Scio Diamond Technology Corp
Form 10-K
July 14, 2016

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016

Or

o **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: 000-54529

SCIO DIAMOND TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada	**45-3849662**
(state or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer I.D. No.)

411 University Ridge Suite D
Greenville, SC 29601
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(864) 751-4880
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

None

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

Common Stock, par value $0.001

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes o No x

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes o No x

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 x No o

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 (§

332.405 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 x No o

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. o

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

Large accelerated filer o	Accelerated filer o
Non-accelerated filer o (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company x

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

The aggregate market value of voting common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of September 30, 2015, the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, computed by reference to the closing sale price of the registrant's common stock on that date, was approximately $43,414,118.

The number of shares of common stock outstanding as of July 8, 2016 $0.001 par value, was 65,098,291.

INDEX

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Report, including information included or incorporated by reference in this document, contains statements which constitute forward-looking statements. Forward looking statements made by penny stock issuers such as the Company are excluded from the safe harbor in Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements may relate to our financial condition, results of operation, plans, objectives, or future performance. These statements are based on many assumptions and estimates and are not guarantees of future performance. Our actual results may differ materially from those anticipated in any forward-looking statements, as they will depend on many factors about which we are unsure, including many factors which are beyond our control. The words “may,” “would,” “could,” “should,” “will,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “predict,” “project,” “potential,” “believe,” “continue,” “assume,” “intend,” “plan,” and “estimat similar expressions, are meant to identify such forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated. Such risk and uncertainties include, without limitation, those described below under Item 1A - Risk Factors and the following: (1) the Company has limited cash resources and if it is not able to obtain further financing required for continuing operations, marketing, product development, and research its business operations will fail, (2) the Company has not generated substantial revenues or cash flow from operations, and as a result, faces a high risk of business failure, (3) the Company experienced a production shutdown in December 2015 that has limited recent production and revenue, (4) the Company’s lack of diversification and dependence on material customers increases the risks associated with the Company’s business and an investment in the Company, and the Company’s financial condition may deteriorate rapidly if it fails to succeed in developing the Company’s business and expanding our customer base, (5) the Company may not effectively execute the Company’s business plan or manage the Company’s potential future business development, (6) the Company may expend a substantial amount of time and resources in connection with the Securities and Exchange Commission’s (“SEC”) recent subpoena, potential inquiries or legal actions in connection with its filings with the SEC or otherwise, which may impair the Company’s ability to raise capital and to operate its business, (7) the Company’s business could be impaired if it fails to comply with applicable regulations, (8) the Company has had significant turnover in management and may not be able to retain key management personnel to manage the Company or laboratory scientists to carry out the Company’s business operations, which could have a material adverse effect on the Company’s business, (9) the market for lab-grown diamond may not develop as anticipated, (10) competition may adversely affect our business, and (11) the Company needs to raise additional capital and may only issues common shares up to the shares authorized under its articles of incorporation without shareholder approval. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to publish revised forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. You are also urged to review and consider carefully the various disclosures made hereafter by the Company from time to time with its SEC filings.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Corporate History

We were incorporated on September 17, 2009 in the State of Nevada under the name Krossbow Holdings Corporation ("Krossbow"). Krossbow did not implement its original business plan and decided to acquire existing technology to seek to efficiently and effectively produce man-made diamond. In connection with this change in business purpose, Krossbow changed its name to Scio Diamond Technology Corporation to reflect its new business direction.

In August 2011, the Company acquired certain assets of Apollo Diamond, Inc. ("ADI") consisting primarily of diamond growing machines and intellectual property related thereto, for which the Company paid ADI an aggregate of $2,000,000 and also agreed to provide certain current and former stockholders of ADI qualifying as accredited investors the opportunity to acquire up to approximately 16 million shares of common stock of the Company for $0.01 per share.

In June 2012, the Company acquired substantially all of the assets of Apollo Diamond Gemstone Corporation ("ADGC"), consisting primarily of lab-grown diamond gemstone-related know-how, inventory, and various intellectual property, in exchange for $100,000 in cash and the opportunity for certain current and former stockholders of ADGC qualifying as accredited investors to acquire up to approximately 1 million shares of common stock of the Company for $0.01 per share.

In December, 2011, the Company began a build-out of its Greenville, South Carolina production facility. Construction was largely completed in March 2012 and equipment was moved from ADI's former facility in Massachusetts to South Carolina over the first calendar quarter of 2012. The Company began initial production with ten diamond growing machines in July 2012.

Since July 2012, the Company has been operational with ten diamond growing machines in our Greenville facility. Through March of 2013, the Company's production was focused on industrial cutting tool products supplied to a single customer. Subsequent to March 2013, the Company has expanded its product focus to include diamond gemstone material.

On September 16, 2013, the Company entered into a series of agreements with SAAMABA, LLC and S21 Research Holdings (the “Grace Rich Agreements”) to form a joint venture (“Grace Rich LTD”) with operations in the People’s Republic of China (“PRC”) to deploy over 100 Company designed diamond growing machines. Under the Grace Rich Agreements, the Company has agreed to license its proprietary technology for the manufacture of diamond gemstones of agreed upon specifications. In exchange for the license, the Company received licensing and development revenue and a 30% ownership position in the joint venture. In addition to the licensed technology, the Grace Rich Agreements include obligations for the Company to provide and be compensated for technology consulting services to the joint venture to support the start-up of operations. The Company does not control the joint venture and is not required to make any on-going funding contributions to the joint venture and our ownership stake cannot be reduced from 30%.

On December 16, 2014, the Company entered into an agreement for the Sale and Lease of Growers (the “Grower Sale-Lease Agreement”) with Heritage Gemstone Investors, LLC (“HGI”). Pursuant to the Grower Sale-Lease Agreement, the Company agreed to a sale-leaseback arrangement for certain diamond growers produced by the Company during the term of the Grower Sale-Leaseback Agreement by which the Company will sell diamond growers to HGI and then lease the growers back from HGI. The direct profit margin generated from the growers will be split between the Company and HGI in accordance with the Grower Sale-Lease Agreement. The Grower Sale-Lease Agreement requires the Company to operate and service the growers, and requires HGI to up-fit certain existing growers and to make capital improvements to the new growers under certain circumstances. The Company will also have the right to repurchase the leased growers upon the occurrence of certain events.

On December 18, 2014 entered into an arrangement with Renaissance Diamonds, Inc. (“Renaissance”) creating Renaissance Created Diamond Company, LLC (“RCDC”). The Company and Renaissance are each 50% members of RCDC. The arrangement was entered into in order to facilitate the development of procedures and recipes for, and to market and sell, lab-grown fancy-colored diamonds. RCDC will purchase rough diamond material from the Company and process and finish the material into finished gemstones for sale to various retailers and other participants in the market for gemstones. Profits generated by RCDC's operations will be distributed between the Company and Renaissance according to the terms of the LLC Agreement.

Our Business

General

The Company is first and foremost a materials company that has developed proprietary technology through which high quality single crystal diamond materials are produced through a chemical vapor deposition ("CVD") process (the "Diamond Technology"). The Company's primary mission is the development of profitable and sustainable commercial production of its diamond materials, which are suitable for known, emerging and anticipated industrial, technology and consumer applications. The Company intends to pursue progressive development of its core diamond materials technologies and related intellectual property that the Company hopes will evolve into product opportunities across various applications. We believe these opportunities may be monetized though a combination of end product sales, joint ventures and licensing arrangements with third parties, and through continued development of intellectual property. Anticipated application opportunities for the Company's diamond materials include the following: precision cutting devices, diamond gemstone jewelry, power switches, semiconductor processors, optoelectronics, geosciences, water purification, and MRI and other medical science technology.

Prior to October 1, 2011, the Company was a development stage company. Developmental activities ceased and the Company commenced producing diamond materials in July 2012. Less than four years into production, the Company is in the initial phases of commercializing the Diamond Technology and our goal is to become a preferred manufacturer of single crystal diamond and a leading global supplier of diamond materials for multiple applications. The Company hopes to further shape the evolution of various markets for its product and to leverage the technical foundation of the Diamond Technology by expanding into strategic partnerships with select industry leaders with distribution channels already in place to capture high value application opportunities.

As of March 31, 2016, nearly all of the Company's production capacity is being sold for use in the gemstone market.

The Diamond Technology

We acquired our Diamond Technology primarily from ADI. ADI was originally founded in 1990 with the goal of developing and perfecting two advanced semiconductor materials, gallium nitride (now used in light emitting diodes) and diamond. From 2000 onward, ADI focused solely on diamond and developing a process by which large, single-crystal diamond could be grown in a controlled laboratory environment.

The core Diamond Technology that was acquired by the Company is based on a CVD diamond growth system. Diamond wafers produced through the Diamond Technology CVD process have been shown to be exceptionally pure (nitrogen content < 10 ppb), and possess low levels of structural defects. Advances in this technology have dramatically improved the quality, and lowered the cost of high-quality diamond, resulting in new applications of diamond in electronics, optics, high power devices and quantum computing.

The Diamond Technology provides a materials production platform and is supported by intellectual property, including trade secrets, 36 issued patents (28 in the United States and 8 in foreign jurisdictions).

Our Diamond Technology utilizes CVD growth technology to produce diamond crystals. This technology utilizes a highly scalable manufacturing process for producing large size, high-quality diamond crystals at a low cost. Unlike the high-pressure, high-temperature ("HPHT") process, the Diamond Technology process allows for concurrent production of multiple diamond crystals.

The Company's diamond crystals are grown on small slices of diamond called "seeds" that the Company either grows internally or acquires from third parties. Over time, the Company has been able to transition to larger seeds than previously used. This transition allows the Company to see a substantial increase in the size of the material it is producing and allows for the Company to better match its production to specific customer needs.

The Diamond Technology can also be scaled through larger capacity diamond growing platforms the Company believes will enable it to increase its production by another fifty percent over the anticipated production with maximum seed size scaling. The Company has moved to this larger diamond platform in fiscal 2016, but the Company needs to continue to invest in research and development to attain the anticipated production increases from this platform.

Finally, we expect that as we increase our production levels, our production costs per carat will actually decrease due to economies of scale.

Facilities

The Company's production facility is located in Greenville, South Carolina. This facility, covering 9,470 square feet of leased space including both our headquarters and our production facility. Ten of the production growers purchased from ADI were installed in the facility and are currently operating. In the last fiscal year, the Company added two additional growers to the Greenville facility during the year which we believe is the maximum capacity of this facility.

The Grace Rich LTD joint venture's production facility is under development in the PRC and is not operational as of March 31, 2016.

Products and Markets

The current market for laboratory-grown diamond remains largely unknown and uncertain. Sales of laboratory-grown diamond into the gemstone market are thought to be very small currently. The industrial market for these products is more developed, but it is diffused globally and the Company is unable to reliably estimate its size or breadth.

In addition to opportunities in the diamond gemstone market and precision cutting market, we will continue to explore other opportunities for our diamond materials through applications where the unique properties of diamond may be desirable and advantageous, including: alternative energy, optoelectronics, communications, biotechnology, water treatment, quantum computing and the diamond device arenas.

Competitive factors that will influence the market for our products include product quality, consistency of supply and price. We believe that we will be able to compete on the basis of these factors. We believe that we will be able to reliably and efficiently produce lab-grown diamond possessing substantially the same qualities and characteristics of their mined diamond counterparts.

Gemstones

Within the gemstone industry, our single-crystal diamond can be used in jewelry products requiring the highest quality gemstones and can be regularly grown in matched color sets ranging in polished sizes from 5-points (0.05 carats) to over 1.50 carats. Our diamond may be well suited for jewelry featuring matching diamond of various sizes, clarities

and colors, diamond engagement rings, and fashion jewelry. The potential consistency and other potential characteristics of lab-grown diamond gemstones grown using the Diamond Technology may provide advantages over their mined counterparts in areas that matter to jewelers, jewelry manufacturers and consumers, with potential characteristics such as:

- Equal quality and brilliance of diamond product;
- Matched sizes, colors and clarities (particularly in goods ranging in sizes from 0.05 - 0.50 carats);
- Consistency of diamond finish due to high quality;
- Opportunity for color palette of diamond gemstones; and
- Lack of negative issues related to environmental and social concerns.

We will seek to establish and maintain market acceptance through consumer education and industry cooperation. We intend to educate retailers and consumers on the physical properties of the Company's lab-grown diamond as compared to mined diamond and quality of the Company's lab-grown diamond.

Commercial, Industrial and Technological Applications

Diamond has exceptional qualities for use in advanced electronics and optics applications, but to date, development progress has been slow because of, among other things, diamond's relative scarcity and high cost. Diamond's unique hardness, clarity and thermal characteristics have made it highly desirable for scientific use for decades. However, material consistency issues and economics have created barriers to mass application adoption of diamond. We believe that our patented technology and production approach give us the ability to improve the quality and lower the cost of producing diamond materials, creating the opportunity for usage in a wider range of applications.

The demand for computing and communications products has increased significantly. As devices become more intelligent and ubiquitous, the need for connectivity at very high speeds, data intensive storage needs and ever-faster computer processors are pushing the limits of conventional silicon-based devices. Diamond enables these technologies to move past their current limitations and may be able to facilitate the development of next-generation devices in key areas such as wireless networking, optical storage, and high speed computing.

The Company anticipates several opportunities to monetize our patented technology and production approach in various technological applications. Pursuit of these opportunities is expected to be directed in part in concert with strategic partners.

Several of diamond's properties provide significant advantages over other materials used in devices/systems, such as high power switches, radiation detectors, and microwave windows suitable for use in plasma fields or other nuclear reactor high-electromagnetic interference ("EMI") environments.

Industrial diamonds already comprise what we estimate is a $1 billion-plus market per year, but consist of low-quality diamonds that have primarily been utilized in rudimentary cutting and polishing devices. These diamond materials are largely in the form of diamond grit and diamond dust. Through the introduction of higher-quality relatively large diamond materials, substantial growth is anticipated for the industrial diamond market. As previously noted, we have initially experienced this in precision cutting devices.

The diamond and diamond-like materials historically used in the development of these non-gem applications have various limitations that have formerly impeded progress in optoelectronics and other technology applications. As our production volume increases and manufacturing costs continue to decrease due to our capacity expansion, we anticipate that our diamond materials will provide a viable and potentially economically preferred alternative for many of these highly-valued electronic, optical and industrial applications.

In order to more fully explore the opportunities discussed above, we intend to continue current production of our high quality diamond materials and to pursue related commercial opportunities. Currently, we intend to continue to explore opportunities in the precision cutting devices market while concurrently seeking opportunities for our lab-grown diamond gemstones.

The Industry and Competition

Our lab-grown diamond gemstones and diamond materials for use in industrial applications face competition from established producers and sellers of mined diamond, including companies such as De Beers, and other known and current and potential future manufacturers of lab-grown diamond. Our competitors include large multi-national gemstone diamond companies as well as start-up and development-stage gemstone diamond and technology companies, some of whom we may not be aware. Many of our competitors have significantly greater financial, technical, manufacturing and marketing resources and greater access to distribution channels than the Company. Many of our competitors may be able to devote substantially greater resources to promotion and systems development than we can. Barriers to developing competitive technology in our market may not be sufficient to prevent competitors

from entering the industry, and current and new competitors may be able to develop competing diamond at a relatively low cost. We believe that our success will depend heavily upon whether we can achieve significant market acceptance before our potential competitors are able to introduce broadly accepted competitive products.

Companies that produce lab-grown diamond and who may compete with the Company in one or more of its markets include Element Six, a privately held subsidiary of De Beers, AOTC Group NV (Netherlands), Pure Grown Diamond/IIa Technologies (USA, Singapore & Malaysia), Washington Diamond/Carnegie Institute, Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd., Diamond Foundry and Cornes Technologies (Japan). Other companies could seek to introduce lab-grown diamond or other competing diamond or to develop competing processes for production of lab-grown diamond and diamond materials. We believe that competition will increase as demand for diamond materials increases for use in industrial and technology applications and as lab-grown diamonds continue to gain market acceptance.

Raw Materials

The principal raw materials used in the manufacture of our products are diamond seeds and certified high purity bottled gases. Certain diamond seeds are purchased from other diamond material producers, but the Company maintains its primary seed inventory through its self-sustaining seed production. Seeds are re-used through multiple production runs.

Our manufacturing process is dependent upon a moderate amount of electrical power delivered on an uninterrupted basis. The Company has worked with the local electric utility, a Fortune 200 company, to build and operate equipment at its manufacturing site that meets its needs. This equipment is provided to the Company on a long-term operating lease, which includes warranty, maintenance, and the delivery of electrical power at attractive per kilowatt/hour rates.

Our process also uses high purity, laboratory grade gases. These gases are readily available from a variety of suppliers in the local region. These gases are used by a number of industrial and medical laboratories and manufacturers. The gases provide the high purity carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen and other gases required to deposit high quality, single crystal diamond.

Customers

Our customers in the gemstone marketplace consist of diamond brokers, diamond cutters and diamond wholesalers both domestic and foreign. Diamond cutters take deliveries of diamonds in a rough form, known as cores or whole crystals, where they will employ a variety of industry standard techniques of laser cutting and polishing diamonds. These techniques are identical to the techniques that are used in the production of mined gems. Diamond brokers and wholesalers will also take delivery of our diamonds in the rough form, but will also purchase diamond gems that we cut and polish.

If we continue to reliably manufacture diamond products and are successful in expanding our manufacturing capacity, we anticipate that we will experience increased demand for our products both domestically and internationally, given the potential demand for diamond, the variety of potential uses for these products in gemstone, high tech applications, alternative energy technologies, and defense technologies.

Patents, Trademarks, Licenses, Franchises, Concessions, Royalty Agreements or Labor Contracts

At March 31, 2016, we held the following number of patents:

Jurisdiction	No. of Patents
United States	28
Foreign	8
Total	36

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016, the Company had one new patent granted in the United States. This patent expanded our intellectual property rights related to our Diamond Technology.

All of the Company’s patents have various lives based on the date of issue. Expiration of individual patents is expected to occur between 2019 and 2032.

Our research and development staff will continue efforts to develop proprietary manufacturing processes and equipment designed to enhance our manufacturing facilities and reduce costs.

We also own various trademarks and trade secrets that we developed within the Company or acquired from ADI and ADGC.

Distribution

Through March 31, 2016 the Company has had a limited number of customers. The Company has distributed its products directly to these customers without using intermediaries or distributors.

Joint Ventures

On September 16, 2013, the Company entered into the Grace Rich Agreements to form a joint venture with operations in the PRC. This joint venture is to initially deploy 100 Scio-designed diamond growing machines. The Company has licensed its proprietary technology for the manufacture of diamond gemstones to the joint venture to produce material of agreed upon specifications. In exchange for the license, the Company has received licensing and development revenue and a 30% non-dilutable ownership position in the joint venture. In addition to the licensed technology, the Grace Rich Agreements include obligations for the Company to provide and be compensated for technology consulting services to the joint venture to support the start-up of operations. The Company is assisting the joint venture with the initial deployment of the licensed technology and the development of its production facility. The Company does not control the joint venture and is not required to make any on-going funding contributions.

On December 18, 2014, the Company entered into an arrangement with Renaissance Diamonds, Inc. (“Renaissance”) creating Renaissance Created Diamond Company, LLC (“RCDC”). The Company and Renaissance are each 50% members of RCDC. The arrangement was entered into in order to facilitate the development of procedures and recipes for, and to market and sell, lab-grown fancy-colored diamonds. RCDC will purchase rough diamond material from the Company and process and finish the material into finished gemstones for sale to various retailers and other participants in the market for gemstones. Profits generated by RCDC's operations will be distributed between the Company and Renaissance according to the terms of the LLC Agreement.

Government Regulations

Laboratory technology activities are subject to various federal, state, foreign and local laws and regulations, which govern research, lab development, taxes, labor standards, occupational health, and waste disposal, protection of the environment, mine safety, hazardous substances and several other matters. We believe that we are in compliance in all material respects with applicable technology, health, safety and environmental statutes and the regulations promulgated by the relevant jurisdictions. Currently, there are no costs associated with our compliance with such regulations and laws. Certain federal and state laws and regulations govern the testing, creation and sale of the types of diamond we intend to produce. The United States Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") and other comparable regulatory authorities in the United States and in foreign countries may extensively and rigorously regulate our lab-grown diamond, product development activities and manufacturing processes. In the United States, the FTC regulates the introduction and labeling of gemstone diamond. We may be required to:

- Obtain clearance before we can market and sell our lab-grown diamond;
- Satisfy content requirements applicable to our labeling, sales and promotional materials;
- Comply with manufacturing and reporting requirements; and
- Undergo rigorous inspections.

The process of obtaining marketing clearance for new gemstone diamond from the FTC may prove costly and time consuming. The FTC has neither approved nor prohibited the use of the term "cultured" to describe the diamond the Company intends to sell as gemstones. However, in December 2006, the Jewelers' Vigilance Committee submitted a petition (the "Petition") to the FTC seeking amendment to the Guides for the Jewelry, Precious Metals, and Pewter Industries, 16 C.F.R. Part 23 ("Guides") to include the term "cultured" as a proscribed term to describe laboratory-created diamond. By opinion, dated July 21, 2008, the FTC denied the Petition, finding it did not demonstrate that the use of the term "cultured" to describe laboratory-created diamond, when qualified by one of the terms provided in the Guides, is deceptive or unfair and declined to amend the Guides as requested by the Petition. The Company has not procured FTC clearance, and the FTC has not precluded the Company from selling diamond produced using the Diamond Technology. FTC has the power to restrict the offer and sale of diamond that could deceive or have the tendency or effect of misleading or deceiving purchasers or prospective purchasers with regard to the type, kind, quality, character, value, origin or other characteristics of a diamond gemstone. Under current guidelines issued by the FTC, the Company is permitted to market its diamond gemstones as "Scio-created," "lab-created diamond", "laboratory created diamond," "laboratory grown diamond" or "cultured" so long as that term is accompanied by any of the foregoing and such designations may inhibit marketing descriptions that are more favorable to creating consumer demand. We may come under close scrutiny by governmental agencies and industry testing organizations and also by competitors in the gemstone industry, any of which may challenge our promotion and marketing of our lab-grown diamond. If our production or marketing is challenged by governmental agencies or competitors, or if regulations are issued that restrict our ability to produce and market our lab-grown diamond as "cultured diamond", "lab-created diamond", or otherwise as a mined diamond alternative, our business, operating results and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

Our lab-grown diamond must also comply with similar laws and regulations of foreign countries in which we market such diamond. In general, the extent and complexity of gemstone diamond regulation is increasing worldwide. This trend may continue, and the cost and time required to obtain marketing clearance in any given country may increase as a result. Should it prove necessary, there can be no assurances that our lab-grown diamond will obtain any necessary foreign clearances on a timely basis, or at all.

Federal, state, local and foreign laws and regulations (especially those regarding approval of gemstone diamond) are always subject to change, and could have a material adverse effect on the testing and sale of our lab-grown diamond and, therefore, our business.

Research and Development

Our research and development activities have been limited to date as we have focused first on establishment of our production facility and immediately thereafter on production of diamond materials for commercial purposes. We expect to invest in new technology and intellectual property development to further improve production efficiencies and develop new products in the future.

Environmental Regulations

Our operations are subject to local, state and federal laws and regulations governing environmental quality and pollution control. To date, our compliance with these regulations has had no material effect on our operations, capital, earnings, or competitive position, and the cost of such compliance has not been material. We are unable to assess or predict at this time what effect additional regulations or legislation could have on our activities.

Employees

We had nine full-time employees as of March 31, 2016.

Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Reports

We maintain an Internet website at the following address: http://www.sciodiamond.com. The contents of the website are not incorporated either directly or by reference into this Form 10-K or into our other filings with the SEC. The Company makes available on or through our Internet website certain reports and amendments to those reports that are filed or furnished to the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act. These include annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and beneficial ownership reports on Forms 3, 4 and 5. This information is available on our website free of charge as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file the information with, or furnish it to, the SEC.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS.

Our business, financial condition, and results of operations could be harmed by any of the following risks, or other risks that have not been identified or which we currently believe are immaterial or unlikely. Shareholders should carefully consider the risks described below in conjunction with the other information in this Form 10-K and the information incorporated by reference in this Form 10-K, including our financial statements and related notes.

Risks Related to Our Business

We have a limited operating history, and have incurred losses to date. We have generated limited revenues to date, and therefore it is difficult to evaluate our business and prospects.

Our Company is in its early stages of operation. While our Company has recently engaged in revenue-producing business activities, it is not yet a profitable enterprise and may incur substantial losses for the foreseeable future. In addition, the Company's revenues are presently derived from a limited number of customers. As a company in the early stages of operation, our business is subject to all the risks inherent in a new business enterprise. We have no substantial operating history for investors to consider in evaluating our business and prospects. When making an

investment decision, investors should consider the risks, expenses and difficulties that we may encounter as a young company in a new market. These risks include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Our need to fund and manage our rapidly developing and changing operations;
- Our need to expand our sales and marketing activities;
- Our need to quickly hire and integrate new personnel, including various levels of senior management who have been hired relatively recently;
- Our ability to develop additional applications and markets for our diamond materials, including the diamond gemstone industry;
- Our ability to produce diamond materials sufficient to meet the specifications and needs of various industrial and technology applications;
- Our ability to produce diamond materials and lab-grown diamond sufficient to meet anticipated demand in the gemstone marketplace;
- Acceptance of our lab-grown diamond in the gemstone marketplace; and
- The need to further refine and improve our technology with respect to man-made diamond development/growing and commercialization — including the need to make the diamond growing process commercially viable, acceptable (by our own and third party measures) and economical — and our intellectual property and product offerings, and the need to respond to changing technologies and consumer preferences.

Likewise the diamond materials and lab-grown diamond gemstones produced using the Diamond Technology (collectively “Scio Diamond Materials”) are in a relatively early stage of development and are subject to the risks inherent in the development and marketing of Scio Diamond Materials, including unforeseen design, manufacturing or other problems or failure to develop market acceptance. Our business is subject to the risks inherent in the transition of technology from research and development and prototype proof-of-concept to commercial production and market acceptance.

Failure by the Company to complete and integrate commercial development of the Scio Diamond Materials it will market and distribute in sufficient quantities to meet market demand would have a material adverse effect on the Company’s business, operating results and financial condition. Accordingly, the Company’s prospects must be considered in light of the risks, expenses and difficulties frequently encountered by companies in their early stage of development, particularly technology-based companies operating with developing and unproven manufacturing processes.

To address these risks, the Company must, among other things, respond to competitive developments, attract and motivate qualified personnel, develop market acceptance for its diamond, establish effective distribution channels, effectively manage any growth that may occur and continue to upgrade and successfully commercialize the Diamond Technology and Scio Diamond Materials incorporating such technology.

The Company purchased its Diamond Technology from ADI and ADGC (together, the "Apollo Companies"). Neither of the Apollo Companies was able to successfully (profitably) develop and commercialize their man-made diamond development/growing process.

We will require additional funding.

We currently have limited cash and working capital to support our operations. Our future continuing operations will require additional funding, and we may not be able to obtain such funding on acceptable terms or at all. We likely will require additional capital to be able to fund continued development and improvement of the process for growing Scio Diamond Materials and to fund our expansion of manufacturing capacity to meet projected growth of the market for our diamond. There can be no assurance that such efforts for raising capital will not involve substantial dilution with respect to existing or future stockholders of the Company.

Our future capital requirements will depend on many factors, including the speed at which our production process can be scaled-up for high yield production, market acceptance of and demand for our diamond, and the timing of our expansion into new diamond markets. Our future capital requirements depend upon many factors, including, but not limited to:

- The rate at which we increase our production capacity;
- The rate at which we expand our sales and marketing operations;
- The rate at which we attract consumers, distributors and strategic relationships;
- The extent to which we are able to develop and upgrade the technology and infrastructure; and
- The response of competitors to our Scio Diamond product offerings.

We expect additional financing to be required and there can be no assurance that additional equity or debt financing, if required, will be available on acceptable terms or at all. If we raise additional funds by selling stock, the percentage ownership of our then current stockholders will be reduced, and we may raise these funds with securities that have rights, preferences, or privileges equal or superior to the rights of investors owning our common shares. If we cannot raise adequate funds to satisfy our capital requirements, we may have to limit our operations significantly, or the Company could terminate operations entirely, resulting in a complete loss of investment for our stockholders. Our inability to obtain financing on acceptable terms when needed would have a material adverse effect on the Company's

business, operating results and financial condition.

We have had significant turnover in key management personnel.

We have had significant turnover in our executive officers. Our success depends in part upon our ability to retain the services of certain executive officers and other key employees and on the skills, experience and performance of senior management and certain other key personnel, most of whom have either never worked together or who have worked together for only a short period of time. The loss of the services of our executive officers or other key employees would have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition. Because we are in the early stages of commercialization, we are also dependent on our ability to recruit, retain and motivate personnel with technical, manufacturing and chemical vapor deposition process skills. There are a limited number of personnel with these qualifications and competition for such personnel may be intense. Our inability to attract, integrate and retain additional qualified key personnel would materially adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition.

We may expend a substantial amount of time and resources in connection with SEC, other regulatory or stockholder-related inquiries or legal actions related to our filed financial statements and other disclosures and the transactions related thereto or other matters.

In 2014, we received a subpoena issued by the SEC ordering the provision of documents and related information concerning various corporate transactions between the Company and its predecessors and other persons and entities. The Company is fully cooperating with this inquiry. We may expend a substantial amount of time and resources in connection with the SEC subpoena, other regulatory or stockholder-related inquiries or legal actions related to our previously filed financial statements and other disclosures and the transactions related thereto or other matters. Such actions could have a material adverse effect on the Company’s liquidity and financial condition and could also affect our ability to file periodic reports on a timely basis and investor confidence in the accuracy and completeness of our financial statements, which in turn could harm our business and have an adverse effect on our stock price and our ability to raise additional funds.

We expect future losses.

In order to achieve a commercially viable operation, we have made and expect to make further significant investments in technology, infrastructure, research and development. We expect to expend substantial financial and other resources on expanding our operations, in particular our diamond growth technology infrastructure, diamond fabrication, and sales/marketing activities. As a result, we must generate significant revenues to achieve and maintain profitability. We expect that our sales and marketing expenses, general and administrative expenses, as well as the continued development expenses will continue to increase.

Our current business model has only recently been implemented.

We produce lab-grown diamonds for retail gemstone consumption. Although other companies are selling lab-grown diamond gemstones, the market for such lab-grown diamond is not fully known. Accordingly, our business model may not be successful, and we may need to make substantial changes thereto. Our ability to generate significant revenues will depend, in large part, on our ability to successfully market our product to consumers, distributors and commercial customers. We intend to continue to develop our business model as the market for our products evolves.

We are wholly dependent on the Diamond Technology.

Our diamond supply depends entirely on our ability to manufacture diamond using the Diamond Technology acquired from ADI and ADGC, the original Scio Diamond Technology Corporation, and parties affiliated with those entities (together, the “Asset Purchase”).

Although the ability to produce limited quantities of high quality lab-grown diamond gemstones has been demonstrated, it has yet to be proven that such success can be transferred into a mass production process that will yield high-quality gemstones and material suitable for retail gemstone distribution and commercial/industrial applications. The inability or difficulty to transfer the Diamond Technology into a high-yield production facility would have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition. Any disruption in our ability to produce high quality lab-grown diamond would have a significant material effect on our business.

Our business is exposed to the risk of facility and equipment failures.

Like any manufacturing process, our business relies upon properly and efficiently run equipment and facilities. Over time, our facilities and equipment depreciates and degrades. In addition, our facilities and equipment are designed and manufactured by independent third parties, which carries a risk of improper design. Although the Company attempts to maintain its facilities and equipment in proper working order and according to its standards, there is a risk of a potential equipment failure in its facilities or equipment. Such a failure could result in a substantial loss to the Company and impact its ability to continue to operate.

Our future revenues are unpredictable, and we expect our operating results to fluctuate from period to period.

Our lack of operating history and the emerging nature of the markets in which we expect to compete make it difficult for us to accurately forecast revenues in any given period. As such, revenues could fall short of our expectations if we experience production delays or difficulties. Likewise, revenues could fall short of expectations should our product not be met with the demand we anticipate from the marketplace. We have limited experience in financial planning for our business on which to base our planned operating expenses.

Our operating results are likely to fluctuate substantially from period to period as a result of a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Outside market influences beyond our control, including extended periods of decreased demand for Scio diamond;
- Our ability to enter into successful strategic relationships;
- Our ability to attract purchasers and/or distributors;
- The amount and timing of operating costs and capital expenditures relating to expansion of production operations;
- The rate at which individuals and organizations accept our diamond;
- An announcement or introduction of new or enhanced diamonds or services by our competitors;

- Our ability to attract and retain qualified personnel; and
- Pricing policies instituted by our current and possible future competitors.

The Company has generated limited revenue to date and consequently its operations are subject to all risks inherent in the establishment of a new business enterprise. We are currently generating limited revenues and expect to continue to generate revenue in the future, but there can be no assurances that we will ever generate sufficient revenues to achieve profitability. If we do achieve profitability, there can be no assurances that we can sustain or increase profitability.

We may not be able to establish effective distribution channels.

We initially intend to sell our diamond in selected markets in the United States and internationally. We expect that we will be required to enter into distribution agreements with, and will be dependent upon, a number of third parties for distribution and sales of our diamond. We are currently selling diamond directly to customers and have not yet entered into distribution agreements with any distributors. There can be no assurance that we will be able to enter into distribution agreements with distributors or that our distribution strategy will prove to be successful. Additionally, there can be no assurance that distributors will devote the efforts needed for successful distribution of our diamond. The inability of the Company to enter into favorable arrangements with distributors or to achieve desired distribution of our diamond would have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition.

Our sales of diamond for commercial applications are dependent upon our ability to enter into profitable relationships with businesses best able to reap rewards from the unique characteristics of diamond. There is no assurance that we will be able to initiate and maintain these relationships.

The Diamond Technology may be vulnerable to failure due to potential interruptions in the manufacturing process.

Our success depends, in part, on the performance, reliability and availability of the Diamond Technology and the diamond we ultimately produce. The Diamond Technology and diamond produced thereby may be vulnerable to failure. The failure of the Diamond Technology or diamond produced thereby could adversely affect our business. The process for manufacturing diamond using the Diamond Technology is vulnerable to disruptions due to a variety of factors, which may lead to interruptions, delays, and losses of opportunities or inability to consistently market and sell our lab-grown diamond. The occurrence of any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We may need to effectively manage rapid growth of our operations.

Our ability to successfully offer diamond and to implement our business plan in new markets requires an effective planning and management process. We are in the process of increasing our operations and anticipate having to increase our headcount as well. Increasing our operations and potentially experiencing rapid growth would place a significant strain on our management systems, infrastructure and resources. We will need to continue to improve our financial and managerial controls and reporting systems and procedures, and will need to continue to expand, train and manage our workforce.

Furthermore, we may be required to manage an increasing number of relationships with various users, customers and other third parties. Any failure to expand any of the foregoing areas efficiently and effectively could cause our business to suffer. We could experience a period of rapid and significant growth, which could continue over several years. We believe rapid growth would place a significant strain on our resources. Our ability to manage growth effectively will require us to implement and improve operational and financial systems and to expand, train and manage our employee base. We also may be required to manage multiple relationships with various suppliers, customers and other third parties. Our future operating results will also depend on our ability to expand sales and marketing, research and development and administrative support organizations. If the Company were unable to manage growth effectively, our business, financial condition and results of operations would be materially adversely affected.

We will need to hire additional personnel.

Our future success depends on our ability to identify, attract, hire, train, retain and motivate highly skilled executive, technical, managerial, sales and marketing and business development personnel. We intend to hire a number of executive, technical, sales, and marketing, business development and administrative personnel during the next one or two years. Competition for qualified personnel may prove intense, particularly in the technology markets. If we fail to successfully attract, assimilate and retain a sufficient number of qualified executives, technical, managerial, sales and marketing, business development and administrative personnel, our business could suffer.

Our success depends upon achieving a critical mass of customers and strategic relationships.

Our success is largely dependent upon achieving significant market acceptance for our diamond. The market for our diamond is at an early stage of development. Although we believe that our diamond will ultimately achieve broad market acceptance, our existing and potential competitors may offer diamond that could negatively affect the market acceptance of our product and damage our business prospects.

Our success is also dependent upon attracting significant numbers of distributors and strategic relationships in order to market our diamond. In particular, our ability to enter into beneficial distribution partnerships will depend in large part upon our success in convincing diamond gemstone consumers that our lab-grown diamond gemstone is of a desired quality. Failure to achieve and maintain a critical mass of market acceptance will seriously harm our business in the diamond gemstone industry.

The current and future state of the global economy may curtail our operations and our anticipated revenues.

Our business may be adversely affected by changes in domestic and international economic conditions, including inflation, changes in consumer preferences and changes in consumer spending rates, personal bankruptcy and the ability to collect our accounts receivable. Changes in global economic conditions may adversely affect the demand for our products and make it more difficult to collect accounts receivable, thereby negatively affecting our business, operating results and financial condition. The recent disruptions in credit and other financial markets and deterioration of national and global economic conditions could, among other things, impair the financial condition of some of our customers and suppliers, thereby increasing customer bad debts or non-performance by suppliers.

Acts of war, terrorism or other unknown and unexpected events could disrupt our business and we could be required to cease our operations.

Involvement in a war or other military action or acts of terrorism may cause significant disruption to commerce throughout the world. To the extent that such disruptions result in (i) delays or cancellations of customer orders, (ii) a general decrease in consumer spending, (iii) our inability to effectively market and distribute our products or (iv) our inability to access capital markets, our business and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected. We are unable to predict whether the involvement in a war or other military action will result in any long-term commercial disruptions or if such involvement or responses will have any long-term material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

There is a "going concern" qualification in our financial statements due to uncertainty about our ability to stay in business.

We have not generated material revenues and have negative operating cash flows. These issues, among others, raise substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a "going concern."

Risks Related to Our Industry

The potential market for our lab-grown diamond is relatively new and may be impacted by public perception.

The market for lab-grown diamond gemstones is new and continues to evolve. We believe that companies operating in the gemstone field may not be fully aware of the existence and attributes of our lab-grown diamond. As is the case with any new or potential product, market acceptance and demand are subject to a significant amount of uncertainty. Our future financial performance will depend upon consumer acceptance of lab-grown diamond as a realistic and comparable alternative to mined diamond and other gemstones. Because no widely-developed markets now exist for lab-grown diamond gemstones, it is difficult to predict the future growth rate, if any, and the size of the market for our lab-grown diamond gemstones. We may spend significant amounts of capital to acquire diamond production systems at a time when demand for our lab-grown diamond is not at a level to fund those expenditures. The market for our lab-grown diamond gemstones may never develop or may develop at a slower pace than expected due to a general lack of consumer acceptance of lab-grown diamond gemstones. If the market fails to develop or develops more slowly than expected, or if our lab-grown diamond gemstones do not achieve significant market acceptance, our business, operating results and financial condition would be materially adversely affected.

We face significant competition.

Our lab-grown gemstone diamond will face competition from established producers and sellers of earth-mined diamond and other known and potential manufacturers of lab-grown gemstones. Other companies could seek to introduce lab-grown diamond or other competing diamonds or to develop competing processes for production of lab-grown diamond gemstones. We believe that the more successful the Company is in creating market acceptance for Scio diamond, which includes lab-grown gemstones, the more competition can be expected to increase. Increased competition could result in a decrease in the price charged by the Company for our diamond or reduce demand for our diamond, which would have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition. Further, our current and potential competitors may have significantly greater financial, technical, manufacturing and marketing resources and greater access to distribution channels than the Company. There can be no assurance that we will be able to compete successfully with existing or potential competitors.

Widespread consumer acceptance of lab-grown diamond gemstones is still developing. At this time, the Company is aware that it may be competing with companies that produce lab-grown diamond for industrial and gemstone markets, including Pure Grown Diamond/IIa Technologies, Washington Group, D'Nea, Element Six, Sumitomo and Diamond Foundry. We believe that as lab-grown diamond continues to gain widespread commercial and consumer acceptance, the more competition can be expected to increase. Increased competition could result in a decrease in the price expected to be charged by the Company for our diamond or reduce demand for our diamond, which would have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition.

Our potential competitors in the gemstone diamond industry may have significantly greater financial, technical, manufacturing and marketing resources and greater access to distribution channels than the Company. Our competitors will likely include large multi-national gemstone diamond companies as well as numerous start-up and development-stage gemstone diamond and technology companies, some of whom we may not be aware. We expect intense competition as we execute our business plan. It is belie