

## Risk Factors Comparison 2025-02-28 to 2024-02-28 Form: 10-K

Legend: **New Text** ~~Removed Text~~ Unchanged Text **Moved Text Section**

An investment in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described below before making an investment decision in our securities. These risk factors are effective as of the date of this Form 10-K and shall be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent that a statement contained in our future filings modifies or replaces such statement. All of these risks may impair our business operations. The forward-looking statements in this Form 10-K involve risks and uncertainties and actual results may differ materially from the results we discuss in the forward-looking statements. If any of the following risks actually occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected. In that case, the trading price of our stock could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment. Risk Related to our Business We operate in a rapidly changing environment that involves a number of risks, some of which are beyond our control. A number of these risks are listed below. These risks could affect actual future results and could cause them to differ materially from any forward-looking statements we have made. You should carefully consider the risks described below. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones we face. Any of the risks described below could significantly and adversely affect our business, prospects, financial condition or results of operations. **There is uncertainty with regard to whether we will be able to maximize shareholder value through the completion of a strategic transaction or successfully spinoff Celle Corp. On February 22, 2024, the Company formed its wholly owned Delaware subsidiary, Celle Corp. Celle Corp. was created to hold certain assets of Cryo-Cell not directly associated with the recurring revenue stream from privately banked, umbilical cord blood specimens. The Duke Agreement has been transferred to Celle Corp. and other assets and liabilities were expected to be transferred. As previously disclosed, the Company's Board of Directors has authorized the spin-off of Celle Corp. to the Company's shareholders and to explore all strategic alternatives for the Company (post spin-off) to maximize shareholder value. As result of the Arbitration Demand against Duke, there can be no assurance that any such spinoff or any contemplated strategic alternatives will take place. There are several conditions that must first be satisfied, including obtaining certain third party consents, such as that of the Company's lender. If the Company is unable to spinoff Cell Corp., it will continue to own Cell Corp. and will continue to be obligated under the Duke Agreement and related agreements, such as the Duke Research Agreement and the Master Services Agreement with Emmes Biopharma Services LLC, all of which impose significant funding obligations, which could negatively impact the Company's financial condition.** Our common stock may be delisted from NYSE American LLC ("NYSE") if we fail to comply with continued listing standards. If we fail to meet any of the continued listing standards of the NYSE, our common stock could be delisted from the exchange. These continued listing standards include specifically enumerated criteria, including compliance with the NYSE's corporate governance requirements. If we fail to comply with the NYSE's continued listing standards, we may be delisted from the NYSE. Delisting of the common stock could depress the price of our stock, substantially limit liquidity of our common stock and materially adversely affect our ability to raise capital on terms acceptable to us, or at all. In such event, it could become more difficult to dispose of, or obtain accurate price quotations for, our common stock, and there would likely also be a reduction in our coverage by securities analysts and the news media, which could cause the price of our common stock to decline further. We may need to raise additional capital. ~~We believe we have~~ **The Company anticipates that its cash and cash equivalents, marketable securities and cash flows from operations, together with external sources of capital will be** sufficient capital ~~to fund our operations~~ ~~its known cash needs~~ for at least the next 12 ~~to 18~~ months. However, cash flows from operations will depend primarily upon revenues from sales of ~~our~~ ~~its~~ umbilical cord blood **and cord tissue** cellular storage services and ~~controlling~~ **managing discretionary** expenses. ~~There can be no assurance that sales will continue to increase or even maintain current levels.~~ Additionally, **depending in part on the outcome of the Duke Arbitration Demand,** the Company ~~will~~ **may** require capital to pay for the startup expenses relating to ~~the~~ ~~its~~ planned infusion clinic, to finance clinical trials related to the Duke License Agreement, to develop biopharmaceutical manufacturing capabilities ~~related to MSCs~~ and for capital expenditures for software enhancements and purchases of equipment and obligations under the Duke License Agreement. ~~We currently~~ **While the Company previously anticipate anticipated** that over \$ 50 million ~~will~~ **would** be needed over the next 5 years to fund ~~these~~ ~~its~~ activities related to the Duke License Agreement, as a result of the Company's Arbitration Demand against Duke, as discussed further in Note 18, the Company currently is unable to predict its funding needs for those activities. ~~The~~ **Until the Duke arbitration claims are resolved, the Company does not anticipate making further investments (other than the completion of a comparability study estimated to cost less than \$ 350, 000 in additional capital) in activities related to the Duke License Agreement. However, if required to continue to invest in the Duke License Agreement, the** Company anticipates funding ~~these~~ ~~the related~~ capital expenditures with cash- on- hand, cash flows from future operations, the Company's revolving line of credit (see Note 4), potential additional debt financing and potential equity sales. **There can be no assurances that the Company will be able to obtain such additional debt or equity financing on favorable terms or at all. If expected increases in revenues are not realized, or if expenses are higher than anticipated, or if the Company is unable to obtain additional financing, the Company will be required to reduce or defer cash expenditures or otherwise manage its cash resources during the next 12 months so that they are sufficient to meet the Company's cash needs for that period. Any reductions in expenditures, if necessary, may have an adverse effect on the Company's business operations, including sales activities and the development of new services and technology.** We may not be able to successfully grow or operate our business. Our business may decline, may not grow or may grow more slowly than expected.

There can be no assurance that we will be able to grow or effectively operate our business. To the extent we are unable to achieve growth in our business we may continue to incur losses. We cannot assure you that we will be successful or make progress in the growth and operation of our business. Our success will depend in large part on widespread market acceptance of cryopreservation of stem cells. Our current and future expense levels are based on our operating plans and estimates of future revenues and are subject to increase as we implement our strategy. We may be unable to adjust spending in a timely manner to compensate for any unexpected revenue shortfall. Accordingly, any significant shortfall in revenues would likely have an immediate material adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition. Further, if we should substantially increase our operating expenses to increase sales and marketing or to develop our technology and cord blood processing and storage systems, and such expenses are not subsequently followed by increased revenues, our operating performance and results would be adversely affected and if sustained could have a material adverse effect on our business. The Company's operations and performance depend significantly on global and regional economic conditions. Adverse macroeconomic conditions, including inflation, slower growth or recession, new or increased tariffs, changes to fiscal and monetary policy, tighter credit, higher interest rates, high unemployment and currency fluctuations could materially adversely affect demand for the Company's products and services. In addition, consumer confidence and spending could be adversely affected in response to financial market volatility, negative financial news, conditions in the real estate and mortgage markets, declines in income or asset values, changes to fuel and other energy costs, labor and healthcare costs and other economic factors. A downturn in the economic environment could also lead to increased credit and collectability risk on the Company's receivables, limitations on the Company's ability to issue new debt and reduced liquidity. These and other economic factors could materially adversely affect the Company's business, results of operations, financial condition and growth. Because our industry is subject to rapid technological and therapeutic changes and new developments, our future success will depend on the continued viability of the use of stem cells. Our success depends to a significant extent upon our ability to enhance and expand the use of and utility of our services so that they gain increased market acceptance. There can be no assurance that expectant parents will use our services or that our services will provide competitive advantages with current or future technologies. Failure to achieve increased market acceptance could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. The use of stem cells in the treatment of disease is subject to potentially revolutionary technological, medical and therapeutic changes. Future technological and medical developments could render the use of stem cells and our equipment obsolete and unmarketable. We may incur significant costs in replacing or modifying equipment in which we have already made a substantial investment prior to the end of its anticipated useful life. In addition, there may be significant advances in other treatment methods, such as genetics, or in disease prevention techniques, which could significantly reduce the need for the services we provide. If our umbilical cord blood stem cell storage services do not achieve continued market acceptance, we will not be able to generate revenue necessary to support our business. We anticipate that service fees from the processing and storage of umbilical cord blood stem cells will continue to comprise a substantial majority of our revenue in the future and, therefore, our future success depends on the successful and continued market acceptance of this service. Broad use and acceptance of our service requires marketing expenditures and education and awareness of consumers and medical practitioners, and the time and expense required to accomplish such education and awareness of our services and its potential benefits could adversely affect market acceptance. Successful commercialization of our services will also require that we satisfactorily address the needs of various medical practitioners that constitute a target market to reach consumers of our services and to address potential resistance to recommendations for our services. If we are unable to continue to gain market acceptance of our services, we will not be able to generate sufficient revenue to remain profitable. We may fail to successfully manufacture MSCs. In August 2011, the Company introduced its advanced new cord tissue service, which stores a section of the umbilical cord tissue. Approximately six inches of the cord tissue is procured and transported to the Company's laboratory for processing, testing and cryopreservation for future potential use. Umbilical cord tissue is a rich source of **mesenchymal stromal cells ("MSCs")**. It is believed that MSCs have many unique functions including the ability to inhibit inflammation following tissue damage, to secrete growth factors that aid in tissue repair, and to differentiate into many cell types including neural cells, bone cells, fat cells and cartilage. MSCs are increasingly being researched in regenerative medicine for a wide range of conditions and are currently being used in many clinical trials. While there is much promise related to MSCs, we may fail to successfully or profitably manufacture and store MSCs, including as a result of negative results in clinical trials for efficacy. The outcome of clinical trials is inherently uncertain. Clinical development is lengthy and uncertain. Our public blood bank research involves clinical testing, which is expensive, complex and lengthy, and subject to various regulations, including the "Common Rule." The Common Rule is a rule of ethics in the United States regarding biomedical and behavioral research involving human subjects. It governed Institutional Review Boards for oversight of human research. It is encapsulated in the 1991 revision to the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services Title 45 CFR 46 Subparts A, B, C and D. Subpart A. The outcome of clinical trials is inherently uncertain. There is a high rate of attrition for product candidates proceeding through clinical trials and most investigational medicines that commence clinical trials are never approved as products. We may not be able to initiate, may experience delays in, or may have to discontinue clinical trials for our investigational treatments. We and our strategic collaborators, including Duke, also may experience unforeseen events during, or as a result of, any clinical trials that we or they conduct that could delay or prevent us or them from successfully developing our investigational medicines and gaining approval from regulators. Delays or other events that might prevent us from proceeding with clinical trials include: • regulators, Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), or ethics committees may not authorize us or our investigators to commence a clinical trial or conduct a clinical trial at a prospective trial site; • the outcome of our preclinical studies and our early clinical trials may not be predictive of the success of later clinical trials, and interim results of a clinical trial do not necessarily predict final results; • we may be unable to establish or achieve clinically meaningful endpoints for our studies; • if we make changes to our investigational medicines after clinical trials have commenced (which we have done in the past), we may be required to repeat earlier stages or delay later stages of clinical testing;

• clinical trials of any investigational medicines may fail to show safety or efficacy, or produce negative or inconclusive results, and we may decide, or regulators may require us to conduct additional nonclinical studies or clinical trials, or we may decide to abandon product development programs; and • regulators may impose a complete or partial clinical hold on a trial, or we or our investigators, IRBs, or ethics committees may elect to suspend or terminate clinical research or trials for various reasons, including noncompliance with regulatory requirements or a finding that the participants are being exposed to an unacceptable benefit- risk ratio. Any delay in developing assays that are acceptable to the FDA or other regulators could delay the start of future clinical trials. Further, the FDA or other regulators may change the requirements for approval even after they have reviewed and commented on the design for clinical trials. Significant preclinical or nonclinical testing and studies or clinical trial delays for our investigational treatments could allow our competitors to bring products to market before we do. Our product candidates are subject to substantial government regulation, including the regulation of nonclinical testing and clinical trials. If we are unable to obtain regulatory approval for our product candidates, our ability to generate revenues related to such product candidate will be negatively impacted. Most of the product candidates we are developing must undergo rigorous nonclinical testing and clinical trials and an extensive regulatory approval process before they can be marketed in the United States or internationally. If we fail to obtain regulatory approval for our product candidates, we may have to cease further development. Clinical trials on our product candidates are expected to take several years to fully complete. The commencement or completion of nonclinical studies or clinical trials can be delayed or prevented for a number of reasons, including: • limitations directly caused by, or restrictions imposed in response to, the COVID- 19 pandemic, including our ability to conduct research and development and clinical trials, to engage or continue to engage with third- party contractors and suppliers or to comply with regulatory obligations relating to our business; • an inability to raise sufficient capital to commence, conduct, or complete clinical trials; • findings in nonclinical trials; • difficulties obtaining regulatory approval to commence a clinical trial or complying with conditions imposed by a regulatory authority regarding the scope or term of a clinical trial; • clinical trials also may be delayed or terminated as a result of ambiguous or negative interim results. In addition, a clinical trial may be suspended or terminated by us, the FDA, the board overseeing the trial, or other regulatory authorities due to a number of factors, including: • failure to conduct the clinical trial in accordance with regulatory requirements or our clinical protocols; • inspection of the clinical trial operations or trial sites by the FDA or other regulatory authorities; • inspection of manufacturing and drug packaging operations by regulatory authorities; • unforeseen safety issues or lack of effectiveness; and • lack of adequate funding to continue the clinical trial. We cannot assure you that clinical trials will demonstrate the safety or effectiveness of any of our product candidates, or will otherwise satisfy regulatory requirements. Our nonclinical studies or clinical trials may produce negative or inconclusive results, there may be inconsistencies between early clinical trial results and results obtained in later clinical trials, and we may decide, or regulators may require us, to conduct additional nonclinical studies or clinical trials. Moreover, nonclinical and clinical data are often susceptible to varying interpretations and analyses, and many companies that have believed their product candidates performed satisfactorily in nonclinical studies and clinical trials have nonetheless failed to obtain FDA approval for their products. If we are unable to resolve the FDA' s concerns, we will not be able to obtain regulatory approval for these product candidates. The pre- marketing approval process can be particularly expensive, uncertain and lengthy, and a number of products for which FDA or other governmental regulatory approval has been sought by other companies have never been approved for marketing. In addition to testing and approval procedures, extensive regulations also govern marketing, manufacturing, distribution, labeling, and record- keeping procedures. If we do not comply with applicable regulatory requirements, such violations could result in warning letters, non- approval, suspensions of regulatory approvals or ongoing clinical trials, civil penalties and criminal fines, product seizures and recalls, operating restrictions, injunctions, and criminal prosecution. We may encounter such delays and rejection of our product candidates by the FDA or other regulatory authority may also adversely affect our business. Such delays or rejection may be encountered due to, among other reasons, government or regulatory delays, lack of efficacy during clinical trials, unforeseen safety issues, or changes in regulatory policy during the period of product development. More stringent regulatory approval processes in product clearance and enforcement activities could result in our experiencing longer approval cycles, more uncertainty, greater risk, and higher expenses. Even if regulatory approval of a product is granted, this approval may entail limitations on uses for which the product may be labeled and promoted. It is possible, for example, that we may not receive FDA approval to market products based on our licensed, patented product candidates for different indications or to market updated products that represent extensions of our basic product candidates. In addition, we may not receive FDA approval to export our products based on our licensed, patented product candidates in the future, and countries to which products are to be exported may not approve them for import. The stem cell preservation market is increasingly competitive. Stem cell preservation is becoming an increasingly competitive business. Our business faces competition from other operators of stem cell preservation businesses and providers of stem storage services. Certain of our competitors may have greater financial and other resources than us. Competitors with greater access to financial resources may enter our markets and compete with us. In the event that we are not able to compete successfully, our business may be adversely affected and competition may make it more difficult for us to grow our revenue and maintain our existing business on terms that are favorable to us. A failure in the performance of our cryopreservation storage facility or systems, or those of Duke could harm our business and reputation. To the extent our cryopreservation storage service, or the storage by Duke with regard to our public cord blood specimens, is disrupted, discontinued or the performance is impaired, our business and operations could be adversely affected. Any failure, including network, software or hardware or equipment failure, that causes a material interruption or discontinuance in our cryopreservation storage of stem cell specimens could result in stored specimens being damaged and unable to be utilized. Specimen damage, including loss in transit to the Company or loss of bulk shipments to its secondary storage site, could result in litigation against us and reduced future revenue to us, which in turn could be harmful to our reputation. Our insurance may not adequately compensate us for any losses that may occur due to any failures in our system or interruptions in our ability to maintain proper, continued, cryopreservation storage services. Any material

disruption in our ability to maintain continued uninterrupted storage systems could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition. Our systems and operations are vulnerable to damage or interruption from fire, flood, equipment failure, break-ins, tornadoes and similar events for which we do not have redundant systems or a formal disaster recovery plan and may not carry sufficient business interruption insurance to compensate us for losses that may occur. Our future success depends on our ability to retain our key personnel and to attract, retain and motivate qualified personnel. Our future success depends upon our ability to retain our key management and other personnel and will also depend in large part on our ability to attract and retain additional qualified **doctors, nurses, scientists,** software developers, bioinformaticists, operations personnel, sales and marketing personnel, and business development personnel. Competition for these types of employees is intense due to the limited number of qualified professionals and the high demand for them, particularly in the Tampa Bay area of Florida, where our headquarters are located. We have in the past experienced difficulty in recruiting qualified personnel, especially in the area of sales. Failure to attract, assimilate, and retain personnel would have a material adverse effect on our business and potential growth. **There is uncertainty with regard to the outcome of the Duke Arbitration Demand.** As discussed in Note 18, on October 4, 2024, the Company filed a demand for arbitration (the “**Arbitration Demand**”) against Duke with the American Arbitration Association, alleging, among other things, that **Duke breached the Duke License Agreement, breached the implied contractual covenant of good faith and fair dealing, fraudulently induced the Company to enter the Duke License Agreement, and violated North Carolina’s Unfair Trade Practices Act. In connection therewith, the Company has requested an award in the Company’s favor and against Duke for damages in an amount to be proved at a final hearing, interest, attorneys’ fees, and arbitration fees and costs, along with all other relief to which the Company is entitled at law or in equity. On November 18, 2024, Duke responded to the Arbitration Demand and asserted counterclaims against the Company for breach of the License Agreement and indemnity, seeking unspecified damages and related relief. On December 12, 2024, the Company filed an answering statement in response to Duke’s counterclaims. The Company cannot currently predict the outcome of the arbitration. It is possible that there could be an unfavorable outcome or resolution of any claims asserted, which could negatively and materially impact the Company’s business, consolidated financial position and results of operations. Litigation is inherently uncertain and expensive and there can be no assurance that the Company will prevail or how long such proceedings may last. The Company is not currently including an estimate of legal fees and other related litigation costs in its estimate of loss contingencies. There is uncertainty with regard to whether we will be able to maximize shareholder value through the Duke License Agreement. On February 22, 2024, the Company formed its wholly owned Delaware subsidiary, Celle Corp., to hold certain assets of Cryo-Cell not directly associated with the recurring revenue stream from privately banked, umbilical cord blood specimens. The Duke License Agreement has been transferred to Celle Corp. and other assets and liabilities were expected to be transferred to Celle Corp. in connection therewith. As previously disclosed, the Company’s Board of Directors has authorized the spin-off of Celle Corp. to the Company’s shareholders and to explore all strategic alternatives for the Company (post spin-off) to maximize shareholder value. As discussed further in Note 18, on October 4, 2024, the Company filed the Arbitration Demand against Duke, alleging that Duke fraudulently induced Cryo-Cell to enter the Duke License Agreement and breached the agreement on various occasions. As result of the Arbitration Demand against Duke, there can be no assurance that any such the spinoff or any contemplated strategic alternatives will take place. Furthermore, as further discussed in Note 18, there can be no assurances the Company will be able to commercialize the rights licensed under the Duke License Agreement, treat patients using the rights and technologies licensed from Duke, spinoff Cell Corp. or otherwise obtain the benefits of the Duke License Agreement. Nor can there be any assurances it will open the Cryo-Cell Institute for Cellular Therapies. We are not assured of recouping our damages related to the Arbitration Demand against Duke nor our investment in the Duke License Agreement. On October 4, 2024, the Company filed the Arbitration Demand against Duke with the AAA, alleging, among other things, that Duke is in breach of the Duke License Agreement, breached the implied contractual covenant of good faith and fair dealing, fraudulently induced the Company to enter into the Duke License Agreement, and violated North Carolina’s Unfair Trade Practices Act. In connection therewith, the Company has requested an award in the Company’s favor and against Duke for damages in an amount to be proved at a final hearing, interest, attorneys’ fees, and arbitration fees and costs, along with all other relief to which the Company is entitled at law or in equity. Cryo-Cell has notified Duke that it believes such damages exceed \$ 100 million. On November 18, 2024, Duke responded to the Arbitration Demand and asserted counterclaims against the Company for breach of the License Agreement and indemnity, seeking unspecified damages and related relief. On December 12, 2024, the Company filed an answering statement in response to Duke’s counterclaims. The Company cannot currently predict the outcome of the arbitration. It is possible that there could be an unfavorable outcome or resolution of any claims asserted, which could negatively and materially impact the Company’s business, consolidated financial position and results of operations. Litigation is inherently uncertain and there can be no assurance that the Company will prevail. The Company may not be able to recover all or any of its damages or all or any of its investment in the Duke License Agreement.** From time to time, the Company is subject to proceedings, lawsuits, contract disputes and other claims in the normal course of its business. The Company believes that the resolution of these matter should not have a material adverse effect on the Company’s business, consolidated financial position or results of operations. It is possible, however, that there could be an unfavorable outcome or resolution of claims currently asserted and those which may be asserted in the future, which could negatively and materially impact the Company’s business, consolidated financial position and results of operations. Litigation is inherently uncertain and there can be no assurance that the Company will prevail. See, Item 3 Legal Proceedings. Risk Related to Government Regulation If we do not obtain and maintain necessary domestic regulatory registrations, approvals and comply with ongoing regulations, we may not be able to market our services in the United States. We are subject to substantial regulation. We are required to

register with the FDA under the Public Health Service Act because of our ongoing cellular storage business and are subject to FDA inspection. This requirement applies to all establishments engaged in the recovery, processing, storage, labeling, packaging, or distribution of any Human Cells, Tissues, and Cellular and Tissue- Based Products (“ HCT / Ps ”) or the screening or testing of a cell or tissue donor. In addition, with the purchase of the manufacturing rights to the PrepaCyte CB Processing System on June 30, 2015, we are required to register this product as a Medical Device under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act which is also subject to FDA inspection. The Company is in compliance with these requirements, but ~~not-~~ **no** assurances can be made that we will be able to meet future regulatory requirements. The division of FDA which regulates HCT / Ps is the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (“ CBER ”). Since 2004, the FDA has formulated a “ Tissue Action Plan ” which consists of these three rules: 1. As of January 21, 2004, all cord blood banks are required to register with the FDA. Any cord blood bank which has a laboratory should be on the web page of FDA Registered Establishments. 2. The second rule was published May 20, 2004, and became effective May 25, 2005. It pertains to donor eligibility. This rule requires more screening of donors for communicable diseases. 3. The final rule establishes FDA standards of current Good Tissue Practice (“ GTP ”) for laboratories which process HCT / Ps. This rule was published November 19, 2004, became effective May 25, 2005, and is intended to prevent contamination or cross- contamination during the handling of HCT / Ps. The final rule allows the FDA to inspect cord blood laboratories to determine compliance with the provisions of 21 CFR Part 1271. As part of this oversight authority, the FDA conducts unannounced inspections of cord blood banks. Upon execution of the acquisition of all of the assets of Cord: Use, the Company acquired the cord blood operations which included both public (PHS 351) and private (PHS 361) banks. The new PHS 351 product is distributed under an IND (10- CBA) maintained by the NMDP. The Company has continued the contract with Duke initiated by Cord: Use to manufacture, test, cryopreserve, store and distribute the public cord blood units. The units are listed on the NMDP Single Point of Access Registry and are available to transplant centers worldwide. The Company is reimbursed via cost recovery for public cord blood units distributed for transplant through the NMDP. The donation of cord blood units in the public cord blood banking program functions under The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“ HIPAA ”) and the Company adheres to HIPAA rules. The FDA does not require establishments that manufacture drugs (including biological products) and devices that are HCT / Ps for use under an investigational new drug application (IND) (21 CFR Part 312) to register and list their HCT / Ps until the HCT / P is approved through a biologics license application (BLA), new drug application (NDA), or premarket approval application (PMA); or cleared through a premarket notification submission (510 (k)). The PrepaCyte CB (Cord Blood) Processing System is intended for use in cell processing laboratories to process and store total nucleated cells (TNC) from human umbilical cord blood, prior to banking. The device is composed of a bag with separation media. The system is 510 (k) cleared as a Class II device. The division of the FDA which regulates this product is the Center of Biologics Evaluation and Research (“ CBER ”). Approval to market the device was determined by the Office of Cellular, Tissue and Gene Therapies. The section of FDA Code of Federal Regulations (“ CFR ”) pertaining to medical device is 21 CFR 800s. The requirements for compliance to this section include annual registration of the device, listing of devices with the FDA, good manufacturing practice, labeling, and prohibitions against misbranding and adulteration. Currently, the states of California, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey and New York require cord blood banks to be registered or licensed. The Company is currently registered or licensed to operate in these states. If the Company identifies other states with licensing requirements or if other states adopt such requirements, the Company would have to obtain licenses or registration to continue providing cord blood services in those states. The Company is also subject to local, state and federal laws and regulations relating to safe working conditions, laboratory and manufacturing practices and the use and disposal of hazardous or potentially hazardous substances. These laws include the Occupational Safety and Health Act (“ OSHA ”), cGTPs, cGMPs, Environmental Protection Act and those of the local Department of Health. Evolving legislation and regulations governing private cord blood banking in various jurisdictions throughout the world may impact the Company’ s international licensees. In addition, as the organization grows and evolves, other legislation and regulations are expected to impact the Company. One such evolution involves activities that may be designated as or involve medical research or cooperative agreements associated with medical research. These types of activities are also governed by the FDA, specifying oversight by an Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB is a board or committee that approves the initiation of, and conducts periodic review of, biomedical research involving human subjects. The primary purpose of such review is to assure the protection of the rights and welfare of the human subjects. Governance of biomedical research is codified as laws by Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 56, and enforced by the FDA. Other medical research associated with clinical trials may require an Investigational New Drug Application (IND). Current Federal law requires that a drug be the subject of an approved marketing application before it is transported or distributed across state lines. Because a sponsor will likely want to ship the investigational drug to clinical investigators in many states, it must seek an exemption from that legal requirement. The IND is the means through which the sponsor technically obtains this exemption from the FDA. This approval would be required in the case of a clinical trial. We may be required to spend substantial amounts to comply with legislative and regulatory initiatives relating to patient privacy. Regulations issued under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, or HIPAA, contain provisions that require us to adopt business procedures designed to protect the privacy of each of our patients’ individual health information. Federal and state laws govern the Company’ s ability to obtain and, in some cases, to use and disclose data that we may need to conduct certain activities. The HIPAA requires the Department of Health and Human Services to issue a series of regulations establishing standards for the electronic transmission of certain health information. The Company’ s private cord blood bank operation is not subject to HIPAA because the Company does not engage in certain electronic transactions related to the reimbursement of healthcare providers and because blood and tissue procurement and banking activities are exempt. However, the healthcare providers that collect umbilical cord blood for the Company’ s customers are subject to HIPAA. The identifiable information shared is only what is permitted by HIPAA. In 2009, a portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 modified HIPAA under the Health Information Technology for

Economic and Clinical Health Act (“HITECH Act”). While the Company is still not subject to HIPAA for the reasons stated above the Company may incur material expenses associated with compliance efforts. In addition, compliance may require management to spend substantial time and effort on compliance measures. If the Company fails to comply with HIPAA, it is possible it could suffer criminal and civil penalties. The civil penalties could include monetary penalties ranging from \$ 100 per violation to \$ 1.5 million depending on the level of violation. Our failure to comply with laws related to hazardous materials could materially harm us. We are subject to state and federal laws regulating the protection of employees who may be exposed to hazardous material and regulating the proper handling and disposal of that material. There are inherent risks in connection with the handling, storage, disposal, distribution, and / or use of the specimens. Although we believe that our safety procedures for handling and disposing of such materials comply with the standards prescribed by federal, state and local regulation and regulations of foreign jurisdictions, the risk of accidental contamination or injury from these materials cannot be completely eliminated. Individuals who use or come in contact with the specimens may file claims related to their use and these claims could result in litigation that could be expensive to defend or result in judgments judgements that exceed our resources and our insurance coverage. Any such litigations and judgment judgement could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. Although we believe we are in compliance with all applicable laws, a violation of such laws, or the future enactment of more stringent laws or regulations, could subject us to liability, or require us to incur costs that would have an adverse effect on us.

**Risks Related to International Operations** Our international operations are subject to risk and we may not be able to successfully protect our intellectual property. International licenses of our technology and services account for a portion of our income and our international growth may be limited if we are unable to successfully manage our international activities. We are subject to a number of challenges that relate to our international business activities. Our growth and future license income and return on investments from these sources will be impacted by these challenges, which include:

- failure of local laws to provide the same degree of protection against infringement of our intellectual property rights;
- certain laws and business practices that could prevent our business from operating or favor local competitors, which could slow or limit our growth in international markets;
- entering into licensing agreements with organizations capable of undertaking and sustaining operations;
- the expense of entering into licensing and investment arrangements in new foreign markets;
- changes in local political, economic, social, and labor conditions, which may adversely affect our business;
- risks associated with trade restrictions and foreign import requirements, including the importation and exportation of our solutions, as well as changes in trade, tariffs, restrictions or requirements;
- heightened risks of unethical, unfair or corrupt business practices, actual or claimed, in certain geographies;
- fluctuations in currency exchange rates, which may make doing business with us less appealing as our contracts are generally denominated in U. S. dollars;
- greater difficulty in enforcing contracts;
- lack of brand awareness that can make commercializing our products more difficult and expensive;
- management communication and integration problems resulting from cultural differences and geographic dispersion;
- the uncertainty and limitation of protection for intellectual property rights in some countries;
- potentially different pricing environments, longer payment cycles in some countries, increased credit risk, and higher levels of payment fraud;
- uncertainty regarding liability for products and services, including uncertainty as a result of local laws and lack of legal precedent;
- different employee / employer relationships, existence of workers’ councils and labor unions, and other challenges caused by distance, language, and cultural differences, making it harder to do business in certain jurisdictions; and
- compliance with complex foreign and U. S. laws and regulations applicable to international operations may increase the cost of doing business in international jurisdictions.

These numerous and sometimes conflicting laws and regulations include internal control and disclosure rules, data privacy requirements, research ethics and compliance laws, anti-corruption laws, and anti-competition regulations, among others. Violations of these laws and regulations could result in fines and penalties, criminal sanctions against us, our officers, or our employees, prohibitions on the conduct of our business and on our ability to offer our products and services in one or more countries, and could also materially affect our brand, our international expansion efforts, our ability to attract and retain employees, our business, and our operating results. The occurrence of any one of these risks could harm our international business and, consequently, our results of operations. Additionally, operating in international markets requires significant management attention and financial resources. We cannot be certain that the investment and additional resources required to operate in other countries will produce desired levels of revenue or profitability. We are subject to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (“FCPA”), prohibits any U. S. individual or business from paying, offering, or authorizing payment or offering of anything of value, directly or indirectly, to any foreign official, political party or candidate for the purpose of influencing any act or decision of the foreign entity in order to assist the individual or business in obtaining or retaining business. The FCPA also obligates companies whose securities are listed in the United States to comply with accounting provisions requiring the company to maintain books and records that accurately and fairly reflect all transactions of the corporation, including international subsidiaries, and to devise and maintain an adequate system of internal accounting controls for international operations. Activities that violate the FCPA, even if they occur wholly outside the United States, can result in criminal and civil fines, imprisonment, disgorgement, oversight, and debarment from government contracts –The Company’s business may be impacted by political events, international trade disputes, war, terrorism, natural disasters, public health issues, industrial accidents and other business interruptions. Political events, international trade disputes, war, terrorism, natural disasters, public health issues, industrial accidents and other business interruptions, such as the current Ukrainian- Russian conflict could harm or disrupt international commerce and the global economy, and could have a material adverse effect on the Company and its customers, suppliers, cellular network carriers and other partners. International trade disputes could result in tariffs and other protectionist measures that could adversely affect the Company’s business. ~~The~~ ~~Already the~~ Ukrainian- Russian conflict has caused market volatility, a sharp increase in certain commodity prices, such as wheat and oil, and an increasing number and frequency of cybersecurity threats. So far, we have not experienced any direct impact from the conflict and, as our business is conducted primarily in the United States, we are probably less vulnerable than companies with international operations. Nevertheless, we

will continue to monitor the situation carefully and, if necessary, take action to protect our business, operations and financial condition. Risks Related to Information Technology Our information systems are critical to our business, and a failure of those systems could materially harm us. We depend on our ability to store, retrieve, process and manage a significant amount of information. If our information systems fail to perform as expected, or if we suffer an interruption, malfunction or loss of information processing capabilities, it could have a material adverse effect on our business. If we experience a significant breach of data security or disruption in our information systems, our business could be adversely affected. We rely on various information systems to manage our operations and to store information, including sensitive data such as confidential business information and personally identifiable information. These systems have been and continue to be vulnerable to interruption or malfunction, including due to events beyond our control, and to unauthorized access, computer hackers, ransomware, viruses, and other security problems. Failure of these systems or any significant breach of our data security could have an adverse effect on our business and may materially adversely affect our operating results and financial condition. Data security breaches could result in loss or misuse of information, which could, in turn, result in potential regulatory actions or litigation, including material claims for damages, compelled compliance with breach notification laws, interruption to our operations, damage to our reputation or could otherwise have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and operating results. Companies throughout our industry have been increasingly subject to a wide variety of security incidents, cyber- attacks and other attempts to gain unauthorized access to networks or sensitive information. While we have implemented and continue to implement cybersecurity safeguards and procedures, these safeguards have been vulnerable to attack. As cyber threats continue to evolve, we may be required to expend additional resources to enhance our cybersecurity measures or to investigate or remediate any vulnerabilities or breaches. Although we maintain insurance to protect ourselves in the event of a breach or disruption of certain of our information systems, we cannot ensure that the coverage is adequate to compensate for any damages that may be incurred. Increasing use of social media could give rise to liability, breaches of data security, or reputational damage. We and our employees are increasingly utilizing social media tools as a means of communication both internally and externally. Despite our efforts to monitor evolving social media communication guidelines and comply with applicable rules, there is risk that the use of social media by us or our employees to communicate about our products or business may cause us to be found in violation of applicable laws and regulations. In addition, our employees may knowingly or inadvertently make use of social media in ways that may not comply with our social media policy or other legal or contractual requirements, which may give rise to liability, lead to the loss of trade secrets or other intellectual property, or result in public exposure of personal information of our employees, clinical trial patients, customers, and others. Furthermore, negative posts or comments about us or our products in social media could seriously damage our reputation, brand image, and goodwill. Some of our products contain open source software, which may pose particular risks to our proprietary software, technologies, products and services in a manner that could harm our business. We use open source software in our products and anticipate using open source software in the future. The terms of many open source licenses to which we are subject have not been interpreted by U. S. or foreign courts, and there is a risk that open source software licenses could be construed in a manner that imposes unanticipated conditions or restrictions on our ability to provide or distribute our products or services. Additionally, we could face claims from third parties claiming ownership of, or demanding release of, the open source software or derivative works that we developed using such software, which could include proprietary source code, or otherwise seeking to enforce the terms of the applicable open source license. These claims could result in litigation and could require us to make our software source code freely available, purchase a costly license or cease offering the implicated products or services unless and until we can re- engineer them to avoid infringement. This re- engineering process could require us to expend significant additional research and development resources, and we cannot guarantee that we will be successful. Additionally, the use of certain open source software can lead to greater risks than use of third- party commercial software, as open source licensors generally do not provide warranties or controls on the origin of software. There is typically no support available for open source software, and we cannot ensure that the authors of such open source software will implement or push updates to address security risks or will not abandon further development and maintenance. Many of the risks associated with the use of open source software, such as the lack of warranties or assurances of title or performance, cannot be eliminated, and could, if not properly addressed, negatively affect our business. We have processes to help alleviate these risks, including a review process for screening requests from our developers for the use of open source software, but we cannot be sure that all open source software is identified or submitted for approval prior to use in our products. Any of these risks could be difficult to eliminate or manage, and, if not addressed, could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. Risks Related to Intellectual Property We may not be able to protect our intellectual property rights throughout the world. Filing, prosecuting and defending patents on our product candidates throughout the world could be expensive. Competitors may use our technologies in jurisdictions where we have not obtained patent protection to develop their own products and further may export otherwise infringing products to territories where we have patent protection, but enforcement is not as strong as that in the United States. These products may compete with our products in jurisdictions where we do not have any issued patents and our patent claims or other intellectual property rights may not be effective or sufficient to prevent them from so competing. We do not have any registered patents. Many companies have encountered significant problems in protecting and defending intellectual property rights in foreign jurisdictions. The legal systems of certain countries, particularly certain developing countries, do not favor the enforcement of patents and other intellectual property protection, which could make it difficult for us to stop the infringement of our patents or marketing of competing products in violation of our proprietary rights generally. Proceedings to enforce our patent rights in foreign jurisdictions could result in substantial cost and divert our efforts and attention from other aspects of our business. If we are unable to protect our intellectual property from use by third parties, our ability to compete in the market will be harmed. There can be no assurance that we will not become subject to future patent infringement claims or litigation in a court of law, interference proceedings, or opposition to a patent granted in a foreign jurisdiction. The defense and prosecution of such

intellectual property claims are costly, time-consuming, divert the attention of management and technical personnel and could result in substantial cost and uncertainty regarding our future viability. Future litigation or regulatory proceedings, which could result in substantial cost and uncertainty, may also be necessary to enforce our patent or other intellectual property rights or to determine the scope and validity of other parties' proprietary rights. Any public announcements related to such litigation or regulatory proceedings that we initiate, or that are initiated or threatened against us by our competitors, could adversely affect the price of our common stock. We also rely upon trade secrets, technical know-how and continuing technological innovation to develop and maintain our competitive position, and we typically require our employees, consultants and advisors to execute confidentiality and assignment of inventions agreements in connection with their employment, consulting or advisory relationships. There can be no assurance, however, that these agreements will not be breached or that we will have adequate remedies for any breach. Failure to protect our intellectual property would limit our ability to produce and / or market our products in the future and would likely have an adverse effect on the revenues generated by the sale or license of such intellectual property. We may become subject to third parties' claims alleging infringement of their patents and proprietary rights, which could be costly, time consuming, and prevent the use of our technology solution. We cannot assure you that third parties will not claim our current or future products or services infringe their intellectual property rights. Any such claims, with or without merit, could cause costly litigation that could consume significant management time. As the number of product and services offerings in our market increases and functionalities increasingly overlap, companies such as ours may become increasingly subject to infringement claims. These claims also might require us to enter into royalty or license agreements. If required, we may not be able to obtain such royalty or license agreements or obtain them on terms acceptable to us. If our security measures are breached, or if our services are subject to attacks that degrade or deny the ability of users to access our platforms, our platforms and applications may be perceived as not being secure, customers and suppliers may curtail or stop using our services, and we may incur significant legal and financial exposure. Our storage systems and the network infrastructure that are hosted by third-party providers involve the storage and transmission of healthcare data as well as proprietary information about organizations and programs, and security breaches could expose us to a risk of loss of this information, litigation, and potential liability. Our security measures may be breached due to the actions of outside parties, employee error, malfeasance, security flaws in the third-party hosting service that we rely upon, or any number of other reasons and, as a result, an unauthorized party may obtain access to our suppliers' or customers' data. Although we have never had any breach of data in our third-party provider's environment, any future breach or unauthorized access could result in significant legal and financial exposure, damage to our reputation, and a loss of confidence in the security of our platforms and applications that could potentially have an adverse effect on our business. Because the techniques used to obtain unauthorized access, disable or degrade service, or sabotage systems change frequently and often are not recognized until launched against a target, we may be unable to anticipate these techniques or to implement adequate preventative measures on a timely basis. If an actual or perceived breach of our security occurs, the market perception of the effectiveness of our security measures could be harmed and we could lose suppliers and customers and we may have difficulty obtaining merchant processors or insurance coverage essential for our operations.

**Risks Related to being a Public Company** We incur significant costs and demands as a result of operating as a public company. We incur significant legal, accounting and other expenses to meet our obligations as a publicly traded company. In addition, the Sarbanes- Oxley Act, the Dodd- Frank Act, the listing requirements of the NYSE American ~~LLC~~ and other applicable securities rules and regulations impose various requirements on public companies, including establishment and maintenance of effective disclosure and financial controls and corporate governance practices. Stockholder activism, the current political environment and the current high level of government intervention and regulatory reform may lead to substantial new regulations and disclosure obligations, which may lead to additional compliance costs and impact the manner in which we operate our business in ways that are not currently anticipated. Our management and other personnel need to devote a substantial amount of time to these compliance initiatives. Moreover, these rules and regulations increase our legal and financial compliance costs and will make some activities more time-consuming and costly. For example, these rules and regulations may make it difficult and expensive for us to maintain director and officer liability insurance coverage. As a result, it may be more difficult for us to attract and retain qualified individuals to serve on our board of directors or as our executive officers, which may adversely affect investor confidence in us and could cause our business or stock price to suffer. If we fail to maintain an effective system of internal control over financial reporting in the future, we may not be able to accurately report our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows, which may adversely affect investor confidence in us and, as a result, the value of our common stock. The Sarbanes- Oxley Act of 2002 requires, among other things, that we maintain effective internal controls for financial reporting and disclosure controls and procedures. We are required, under Section 404 of the Sarbanes- Oxley Act, to furnish a report by management on, among other things, the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. This assessment includes disclosure of any material weaknesses identified by our management in our internal control over financial reporting. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting that results in more than a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of annual or interim financial statements will not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Section 404 of the Sarbanes- Oxley Act also requires, subject to an exemption for so long as we remain a "smaller reporting company," an attestation from our independent registered public accounting firm on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. Our disclosure controls and procedures may not prevent or detect all errors or acts of fraud. Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to reasonably assure that information required to be disclosed by us in reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to management, recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the SEC. We believe that any disclosure controls and procedures or internal controls and procedures, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty,

and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people or by an unauthorized override of the controls. Accordingly, because of the inherent limitations in our control system, misstatements or insufficient disclosures due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Increasing scrutiny and changing expectations from investors, customers, and governments with respect to Environmental, Social and Governance (“ ESG ”) policies and practices may cause us to incur additional costs or expose us to additional risks. There has been increasing public focus and scrutiny from investors, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and customers on corporate ESG practices. Our ESG practices may not meet the standards of all of our stakeholders and advocacy groups may campaign for further changes. A failure, or perceived failure, to respond to expectations of all parties could cause harm to our business and reputation and have a negative impact on the market price of our securities. New government regulations could also result in new regulations and new or more stringent forms of ESG oversight and disclosures which may lead to increased expenditures for sustainability initiatives. Our principal stockholders and management own a significant percentage of our stock and will be able to exert significant control over matters subject to stockholder approval. Based upon shares of common stock outstanding as of November 30, 2023-2024, our executive officers, directors, 5 % stockholders (known to us through publicly available information) and their affiliates beneficially owned approximately 51-45 % of our voting stock. Therefore, these stockholders have the ability to substantially influence us through this ownership position. For example, these stockholders, if they choose to act together, may be able to influence the election of directors, amendments of our organizational documents, or approval of any merger, sale of assets, or other major corporate transaction. This concentration of voting power could delay or prevent an acquisition of our company on terms that other stockholders may desire. We may become subject to securities class action litigation, which can be expensive, divert management attention, and, if resolved unfavorably, expose us to significant liabilities. We may become subject to litigation in the future that could result in substantial costs and a diversion of management’ s resources and attention. In addition, any adverse determination from future litigation could expose us to significant liabilities, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operations. We are a “ smaller reporting company ” and, as a result of the reduced disclosure and governance requirements applicable to smaller reporting companies, our common stock may be less attractive to investors. We are a “ smaller reporting company, ” meaning that we have a public float of less than \$ 250 million, have annual revenues of less than \$ 100 million during the most recently completed fiscal year and the value of our voting and nonvoting common stock held by non- affiliates on the last business day of our second fiscal quarter in that fiscal year is less than \$ 700. 0 million. As a “ smaller reporting company, ” we are subject to lesser disclosure obligations in our SEC filings compared to other issuers. Specifically, “ smaller reporting companies ” are able to provide simplified executive compensation disclosures in their filings, are exempt from the provisions of Section 404 (b) of the Sarbanes- Oxley Act requiring that independent registered public accounting firms provide an attestation report on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting and have certain other decreased disclosure obligations in their SEC filings, including, among other things, only being required to provide two years of audited financial statements in annual reports. Decreased disclosures in our SEC filings due to our status as a “ smaller reporting company ” may make it harder for investors to analyze our operating results and financial prospects. We are responsible for the indemnification of our officers and directors. Should our officers and / or directors require us to contribute to their defense, we may be required to spend significant amounts of our capital. Our certificate of incorporation, as amended, and bylaws, as amended, also provide for the indemnification of our directors, officers, employees, and agents, under certain circumstances, against attorney’ s fees and other expenses incurred by them in any litigation to which they become a party arising from their association with or activities on behalf of our company. This indemnification policy could result in substantial expenditures, which we may be unable to recoup. If these expenditures are significant or involve issues which result in significant liability for our key personnel, we may be unable to continue operating as a going concern. Certain provision of our charter, bylaws and Delaware law may delay, defer or prevent a tender offer or takeover attempt that public stockholders might consider in their best interest. Certain provisions of Delaware law, our certificate of incorporation and our bylaws could have the effect of delaying, deferring or discouraging another party from acquiring control of us. These provisions, which are summarized below, are expected to discourage certain types of coercive takeover practices and inadequate takeover bids. These provisions are also designed, in part, to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of us to first negotiate with our board of directors. Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws. Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws include provisions that: • authorize the board of directors to issue, without stockholder approval, blank- check preferred stock that, if issued, could operate as a “ poison pill ” to dilute the stock ownership of a potential hostile acquirer to prevent an acquisition that is not approved by the board of directors; • establish advance notice requirements for stockholder nominations of directors and for stockholder proposals that can be acted on at stockholder meetings; • limit who may call stockholder meetings; • require that any action to be taken by our stockholders be effected at a duly called annual or special meeting and not by written consent; • provide that the board may increase the size of our board of directors and authorize the board to fill any vacancies on our board of directors by a majority of directors then in office; • authorize us to indemnify officers and directors against losses that they may incur in investigations and legal proceedings resulting from their services to us, which may include services in connection with takeover defense measures; and • establish the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware, unless the Corporation consents to an alternative forum, as the sole and exclusive forum for certain for any current or former shareholder (including a current or former beneficial owner) to bring any claim relating to an internal matter, other than as to any claim as to which the Court of Chancery determines that there is an indispensable party not subject to the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery (and the indispensable party does not consent to the personal jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery within ten days following such determination). Section 27 of the Exchange Act creates exclusive federal jurisdiction over all suits brought to enforce any duty or liability created by the Exchange Act or the rules and regulations thereunder. As a result, the exclusive forum provision will not apply to suits brought to enforce any duty or liability created by the Exchange Act or any other claim for which the federal

courts have exclusive jurisdiction. Section 22 of the Securities Act creates concurrent jurisdiction for federal and state courts over all suits brought to enforce any duty or liability created by the Securities Act or the rules and regulations thereunder. As a result, the exclusive forum provision will not apply to suits brought to enforce any duty or liability created by the Securities Act or any other claim for which the federal and state courts have concurrent jurisdiction. Delaware anti- takeover statute. We are subject to the provisions of Section 203 of the DGCL regulating corporate takeovers. In general, Section 203 prohibits a publicly- held Delaware corporation from engaging, under certain circumstances, in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years following the date the person became an interested stockholder unless: • prior to the date of the transaction, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction which resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder; or • upon completion of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85 % of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding for purposes of determining the voting stock outstanding, but not the outstanding voting stock owned by the interested stockholder, (1) shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers and (2) shares owned by employee stock plans in which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or at or subsequent to the date of the transaction, the business combination is approved by the board of directors of the corporation and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least 66- 2 / 3 % of the outstanding voting stock which is not owned by the interested stockholder. Generally, a “ business combination ” includes a merger, asset or stock sale, or other transaction resulting in a financial benefit to the “ interested stockholder ” and an “ interested stockholder ” is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns or, within three years prior to the determination of interested stockholder status, did own 15 % or more of a corporation’ s outstanding voting stock. We expect the existence of this provision to have an anti- takeover effect with respect to transactions our board of directors does not approve in advance. We also anticipate that Section 203 may discourage business combinations or other attempts that might result in a premium over the market price for the shares of common stock held by our stockholders. The provisions of DGCL, our certificate of incorporation and our bylaws could have the effect of discouraging others from attempting hostile takeovers and, as a consequence, they may also inhibit temporary fluctuations in the market price of our common stock that often result from actual or rumored hostile takeover attempts. These provisions may also have the effect of preventing changes in our management. It is possible that these provisions could make it more difficult to accomplish transactions that stockholders may otherwise deem to be in their best interests.