon a transaction resulting in a change of control, including by merger or by sale of all or substantially all of the Company's assets, (d) the employee's termination as an employee or consultant of the Company or (e) the occurrence of an event of default as defined in the promissory note. The notes receivable are considered to be non-recourse notes under relevant accounting guidance. Since the notes are non-recourse for accounting purposes, the resulting exercises of the stock options have been determined to not be substantive and therefore not reflected in the Company's balance sheets as of March 31, 2012 or December 31, 2011. The due dates for the notes were further extended in November 2011, as further described below. The exercise of the shares through the promissory notes effectively provided for an extension of the term of each award for a period of up to two years, resulting in a substantive modification under relevant accounting guidance. Variable accounting for these awards ceased and the modification did not have a material impact on the financial statements. As of March 31, 2012, approximately \$134,000 of the notes receivable representing 33,685 of the shares exercised remained outstanding.

In February 2011, the Company accepted promissory notes receivable from non-officer employees in consideration for the exercise of 29,163 fully vested stock options that were subject to variable accounting. The promissory notes are secured by the underlying shares of common stock. The notes receivable, totaling \$185,485 bear interest at 0.51% per annum and are due upon the first to occur of (a) the second anniversary of note, (b) two hundred ten (210) days following an initial public offering of the Company's capital stock, (c) immediately prior to the dissolution or liquidation of the Company or upon a transaction resulting in a change of control, including by merger or by sale of all or substantially all of the Company's assets, (d) the employee's termination as an employee or consultant of the Company or (e) the occurrence of an event of default as defined in the promissory note. The notes receivable are considered to be non-recourse notes under relevant accounting guidance. Since the notes are non-recourse for accounting purposes, the resulting exercises of the stock options have been determined to not be substantive and therefore not reflected in the Company's balance sheets as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011. The due dates for the notes were further extended in November 2011, as further described below. The exercise of the shares through the promissory notes effectively provided for an extension of the term of each award for a period of up to two years, resulting in a substantive modification under relevant accounting guidance. Variable accounting for these awards ceased and the modification did not have a material impact on the financial statements. As of March 31, 2012, approximately \$174,000 of the notes receivable representing 26,833 of the shares exercised remained outstanding.

In November 2011, the Company's board of directors approved extending the maturity date of each of the above outstanding secured promissory notes held by the Company. As a result of the extension approved by the Company's board of directors, the promissory notes will be due on the earlier of: (i) (x) November 11, 2013 for the promissory notes related to 36,400 nonqualified options and (y) May 11, 2012 for the promissory notes related to 29,163 incentive stock options; (ii) immediately prior to the dissolution or liquidation of the Company or upon a transaction resulting in a change of control, including by merger or by sale of all or substantially all of the Company's assets; (iii) the employee's termination as an employee or consultant of the Company; or (iv) the occurrence of an event of default as defined in the promissory note. The modification resulting from this extension did not have a material impact on the financial statements.



**Table of Contents****NOTE 9 Related Party Transactions**

A related party is generally defined as (i) any person that holds 10% or more of the Company's securities and their immediate families, (ii) the Company's management, (iii) someone that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by or is under common control with the Company or (iv) anyone who can significantly influence the financial and operating decisions of the Company. A transaction is considered to be a related party transaction when there is a transfer of resources or obligations between related parties.

Prior to the IPO, certain investors in the Company were also trade customers. Revenues earned from these related parties were \$461,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2011 and were primarily included in on-demand revenues. Accounts receivable with respect to these related parties under these arrangements were \$341,000 as of December 31, 2011. Amounts due to these related parties were \$355,000 as of December 31, 2011. As a result of the IPO and investor divestitures, by December 31, 2011, none of these investors met the definition of a related party.

Director Carl Buccellato served as the chief executive officer of SavingStreet, LLC (formerly New Casa 188, LLC) ( Saving Street ), from May 2008 until February 2012, and owns 32% of the membership interests of SavingStreet. During 2008, the Company entered into a strategic relationship agreement with SavingStreet (which was subsequently amended and restated on June 15, 2010) pursuant to which the Company provided to SavingStreet certain information from borrowers who consented to the distribution of such information, SavingStreet used this borrower information to market certain move-related and home ownership-related products and services and the Company was entitled to receive 20% of SavingStreet's net income until investors had recouped their initial investment, and then 50% of its net income thereafter. In connection with this transaction, the Company issued to SavingStreet a five-year warrant to purchase up to 133,333 shares of its common stock at an exercise price of \$5.94 per share. This warrant may only be exercised at any time after the Company has received an aggregate of \$5.0 million pursuant to the agreement and prior to the termination date of the warrant, which is December 31, 2012. In March 2012, the Company terminated its existing agreements and arrangements with SavingStreet. The five-year warrant remains outstanding and unvested as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 as the performance requirements under the arrangement were not met. There was \$3,000 and \$52,000 expenses incurred for services from SavingStreet for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Amount due to SavingStreet was \$11,000 as of December 31, 2011. The Company has no outstanding liabilities with SavingStreet as of March 31, 2012.

**NOTE 10 Segment Information**

The Company has concluded that it operates in one industry mortgage-related software and services. The Company's chief operating decision maker is its chief executive officer, who reviews financial information presented on a consolidated basis. Accordingly, the Company has determined that it has a single reporting segment and operating unit structure, specifically technology-enabled solutions to help streamline and automate the mortgage origination process for its network participants.

The Company is organized primarily on the basis of service lines. The Company re-categorized its revenues beginning with the first quarter of 2012 to on-demand revenues and on-premise revenues to better align with the Company's strategic plan (see Note 2). Supplemental disclosure of revenues by type is as follows:

|                     | <b>Three months ended March 31,</b> |                  |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
|                     | <b>2012</b>                         | <b>2011</b>      |
|                     | <b>(in thousands)</b>               |                  |
| On-demand revenues  | \$ 17,755                           | \$ 9,101         |
| On-premise revenues | 3,151                               | 1,502            |
|                     | <b>\$ 20,906</b>                    | <b>\$ 10,603</b> |

**Table of Contents****ITEM 2 MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

*This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, including this Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. These statements relate to future events or our future financial performance. Forward-looking statements may include words such as may, will, should, expect, plan, intend, anticipate, believe, estimate, predict, potential, continue or other wording indicating future results or expectations. Forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, and actual events or results may differ materially. Factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially include, but are not limited to, those discussed under Risk Factors in this report. We also face risks and uncertainties relating to our business including: our ability to accurately forecast revenues and appropriately plan our expenses; the impact of changes in mortgage interest rates; the volume of mortgages originated by our Encompass users; fluctuations in mortgage lending volume; the number of Encompass users; transaction volume on the Ellie Mae Network; the risk that the anticipated benefits, growth prospects and synergies expected from the Del Mar DataTrac acquisition may not be fully realized or may take longer to realize than expected; the impact of uncertain domestic and worldwide economic conditions, including the resulting effect on residential mortgage volumes; the effectiveness of our marketing and sales efforts to attract new and retain existing SaaS Encompass users and Ellie Mae Network participants; our ability to enhance the features and functionality of our Encompass software and the Ellie Mae Network; the level of demand for our Encompass Closer document preparation and other services we offer; the timing of the introduction and acceptance of new Ellie Mae Network offerings and additional services including our SaaS Encompass offering; changes in mortgage originator, lender, investor or service provider behavior and any related impact on the residential mortgage industry; changes in government regulation affecting Ellie Mae Network participants or our business; our ability to successfully manage any future acquisitions of businesses, solutions or technologies; the timing of future acquisitions of businesses, solutions or technologies and new product launches; the attraction and retention of qualified employees and key personnel; our ability to protect our intellectual property, including our proprietary Encompass software; interruptions in Ellie Mae Network service, our hosted Encompass software and any related impact on our reputation; and costs associated with defending intellectual property infringement and other claims. We undertake no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements to reflect any event or circumstance that arises after the date of this report, or to conform such statements to actual results or changes in our expectations.*

This discussion should be read in conjunction with the condensed consolidated financial statements and notes presented in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and the consolidated financial statements and notes in our last filed Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, or 2011 Form 10-K.

**The Company**

We provide business automation software for a large segment of the mortgage industry in the United States. We re-categorized our revenues beginning with the first quarter of 2012 in order to have them better aligned with our strategic plan. Accordingly, our revenues are now described as on-demand and on-premise revenues. Our on-demand, technology-enabled software solutions help streamline and automate the process of originating and funding new mortgage loans, increasing efficiency, facilitating regulatory compliance and reducing documentation errors. Mortgage originators use our Encompass software, a comprehensive operating system that handles key business and management functions, in running a mortgage origination business. Mortgage originators use Encompass as a single tool for loan processing, marketing, customer communication and to interact electronically with mortgage lenders, investors and service providers over the Ellie Mae Network. We also offer Encompass users a variety of other on-demand services, including Encompass Closer, which automatically prepares the disclosure and closing documents necessary to fund a mortgage; CenterWise, a bundled offering of electronic document management and websites used for customer relationship management; Encompass Compliance Service, which automatically conducts compliance checks throughout the origination process; tax transcript services which provide income verification capability to our customers; and Encompass Product and Pricing Service, which allows Encompass users to compare loans offered by different lenders and investors to determine the best product and price available to a particular borrower.

Our revenues are comprised of on-demand and on-premise revenues. On-demand revenues are revenues generated from (i) software subscriptions we host that customers access through the Internet, (ii) software services that are sold transactionally and (iii) Ellie Mae Network transaction fees. On-premise revenues are revenues generated from customer-hosted software licenses and related implementation, training and maintenance services.

A component of our on-demand and on-premise revenues is software revenues which are derived from mortgage originators who either subscribe to SaaS Encompass, our on-demand solution, or license Encompass software for an initial perpetual license fee with annual maintenance, our on-premise solution. Mortgage originators subscribing to SaaS Encompass either pay monthly per-user subscription fees or fees based on loans actually funded, subject to monthly base fees, which we refer to as success-based pricing. In addition, we offer CenterWise software either as a standalone product on a subscription-fee basis or bundled as part of our SaaS Encompass offering. The services revenues are derived from fees paid by mortgage originators for the Encompass services they order. These services include Encompass Closer, Encompass

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Compliance Service and Encompass Product and Pricing Services. Lenders, service providers and certain government-

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sponsored entities using Encompass over the Ellie Mae Network pay us fees when they effect a transaction by sending an electronic service request over the Ellie Mae Network to any lender, service provider or other participant through our network and that request has been accepted.

Our on-demand revenues generally track the seasonality of the mortgage industry, with increased activity in the second and third quarters and reduced activity in the first and fourth quarters as home buyers tend to purchase their homes during the spring and summer in order to move to a new home before the start of the school year. These revenues are also affected by factors that impact mortgage volumes, such as interest rate fluctuations and general economic conditions.

The mortgage industry has undergone significant changes since 2007, largely in response to the hundreds of billions of dollars of loan defaults and massive losses suffered by lenders and investors. Our business strategy has evolved to address recent industry trends, including:

the lower mortgage lending volumes expected in 2012 and 2013 as compared to 2011, as forecasted by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Mortgage Bankers Association;

decreased profitability for mortgage originators as a result of reduced mortgage originations;

a continued significant decline in the number of mortgage brokerages and an increase in the relative importance of mortgage lenders, which not only arrange but also fund loans;

increased investor and lender quality requirements for new loans; and

regulatory reforms that have significantly increased the complexity and importance of regulatory compliance.

We are responding to these trends as follows:

*Lower lending volume.* Beginning in late 2009, we focused our marketing and sales efforts on our on-demand SaaS Encompass offering, and particularly our SaaS Encompass success-based pricing model, in contrast to our on-premise license model. In our on-demand SaaS Encompass offering, the customer does not pay the significant up-front licensing fee associated with our license model, which we believe is particularly attractive in the present climate of the residential mortgage origination market. Our SaaS Encompass success-based pricing model builds on this value proposition by aligning the customers' payments for our software solutions with their own receipts of revenues. SaaS Encompass success-based pricing customers are composed of new Encompass customers and users that have converted from our licensed Encompass software or flat monthly per-user hosted offerings. At March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, we had 29,115 and 24,252 Active SaaS Encompass Users, respectively, which are mortgage origination professionals who have used our SaaS Encompass software at least once within the preceding 90 days. SaaS Encompass revenues generated \$8.4 million and \$19.8 million of our revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and year ended December 31, 2011, respectively. We typically generate greater revenues per user through our on-demand SaaS Encompass offering than through our on-premise license offering.

*Decreased profitability for mortgage originators as a result of reduced mortgage originations.* By automating many of the functions of mortgage origination, we enable our users to process quality loans more effectively. This reduces the cost of originating a loan and lowers the risk of buy back from investors of poorly originated or documented loans.

*Continued significant decline in the number of mortgage brokerages and an increase in the relative importance of mortgage lenders.* We focus significant research and development effort on providing Encompass functionality for mortgage lenders. In addition, we have hired sales personnel focused on sales of our solutions to mortgage lenders rather than mortgage brokerages. We believe this shift toward lender users will provide us increased opportunities because mortgage lenders typically use more sophisticated and comprehensive software solutions to run their businesses and use more services and effect more transactions on the Ellie Mae Network.

*Increased investor and lender quality requirements for new loans.* Encompass software is designed to automate and streamline the process of originating mortgages to satisfy increased quality requirements of investors. Relevant features of Encompass software include enabling customers' management to impose processing rules and formats, milestone and process reminders, automated population of forms with accurate

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data, accurate and automated transmission of loan files and data from originators to investors and lenders.

*Regulatory reforms that have significantly increased the complexity and importance of regulatory compliance.* We offer Encompass Compliance Service, which automatically checks loan files for compliance with the myriad of federal, state and local regulations and alerts users to possible violations of these regulations. In addition, we have a staff of attorneys and work with compliance experts who help assure that documents prepared using our software and processes recommended by Encompass work flow comply with applicable rules and regulations.

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### **Operating Metrics**

Revenue per Average Active Encompass User and SaaS Encompass Revenue per Average Active SaaS Encompass User are key operational metrics we use to evaluate our business, determine allocation of our resources and make decisions regarding corporate strategy. The Revenue per Average Active Encompass User metric is calculated by dividing total revenues by the average number of Active Encompass Users during the period. The SaaS Encompass Revenue per Average Active SaaS Encompass User metric is calculated by dividing total SaaS Encompass Revenues by the average number of Active SaaS Encompass Users during the period. We focus on these metrics to determine our success in leveraging our user base to increase our revenues. We track Active Encompass Users and Active SaaS Encompass Users as well as related revenues generated by each group at the end of a period to gauge the degree of our market penetration.

The components used to calculate these metrics are defined below.

*Active Encompass Users.* An Active Encompass User is a mortgage origination professional who has used Encompass software at least once within a 90-day period preceding the measurement date. An Encompass user is a mortgage origination professional working at a mortgage lender, such as a mortgage bank, commercial bank, thrift or credit union, which sources and funds loans and generally sells these funded loans to investors; or a mortgage brokerage, who typically processes and submits loan files to a mortgage lender or mega lender that funds the loan.

*Average Active Encompass Users.* Average Active Encompass Users during a period is calculated by averaging the monthly Active Encompass Users during a period.

*Active SaaS Encompass Users.* An Active SaaS Encompass User is a mortgage origination professional who has used the SaaS Encompass system at least once within a 90-day period preceding the measurement date.

*Average Active SaaS Encompass Users.* Average Active SaaS Encompass Users during a period is calculated by averaging the monthly active SaaS Encompass users during a period.

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The following table shows these operating metrics as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011:

|   | <b>Three months ended March 31,</b> |             |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2012</b>                         | <b>2011</b> |
| <b>Revenues (in thousands):</b>                                       |                                     |             |
| Total revenues  | \$ 20,906                           | \$ 10,603   |
| Total SaaS Encompass revenues   | \$ 8,378                            | \$ 3,536    |
| <b>Users at end of period:</b>  |                                     |             |
| Active Encompass users  | 58,844                              | 51,341      |
| Active SaaS Encompass users   | 29,115                              | 16,910      |
| Active SaaS Encompass users as a percentage of active Encompass users | 49%                                 | 33%         |
| <b>Average users during period:</b>                                   |                                     |             |
| Active Encompass users  | 56,940                              | 51,033      |
| Active SaaS Encompass users   | 27,526                              | 16,012      |
| Active SaaS Encompass users as a percentage of active Encompass users | 48%                                 | 31%         |
| <b>Revenue per average user during period:</b>                        |                                     |             |
| Revenue per average active Encompass user                             | \$ 367                              | \$ 208      |
| SaaS Encompass revenue per average active SaaS Encompass user         | \$ 304                              | \$ 221      |

**Basis of Presentation****General**

Our consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Ellie Mae, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated upon consolidation.

**Revenues**

We generate revenue primarily from transaction-based fees and fees for software and related services. We re-categorized our revenues beginning with the first quarter of 2012 in order to have them better aligned with our strategic plan. Accordingly, our revenues are now described as on-demand and on-premise revenues. On-demand revenues are revenues generated from (i) software subscriptions we host that customers access through the Internet; (ii) software services that are sold transactionally and (iii) Ellie Mae Network transaction fees. On-premise revenues are revenues generated from customer-hosted software licenses and related implementation, training and maintenance services. Sales taxes assessed by a governmental authority are excluded from revenue.

**Cost of Revenues**

Our cost of revenues consists primarily of: salaries and benefits, including stock-based compensation; expenses for document preparation, income verification and compliance services; allocated facilities costs; customer support; data centers; depreciation on computer equipment used in supporting the Ellie Mae Network, SaaS Encompass and CenterWise offerings; amortization of acquired intangible assets such as developed technology and tradenames; professional services associated with implementation of our software; and allocated facilities costs.

**Operating Expenses****Sales and Marketing**

Our sales and marketing expenses consist primarily of: salaries, benefits and incentive compensation, including stock-based compensation, and allocated facilities costs; expenses for trade shows, public relations and other promotional and marketing activities, including travel and entertainment expenses; and amortization of acquired intangible assets such as customer lists and contracts. We have hired sales personnel to focus on sales of our solutions to mortgage lenders in light of the increasing percentage of potential customers which are mortgage lenders rather than mortgage brokerages. We also intend to increase marketing activities focused on our SaaS Encompass Banker Edition, our Ellie Mae Network offerings and our other Encompass services.



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### *Research and Development*

Our research and development expenses consist primarily of: salaries and benefits, including bonuses and stock-based compensation; fees to contractors engaged in the development and support of the Ellie Mae Network infrastructure, Encompass software and other products; and allocated facilities costs. We expect that our research and development expenses will continue to increase in absolute dollars as we continue to invest in our products and services and infrastructure.

### *General and Administrative*

Our general and administrative expenses consist primarily of: salaries and benefits, including stock-based compensation, for employees involved in finance, accounting, human resources, administrative and legal roles; consulting, legal, accounting and other professional services by third-party providers; and allocated facilities costs. We expect general and administrative expenses to continue to increase in absolute dollars due to costs associated with being a public company.

### *Other Income (Expense), Net*

Other income (expense), net consists primarily of interest income earned on our cash accounts and notes receivables, net of interest expense paid on imputed interest related to the Del Mar Datatrac, Inc., or DMD, acquisition holdback payments, and equipment and software leases.

### *Income Taxes*

On a quarterly basis, we evaluate our expected income tax expense or benefit based on our year-to-date operations, and we record an adjustment in the current quarter. The net tax provision is the result of the mix of profits earned by us and our subsidiaries in tax jurisdictions with a broad range of income tax rates.

### **Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based on our condensed consolidated financial statements which are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or GAAP. The preparation of these condensed consolidated financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses and related disclosures. We evaluate our estimates and assumptions on an ongoing basis. Our estimates are based on historical experience and various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Our actual results could differ from these estimates.

We believe that the assumptions and estimates associated with revenue recognition, income taxes, stock-based compensation and goodwill and intangible assets have the greatest potential impact on our consolidated financial statements. Therefore, we consider these to be our critical accounting policies and estimates. Management believes that there have been no material changes during the three months ended March 31, 2012 to our critical accounting policies and estimates previously disclosed in our 2011 Form 10-K.

**Table of Contents****Results of Operations**

The following tables set forth our results of operations for the periods presented and as a percentage of our revenues for those periods. The period-to-period comparison of financial results is not necessarily indicative of future results.

|  | <b>Three months ended March 31,</b> |                 |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
|  | <b>2012</b>                         | <b>2011</b>     |
|  | <b>(in thousands)</b>               |                 |
| Revenues                                 | \$ 20,906                           | \$ 10,603       |
| Cost of revenues (1)                     | 5,257                               | 3,363           |
| <b>Gross profit</b>                      | <b>15,649</b>                       | <b>7,240</b>    |
| Operating expenses:                      |                                     |                 |
| Sales and marketing (1)                  | 4,000                               | 2,451           |
| Research and development (1)             | 4,133                               | 2,804           |
| General and administrative (1)           | 3,676                               | 2,805           |
|  | 11,809                              | 8,060           |
| <b>Income (loss) from operations</b>     | <b>3,840</b>                        | <b>(820)</b>    |
| Other income (expense), net              | (20)                                | 32              |
| <b>Income (loss) before income taxes</b> | <b>3,820</b>                        | <b>(788)</b>    |
| Income tax provision                     | 178                                 | 11              |
| <b>Net income (loss)</b>                 | <b>\$ 3,642</b>                     | <b>\$ (799)</b> |

(1) Stock-based compensation included in the above line items:

|                            | <b>Three months ended March 31,</b> |             |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
|                            | <b>2012</b>                         | <b>2011</b> |
|                            | <b>(in thousands)</b>               |             |
| Cost of revenues           | \$ 31                               | \$ 17       |
| Sales and marketing        | 70                                  | 67          |
| Research and development   | 132                                 | 94          |
| General and administrative | 284                                 | 185         |
|                            | \$ 517                              | \$ 363      |

|                     | <b>Three months ended March 31,</b> |             |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
|                     | <b>2012</b>                         | <b>2011</b> |
| Revenues            | 100.0 %                             | 100.0 %     |
| Cost of revenues    | 25.1                                | 31.7        |
| <b>Gross margin</b> | <b>74.9</b>                         | <b>68.3</b> |
| Operating expenses: |                                     |             |
| Sales and marketing | 19.1                                | 23.1        |

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|                                   |        |         |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Research and development          | 19.8   | 26.4    |
| General and administrative        | 17.6   | 26.5    |
|                                   | 56.5   | 76.0    |
| Income (loss) from operations     | 18.4   | (7.7)   |
| Other income (expense), net       | (0.1)  | 0.3     |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | 18.3   | (7.4)   |
| Income tax provision              | 0.9    | 0.1     |
| Net income (loss)                 | 17.4 % | (7.5) % |

**Table of Contents***Revenues*

The following table sets forth our revenues by type for the periods presented:

|                  | <b>Three months ended March 31,</b> |             |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
|                  | <b>2012</b>                         | <b>2011</b> |
|                  | <b>(in thousands)</b>               |             |
| Revenue by type: |                                     |             |
| On-demand        | \$ 17,755                           | \$ 9,101    |
| On-premise       | 3,151                               | 1,502       |
| Total            | \$ 20,906                           | \$ 10,603   |

  

|                  | <b>Three months ended March 31,</b> |             |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
|                  | <b>2012</b>                         | <b>2011</b> |
| Revenue by type: |                                     |             |
| On-demand        | 84.9 %                              | 85.8 %      |
| On-premise       | 15.1                                | 14.2        |
| Total            | 100.0 %                             | 100.0 %     |

Total revenues increased \$10.3 million, or 97.2%, for the three months ended March 31, 2012 as compared to the same period of 2011. This increase was primarily due to a \$8.7 million increase in on-demand revenues, comprised of a \$5.0 million increase in success-based pricing revenues due to our continued marketing focus on our success-based pricing model, a \$1.3 million increase in vendor transaction revenues due to increased network usage and a greater number of users, a \$0.7 million increase in document preparation revenues due to increased usage by our customers as well as a greater number of users, a \$0.6 million increase in our tax transcript services which we began offering in the first quarter of 2011, a \$0.5 million increase in compliance services due to increased usage by our customer base, a \$0.3 million increase in appraisal and title services due to increased usage and a \$0.3 million increase in other transaction revenues. On-premise revenues increased by \$1.6 million due to DMD license and maintenance revenues, which we acquired in August 2011.

The number of Active Encompass Users increased by 14.6% to 58,844 users at March 31, 2012 from 51,341 users at March 31, 2011, primarily due to new customers adopting our SaaS Encompass success-based pricing offering. The number of SaaS Encompass Users increased by 72.2% to 29,115 users at March 31, 2012 from 16,910 users at March 31, 2011 due to the addition of new customers as well as the transition of licensed users to our SaaS Encompass success-based pricing offering. SaaS Encompass Revenue per Average Active SaaS User increased by 37.8% for the three months ended March 31, 2012 compared to same period of 2011 due to the continued movement of users to our success-based pricing model, which offers higher revenue per user compared to our traditional license model.

*Gross Profit*

|              | <b>Three months ended March 31,</b> |             |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
|              | <b>2012</b>                         | <b>2011</b> |
|              | <b>(dollars in thousands)</b>       |             |
| Gross profit | \$ 15,649                           | \$ 7,240    |
| Gross margin | 74.9 %                              | 68.3 %      |

Gross profit and gross margin percentage increased by \$8.4 million and 6.6 percentage points, respectively, in the three months ended March 31, 2012 as compared to the same period of 2011 as revenues increased by \$10.3 million and cost of revenues increased by \$1.9 million. Cost of revenues increased primarily due to a \$0.7 million increase in third-party royalty expenses to support the increased revenues, a \$0.6 million increase in salaries and employee benefits from increased professional services and customer support headcount as well as the increase in headcount in hiring former DMD employees following the acquisition in August 2011, a \$0.3 million increase in consulting costs associated with improvements to our data center operations and a \$0.2 million increase in depreciation expense due to property and equipment additions.



**Table of Contents***Sales and Marketing*

|                                      | <b>Three months ended March 31,</b> |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
|                                      | <b>2012</b>                         | <b>2011</b> |
|                                      | <b>(dollars in thousands)</b>       |             |
| Sales and marketing                  | \$ 4,000                            | \$ 2,451    |
| Sales and marketing as % of revenues | 19.1 %                              | 23.1 %      |

Sales and marketing expenses increased by \$1.5 million, or 63.2%, in the three months ended March 31, 2012 as compared to the same period of 2011. This increase was primarily due to a \$0.5 million increase in salaries and employee benefits due to additional headcount from the hiring of former DMD employees, a \$0.4 million increase in commissions, a \$0.2 million increase in amortization of acquired intangible assets related to the DMD acquisition and a \$0.4 million increase in all other expenses reflecting a higher level of sales and marketing activities quarter over quarter.

*Research and Development*

|   | <b>Three months ended March 31,</b> |             |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2012</b>                         | <b>2011</b> |
|   | <b>(dollars in thousands)</b>       |             |
| Research and development                  | \$ 4,133                            | \$ 2,804    |
| Research and development as % of revenues | 19.8 %                              | 26.4 %      |

Research and development expenses increased by \$1.3 million, or 47.4%, in the three months ended March 31, 2012 compared to the same period of 2011. The increase was primarily due to a \$1.1 million increase in salary and employee benefits due to increased headcount as well as additional headcount from the addition of former DMD employees and a \$0.1 million increase in the use of consultants.

*General and Administrative*

|   | <b>Three months ended March 31,</b> |             |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2012</b>                         | <b>2011</b> |
|   | <b>(dollars in thousands)</b>       |             |
| General and administrative                  | \$ 3,676                            | \$ 2,805    |
| General and administrative as % of revenues | 17.6 %                              | 26.5 %      |

General and administrative expenses increased by \$0.9 million, or 31.1%, in the three months ended March 31, 2012 as compared to the same period of 2011. This increase was primarily due to a \$0.4 million increase in salaries and other employee benefits due to an increase in headcount, which included the hiring of former DMD employees, a \$0.2 million increase in legal and consulting fees primarily related to the DMD acquisition and from being a public company and a \$0.1 million increase in insurance.

*Other (Expense) Income, Net*

Other income (expense), net includes imputed interest expense related to the DMD acquisition holdback liability and interest income from notes receivable and investments. The amounts were nominal in the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011.

*Income Taxes*

Income tax provision was \$0.2 million and \$11,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Income tax expense consists primarily of the U.S. federal alternative minimum tax and state income taxes. The increase in income tax for the three months ended March 31, 2012 was due to higher taxable income as compared to the same period last year.



**Table of Contents****Liquidity and Capital Resources**

As of March 31, 2012, we had cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments of \$29.6 million. Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and money market accounts. Short-term investments consist of U.S. government agency securities.

We believe that our existing cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments will be sufficient to fund capital expenditures, operating expenses and other cash requirements for at least the next 12 months. We may enter into acquisitions in the future, which could require us to seek additional equity or debt financing. Additional funds may not be available on terms favorable to us or at all.

The following table sets forth our statement of cash flows data for the periods presented:

|   | <b>Three months ended March 31,</b> |             |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2012</b>                         | <b>2011</b> |
|   | <b>(in thousands)</b>               |             |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | \$ 3,263                            | \$ 46       |
| Net cash used in investing activities     | \$ 989                              | \$ 2,795    |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | \$ 1,501                            | \$ 147      |
| Purchases of property and equipment       | \$ 828                              | \$ 784      |
| Depreciation and amortization             | \$ 611                              | \$ 377      |

*Operating Activities*

Cash provided by operating activities of \$3.3 million for the first quarter 2012 was the result of net income of \$3.6 million adjusted by non-cash stock-based compensation of \$0.5 million and depreciation and amortization expense of \$1.0 million. The offsets to net income and non-cash items were an increase in accounts receivable of \$0.5 million, a decrease in accounts payable of \$0.4 million and a decrease in accrued and other liabilities of \$1.2 million. The decrease in accrued and other liabilities resulted from the payment of management bonuses in the first quarter of 2012.

Cash provided by operating activities of \$46,000 for the first quarter of 2011 was the result of the net loss of \$0.8 million, adjusted by non-cash stock-based compensation of \$0.4 million and depreciation and amortization expense of \$0.4 million, a decrease in accounts receivable of \$0.3 million due to the timing of collections and a decrease in deposits and other assets of \$0.5 million due to the termination of a restricted cash covenant related to a capital lease. These amounts were offset in part by a decrease in accrued liabilities of \$0.8 million resulted from the payment of management bonuses in the first quarter of 2011.

*Investing Activities*

Cash used in investing activities of \$1.0 million for the first quarter 2012 was the result of \$0.2 million in net purchases of short-term investments and \$0.8 million for purchases of property and equipment mainly for our data center.

Cash used in investing activities of \$2.8 million in the first quarter of 2011 was the result of \$1.0 million in net purchases of short-term investments, \$0.8 million for purchases of property and equipment primarily related to computer equipment to support the growth of our business and to enhance our disaster recovery solution and \$1.0 million for the acquisition of Mortgage Pricing System, LLC.

*Financing Activities*

Cash provided by financing activities of \$1.5 million in the first quarter of 2012 was primarily from the proceeds of stock options exercise by our employees.

Cash provided by financing activities of \$0.1 million in the first quarter of 2011 consisted of \$0.2 million in proceeds from the exercise of stock options by our employees and directors, partially offset by \$0.1 million in payments on our capital lease obligations.

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**Off Balance Sheet Arrangements**

As of March 31, 2012, operating leases were the only financing arrangements not reported on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

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**ITEM 3 QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

**Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk**

We are exposed to market risks in the ordinary course of our business. These risks include primarily interest rate risks and inflation.

*Interest Rate Fluctuation Risk*

We do not have any long-term borrowings.

Our investments include cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments. Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash, money market accounts, certificates of deposit and commercial paper. Short-term investments consist of U.S. government agency securities, commercial paper and certificates of deposit. The primary objective of our investment activities is to preserve principal while maximizing income without significantly increasing risk. We do not enter into investments for trading or speculative purposes. Our investments are exposed to market risk due to a fluctuation in interest rates, which may affect our interest income and the fair market value of our investments. Due to the short-term nature of our investment portfolio, we do not believe a 10% increase in interest rates would have a material effect on the fair market value of our portfolio, and therefore we do not expect our operating results or cash flows to be materially affected to any degree by a sudden change in market interest rates.

*Inflation Risk*

We do not believe that inflation has had a material effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. If our costs were to become subject to significant inflationary pressures, we may not be able to fully offset such higher costs through price increases. Our inability or failure to do so could harm our business, financial condition and results of operations.

**ITEM 4 CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

**Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of March 31, 2012. The term disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act, means controls and other procedures of a company that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by a company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by a company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to the company's management, including its principal executive and principal financial officers, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives and management necessarily applies its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures. Based on the evaluation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of March 31, 2012, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of such date, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

**Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

There was no change in our internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the evaluation required by Rule 13a-15(d) and 15d-15(d) of the Exchange Act that occurred during the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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**PART II OTHER INFORMATION**

**ITEM 1 LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

For a description of the material legal proceedings, please see our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

**ITEM 1A RISK FACTORS**

*You should carefully consider the risks described below and the other information in this report. If any of the following risks materialize, our business could be materially harmed, and our financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected. The risks described below are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks not currently known to us or that we currently believe are immaterial may also impair our business, results of operations, financial condition and liquidity.*

***The extreme turmoil in the mortgage industry that began in 2007 has adversely affected and may continue to adversely affect our business.***

As a result of the extreme turmoil in the mortgage industry and general economy that began in 2007, many mortgage originators, especially mortgage brokers, and other mortgage industry participants have gone out of business. In addition, those industry participants that continue in business face increased operating and regulatory challenges. Conditions that negatively impact our Encompass users or Ellie Mae Network participants have had a significant adverse effect on our business. For example, the number of active Encompass users has declined 25% from approximately 79,000 at December 31, 2006 to approximately 59,000 at March 31, 2012. During this period, the population of mortgage origination professionals who are the potential users of our Encompass software have dropped 46% from approximately 495,000 at December 31, 2006<sup>1</sup> to approximately 268,000 at March 31, 2012.<sup>2</sup> If conditions in the mortgage industry were to deteriorate further, our business would be materially adversely affected.

***Mortgage lending volume is expected to be lower in 2012 and 2013 than it was in 2011 due to various economic factors, including the anticipated increase in mortgage interest rates, which could adversely affect our business.***

Mortgage lending volume is expected to be lower in 2012 and 2013 than it was in 2011 due to various economic factors. Factors that adversely impact mortgage lending volumes include reduced consumer and investor demand for mortgages, more stringent underwriting guidelines, increased illiquidity in the secondary mortgage market, high levels of unemployment, high levels of consumer debt, lower consumer confidence, changes in tax and other regulatory policies, including the recent expiration of the home buyer's tax credit and other macroeconomic factors.

In addition, mortgage interest rates are currently near historic lows and many economists predict that mortgage interest rates will rise modestly in 2012. Mortgage interest rates are influenced by a number of factors, particularly monetary policy. The Federal Reserve Bank may raise the Federal funds rate, which would likely cause mortgage interest rates to rise. Increases in mortgage interest rates would reduce the volume of new mortgages originated, in particular the volume of mortgage refinancings. For example, the increase in mortgage interest rates in the second half of 2009 contributed to a significant decline in our revenues from transactions through the Ellie Mae Network and the services we provide.

The expected lower levels in residential mortgage loan volume in 2012 and 2013 as compared to 2011 levels will require us to increase our revenues per loan effected through the Ellie Mae Network in order to maintain our financial performance. Any additional decrease in residential mortgage volumes would exacerbate our need to increase revenues per loan effected through the Ellie Mae Network. We cannot guarantee we will be successful in our efforts to increase our revenues per loan effected through the Ellie Mae Network, which could materially adversely affect our business.

***Our future performance will be highly dependent on our ability to continue to attract SaaS Encompass customers and, to a lesser extent, to grow revenues from new Ellie Mae Network offerings and new on-demand services.***

Mortgage loan volume is expected to be lower in 2012 and 2013 than it was in 2011. To increase our revenues, we must increase the percentage of our software users who choose SaaS Encompass, from which we generate greater revenues than from our license offering. We believe that recent increases in the number of SaaS Encompass customers were driven by our success-based pricing strategy. Initiatives we have implemented in the past have, from time to time, been successful initially but not over the long term. We cannot guarantee our success-based pricing strategy will continue to be successful. If it is not successful, or if we are unable to identify an alternate strategy and successfully increase the number of SaaS Encompass customers, we may be materially adversely affected.

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- <sup>1</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Mortgage Employment Statistics*, February 2007.
- <sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Mortgage Employment Statistics*, May 2012.

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We must also increase use of our Ellie Mae Network offerings and our other services, such as Total Quality Loan services, compliance and document preparation. We only introduced certain Ellie Mae Network offerings in the fourth quarter of 2009 and our Encompass Compliance Service in the first quarter of 2010. We cannot guarantee these Ellie Mae Network and other service offerings will achieve market acceptance and be successful. In the event these efforts are not successful, our business and growth prospects would be adversely affected.

*If we fail to increase the number of Encompass Users and other Ellie Mae Network participants or retain existing users and participants, our business may be harmed.*

Our growth depends in large part on increasing the number of Encompass Users and other Ellie Mae Network participants. To attract mega lenders and service providers to the Ellie Mae Network, we must convince them that the utility of, and access to mortgage originators on, the Ellie Mae Network is worth making payments to us for transactions ordered through the network by Encompass users. To grow our base of Encompass users, in particular, we must increase the number of our Encompass Users. We must also enhance the features and functionality of our Encompass software, convince mortgage lenders of the benefits of our software solution and the Ellie Mae Network and encourage them to switch from competing loan origination software products or to forego using traditional mortgage origination methods, including paper, facsimile, courier, mail and e-mail. Due to the fragmented nature of the mortgage industry, many mortgage industry participants may not be familiar with our Encompass solutions and the benefits of the Ellie Mae Network. We cannot guarantee we will be successful in attracting new Encompass Users and other Ellie Mae Network participants and if we are unsuccessful in these efforts our business may be harmed.

Additionally, existing Encompass Users and other Ellie Mae Network participants may decide not to continue to use our solutions for financial or other reasons. We have agreements in place with various third-party lenders, service providers and investors to facilitate integration between their businesses and the Ellie Mae Network. Most of these contracts are not long term or are subject to termination rights. An unexpected termination, or a failure to renew, of a significant number of our agreements or relationships with third-party lenders, service providers or investors could have an adverse effect on our business.

*The success of our business depends both on the continuation of the trend toward electronic processing of mortgages and our ability to increase the use of the Ellie Mae Network to order settlement services.*

In order to grow our business, we must expand the use of settlement services on, and increase the number of transactions ordered through, the Ellie Mae Network. Our Encompass users currently employ the Ellie Mae Network to handle on average only four out of the approximately ten transactions per loan file, typically including ordering credit reports and accessing the automatic underwriting systems of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. This limited use is in part due to the fact that many providers of other settlement services, such as title reports and appraisals, do not provide electronic solutions that are superior to traditional processes. Increasing the number of transactions ordered through the Ellie Mae Network depends in large part on our ability to educate providers of settlement services of the benefits of electronic origination and network participation and our ability to encourage providers of settlement services to deliver their services electronically through the Ellie Mae Network in a manner that is attractive to mortgage professionals. If our future sales and marketing efforts are not successful in educating and encouraging additional mortgage originators and providers of settlement services to change their current business practices and adopt electronic mortgage origination and electronic delivery practices, our business may be adversely affected.

*A continuation of the shift in residential mortgage volume to the retail channels of mega lenders would adversely affect our business opportunities.*

Due in part to the turmoil in the mortgage industry, the percentage of the national volume of residential mortgages in the United States that were funded directly through the retail channels of mega lenders increased from 38% in 2006 to 57% in 2011.<sup>3</sup> We market our Encompass software to mortgage lenders and mortgage brokers but not to mega lenders as they generally have their own proprietary loan origination software. If the shift towards mega lenders continues, our business and growth prospects would be materially adversely affected.

<sup>3</sup> Inside Mortgage Finance, February 17, 2012, p.3, *Mortgage Brokers Carry Significant Portions Of Increased Origination Volume in Late 2011*. Copyright 2012.

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*We expect a number of factors to cause our operating results to fluctuate on a quarterly and annual basis, which may make it difficult to predict our future performance.*

Our revenues and operating results have in the past varied and could in the future vary significantly from quarter to quarter and year to year because of a variety of factors, many of which are outside our control. As a result, comparing our operating results on a period-to-period basis may not be meaningful. In addition to other risk factors discussed in this section, factors that may contribute to the variability of our quarterly and annual results include:

fluctuations in mortgage lending volume;

the number of Encompass users;

the volume of mortgages originated by our Encompass users, especially users on our success-based pricing model;

transaction volume on the Ellie Mae Network;

the level of demand for our Encompass Closer document preparation and other services we offer;

the timing of the introduction and acceptance of new Ellie Mae Network offerings and additional services;

our ability to successfully integrate and capture synergies from the DMD acquisition;

costs associated with defending intellectual property infringement and other claims; and

changes in government regulation affecting Ellie Mae Network participants or our business.

Because of these and other factors, our past and future results may not reach our internal projections. In addition, our operating results in future periods may not meet the expectations of investors or public market analysts who follow our company, which could cause our stock price to decline rapidly and significantly. The results of any prior quarterly or annual periods should not be relied upon as indications of our future operating performance.

***System interruptions that impair access to the Ellie Mae Network or our on-demand hosted Encompass software could damage our reputation and brand and substantially harm our business.***

The satisfactory performance, reliability and availability of the Ellie Mae Network, our on-demand hosted Encompass software, website and network infrastructure are critical to our reputation and our ability to attract and retain Ellie Mae Network participants and Encompass software users. Any systems interruption that results in the unavailability of our network or our Encompass software or impairs access to Ellie Mae Network participants connected to our network could result in negative publicity, damage our reputation and brand, and hinder our ability to enroll new customers and cause us to lose current customers, all of which could cause our business and operating results to suffer.

We have experienced and may in the future continue to experience temporary system interruptions, either to the Ellie Mae Network or to our Encompass software hosting locations, for a variety of reasons, including network failures, power failures, software errors, including problems with our Encompass software and other third party firmware updates, as well as when an overwhelming number of Ellie Mae Network participants and Encompass software users trying to access our network during periods of strong demand. In addition, our two primary data

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centers, located in Santa Clara, California and Chicago, Illinois, are hosted by a third-party service provider over which we have little control. We depend on this third-party service provider to provide continuous and uninterrupted access to the Ellie Mae Network and our on-demand hosted Encompass software. If for any reason our relationship with this third-party were to end, it would require a significant amount of time to transition the hosting of our data centers to a new third-party service provider.

Because we are dependent on third parties for the implementation and maintenance of certain aspects of our systems and because some of the causes of system interruptions may be outside of our control, we may not be able to remedy such interruptions in a timely manner, if at all. As we rely heavily on our servers, computer and communications systems and the Internet to conduct our business, any system disruptions could negatively impact our ability to run our business and either directly or indirectly disrupt our customers' businesses, which could have an adverse effect on our business.

***Growth may place significant demands on our management and our infrastructure.***

Our growth has placed and may continue to place significant demands on our management and our operational and financial infrastructure. As our operations grow in size, scope and complexity, we will need to improve and upgrade our systems and infrastructure to offer an increasing number of customers enhanced solutions, features and functionality. The

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expansion of our systems and infrastructure will require us to commit substantial financial, operational and technical resources in advance of an increase in the volume of business, with no assurance that the volume of business will increase. Continued growth could also strain our ability to maintain reliable service levels for our customers, develop and improve our operational, financial and management controls, enhance our reporting systems and procedures and recruit, train and retain highly skilled personnel.

Managing our growth will require significant expenditures and allocation of valuable management resources. If we fail to achieve the necessary level of efficiency in our organization as it grows, our business would be harmed.

***Integrating our recent acquisitions and future acquisitions could disrupt our business, harm our financial condition and operating results or dilute, or adversely affect the price of, our common stock.***

Our success will depend, in part, on our ability to expand our solutions and services and grow our business in response to changing technologies, customer demands and competitive pressures. In some circumstances, we may pursue growth through the acquisition of complementary businesses, solutions or technologies rather than through internal development. For example, in January 2011, we acquired Mortgage Pricing System, LLC to introduce our Encompass Product and Pricing Service, which allows Encompass users to compare loan pricing from multiple lending sources. In August 2011, we acquired DMD to add additional potential Encompass users and increased loan volume to monetize our Encompass service offerings and the Ellie Mae Network. The identification of suitable acquisition candidates can be difficult, time-consuming and costly, and we may not be able to complete acquisitions successfully. Moreover, if such acquisitions require us to seek additional debt or equity financing, we may not be able to obtain such financing on terms favorable to us or at all. Even if we successfully complete an acquisition, we may not be able to assimilate and integrate effectively the acquired business, technologies, solutions, assets, personnel or operations, particularly if key personnel of an acquired company decide not to work for us. In addition, we may issue equity securities to complete an acquisition, which would dilute our stockholders' ownership and could adversely affect the price of our common stock.

***The mortgage industry is heavily regulated and changes in current legislation or new legislation could adversely affect our business.***

*Changes in the regulations that govern our customers could adversely affect our business.*

The U.S. mortgage industry is heavily regulated. Federal and state governments and agencies could enact legislation or other policies that could negatively impact the business of our Encompass users and other Ellie Mae Network participants. Any changes to existing laws or regulations or adoption of new laws or regulations that increase restrictions on the residential mortgage industry may decrease residential mortgage volume or otherwise limit the ability of our Encompass users and Ellie Mae Network participants to operate their businesses, resulting in decreased usage of our solutions.

*Changes in current legislation or new legislation may increase our costs by requiring us to update our products and services.*

Changes to existing laws or regulations or adoption of new laws or regulations relating to the residential mortgage industry could require us to incur significant costs to update our products and services. For example, our Encompass Compliance Service analyzes mortgage loan data for compliance with consumer protection laws and institutionally mandated compliance policies and must continually be updated to incorporate changes to such laws and policies. Additionally, we substantially updated our Encompass software in 2009 to reflect the changes to the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974, as amended, or RESPA, that went into effect on January 1, 2010. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, or Dodd-Frank Act, have also and will continue to cause us to make similar updates to our Encompass software to address, among other things, regulations that protect consumers against unfair, deceptive and abusive practices by lenders. These updates have caused us to incur significant expense, and future updates will likely similarly cause us to incur significant expense.

A failure of our products and services or a failure to appropriately update our products and services to reflect and comply with changes to existing laws or regulations or with new laws or regulations may contribute to violations by our customers of such laws and regulations. We also provide a limited warranty for our Encompass Compliance Service, pursuant to which we agree to reimburse customers for losses incurred due to fines, penalties or judgments as a result of a violation of a specific law, rule or regulation tied to an error in the provision of our Encompass Compliance Service up to \$2,500 per occurrence. Our typical services agreement with new customers limits our exposure to a maximum of three months of fees paid by customer preceding the claim and, with respect to CenterWise and Encompass Closer, the lesser of three months of fees paid by customer preceding the claim or \$25,000 per occurrence. For most customers, our exposure for warranties is limited to an amount equal to the total service fees paid by a customer for base services during a specified period preceding the relevant claim, typically six to 12 months. Although we have not



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historically incurred any claims and maintain professional liability insurance coverage of \$5.0 million per occurrence and in the aggregate, to the extent we were to become liable for an amount in excess of such coverage, our business and our reputation would be materially adversely affected.

***Potential structural changes in the U.S. residential mortgage industry, in particular plans to diminish the role of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, could disrupt the mortgage market and have a material adverse effect on our business.***

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac play a very important role in providing liquidity, stability and affordability in the current U.S. residential mortgage market. In particular, they participate in the secondary mortgage market by purchasing mortgage loans and mortgage-related securities for investment and by issuing guaranteed mortgage-related securities. In February 2011, the Obama administration delivered a report to Congress, which proposed the winding down of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and shrinking the federal government's role in the housing market. This proposal includes the withdrawal of government insurance currently available on certain residential loans and increasing the down payment requirements for borrowers, both of which could reduce mortgage lending volume. In February 2012, the Federal Housing Finance Agency sent Congress a strategic plan to wind down Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac over the next several years. This proposal includes building a new infrastructure for the secondary mortgage market, continuing to shrink Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's operations by eliminating the direct funding of mortgages and shifting mortgage credit risk to private investors, and maintaining foreclosure prevention activities and credit availability. The effects of these proposals or any significant structural change to the U.S. residential mortgage industry, if implemented, would cause significant disruption to the mortgage market. If we are unable to react effectively and quickly to changes in the residential mortgage industry, our business could be harmed.

***We may be limited in the way in which we market our business or generate revenue by U.S. federal law prohibiting referral fees in real estate transactions; if we are found to be in violation of such laws we would be subject to significant liability.***

RESPA generally prohibits the payment or receipt of fees or any other thing of value for the referral of business related to a residential real estate settlement service and prohibits fee shares or splits or unearned fees in connection with the provision of such services. Our Encompass software and services and the Ellie Mae Network were designed with payment methods that are not currently prohibited by the restrictions under RESPA. Nonetheless, RESPA may restrict our ability to enter into marketing and distribution arrangements with third parties, for existing or newly developed products and services, particularly to the extent that such arrangements may be characterized as involving payments for the referral of residential real estate settlement service business. Additionally, any amendments to RESPA or court opinions interpreting the provisions of RESPA that result in restrictions on our current payment methods, or any determination that our payment methods have been and currently are subject to the restrictions under RESPA, could have a material adverse effect on our business. Finally, if we were found to be in violation of RESPA rules, we would be exposed to significant potential liability that could have a material adverse effect on our reputation and business.

***Our failure to protect the confidential information of our Encompass users, our Ellie Mae Network participants and their respective customers could damage our reputation and brand and substantially harm our business.***

Certain confidential information relating to certain of our Encompass users, our Ellie Mae Network participants and their respective customers resides on our third-party hosted data center servers and is transmitted over our network. We rely on encryption and authentication technology licensed from third parties to effect secure transmission of confidential information, including personal information and credit card numbers. Advances in computer capabilities, new discoveries in the field of cryptography or other developments may result in a compromise or breach of the technology used by us to protect customer transaction data. These servers may also be vulnerable to computer viruses, break-ins and similar disruptions from unauthorized tampering with our computer systems, which could lead to loss of critical data or the unauthorized disclosure of confidential customer data. The possession and use of personal information in conducting our business subject us to legislative and regulatory burdens that may require notification to customers of a security breach, restrict our use of personal information and hinder our ability to acquire new customers or market to existing customers.

We cannot guarantee that our security measures will prevent security breaches. Any such compromise of our security could damage our reputation and brand and expose us to a risk of loss or litigation and potential liability, which would substantially harm our business and operating results. We may need to expend significant resources to protect against and remedy any potential security breaches and their consequences.

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***We depend on key and highly skilled personnel to operate our business, and if we are unable to retain our current or hire additional personnel, our ability to develop and successfully market our business could be harmed.***

We believe our future success will depend in large part upon our ability to attract and retain highly skilled managerial, technical, finance, creative and sales and marketing personnel. Moreover, we believe that our future success is highly dependent on the contributions of our named executive officers. All of our officers and other employees are at-will employees, which means they may terminate their employment relationship with us at any time, and their knowledge of our business and industry would be extremely difficult to replace. In addition, the loss of any key employees or the inability to attract or retain qualified personnel could delay the development and introduction of, and harm our ability to sell, our solutions and harm the market's perception of us. Competition for qualified personnel is particularly intense in the San Francisco Bay Area, where our headquarters are located. Qualified individuals are in high demand, and we may incur significant costs to attract them. We may be unable to attract and retain suitably qualified individuals who are capable of meeting our growing sales, operational and managerial requirements, or may be required to pay increased compensation in order to do so. If we are unable to attract and retain the qualified personnel we need to succeed, our business will suffer.

Volatility or lack of performance in our stock price may also affect our ability to attract and retain our key employees. Our named executive officers have become, or will soon become, vested in a substantial amount of stock options. Employees may be more likely to leave us if the shares they own or the shares underlying their vested options have significantly appreciated in value relative to the original purchase prices of the shares or the exercise prices of the vested options, or if the exercise prices of the options that they hold are significantly above the market price of our common stock. If we are unable to retain our named executive officers or other key employees, our business will be harmed.

***We operate in a highly competitive market, which could make it difficult for us to attract and retain Encompass users and Ellie Mae Network participants.***

The mortgage origination software market is highly competitive. There are many software providers, such as Calyx Technology, Inc., Byte Software Inc., PCLender.com and Harland Financial Solutions, that compete with us by offering loan origination software to mortgage originators. Some software providers, including Calyx Technology, Inc., also provide connectivity between their software users and lenders and service providers. Other connectivity alternatives are provided by vendors such as MGIC Investment Corporation and RealEC Technologies. We also compete with compliance and document preparation service providers that are much larger and more established than us. There is vigorous competition among providers of these services and we may not succeed in convincing potential customers, using other services to switch to ours. Many service providers connect directly to mortgage originators without using any loan origination software. Some of our competitors also offer services on a closed loan basis, which could adversely impact the effectiveness of our success-based pricing strategy for increasing the number of on-demand SaaS Encompass customers. If we are unsuccessful in competing effectively by providing attractive functionality, customer service or value, we could lose existing Encompass users to our competitors and our ability to attract new Encompass users could be harmed.

We only offer our Encompass services to Encompass users. There are many other service providers that offer our Encompass users competing services, including borrower-facing websites, document preparation services, compliance services and electronic document management. We may be unsuccessful in continuing to differentiate our Encompass service offerings to the extent necessary to effectively compete in some or all of these markets.

The Ellie Mae Network is only available to mortgage originators using Encompass software. The principal alternative to the use of the Ellie Mae Network by Encompass users remains traditional methods of exchanging data and documents among mortgage industry participants by e-mail, facsimile, phone, courier and mail. In addition, mortgage originators use standalone web browsers to go individually to each investor, lender or service provider's website and then manually upload loan data or enter information into the website. Mortgage originators may continue to use these methods due to habit, personal business relationships or otherwise. The success of the Ellie Mae Network depends on our ability to achieve and offer access to both the critical mass of investors, lenders and service providers necessary to attract and retain mortgage originators on the Ellie Mae Network and the critical mass of active mortgage originators necessary to attract and retain investors, lenders and service providers on our network.

Many of our actual and potential competitors have longer operating histories and significantly greater financial, technical, marketing and other resources than we do and, as a result, these companies may be able to respond more quickly to changes in regulations, new technologies or customer demands, or devote greater resources to the development, promotion and sale of their software and services than we can. We expect the mortgage origination market to continue to attract new competitors and there can be no assurance that we will be able to compete successfully against current or future competitors, or that competitive pressures we face will not materially adversely affect our business.

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### ***Failure to adapt to technological changes may render our technology obsolete or decrease the attractiveness of our solutions to our customers.***

If new industry standards and practices emerge, or if competitors introduce new solutions embodying new services or technologies, our Encompass software and the Ellie Mae Network technology may become obsolete. Our future success will depend on our ability to:

enhance our existing solutions;

develop and potentially license new solutions and technologies that address the needs of our prospective customers; and

respond to changes in industry standards and practices on a cost-effective and timely basis.

We must continue to enhance the features and functionality of our Encompass software and the Ellie Mae Network. The effective performance, reliability and availability of our Encompass software and the Ellie Mae Network infrastructure are critical to our reputation and our ability to attract and retain Encompass users and Ellie Mae Network participants. If we do not continue to make investments in product development and, as a result, or due to other reasons, fail to attract new and retain existing mortgage originators, lenders, investors and service providers, we may lose existing Ellie Mae Network participants, which could significantly decrease the value of the Ellie Mae Network to all participants.

### ***Failure to adequately protect our intellectual property could harm our business.***

The protection of our intellectual property rights, including our proprietary Encompass software and Ellie Mae Network technology, is crucial to the success of our business. We rely on a combination of patent, copyright, trademark and trade secret law and contractual restrictions to protect our intellectual property. Our present and future patents may provide only limited protection for our technology and may not be sufficient to provide competitive advantage to us. Furthermore, we cannot guarantee any patents will be issued to us as a result of our patent applications. We also rely in part on confidentiality and invention assignment agreements with our employees, independent contractors and consultants. Despite our efforts to protect our proprietary rights, unauthorized parties may attempt to copy aspects of our Ellie Mae Network and Encompass software features and functionality or obtain and use information that we consider proprietary. Policing our proprietary rights is difficult and may not always be effective.

We have registered Ellie Mae and Encompass and certain of our other trademarks as trademarks in the United States. Competitors may adopt service names similar to ours, thereby impeding our ability to build brand identity and possibly leading to customer confusion. In addition, there could be potential trade name or trademark infringement claims brought by owners of other registered trademarks or trademarks that incorporate variations of the terms Ellie Mae, Encompass or our other trademarks.

Litigation or proceedings before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office or other governmental authorities and administrative bodies in the United States and abroad may be necessary in the future to enforce our intellectual property rights, protect our patent and copyright rights, trade secrets and domain names and determine the validity and scope of the proprietary rights of others. Our efforts to enforce or protect our proprietary rights may be ineffective and could result in substantial costs and diversion of resources and could harm our business.

### ***Assertions that we infringe third-party intellectual property rights could result in significant costs and substantially harm our business.***

Other parties have asserted, and may in the future assert, that we have infringed their intellectual property rights. For example, on March 25, 2011, we were named a defendant in a patent infringement lawsuit filed by Industry Access Incorporated alleging that our Encompass 360 loan management software system and related operations infringes a single patent. See Legal Proceedings in Note 6 of the Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements. In addition, we generally agree to indemnify our customers against legal claims that our software products infringe intellectual property rights of third parties and, in the event of an infringement, to modify or replace the infringing product or, if those options are not reasonably possible, to refund the cost of the software, as pro-rated over a period of years. We cannot predict whether assertions of third-party intellectual property rights or claims arising from such assertions will substantially harm our business and operating results. If we are forced to defend against any infringement claims, whether they are with or without merit or are determined in our favor, we may face costly litigation and diversion of technical and management personnel. Furthermore, an adverse outcome of a dispute may require us to: pay damages, potentially including treble damages and attorneys' fees if the



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infringement were found to be willful; cease providing solutions that allegedly incorporate the intellectual property of others; expend additional development resources to redesign or reengineer our solutions and products, if feasible; and enter into potentially unfavorable royalty or license agreements in order to obtain the right to use necessary technologies. We cannot be certain of the outcome of any litigation. Any royalty or licensing agreement, if required, may not be available to us on acceptable terms or at all. Our failure to obtain the necessary licenses or other rights could prevent the sale or distribution of some of our products and services and, therefore, could have a material adverse effect on our business.

***Current or future litigation could substantially harm our business.***

We have been and continue to be involved in legal proceedings, claims and other litigation. For example, we are currently a defendant in litigation initiated by DocMagic Inc., which alleges, among other claims, that we had engaged in monopolization and/or attempted monopolization, intentional interference with contractual relationship, interference with prospective economic advantage, unfair competition and breach of contract. In addition, we are currently involved in defending against a patent infringement lawsuit against us and one other party filed by Industry Access Incorporated. See Legal Proceedings in Note 6 of the Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements. Furthermore, we are also subject to various other legal proceedings and claims arising out of the ordinary course of business. While we do not expect the outcome of any such pending litigation to have a material adverse effect on our financial position, litigation is unpredictable and excessive verdicts, both in the form of monetary damages and injunctions, could occur. In the future, litigation could result in substantial costs and diversion of resources and we could incur judgments or enter into settlements of claims that could have a material adverse effect on our business.

***If one or more U.S. states or local jurisdictions successfully assert that we should have collected or in the future should collect additional sales or use taxes on our fees, we could be subject to additional liability with respect to past or future sales, and the results of our operations could be adversely affected.***

We do not collect state and local sales and use taxes in all jurisdictions in which our customers are located, based on our belief that such taxes are not applicable. Sales and use tax laws and rates vary by jurisdiction and such laws are subject to interpretation. Jurisdictions in which we do not collect sales and use taxes may assert that such taxes are applicable, which could result in the assessment of such taxes, interest and penalties, and we could be required to collect such taxes in the future. This additional sales and use tax liability could adversely affect the results of our operations.

***Our business is subject to the risks of earthquakes, fires, floods and other natural catastrophic events and to interruption by man-made problems such as terrorism.***

Our systems and operations are vulnerable to damage or interruption from earthquakes, fires, floods, power losses, telecommunications failures, terrorist attacks, acts of war and similar events. For example, a significant natural disaster, such as an earthquake, fire or flood, could have a material adverse impact on our business, operating results and financial condition, and our insurance coverage may be insufficient to compensate us for losses that may occur. Our corporate offices and one of the facilities we lease to house our computer and telecommunications equipment are located in the San Francisco Bay Area, a region known for seismic activity. In addition, acts of terrorism, which may be targeted at metropolitan areas with higher population density than rural areas, could cause disruptions in our or our customers' businesses or the economy as a whole. We may not have sufficient protection or recovery plans in certain circumstances, such as natural disasters affecting the San Francisco Bay Area, and our business interruption insurance may be insufficient to compensate us for losses that may occur.

***We incur increased costs as a result of being a public company, which may strain our resources and adversely affect our operating results and financial condition.***

As a public company, we incur significant accounting, legal and other expenses that we did not incur as a private company. We incur costs associated with our public company reporting requirements, since we are subject to the requirements of the Exchange Act, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, the NYSE Amex LLC and other rules and regulations. We expect these rules and regulations will continue to increase our legal and financial compliance costs and to make some activities more time-consuming and costly. Furthermore, these laws and regulations could make it more difficult or more costly for us to obtain certain types of insurance, including director and officer liability insurance, and we may be forced to accept reduced policy limits and coverage or incur substantially greater costs to obtain the same or similar coverage. The impact of these requirements could also make it more difficult for us to attract and retain qualified persons to serve on our board of directors, our board committees or as executive officers.

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*We will be required to assess our internal control over financial reporting on an annual basis and any future adverse findings from such assessment could result in a loss of investor confidence in our financial reports, significant expenses to remediate any internal control deficiencies and ultimately have an adverse effect on the market price of our common stock.*

Pursuant to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as amended, and beginning with our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ending December 31, 2012, our management will be required to report on, and our independent registered public accounting firm to attest to, the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. The rules governing the standards that must be met for management to assess our internal control over financial reporting are complex and require significant documentation, testing and possible remediation. We are currently in the process of reviewing, documenting and testing our internal control over financial reporting. We may encounter problems or delays in completing the implementation of any changes necessary to make a favorable assessment of our internal control over financial reporting. In connection with the attestation process by our independent registered public accounting firm, we may encounter problems or delays in completing the implementation of any requested improvements and receiving a favorable attestation. In addition, if we fail to maintain the adequacy of our internal control over financial reporting we will not be able to conclude on an ongoing basis that we have effective internal control over financial reporting in accordance with Section 404. A significant deficiency noted in our past internal controls related to our stock-based compensation. We believe we have remediated this deficiency and have taken steps to improve our internal controls and procedures. If we fail to achieve and maintain an effective internal control environment, we could suffer material misstatements in our financial statements and fail to meet our reporting obligations, which would likely cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information. This could harm our operating results and lead to a decline in our stock price. Additionally, ineffective internal control over financial reporting could expose us to increased risk of fraud or misuse of corporate assets and subject us to potential delisting from the NYSE Amex, regulatory investigations, civil or criminal sanctions and class action litigation.

*Our stock price is volatile and purchasers of our common stock could incur substantial losses.*

The trading price of our common stock may be subject to wide fluctuations in response to various factors, some of which are beyond our control. In addition to the factors discussed in this Risk Factors section and elsewhere in this report, these factors include:

our operating performance and the operating performance of similar companies;

the overall performance of the equity markets;

the number of shares of our common stock publicly owned and available for trading;

threatened or actual litigation;

changes in laws or regulations relating to our solutions;

any major change in our board of directors or management;

publication of research reports about us or our industry or positive or negative recommendations or withdrawal of research coverage by securities analysts;

large volumes of sales of our shares of common stock by existing stockholders; and

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general political and economic conditions.

In addition, the stock market in general has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations. Securities class action litigation has often been instituted against companies following periods of volatility in the overall market and in the market price of a company's securities. This litigation, if instituted against us, could result in very substantial costs, divert our management's attention and resources and harm our business.

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*If securities or industry analysts discontinue to publish research or publish inaccurate or unfavorable research about our business, our stock price and trading volume could decline.*

The trading market for our common stock depends in part on the research and reports that securities or industry analysts publish about us or our business. If one or more of the analysts who cover us downgrade our stock or publish inaccurate or unfavorable research about our business, our stock price would likely decline. If one or more of these analysts cease coverage of our company or fail to publish reports on us regularly, demand for our stock could decrease, which might cause our stock price and trading volume to decline.

*Certain provisions in our charter documents and Delaware law could discourage takeover attempts and lead to management entrenchment.*

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws contain provisions that could have the effect of delaying or preventing changes in control or changes in our board of directors. These provisions include:

a classified board of directors with three-year staggered terms, which may delay the ability of stockholders to change the membership of a majority of our board of directors;

no cumulative voting in the election of directors, which limits the ability of minority stockholders to elect director candidates;

the exclusive right of our board of directors to elect a director to fill a vacancy created by the expansion of the board of directors or the resignation, death or removal of a director, which prevents stockholders from being able to fill vacancies on our board of directors;

the ability of our board of directors to determine to issue shares of preferred stock and to determine the price and other terms of those shares, including preferences and voting rights, without stockholder approval, which could be used to significantly dilute the ownership of a hostile acquirer;

a prohibition on stockholder action by written consent, which forces stockholder action to be taken at an annual or special meeting of our stockholders;

the requirement that a special meeting of stockholders may be called only by the chairman of the board of directors, the chief executive officer, the president or the board of directors, which may delay the ability of our stockholders to force consideration of a proposal or to take action, including the removal of directors; and

advance notice procedures that stockholders must comply with in order to nominate candidates to our board of directors or to propose matters to be acted upon at a stockholders' meeting, which may discourage or deter a potential acquirer from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect the acquirer's own slate of directors or otherwise attempting to obtain control of us.

We are also subject to certain anti-takeover provisions under Delaware law. Under Delaware law, a corporation may not, in general, engage in a business combination with any holder of 15% or more of its capital stock unless the holder has held the stock for three years or, among other things, the board of directors has approved the transaction.

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| <b>Number</b> | <b>Description of Document</b>   |
|---------------|--|
| 31.1          | Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 31.2          | Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.1*         | Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.                               |
| 32.2*         | Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.                               |
| 101.INS**     | XBRL Instance Document   |
| 101.SCH**     | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document  |
| 101.CAL**     | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document  |
| 101.LAB**     | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document  |
| 101.PRE**     | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document   |

\* Exhibits 32.1 and 32.2 are being furnished and shall not be deemed to be filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, or otherwise subject to the liability of that section, nor shall such exhibits be deemed to be incorporated by reference in any registration statement or other document filed under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as otherwise specifically stated in such filing.

\*\* XBRL information is furnished and not filed for purposes of Sections 11 and 12 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 18 of the Exchange Act, and is not subject to liability under those sections, is not part of any registration statement or prospectus to which it relates and is not incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into any registration statement, prospectus or other document.

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**SIGNATURES**

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

**ELLIE MAE, INC.**

Date: May 10, 2012

By: /s/ Edgar A. Luce  
Edgar A. Luce  
Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration and

Chief Financial Officer  
*(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer and duly*

*authorized signatory)*

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## INDEX TO EXHIBITS

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